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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pension dispute ensnares staffers

Beneficiaries sometimes take back seat in Chicago's \$175M political tug-of-war

By Nell Salzman, A.D. Quig and Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

Tiwanida Parker, a college and career coach at Marshall High School, wonders how she could make a convincing argument for students to apply for jobs at Chicago Public Schools without a more stable pension picture.

"We have to make sure that we believe in this profession," she said. "And a part of believing in this profession is ... making sure that those basic benefits are in place."

Who picks up the bill for the disputed \$175 million pension payment for nonteaching CPS staff has been a question mark for the district in recent months. It is part of what led to the resignation of the previous school board and the subsequent firing of schools chief Pedro Martinez late last year. Fast forward three months, and the ongoing back-and-forth is part of what led to last week's delay of a budget amendment to balance the city's books by the end of March.

The city has made the payment to the Municipal Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund but is awaiting reimbursement from CPS. Mayor Brandon Johnson and predecessor Lori Lightfoot have argued CPS should be responsible, while Martinez repeatedly has said the payment is the city's legal obligation. The district said in a statement to the Tribune it doesn't have the money to cover the pension payment on top of the costs of a new teachers contract.

"Chicago Public Schools officials have been clear for more than a year that CPS, like many districts, is facing a challenging fiscal situation without federal

Turn to Pension, Page 5

Tribune lawsuit against OpenAI and Microsoft will proceed

By Josephine Stratman
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — A federal judge rejected a majority of motions by OpenAI and Microsoft to dismiss parts of a lawsuit accusing the tech companies of swiping stories from the Chicago Tribune, The New York Times and other newspapers to train their AI products.

The Tribune, its affiliated newspapers in MediaNews Group and Tribune Publishing, the Times and the Center for Investigative Reporting have accused OpenAI and Microsoft of stealing millions of copyrighted news stories to benefit popular AI products like ChatGPT.

Manhattan federal Judge Sidney Stein's ruling Wednesday preserves the core elements of the lawsuit, which will now go forward to trial. While Stein rejected efforts to dismiss claims related to statute of limitations, trademark dilution and stripping content management information (CMI) from the content in question, he dismissed CMI claims against Microsoft along with a secondary CMI claim against OpenAI, and one other unfair competition claim against both defendants. The judge dismissed

Turn to OpenAI, Page 2

All is not frost

A dry and mild start to Chicagoland's winter led to below-average ice cover on Lake Michigan, along with a big drop in water levels

By Adriana Pérez | Chicago Tribune

Chicago-area residents might feel like it's been a really long winter after enduring stretches of below-normal temperatures in January and February and a couple snowfalls in March. But the lingering cold snaps actually contributed to a proper winter — unlike the record highs and bitter but brief Arctic blasts of recent years.

"You look at the numbers — whether it be for Chicago, for Illinois, for the Great Lakes — and it was sort of an unremarkable winter," said Trent Ford, the Illinois state climatologist. "But it felt like it was intense because we're getting these types of winters, as far as temperatures are concerned, so much less frequently.

"At one point in late February, I was like: My god, it's been cold forever. I'm so tired of this," he said.

Last winter, atmospheric temperatures in the area averaged 34.9 degrees, which was 6.8 degrees above normal, according to the National Weather Service. February 2024 was the warmest in Chicago and Illinois in nearly 150 years, and overall it was the city's fifth warmest winter on record. It tracked with last year being the hottest year on record globally, with 15 straight months of record-breaking temperatures from June 2023 through August 2024, according to NASA.

But the cold, seemingly normal winter this

People walk in the snow near the limestone rocks at Promontory Point next to an ice-free Lake Michigan on Jan. 14. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

year doesn't disprove longer-term warming trends from human activity and heat-trapping greenhouse gases. In fact, despite the persistent winter temperatures, ice cover on Lake Michigan and snowfall in Illinois were below average likely due to an abnormally warm, dry beginning to the season.

Ice cover on four of the Great Lakes remained mostly below long-term averages. Ford said the core, coldest months of the

Turn to Winter, Page 5

A man whose 'Perspective' changed TV

After more than 50 years on air, Jacobson to hang up mic

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

For more than half a century, legendary Chicago news anchor and commentator Walter Jacobson has been broadcasting his views on everything from the city's colorful politicians to the Cubs, for whom he once worked as a batboy.

On Thursday morning, he will deliver one last "Perspective" on WGN Radio, home to his weekly commentary segment for the past decade, and perhaps conclude the final chapter of a storied Chicago broadcast career.

"Commentary was always the most important thing for me, by far," said Jacobson, 87. "I've always been interested in government and politics, and when I had the freedom to say what I wanted to say was right or wrong, that was a blessing for me."

The two-minute radio segment will mark the end of a prodigious run for Jacobson, who once disrupted the airwaves as the unlikeliest of TV news anchors.



Joe Romano, right, technical director for the "Bob Sirott Show," shakes hands with commentator Walter Jacobson on Wednesday at WGN Radio, where Jacobson will deliver one last "Perspective" on Thursday morning. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

When Jacobson was paired with co-anchor Bill Kurtis at WBBM-Ch. 2 from 1973 to 1982, his signature commentary segment was an integral part of the station's top-rated 10 p.m. newscast. Seated at a separate cluttered desk, often wearing suspenders and glasses later revealed to be purely cosmetic, he gave a feisty take on the day's biggest story, setting the CBS-owned station and Jacobson apart from the happy-talk newscasts that had predominated.

The unusual combination of Kurtis, the

quintessential anchorman, and Jacobson, a scrappy muckraker, became the yin and yang of local TV news, forming one of the most iconic teams in Chicago broadcast history.

"I was never a great anchorperson — I haven't got the voice," Jacobson said. "Bill was always the strength; I was the awkward guy and troublemaker."

Kurtis called it a "forced marriage" that

Turn to Jacobson, Page 4

'She was a remarkable person'

A family begins to feel closure after a car that belonged to a 23-year-old Elgin woman missing since 1983 was pulled from the Fox River on Tuesday. **Chicagoland, Page 2**

Ballpark shooting still a mystery

How were two women shot while sitting in the bleachers at a White Sox game in August 2023? Nineteen months have passed and there's little clarity. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Dems vow to defend election law

Democrats in Springfield are promising to protect Illinois election laws against a sweeping executive order from the Trump administration Tuesday. **Chicagoland, Page 3**



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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, JeanMarie 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 olive 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 Benkofer.

“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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A Toyota Celica belonging to Karen Schepers, who went missing in 1983, is loaded onto a flatbed truck after being taken out of the Fox River on Tuesday in Elgin. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

‘She was a remarkable person’

Car belonging to woman who went missing in 1983 pulled from Fox River in Elgin

By Gloria Casas
Chicago Tribune

When his daughter went missing in April 1983, Loren Schepers chartered a plane so he could fly over the Elgin area in the hope he might spot her canary yellow 1980 Toyota Celica from the sky.

The 23-year-old woman disappeared in the cold, dark, early morning hours while driving home to Elgin from a bar in Carpentersville. The temperature was below freezing and roads were slick; Karen Schepers could have easily gone off the road somewhere along the way.

He “felt like it was his job to find her,” Gary Schepers said of his father’s search, but he would die without knowing what happened.

While there are still many unanswered questions, it would seem the mystery of Karen’s disappearance was solved this week with the discovery of her car at the bottom of the Fox River in Elgin. Located in about 7 feet of murky water northwest of the Slade Road boat launch, the vehicle was recovered Tuesday afternoon and the skeletal remains found inside assumed to be those of a woman who vanished more than four decades ago.

Despite how distinctive her car was, his father would never have spotted it regardless of how many times he looked, Gary Schepers said. “The ... yellow car was upside down,” he said.

Final identification will be made by the Kane County coroner’s office in a process that will take several weeks, officials said. But Karen Schepers’ family has been notified and the assumption made that she has been found at last thanks to the Elgin Police Department’s cold case unit and their podcast, “Somebody Knows Something,” which led to the river search.

“This has been going on for so long, and for so long



The disappearance of Schepers, missing since April 1983, is believed to have been solved by the Elgin Police Department after her car, which contained human skeletal remains, was pulled from the Fox River on Tuesday afternoon.

ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

nothing happened,” said Gary Schepers, who lives in DeKalb and is the oldest of nine children. “It’s like you’ve been watching glaciers move, and all of a sudden things are happening every day.”

After Karen vanished — her car gone, her savings untouched and credit cards unused, her apartment exactly as she left it — police were stymied. Did she leave to make a new life for herself? Become despondent over a breakup with her boyfriend? Meet up with the wrong person and become a victim?

Police would occasionally revisit the case over the years, once creating a billboard featuring her photo and details about her disappearance, Schepers said. There were countless stories in local newspapers. Elgin residents knew her name.

It’s a relief for the family that she’s been found and they now know what happened, Schepers said.

“She’s not out there wandering around with amnesia or brain damage or any of the scenarios you think of in 40 years,” he said.

Elgin police are keeping mum on what they think happened and what led them to examine the area where she was found. They’re not returning phone calls despite the success in solving a case

that’s long frustrated them.

What is known is the police never searched the Fox River for her car when she was first reported missing, something that has some people asking why, especially on social media.

But Schepers said he wasn’t surprised by how they handled the case. It was a different time.

“I don’t think they took missing persons cases as seriously as they do now,” Schepers said.

He remembers talking with a journalist friend who had covered the John Wayne Gacy serial killing case.

“What everyone whose kids were missing (had been) told by police was that they took off for some reason; they will probably be back,” he said. Regardless of whether it was wrong or right, “it seemed like that was the attitude at the time,” he said.

Born just 13 months apart — Gary was the oldest and Karen came next — his memories are the kind any siblings would have, he said.

“We fought like cats and dogs a lot of the time,” but they’d also stay up all night talking from their bedrooms, Schepers said. “It was like anybody’s little sister. She’s your best friend and your enemy wrapped up all in one.

“The thing about her, and it drove me crazy, is what-

ever you could do, she could do just as well if not better,” he said.

Karen could play the saxophone and the piano. She loved the long motorcycle trips she’d take with her boyfriend to places such as Utah, he said.

They grew up in Sycamore, and graduated from high school there. When their mother remarried and moved the family to Texas, Karen moved to Elgin to live with her father and stepmother, Schepers said. Later, she moved into her own apartment in the 300 block of Lovell Street.

Despite the broken romance, things were going well, her brother said. She had paid off her car, was working as a computer programmer at First Chicago Bank Card in Elgin and taking classes at Elgin Community College, Gary Schepers said.

Her friendships were deep, he said. People, even those she made at summer camp, still remember her, he said.

“I don’t think it’s just because of the disappearance. There are just some people that you remember. She was a remarkable person,” he said.

While their father died a few years ago, their mother, Liz Paulson, is still alive and living in DeKalb. They’ve told her about the police finding Karen’s car and the human remains found inside, information that has left her overwhelmed, Gary said.

“But this is a woman who raised nine children and was a nurse in a maternity ward for almost 50 years. If there’s anyone who can handle it, it’s her,” he said.

Schepers commended the police department and the cold case unit for reopening the investigation, noting that they always treated his mother well.

Karen was declared legally dead years ago, but the family never had a memorial service. It’s something they will be discussing, he said.

OpenAI

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additional claims for the Center for Investigative Reporting and The New York Times.

“We get to go forward with virtually all of our claims intact, including all of the copyrighted filings,” Steven Lieberman, a lawyer representing the news publishers, said. “It’s a significant victory, albeit a preliminary stage of the case.”

A spokesperson for Microsoft declined to comment.

In a statement, a spokesperson for OpenAI said “hundreds of millions of people around the world rely on ChatGPT to improve their daily lives, inspire creativity, and to solve hard problems. We welcome the court’s dismissal of many of these claims and look forward to making it clear that we build our AI models using publicly available data, in a manner grounded in fair use, and supportive of inno-

vation.”

Microsoft and OpenAI don’t deny they depend on copyrighted material, instead arguing that it’s under their rights to do so under the fair use doctrine. Under that doctrine, the use of copyrighted materials is permitted under certain circumstances, including using the materials for educational purposes.

The Tribune and affiliated newspapers filed the lawsuit in 2024, challenging that notion, alleging the companies “simply take the work product of reporters, journalists, editorial writers, editors and others who contribute to the work of local newspapers — all without any regard for the efforts, much less the legal rights, of those who create and publish the news on which local communities rely.”

“This decision is a significant victory for us,” said Frank Pine, executive editor at MediaNews Group. “The court denied the majority of the dismissal motions filed by OpenAI and Microsoft.

The claims the court has dismissed do not undermine the main thrust of our case, which is that these companies have stolen our work and violated our copyright in a way that fundamentally damages our business.”

The Tribune brought its suit alongside its sister newspapers, MediaNews Group’s Mercury News, The Denver Post, The Orange County Register and the St. Paul Pioneer Press; and Tribune Publishing’s New York Daily News, Orlando Sentinel and the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Pine also addressed recent efforts by big tech to lobby the Trump administration to weaken copyright protections.

“OpenAI lobbying the government to loosen copyright laws to make their thievery legal is shameful and un-American. They have a \$150 billion valuation for a product they acknowledge could not have been built without the copyrighted content they stole from journalists,

authors, poets, scholars and all manner of creatives and academics. Makers pay for their raw materials, and good businesses bolster their communities by creating economies and industries, not by destroying them.”

Microsoft and OpenAI are accused in the litigation of harming the newspapers’ subscription-based business model by misappropriating journalists’ work and providing it for free. The cases allege that the AI models also risk tarnishing reporters’ reputations by sometimes misstating their reporting or attributing it to others.

The papers are seeking unspecified damages, restitution of profits and a court order forcing the companies to stop using their materials to train chatbots.

“We look forward to presenting a jury with all the facts regarding OpenAI and Microsoft copying and improper use of the content of newspapers across the country,” Lieberman said.

CHICAGOLAND

Shooting at Sox game in '23 still a mystery

By **Sam Charles**
Chicago Tribune

The Chicago White Sox on Thursday will, at last, give fans something to think about besides the historically abysmal 2024 season. But as another opening day arrives, a mystery from the 2023 season still lingers. How were two women shot while sitting in the bleachers of the former Guaranteed Rate Field that August? Nineteen months have passed and there's little

clarity. No arrests have been made. Police sources previously told the Tribune that no weapon was recovered and one of the injured women — who has since sued the team — declined to cooperate with investigators. White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf and the team's attorneys have maintained that the gunfire came from outside the ballpark, now known as Rate Field, essentially claiming a "parabolic arc" theory. The Chicago Police

Department's investigation remains open, though, according to a department spokesperson. And, as of Wednesday, the city's criminal incident data portal still listed the ballpark as the shooting's address of occurrence. One of the two injured women filed a lawsuit last year against the White Sox, the team's in-house security firm and the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority, the body that oversees state-owned Rate Field. Identified only as "Jane

Doe," the woman alleges that negligent security practices allowed a firearm to be brought inside the ballpark. The lawsuit claims the woman was "shot by a firearm weapon while sitting in the stands at Guaranteed Rate Field" and "the firearm that shot the (the woman) was discharged within the premises of Guaranteed Rate Field." In a response filed in November, attorneys for the White Sox said the team "lack(s) sufficient information to either admit or

deny" that the woman was shot while she was in the bleachers. Further, White Sox attorneys "deny the allegations" that the gun was discharged in the park during a game. In January, attorneys for the injured woman filed a motion to compel the White Sox and their security to respond to pretrial interrogatories and documents requests. Court records show at least six witness depositions are scheduled for May. A spokesperson for

the White Sox declined to comment further. The team's season opener is at home Thursday. John Malm, an attorney for the injured woman who brought the lawsuit, previously said in a statement, "We have reviewed photographic evidence and X-rays of our client's injuries with firearms and medical experts who confirm the gunshot wound our client sustained was not self-inflicted and was not the result of her accidentally discharging a firearm."

Democrats vow to defend state elections law

Trump's order attempts to limit counting of mail-in votes, require citizenship proof

By **Rick Pearson**
Chicago Tribune

Democrats in Springfield and Washington are vowing to defend Illinois election laws against a sweeping executive order from Donald Trump aimed at limiting counting of mail-in votes, requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote and giving Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency access to voter data.

The executive order, signed Tuesday by Trump, was entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections" and threatens the withholding of federal funding to states that do not comply. It also appears to seek the decertification of current voting equipment and the adoption of a new standard for which no equipment has been developed.

The move by Trump was viewed by critics as an attempt to relitigate the allegations of widespread fraud and illegal voting by noncitizens that he raised in trying to overturn the results of his losing 2020 reelection effort. More than 60 court challenges to election results were dismissed and members of Trump's own administration declared the 2020 election "the most secure in American history."

Democrats and voting rights groups contended Trump's order far exceeds the power of the executive branch to direct election law beyond congressional action and the broad leeway that the Constitution extends to states for conducting elections.

"The main thing to know about the Trump Executive Order on Elections is that it is a massive overreach

and will certainly end up in court before much can be executed," Lawrence Norden, vice president of the elections and government program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, wrote on social media.

Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker, who has developed a national platform criticizing the Republican president, said Trump's order was another example of "ignoring the rule of law and circumventing Congress."

"We need to call this what it is: another illegal, extreme, and dangerous attempt to take power away from the American people and hand it over the wealthiest man in the world, Elon Musk, who wishes to decide which U.S. citizens can and can't vote," he said in a statement from his office, adding that Trump was acting like "an aspiring king hell-bent on disenfranchising millions of voters."

Trump's order goes after one significant aspect of Illinois election law, a 2015 statute that requires the counting of mail-in ballots that are postmarked or voter-signed and certified by Election Day and arrive within the following 14 days. Illinois is among about 20 states that allow post-Election Day vote counting.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago in August upheld a lower federal court ruling that dismissed a case brought by Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Bost of Murphysboro and led by the conservative law group Judicial Watch that sought to prevent any votes from being counted after Election Day.

Judicial Watch appealed the case, which was dismissed for lack of stand-



Election judges prepare to count mail-in ballots by running them through a scanner on March 25, 2024, at the Chicago Board of Elections. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

ing, to the U.S. Supreme Court. The appeal came less than a month after the conservative 5th District Circuit Court of Appeals in Louisiana sided with Republicans and said Mississippi's law allowing post-Election Day vote counting violated federal law.

Counting ballots after Election Day "is like allowing persons who arrive 3 days after Election Day, perhaps after a winner has been declared, to vote in person at a former voting precinct, which would be absurd," Trump wrote in the executive order. He ignored the fact that voting must take place prior to the end of Election Day to be counted after that day.

Trump ordered the U.S. attorney general's office to "take all necessary action" against states that "include absentee or mail-in ballots received after Election Day in the final tabulation of votes for the appointment of presidential electors and the election of" U.S. senators and House members. He also said the federal Election Assistance Commission "shall condition any available fund-

ing to a state on that state's compliance" with counting all votes on Election Day.

In his order, Trump also contended that states do not adequately vet voters' citizenship, "and, in recent years, the Department of Justice has failed to prioritize and devote sufficient resources for enforcement of these provisions."

As a result, Trump called for the use of a passport or Real ID among a limited number of documents — which did not include birth certificates — to prove citizenship for people registering to vote. He also ordered federal agencies including the Department of Homeland Security to use its databases to help determine if noncitizens were listed on state voter rolls "in coordination with the DOGE Administrator," using a "subpoena when necessary."

State Board of Elections officials said Illinois law requires prospective voters to attest that they are U.S. citizens under threat of criminal prosecution. But incidents of noncitizen voting in the country have proven to be rare and the Bren-

nan Center, a liberal voting advocacy group, warned Trump's order would "block tens of millions from voting" because they lack the required documentation to register.

State election officials also said public voting records that would be subject to be shared with DOGE and other federal agencies, if the order was enforced, would be limited to giving a voter's name and the street they live on, but no specific address or the voter's age or date of birth.

While the order threatens states with the loss of federal dollars for noncompliance, the State Board of Elections has received little federal funding for its operations. It is still utilizing money from a \$14 million grant in 2018 to upgrade cyber defenses, and for the current year has budgeted for \$200,000 from the federal government in a \$49.3 million budget.

Trump's move comes as the Republican National Committee has begun reaching out to state election officials across the nation seeking public records related to the keeping of

voter lists. The State Board of Elections said it has received the RNC's request and is trying to understand how to fulfill it since elections in Illinois are decentralized and run by counties, which maintain their own voter lists.

Other aspects of Trump's order would, according to the Brennan Center, appear to decertify all voting machines in the U.S. and require states to conform with new federal standards even though no such systems are on the market. Replacing all voting systems could cost billions of dollars, it warned.

In Washington, Democratic U.S. Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia of Chicago called Trump's order "an unconstitutional assault on the right to vote" and said the restrictions he was trying to impose would disenfranchise voters "particularly in minority communities."

"He attempted to steal the 2020 election, incited an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, and then issued blanket pardons for the Jan. 6 rioters," Garcia said in a statement. "He has zero credibility to talk about election integrity."

Raise for school chief making \$450K divides D148 board

By **Olivia Stevens**
Daily Southtown

Some Dolton West Elementary School District 148 Board members say they were excluded from discussions leading to a salary increase for Superintendent Kevin Nohelty, boosting his \$450,000 salary by \$30,000 each of the next two years.

During a packed meeting Tuesday, board President Larry Lawrence explained the decision to increase the salary, approved at a special meeting March 18, was because Nohelty stayed on past his contract's end date in June 2022 as the board searches for his replacement.

"This was not something premeditated, preplanned or orchestrated for money purposes," Lawrence said.

In addition to his \$450,000 salary, District 148 paid Nohelty an extra \$87,000 in fiscal year 2024 in retirement enhancements and other benefits.

Lawrence attributed the upcoming increase, which

will leave Nohelty making a \$510,000 base salary by the end of his career, to a "perfect storm" that included struggles to find the right candidate to lead the district, which includes 10 early childhood, elementary and junior high schools.

He said under the new contract, Nohelty will mentor his successor, who has not yet been selected, for one year while the board searches for a chief school business official.

Lawrence complained that many of the people who showed up to the March 18 meeting and commented on Nohelty's salary increase had not attended board meetings before and said that "most of their information was unfounded."

"I'll put it in this perspective — they missed the entire season, but they came in playoff time and want to tell us who to put in as quarterback," Lawrence said. "It doesn't work like that. We have a pretty good idea of what we're doing and how we're going about

continuing this district to be successful."

Board members Charles Givines and Shalonda Randle also criticized the raise, with Randle saying she was not included in any discussions with Nohelty leading up to the finalized terms. Givines was not present at the March 18 meeting, but the contract passed 4-2 with Randle and Andrea Johnson voting against the salary increase.

Nohelty declined to comment Tuesday.

Neighboring districts

Chicago Public Schools Superintendent Pedro Martinez's yearly salary is \$340,000.

Some Southland school districts have come under fire in past years for bloating salaries for administrators.

At Calumet City District 155, former Superintendent Troy Paraday made \$432,000, the most of any

superintendent in Illinois, until he was fired in 2019 for misconduct including padding his pay without authorization and misrepresenting the district's financial status.

Paraday was fired less than a week before he was scheduled to retire and had calculated that the district owed him almost \$1.8 million for three unused personal days, 532 unused sick days and 350 unused vacation days multiplied by his nearly \$2,000 per diem rate.

The fiscal year 2024 base salary for District 155's current superintendent, Joseph Zotto, was about \$186,000, according to the district. He made an additional \$66,000 in annuities, retirement enhancements and other benefits.

Dolton School District 149 Superintendent Maureen White's base salary was \$275,000 during the same year, with added benefits boosting her pay to about \$339,000, according to the district.

District 148 opposition

Two people spoke during the public comment period Tuesday, with one person supporting the board and even passing out candy to the table, and the other denouncing the salary increase.

"Regarding Mr. Lawrence, I'm going to ask tonight that you resign your position for being the president, as well as on this board," said Michael Smith, of Riverdale.

About 19% of District 148 students are proficient in English/language arts, according to the Illinois State Board of Education, compared with 39% statewide. In math a little under 7% of District 148 students are proficient compared with 28% of students across Illinois.

Randle also expressed frustration about a comment Lawrence made emphasizing the importance of finalizing an agreement with Nohelty before the school

board election April 1, which creates uncertainty regarding the future makeup of the body.

Nine candidates are running for four four-year seats, with Randle, Givines, Johnson and Bruce Owens Jr. seeking reelection. Their challengers are Nancy Perkins, William F. Gunter Jr., Ernesto E. Mickens, Aritha D. Windom-Harvey and Sherrie M. Bush.

"Why are you predicting that new members coming on the board are so ignorant that they cannot make well-decided decisions and that they cannot be a part of the decision making process?" Randle said.

She revisited Lawrence's sports analogy, saying, "I've been at the practices — all the seasonal games or whatever you want to call it. I'm not coming and letting you pick the quarterback at the last minute. I've been here and I'm telling you, I have not been a part of the plays."

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Jacobson

from Page 1

evolved into a great working relationship, a transformative TV newscast and a lifetime friendship.

The more polished Kurtis added anchorman gravitas while hitting the streets to cover stories. More often than not, Jacobson spent most days working on his 90-second commentary feature, Kurtis said.

“I’ve never seen anybody so focused,” Kurtis said. “He loved it. I don’t think he wanted to do anything in the world except that ‘Perspective.’ And he owned it.”

In 1982, Kurtis left for New York to co-anchor “The CBS Morning News,” first with Diane Sawyer and later with Phyllis George. Kurtis returned to WBBM-Ch. 2 in 1985, where he again partnered on air with Jacobson, but the station relinquished its ratings crown to WLS-Ch. 7.

Jacobson left WBBM in 1993 for a 13-year-run at WFLD-Ch. 32. The pair reunited on Channel 2 in 2010 to reprise their co-anchor roles for the station’s 6 p.m. newscast, but ratings fizzled and they stepped down after 2½ years.

In 2014, Jacobson joined WGN Radio, bringing with him, as he has at every stop along the way, his “Perspective.”

“That gave me another way to be in the business,” Jacobson said. “That’s why I’ve been doing it for so long.”

Growing up an avid Cubs fan in Rogers Park, Jacobson landed his first dream job after his family moved to north suburban Glencoe, becoming a batboy for the team at age 15.

Jacobson earned a bachelor’s degree from Grinnell College and a master’s in journalism at Columbia University before earning his stripes as a journalist through stints at City News Bureau, UPI and the Chicago American, an afternoon newspaper owned by the Tribune that ceased publication 50 years ago.

Shifting to local television in 1963, Jacobson bounced between a few stations



Walter Jacobson reads the Chicago Sun-Times as he eats his lunch at WGN Radio on Wednesday. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

before his 1973 pairing with Kurtis at WBBM-Ch. 2 changed the face of Chicago TV news. Gone were the logoed blazers, pristine sets and cheerful patter, replaced by an actual working newsroom filled with anchors and reporters who became media stars in their own right.

“It was a very big time,” said Kurtis, reflecting on a decade where Channel 2’s rating dominance revolutionized local TV news.

It also gave Jacobson, originally hired to be the station’s version of Len O’Connor, then the acerbic dean of Chicago TV news commentators, a big platform to take on politicians, corporations and others whose misdeeds found their way into his nightly segment.

Jacobson, sometimes dismissively referred to as “Skippy” by competitors and commentary subjects alike, more than rose to the challenge.

“The joke was: What’s the worst thing that can happen to a politician? To get a call from Walter Jacobson,” Kurtis said. “He was a hell of a reporter. He was getting



Jacobson records a conversation with host Dave Plier at WGN Radio.

news that nobody else was.”

In addition to his Emmy-winning commentaries, Jacobson’s legacy includes some notable reporting scoops, such as a 1992 prison interview with serial killer John Wayne Gacy. It also includes a legendary ratings stunt in the winter of 1991, where Jacobson spent two days living as a homeless man, trailed by a camera crew documenting his rapid descent into a state of self-declared misery.

But it was Jacobson’s “Perspective” that defined his career, and fittingly

became the title of his 2012 memoir. It remained his signature when he shifted from TV to WGN-AM 720 more than a decade ago.

The weekly two-minute radio segment has been airing Thursday mornings during Bob Sirott’s show. Recent topics have included Walgreens closing stores, Tesla CEO Elon Musk’s unprecedented role in the new Trump administration and, of course, waxing about the rites of spring and his beloved Cubs.

“He has never taken his foot off the gas as far as how he approaches covering

any of it,” said Mary Sandberg Boyle, WGN Radio’s vice president and general manager. “He is just as passionate today as he was when he got started.”

Sirott, a Chicago TV and radio veteran who took over the morning drive slot at WGN in 2020, first worked with Jacobson and Kurtis when he joined WBBM-Ch. 2 in 1980.

Getting to work with Jacobson again in the twilight of his career has been a thrill, Sirott said.

“I see Walter in the hall, I still want to get his autograph,” Sirott said. “It’s impossible to convey to someone who wasn’t around during the heyday of ‘THE 10 O’Clock News’ on Channel 2, just how important Walter’s ‘Perspectives’ were — they were must viewing.”

In recent years, Jacobson has been recording his weekly segments a day in advance at WGN studios on the 18th floor at 303 E. Wacker Drive, the station’s home since 2018, when Tribune Tower was sold and converted to million-dollar condos. Launched more than a century ago by the

Chicago Tribune, WGN Radio was purchased in 2019 by Nexstar, a Dallas-based TV station group, as part of its \$4.1 billion acquisition of Tribune Media’s broadcast properties.

On Wednesday, Jacobson arrived at the station to record the final “Perspective,” and was feted with a farewell party by his radio colleagues.

For Jacobson, there is plenty of change in the air.

Widowed when his wife died from a head injury after a 2019 dog-walking fall, Jacobson said he is moving from his Gold Coast apartment into a Chicago senior living community in the next few months. He is also planning to visit his daughter and son-in-law, who just had their first baby, at the cannabis farm they own and operate in upstate New York.

As to his final “Perspective,” which is scheduled to air Thursday at 9:25 a.m. on WGN Radio, it may not come off as a farewell address. Jacobson said that while he’s “pretty well ready to retire,” he’s not ruling out returning to the airwaves at some point down the road.

“I’m not going to say goodbye,” Jacobson said. “I can say, ‘So long for now.’”

His longtime on-air partner understands Jacobson’s reluctance to sign off for good.

Kurtis, who served as the tongue-in-cheek narrator for “Anchorman,” the 2004 comedy film featuring Will Ferrell as the legendary and semifictional Ron Burgundy, has remained a ubiquitous on-air presence during the new millennium, producing and hosting TV shows such as “Investigative Reports,” “American Justice” and “Cold Case Files.”

These days, in addition to his production company, Kurtis, 84, keeps busy with the weekly NPR quiz show “Wait Wait...Don’t Tell Me!” where he serves as judge and scorekeeper.

“Walter is older than I am ... and both of us should be in assisted living,” Kurtis quipped. “But we can’t let go. And God bless him as long as he can keep going.”

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Will County Board member cited after hitting child on bike

By Michelle Mullins
Chicago Tribune

A Will County Board member was issued a traffic citation involving an incident with a child on a bicycle, according to a Bolingbrook police report. Jacqueline Traynere, the past Democratic Leader from Bolingbrook, was involved in the crash about 8:15 a.m. March 11 at the intersection of Lily Cache and Lindsey lanes in Bolingbrook, a police report said. Traynere was issued a citation for failure to yield in a crosswalk. The child was riding a bike east on the sidewalk near Lily Cache and Lindsey lanes and entered the cross-

walk while the southbound traffic was stopped, according to the report. The child told officers he thought the crosswalk light was illuminated, indicating it was safe to cross, before entering the crosswalk. As the bicyclist was crossing the street, a blue car allegedly driven by Traynere pulled forward and struck him on the left side, the police report said. The child fell off the bike and was uninjured, the report said. Paramedics arrived, but the child did not go to the hospital, the report said. The bike chain was damaged. The Western Will County Communications Center

told police they received an accident report in which the driver left the scene. A witness who was stopped in traffic at the intersection called the dispatch center and provided the license plate for the car. The witness told police she observed the driver of the car check on the child but then drive east on Lily Cache Lane, according to the police report. Traynere had driven to the police station when officers arrived to the scene, the report said. Traynere told police she was waiting to turn left and began making the turn when the arrow turned green. She said she saw a child fall off a bike, but she did not

know if she had hit him, the report said. “She stated she got out to make sure (the bicyclist) was OK, but did not know what to do, so she left. Then she decided to come to the police station. While discussing the incident, she indicated that she might have struck (the bicyclist) but was unsure,” the report states. The car allegedly driven by Traynere was in the Police Department parking lot and showed damage, according to the report. “It had a half-circle scratch on the hood, all the dust near that scratch had been rubbed off as if something rubbed on the hood, and there were apparent

hand/finger prints in the dust on the hood near the scratch,” the report said. The damage was not on the vehicle before the incident, Traynere told police, according to the report. Traynere on Tuesday referred questions to her attorney, Joe Giamanco, who responded in an email that he is limited in what can be said because the matter is pending. “The incident at issue has been taken dramatically out of context and is being used in a transparent attempt to score political points rather than for any legitimate purpose,” Giamanco said in the email. “One version I heard early on — from an elected offi-

cial — was that the minor was ‘run over’ and that Ms. Traynere never stopped her vehicle; such statements are patently false and defamatory,” he said. “As the matter is currently pending, we are limited in what we can say. However, Ms. Traynere contests the single citation she received for allegedly failing to yield to a pedestrian. We look forward to resolving this matter in a court of law — not in the court of public opinion.” Traynere has been on the Will County Board since 2008 was Democratic Leader from 2022 to 2024.

Michelle Mullins is a freelance reporter.

Winter

from Page 1

season were bookended by a mild December and a warm start to the spring, making it harder for ice to concentrate over the lakes. Seasonal snowfall across portions of the Upper Midwest remained 2 or more feet below average. Dry weather meant Chicago saw just under a foot of snow — less than half the normal amount. “It was cold enough, but we just didn’t get the right features in the right place to consistently get a lot of snowfall,” Ford said. Dry weather from the fall and a lack of precipitation this season have also led to relatively low water levels in the Great Lakes, even though they are generally at their lowest in the winter. For instance, lakes Michigan and Huron — which hydrologists consider one lake because they are connected at the Straits of Mackinac — were almost 8 inches below normal levels in February, according to a monthly report from the Detroit District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That is the lowest they have been since 2014, according to the International Joint Commission, a binational organization between Canada and the United States that manages the shared waterways. Drought conditions also accelerated the drop in water levels in two of the other Great Lakes to below their long-term monthly averages — levels were at their lowest in Lake Superior since 2013 and Lake Ontario since 2003. Lower lake levels can affect shoreline ecosystems and commerce, specifically shipping routes. Research



A person walks their dog next to a partially frozen Lake Michigan at the Museum Campus as strong winds and freezing temperatures hit the area on Jan. 6. ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

suggests ships can lose up to \$30,000 a trip because of the lighter loads they’re forced to carry in low water conditions. Across the Great Lakes, ecosystems rely on ice during the winter. Without it, shorelines are unprotected from storm surges and large waves, which can cause coastal erosion. With less ice, the Great Lakes can absorb sunlight faster, which drives surface warming. Warmer waters can accelerate fish

spawning and have ripple effects across food webs, in turn affecting commercial fishing. And many communities have economic ties to seasonal ice fishing and outdoor sports that require a thick and solid surface. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data, ice concentrations peaked on the lakes around Feb. 20-21, when just over half of their total surface froze. On average, the lakes experience a

combined maximum of 53% ice cover sometime in late February or early March, with as much as 91% of the lakes covered during the highest years. This year, only Lake Erie had a mostly above-normal season with ice cover between 80% and 95% after an Arctic blast in mid-January. For Lake Michigan, a February peak represented little more than a third of its surface. However, last year, maximum ice cover was

only 16% in a historically low season for ice across all the Great Lakes. Still, “it was much better than last year,” Ford said. But the ice didn’t remain long because the water underneath was not cold enough. He called it “thermal inertia” — big bodies of water cool more slowly than the atmosphere, so warm fall and December temperatures make it so the lakes take longer to catch up to sudden drops in temperature

in January and February. Last year, the surface temperature of Lake Michigan in November was the warmest since recordkeeping began 30 years ago. “The lake is responding to longer timescales than a season or a month,” Ford said. Freelancer Vivian La contributed. adperez@chicagotribune.com

Pension

from Page 1

COVID-19 relief funds and without state education dollars that meet the state’s own definition of full funding,” a CPS spokesperson said in the statement. Johnson’s team had been warning of a March 30 deadline to log the reimbursement in its books for 2024. Without it, the mayor’s team had suggested it might have to draw from its reserves to reconcile the difference. The final shortfall, Johnson deputies said in a Tuesday briefing, would not be known until later this spring, but an accounting fix could be done without council sign-off. “Again, it’s too early to tell, but ultimately, any of this kind of reconciliation does not require a council vote, OK?” a senior administration official said. What about the beneficiaries? Conversations between city officials and CPS in recent weeks about the pension payment are akin to political football. However, the people behind the pension fund — the beneficiaries — have not been the focal point of the debate. “This is our pension, we’ve done the work and it should be paid,” said Lashawn Wallace, who was a paraprofessional with CPS for 32 years and is now on leave from the district to work as an organizer for the Chicago Teachers Union. Regardless of who picks it up, the pension contribution tab for the MEABF will



Chicago Public Schools CEO Pedro Martinez leaves following a Board of Education meeting on March 13. ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

continue to rise as it digs out of near-insolvency. The MEABF only had about 24% of the funds it needed to cover future payments at the end of 2023, according to the fund’s most recent actuarial report. Pension contributions, by law, must rise to reach a 90% funded level by 2058. Former Mayor Rahm Emanuel got creative with how to meet the city’s obligation to MEABF workers, including imposing water-sewer tax increases, but Johnson settled his budget last year by a razor-thin margin and has not floated similar options to cover the gap. More than half of the fund’s beneficiaries are current or former CPS employees, according to city officials — a number that is growing. The fund also covers some employees from the city and the Chicago Housing Authority. There were over 36,900 active members of the MEABF, per data as of Dec. 31, 2023, the most recent figures provided by city employees. That doesn’t count over 24,400 inactive

members and 26,000 retirees and beneficiaries. During the Tuesday briefing with the mayor’s office, officials said they won’t know how large the gap from the MEABF will end up being until a “book reconciliation” between March 30 and June 30 that accounts for final revenues and expenses from 2024. The city can only log revenues for the last fiscal year until the end of this month. The mayor’s team also could not say whether other revenues would overperform enough, or whether expenses would drop enough to cover the \$175 million difference. They also demurred on whether the city should cut back on other revenues it does out to CPS — such as grants, capital projects, or tax increment financing surplus — to make up for the shortfall. Drawing down from the city’s reserves may earn the ire of ratings agencies, but is still on the table, mayor’s office officials said. Regardless, “we have sufficient liquidity to meet our obligations,” a Johnson administration official said.

“We can’t predict how the rating agencies will react to either the news cycle or the material impact. So we will do our work, and they will do theirs, and both of those things will be public.” Ald. Scott Waguespack, a frequent mayoral critic, warned that any action cutting out the City Council will make Johnson’s already-fraught aldermanic relationships “much worse” after a grueling 2025 budget cycle. He and 14 other aldermen issued a letter Tuesday demanding council approval for any movement of city funds to cover the 2024 budget gap, as well as quarterly reporting on the Finance and Budget committees on cash-flow management. “The problem I have with a couple of my colleagues who are with them on this and just saying, ‘Hey, we’re just going to move the money around,’ it’s other people’s money,” Waguespack, the former chairman of the Finance Committee, said. “It’s taxpayers’ money, and they can’t treat taxpayers like it’s an open cash register.” ‘Highly unusual situation’ At a school board meeting to discuss financial options to cover the pension payment in mid-March, Jill Jaworski, the city’s chief financial officer, said in a presentation that she is a member of the MEABF. She recommended the school board approve a borrowing proposal to address the budget gap partly caused by the \$175 million pension payment asked for by the city.

‘Highly unusual situation’

At a school board meeting to discuss financial options to cover the pension payment in mid-March, Jill Jaworski, the city’s chief financial officer, said in a presentation that she is a member of the MEABF. She recommended the school board approve a borrowing proposal to address the budget gap partly caused by the \$175 million pension payment asked for by the city.

Jaworski said the pension conflict is a “highly unusual situation” based on a “highly unusual history.” In all other school districts in Illinois, Jaworski said, teacher retirement contributions are paid for by the state. By law, the city is responsible for making MEABF payments. That only changed in 2020, when Lightfoot, in an effort to detangle district finances from the city as it transitioned to an elected board, forged an agreement that would shift some costs onto CPS. The district made its first payment to the fund in 2021, and future payments were supposed to gradually rise to more than \$250 million. “As CPS moves to be a completely independent school board, there is a need for CPS to become financially independent,” Jaworski said, suggesting the state should help pick up some costs, as it does with other school districts in Illinois. But CPS is different from other districts because of its status as a large, urban district. It also has millions of dollars of debt in capital project expenses for its old buildings.

An increasing payment

Because of those rising obligations to the MEABF, the city’s ask of CPS could grow to \$315 million by 2027, according to projections in a 2022 district analysis, further stressing an already structurally imbalanced budget. Tom Sgouros, a research associate in data science at Brown University, said it is possible to run a pension

system at low levels of funding under the right demographic conditions indefinitely — assuming there’s no large population bump or other unexpected changes. “That’s because whoever’s in the Chicago system that is going to be owed a pension liability to them, the last dollar of that liability isn’t going to be paid out until they die,” Sgouros said. In a recent interview with the Tribune, Joe Ferguson, president of the watchdog group the Civic Federation, said: “There is no professionally advanced and vetted pathway for the school board to take on the MEABF reimbursement, which it has no legal obligation to take on in the first instance.” Non-teacher CPS employees told the Tribune they don’t care how the pension payment is paid, so long as they still have stability and aren’t shortchanged in their retirement benefits. Chicago Teachers Union President Stacy Davis Gates reiterated that sentiment at a rally with firefighters and teachers union members Monday, where members of both unions urged the swift settlement of their respective contracts. “Let me say this. I don’t care who pays it. The city can pay it. The school district can pay it. They can figure out how to honor the workers in this city,” Davis Gates said when asked about the pension payment. “It only is a problem of hot potato when it comes to the workers of this city.” “Protect those who protect you,” read one of the signs that bobbed in the sea of CTU red ski hats and jackets.

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EDITORIALS

Pritzker goes to bat for the state's business climate, earning union brickbats

It's not news that Illinois' economy is in the doldrums. So it was encouraging to see Gov. JB Pritzker, with a clear eye to improving the state's economic climate, take the rare step of vetoing legislation backed by organized labor that had passed with overwhelming support from his fellow Democrats.

The measure in question would have imposed new requirements on large-scale warehouse owners and operators meant to ensure employees are treated fairly and humanely, particularly when it comes to production quotas. What's wrong with that, right?

As is the case with most legislation, though, the devil is in the details and this bill is no exception. In his veto message, Pritzker said the measure was overly vague on which workers would be protected and also wasn't sufficiently clear on how civil penalties for infractions would be assessed.

The bill passed during the lame-duck session in early January, leading Pritzker to chide lawmakers for moving "hastily" on important legislation without adequately engaging the governor's office on the practical ramifications.

Over the past several years, anyone driving around Illinois — particularly the northern part of the state — will have noticed vast warehouse facilities sprouting throughout the area. The sprawling former Allstate campus in Northbrook is a case in point, sold



Gov. JB Pritzker speaks after delivering his annual budget address at the State Capitol in Springfield on Feb. 19. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

several years ago to a warehouse developer who is converting the acreage to a logistics hub.

Jobs in that industry grew rapidly in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic as shopping over the internet mushroomed. That job growth has slowed in recent months, but construction is expected to continue.

In its most recent economic forecast for the state performed by the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability, published last month, Moody's predicted that transportation/warehousing would remain a "pillar of strength." "Steady demand for logistics services and the area's presence in e-commerce ensure bright prospects for transporta-

tion/warehousing for years to come," Moody's wrote.

In a state with an unemployment rate nearly a percentage point higher than the national average and employment growth negligible in most sectors other than government jobs, imposing burdensome — and just as importantly, confusing and overly vague — new rules on one of the few obvious areas of private-sector growth is foolish despite the good intentions behind the bill.

Pritzker, who isn't known for rejecting measures that are a high priority for unions, was right to insist on ensuring any new rules regarding the operations of this specific industry be fair, well understood and straightforward regarding compliance. The

governor appears to recognize that Illinois has a problem right now in terms of private-sector job creation.

With this veto and with his budget proposing to close an estimated \$1.7 billion fiscal 2026 shortfall without raising taxes, a governor with whom business groups have had their differences since he first took office in 2019 finally is heeding their calls to make Illinois more competitive.

And, yes, there is competition for warehouse jobs even if they aren't as coveted as those in many other industries. Indiana — like Illinois situated in the middle of the country with a strong transportation network — is a perfectly good place for the likes of Amazon and UPS to build new warehouses. The governor clearly understands that reality.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Manufacturers' Association applauded the veto. But Pritzker paid a price with a major union he previously would have considered an ally.

In a statement headlined, "Billionaire Gov. Vetoes Warehouse Worker Protections," the Teamsters Union was harsh. Pritzker "has abandoned the very people who give their all every day, working under inhumane production quotas that are not only unacceptable but also dangerous," Teamsters Joint Council 25 President Thomas W. Stiede said in the statement.

Stiede referenced his own experience as a former warehouse

worker and added (just in case the "billionaire governor" headline hadn't properly registered), "It's unfortunate that our Governor doesn't have those same experiences or sympathies."

Pritzker has made clear his door is open to negotiate a better-constructed bill to ensure working conditions in Illinois' warehouses are humane. And in his veto message, he pledged that the Illinois Department of Labor would strengthen its field enforcement team to ensure warehouses aren't abusing workers, for example, by depriving them of adequate time for meals and rest, among other concerns.

Illinois Chamber President Lou Sandoval tells us business groups are open to negotiating an acceptable compromise. Instead of castigating Pritzker, a union ally many times in the past, the Teamsters ought to do the same.

In the meantime, it's gratifying to see the governor beginning the process of restoring balance to the state's refereeing of employer-union disputes. Unions for too long have assumed their Democratic Party allies in Springfield will take their side even in cases where business interests articulate reasonable concerns about proposals for greater regulation.

It's going to take many more to improve Illinois' reputation as a place to invest and do business. We hope Pritzker's fellow Democrats in Springfield are getting the message and feeling the same urgency.

Illinois has too many townships. Pritzker-backed bills to prune them should get action

Do you know which township you live in? Many people don't. But Illinois has 1,426 of them, so it's worth paying attention to what they do.

Bob Anderson is. The former McHenry Township trustee-turned-watchdog is championing legislation to reduce the number of townships in Illinois.

He says this form of government is largely outdated — townships, as he puts it, were established in the mid-1800s when the state was populated by settlers in few towns and villages.

"In the 21st century, township government has evolved into an overlapping unit of government ... costing property owners over \$750 million in property taxes annually," he wrote in a letter to lawmakers that he shared with the editorial board.

McHenry County, where Anderson lives, has 17 townships. The county also has 30 cities and villages.

There's something to the consolidation movement, and the need for consolidation comes up

seemingly every year in the capital. It's also got the backing of Gov. JB Pritzker. That's because it's a popular, commonsense initiative — and it's not hard to see why.

Illinois has certainly become famous for its vast number of government entities, with a total of 8,505 townships, counties, villages, water reclamation districts ... you name it. The St. Louis Fed points out that Illinois has more than 1.5 times as many units of government as California, despite having less than a third as many residents. All of this to say, the vast quantity of government in Illinois is an outlier.

So what do they do — and do we really need them? As with most things, it depends.

In general, townships handle road maintenance for rural byways. They also provide services to seniors, such as transportation, and provide financial aid to low-income residents.

We concede that some townships provide valuable services no other governmental body offers, particularly in rural areas of the state.

It's a different story in densely populated areas, where townships overlap with counties and villages. Is such a tangle of government truly necessary?

Pritzker thinks there's room to trim. He signed legislation in 2019 to make it easier to dissolve townships. That was a good first step. He proposed to go even further this year as part of his fiscal year 2026 budget.

Lawmakers this session filed a handful of bills in Springfield to further the cause. One would allow election authorities to merge contiguous townships into a single election precinct if certain conditions are met. Another measure would dissolve all townships with fewer than 5,000 residents, consolidating them with either an adjacent township or the county governing their geographic area.

All of these bills share a common goal: reducing the size and scope of government across Illinois.

Unfortunately, the movement appears to have stalled in Springfield. Despite the governor's back-

ing, Senate and House committees moved none of the bills aiming to shrink Illinois' number of townships before the legislature's deadline for committee action.

The apparent reason for inaction is staunch opposition from township supervisors and state lawmakers who previously served as township officials or are closely aligned with those running townships today. Small wonder: The preservation of townships means more well-paid elective offices, accompanied by the pensions those jobs often confer.

Even some downstate Republicans oppose the movement, arguing that dissolving townships will lead to tax hikes. We don't follow that line of thinking.

There is precedent for dissolving townships and shifting their responsibilities to other governmental units, and we've written in support of consolidation before. In southern Illinois, 17 counties function smoothly without townships. Evanston residents voted to abolish Evanston Township in 2014, with its responsibil-

ities being passed on to the city of Evanston. In the Metro East, Belleville Township dissolved in 2017, with the city of Belleville picking up its needed services. And a referendum to dissolve West Peoria Township passed in 2020.

We do not support the "burn it down" school of government reform being employed at the national level, instead subscribing to a more thoughtful approach that lays out plans to consolidate that include specifics on what services are cut, which remain and what entity will take them on. This should not be limited to townships. For example, the Civic Committee is recommending the dissolution of the four Cook County Mosquito Abatement Districts and merging their responsibilities with the county. Good idea.

"If you want change, you gotta start small," Anderson told us.

Indeed. Here's to small — but needed — change. We hope consolidation comes up again in Springfield later in the year.

ON THIS DAY 40 YEARS AGO

President Reagan has chosen a prudent approach in his reaction to the killing of American Army Major Arthur D. Nicholson Jr. by a Soviet soldier in East Germany.

While "shocked and saddened" by the tragic incident, the President said the shooting of the unarmed American has made him more anxious than before for a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. It was an uncommonly statesmanlike way of putting it.

But Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger was right to call the shooting an example of a Soviet shoot-first-and-ask-questions-later mentality, the same kind of thinking that resulted in the attack on a Korean Air Lines jumbo jet in 1983, costing the lives of 269 civilian passengers.

The Soviet news agency Tass, while expressing regret over the incident, insists that Maj.

Nicholson—who was shot in the chest—tried to escape after the sentry caught him in a "spying operation" at a restricted Soviet installation. U.S. officials said he was at least 300 yards from any military installation. And the State Department said Maj. Nicholson was performing duties authorized by a 1947 accord permitting unsupervised travel by allied and Soviet military men in both Germanys.

What remains unknown is whether the shooting was the work of an overzealous lone Soviet soldier or was authorized by political superiors. But regardless, the tragedy was a product of the kind of tension between the two countries that has dominated relations in recent years.

When leaders of the superpowers shout at one another, trigger-fingers in the ranks below are bound to be quicker. Mr. Reagan's lowered voice ought now to be answered by a reciprocal response from the Soviet side.

Tribune Editorial Board, March 27, 1985

EDITORIAL CARTOON

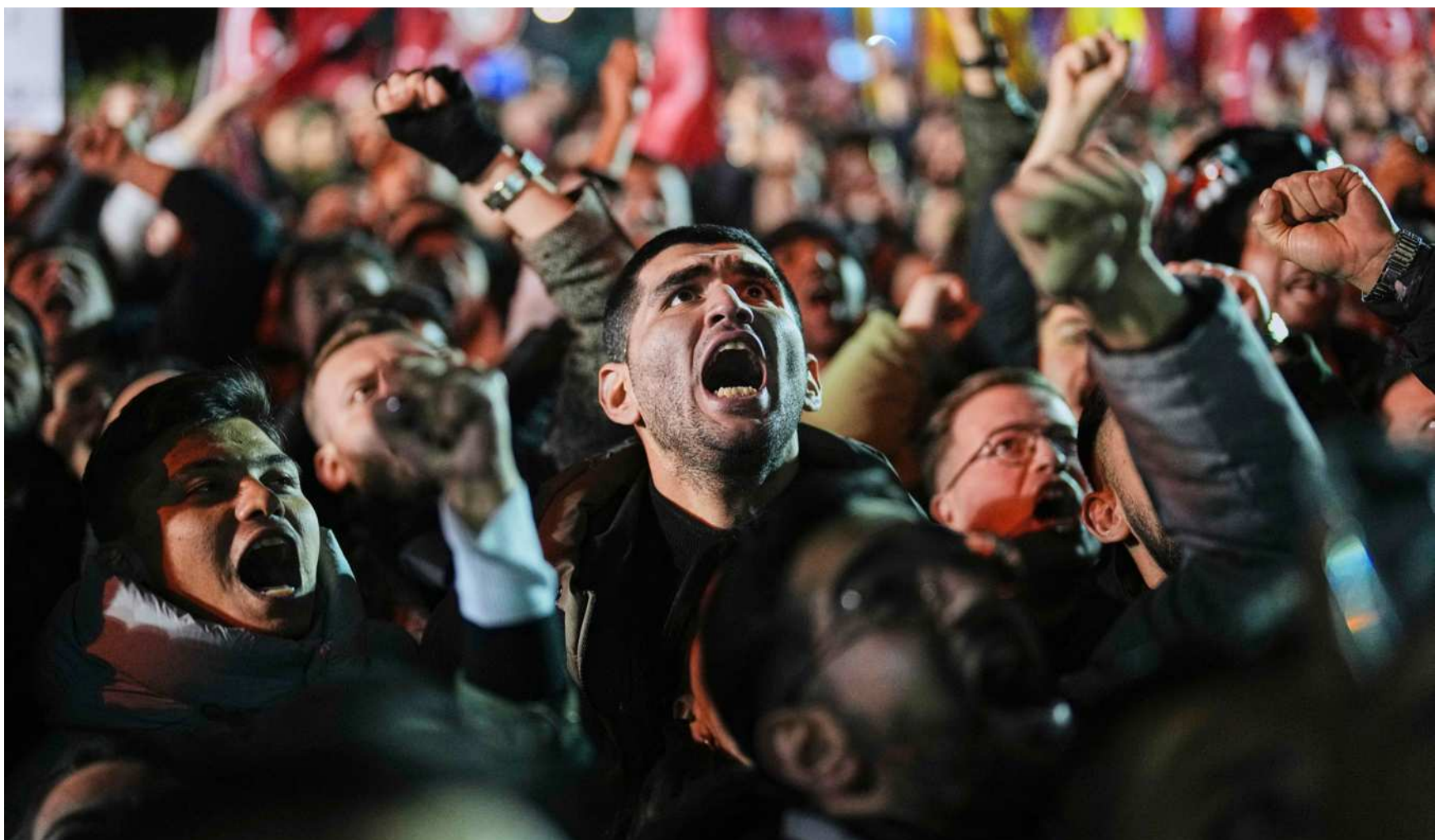


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MICHAEL RAMIREZ/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

OPINION



People gather outside City Hall to protest the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu in Istanbul, Turkey, last week. FRANCISCO SECO/AP

Arrest of Istanbul mayor confirms that Turkey is falling into authoritarianism

By Bilal Bilici

The arrest and recent imprisonment of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu sent shockwaves through Turkey, marking a decisive shift toward full autocracy. On March 19, police officers — acting on instructions from the ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP — detained İmamoğlu. By Sunday, the popular opposition figure was imprisoned — the very day he was set to be announced as the Republican People’s Party’s (CHP) presidential candidate.

The timing was not coincidental. The AKP, under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, appears emboldened, calculating that the international community’s attention is fragmented enough to mute criticism of this brazen move. It is imperative, however, that the world proves this calculation wrong.

The arrest is a watershed moment in Turkey’s democratic trajectory, demanding immediate international condemnation.

İmamoğlu’s imprisonment is the latest chapter in a sustained campaign to dismantle Turkey’s opposition. His consecutive election victories rang alarm bells for the AKP. Since his landmark victory in the 2019 Istanbul mayoral race — where he overturned an annulled result to defeat the AKP’s candidate by a landslide — İmamoğlu has faced relentless legal harassment. These charges, devoid of merit, culminated in his politically motivated arrest, accompanied by the detention of more

than 100 colleagues and advisers. Authorities even seized İmamoğlu’s family business, an illegal expropriation designed to cripple his financial independence.

This escalation follows CHP’s sweeping victories in Turkey’s 2024 local elections, in which the party won 35 provincial capitals — its first nationwide popular vote win since 1977. The AKP’s frustration was evident: Istanbul University, just one day before İmamoğlu’s arrest, annulled his university diploma, a transparent attempt to disqualify him from presidential candidacy. On the day İmamoğlu was set to be nominated as the CHP’s presidential candidate — running unopposed in the party’s primary — authorities rushed to jail him. In a show of defiance and solidarity, nearly 15 million citizens turned out to vote, underscoring public frustration and the demand for change.

The broader pattern is unmistakable. Since October, Turkish authorities have detained or imprisoned dozens of opposition figures, including the nationalist Victory Party’s leader, prominent journalists, business leaders and even the CHP’s youth branch president. Perhaps most alarming are the arrests of other democratically elected district mayors in Istanbul, where two municipalities were swiftly handed to government-appointed crony administrators. The fabricated charges — ranging from corruption to baseless accusations of terrorism — mirror the same tactics now being used to silence İmamoğlu.

This authoritarian turn comes at

a precarious moment. As NATO’s second-largest military power and a critical energy transit hub, Turkey holds significant strategic weight for Europe and the wider West. Yet this crackdown risks transforming the country from a vital ally into a destabilizing force within the alliance.

The international community faces a stark choice: Will it prioritize Turkey’s strategic value at the expense of democratic principles, or will it take meaningful action to defend the rule of law in this crucial NATO member state?

Turkey’s growing instability has profound economic consequences. Global investors recognize that authoritarian regimes breed uncertainty, and the Turkish lira’s recent plunge following İmamoğlu’s arrest reflects these concerns. Foreign businesses may increasingly hesitate to invest in a country where legal institutions can be manipulated to suit political whims.

Europe, in particular, holds substantial leverage. Turkey remains eager to modernize its customs union with the European Union — an opportunity the EU must condition on tangible democratic reforms. The AKP may attempt to counter such pressure with threats to facilitate mass refugee flows into Europe, yet Western leaders must remain firm: Continued democratic backsliding must carry diplomatic and economic repercussions.

The United States also has a vital role to play. President Donald Trump’s administration shows an affinity for strongman leaders, so it may be reluctant to criticize Ankara, but Wash-

ington must recognize that tolerating Turkey’s authoritarian drift undermines NATO’s cohesion and weakens Europe’s security. By standing firm, the United States could reinforce its broader commitment to preserving democracy in Turkey.

The AKP may believe that this moment — marked by geopolitical realignment and shifting global attention — provides cover for its crackdown. But the world must prove otherwise. The imprisonment of İmamoğlu is not just a domestic affair; it also is a test of the international community’s willingness to uphold democratic values.

It is clear that silence would embolden further repression. Article 34 of the Turkish Constitution, which guarantees the right to peaceful assembly without prior permission, now holds little weight in an environment in which political repression stifles dissent by the public and obstructs any meaningful resistance movement. A strong, unified response would not only defend Turkey’s democracy but would also send a powerful signal to the millions of Turkish citizens who continue to believe in a more just and democratic future.

Failing to act risks sending a message to autocrats that democratic norms can be dismantled without consequence.

Bilal Bilici is a member of Turkey’s Parliament, representing Adana province in the Grand National Assembly from the Republican People’s Party.

Where do Black Americans go from here?



Willie Wilson

The 48.3 million Black Americans in the United States are left wondering: With President Donald Trump’s direct assault on civil rights, federal agencies, and diversity, equity and inclusion policies, where do we go from here?

The Black American middle class was largely built on federal government jobs at the U.S. Postal Service and other agencies. Black people account for 19% of the federal workforce, 29% of workers at the USPS and 30% at the recently dismantled Department of Education. The cuts to federal government jobs — coupled with the gutting of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and undermining of federal efforts to collect data that helps combat racial inequities — could harm Black and brown Americans. Trump’s executive orders make it more difficult to prove discrimination by private companies.

“For decades, the federal government provided both reliable jobs and guardrails to offset systemic racial bias in hiring and

promotions, offering an alternative for Black workers who might be overlooked or ignored in the private sector,” NBC recently reported. “But vast cuts by the Trump administration, led by Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency, are threatening to close down that once-dependable path to financial stability.”

The impact of federal employee job cuts will be felt in every state. In Illinois, there were 44,784 federal employees as of March 2024, according to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Media outlet TheGrio noted that Pew Research Center data “shows that the status of Black Americans in the middle class remains fragile, as they are more likely to fall out of the middle class as they often fall in the lower-tier of income. Any disruptions to the job security within the Black middle class could see progress reverted.”

Last year, the McKinsey Institute for Black Economic Mobility released a report that says at the current pace of change, it could take decades to improve outcomes for Black Americans and more than three centuries to get to full equality. Another report by the Institute for Policy Studies and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition suggests that at the current rate of progress, it will take more than 500 years for Black

people to reach economic parity.

Where is the sense of urgency from people of good conscience to close persistent racial disparities? The insidious wealth disparity leads to economic instability, social unrest, unequal opportunities, poorer health outcomes and shorter life expectancy. Economic freedom liberates families, reduces disparities, stabilizes communities and strengthens democracy. Tearing down agencies that helped create the Black middle class and removing civil rights protections will widen disparities.

To be clear, I agree government needs to be right-sized — but you don’t employ a chainsaw to do that. Just as a surgeon uses a scalpel to cut out a tumor, a similar approach is needed for federal, state and local governments. The government workforce should be treated with dignity and respect. The Trump-Musk approach of throwing out the baby with the bathwater lacks compassion and leads to chaos.

Recently, the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights in Chicago was closed. There are 906 civil rights complaints concerning school districts, colleges and universities throughout the Midwest, NBC affiliate WMAQ-Ch. 5 reports. It is unclear what will happen with those

complaints.

It is ironic Black Americans are facing the greatest threat to equality, fairness and justice at the zenith of Black political power. A record number 67 Black lawmakers are serving in the 119th Congress. The minority leader in the House is Black. This means we not only have a seat at the table but also are setting the agenda. Black elected leaders will go down in history as having been at the table while Trump unleashed polices to set Black Americans back hundreds of years.

Black people have been a consistent base of support for the Democratic Party. However, Democrats have not articulated a strategy for lower prices at grocery stores and gas stations. Costs continue to soar for health, home and car insurance. The demoralized Democrats are twisting in the wind, while Trump does a number on Black Americans.

The Republican Party has supported Trump’s policies with near unanimity. This period is not a golden age — but rather the age of feckless politicians.

The following are recommendations to save the Black middle class:

1. The Congressional Black Caucus and Democrats should develop a plan to fight for the Black middle class.

2. House and Senate Republican members should not support cuts to Medicaid. Recall that Jesus reminded us: What you do unto the least of these, you do unto me.
3. Gov. JB Pritzker and the General Assembly should pass legislation allowing school choice.
4. All Americans should exercise their civic responsibility and vote in every election.
5. The Black church should organize and ensure employment opportunities for Black people in private and public sectors. And they should initiate programs to create entrepreneurs.
6. The U.S. Supreme Court must serve as the check on the president in the absence of an unwilling Congress.

The president’s quest to “Make America Great Again” by dismantling federal government agencies and DEI policies, rolling back civil rights protections and cutting civil rights departments in agencies under the guise of efficiency will harm Black Americans, all women and others. Perhaps it’s time to dust off our peaceful protest shoes.

I write this commentary to make those comfortable with allowing policies to set Black Americans back uncomfortable.

Willie Wilson is a business owner, philanthropist and former mayoral candidate.

OPINION

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

At a tipping point

Deporting migrant criminals was in part what President Donald Trump was elected to do. But he must do this within the bounds of American law. The administration argues that each recently deported Venezuelan was carefully vetted for gang affiliation. The alleged gang members were deported without a hearing in an immigration court; much less a criminal conviction.

Trump claims the migrants weren't entitled to due process, invoking the Alien Enemies Act. This act can only be invoked when there has been a declaration of war. The deportees were frog-marched into a maximum security prison in El Salvador.

Many families have said innocent relatives were swept up in a cross-country dragnet who had done nothing to warrant being locked in a brutal foreign prison. Trump argues that he gets to decide what counts as an invasion and who is an enemy immigrant.

Trump is asserting he has the authority to seize any person off the street and have them locked up in a foreign prison. This is a rejection of the rule of law, which is the bedrock of our Constitution. When a federal judge ordered the deportations paused because of due process issues; the planes continued to El Salvador.

The possible miscarriage of justice is now front and center. A court order can be appealed, but it must be obeyed. If Trump violates that order, we no longer have a democracy but a government that operates at the whims of one person.

We are approaching a showdown between a president who rejects the rule of law and a judge sworn to enforce the Constitution and its laws.

We are at a tipping point. Each American must to decide: Is the president bound by our laws, or is the law whatever a president chooses? Choose wisely. The future of our democracy is in the balance.

— Jerry Hanson, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Due process matters

President Donald Trump has deported people to El Salvador, saying they are the worst of the worst. We now know that this is not entirely true.

We need to know: the names of the individuals, what crimes they have committed and what court convicted them of the crimes. Our Constitution grants even the worst of the worst due process of the law. These people were not given this opportunity.

Trump has said that we are at war. We know that this is not true as only Congress can declare war, not the president.

We should all be concerned. Can the government simply enter our homes, chain us, drag us out and ship us to another country without due process?

— Bob Jackson, Libertyville

Stoking recession fears

Along with such obvious untruths as “the border is secure,” “President Joe Biden is as sharp as he’s ever been” and “inflation is transitory,” the previous administration and legacy media outlets during the past four years informed the public that the nation was not in a recession, even when we had two consecutive quarters of negative growth. Now that the current administration is keeping good on its promises to root out waste, fraud and abuse in federal government and to reduce government spending, media outlets, including the Tribune Editorial Board, fan the flames of recession fear and seek to blame one, should one occur, on President Donald Trump.

With no sense of irony or history, for example, the fourth paragraph of the March 24 lead editorial (“The president loves to slap his name on things. Does he really want a ‘Trumpcession?’”) notes that the U.S. Federal Reserve recently declined to cut interest rates purportedly “to fight the inflationary effect of Trump’s self-defeating trade policies.” Yet interest rates are where they are partly because of the profligate spending habits of previous administrations, including ill-advised and unnecessary trillion-dollar blow-outs in the name of COVID-19 relief and a college debt forgiveness program that simply transferred debt from borrowers to taxpayers and that the U.S. Supreme Court held unconstitutional. Trump’s tariff policies, however ill-advised, are mostly not yet in effect.

Similarly, the editorial board’s call to cancel the Trump “economic reality show” before it purportedly sinks “the strong-ish economy he inherited from President Joe Biden” is simply risible. After four years of uncontrolled illegal immigration and profligate spending by whoever was actually running the Biden presidency, the U.S. economy and American consumers were under the largest national debt of all time and the highest inflation in 40 years. If that’s “stong-ish,” then I would hate to see a “weak-ish” economy!

— David L. Applegate, Huntley

Citizens can do more

Kudos to Marj Halperin for her March 24 op-ed “Democratic voters want more



Protesters rally outside the Rhode Island State House in support of a deported Brown University assistant professor on March 17 in Providence, Rhode Island. CHARLES KRUPA/AP



U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., greets Maria Angeles Marquez as he hosts a town hall in Norco College Amphitheater in Norco, Calif., on Sunday. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

of everything.” Her observations that Democratic Party leaders are not doing nearly enough to push back against President Donald Trump and MAGA is right on. Democrats could certainly steal some of the media space from Trump, Elon Musk and MAGA with daily press conferences that forcefully attack MAGA’s anti-democratic, vile and illegal actions.

Democrats should communicate in simple terms how these actions are or will be impacting regular Americans. Democrats need to put forward their most passionate, articulate and charismatic representatives to conduct these sessions. Having real people, who have been devastated by these actions, testify at these pressers would humanize the impacts, as well. There are plenty of real-life horror stories every single day.

Democrats should be filing criminal charges against the Department of Government Efficiency and calling for congressional investigations. Blue state governors and attorneys general need to fight back, as some already have.

I would expand on Halperin’s opinion piece, though, to say that not only should the Democratic Party be doing more, but we as citizens can do more, as well.

We may feel hopeless and powerless in the face of the unwarranted suffering and cruelty Trump and his billionaire cronies are perpetrating on us all, but we can have an impact if we act. Thousands across the country are crowding into town halls and protesting in the streets in both red and blue districts, demanding accountability and loudly opposing Trump’s autocratic tactics. Thousands more are contacting their elected representatives on a daily basis to let them know their opposition to Trump’s actions and to demand that our representatives truly represent us.

If readers need some guidance or a little push to take a few minutes a day to act, join an Indivisible chapter such as the chapter led by Halperin. Indivisible emails daily actions with easy links to your elected representatives as well as invites to peaceful protests and rallies. In addition to Indivisible, readers can check out such sources as Simon Rosenberg, Jessica Craven and Robert Hubbell for actions you can take, including donating and volunteering. And when you meet people who feel there is nothing they can do, direct them, as I do, to groups and organizations that can lead them to take action with like-minded citizens.

— Mary Wilson, Chicago

Tired of the bickering

In Marj Halperin’s March 24 opinion piece, she asks: “When will Democrats step up to ‘flood the zone’ with the

vigorous fight for our democracy that this moment demands?” Once again, Democrats insinuate that President Donald Trump and Elon Musk are out to destroy democracy. She wonders why Democrats aren’t holding daily news conferences to “save our freedoms” from the constructive actions this administration is taking.

Last November, Americans voted to make our streets safe again, remove violent criminals who are here illegally, and purge our government of corruption, fraud and financial waste. Sounds like effective responses are being taken by this administration. I’m not sure how these actions are destroying Americans’ freedoms. Plus, screaming “Nazi” and burning Tesla cars are certainly not the logical solutions we need as Americans.

I think I understand why Democrats aren’t holding daily news conferences to present their ideas and solutions to these current problems. It’s because they don’t have any ideas or solutions. Nor do they have any political willingness to cooperate and discuss moving forward together. For four years, President Joe Biden’s administration did not provide ideas or solutions that the American people cared about. As supposed leaders, Democrats did not perform well, tossing important issues aside while concentrating their efforts on destroying one man that they feared would upset their hold on power and expose the corruption and fraud that festered in our government.

For years, the American people watched the Democrats continuously attack Trump, his business and his family. Rather than applying themselves to the jobs they pledged an oath to uphold, their top priority and focus was to publicly crush Trump. The liberal media ensured this negativity was broadcast to the public. Democrats continue to openly display resistance and opposition rather than compromise and negotiation.

I don’t see Democrats offering up ideas and solutions anytime soon. They didn’t demonstrate a cooperative agenda for four years under Biden, and last November, the American people spoke. Instead, Democrats continue to wear their shirts and wave their protest signs that say “resist” for all to see.

Drop the deranged hate and consider new options. Americans are tired of bickering political parties and constant opposition. We’d prefer a united government that works together toward solutions that benefit the people. So cut the crap already.

— Paul G. Klacko, Campton Hills

Off-year races matter

Regarding the article “Wisconsin race draws attention of billionaires” (March

23): I suppose rich people have the right to give money where they wish. Nevertheless, it seems disingenuous for Gov. JB Pritzker to weigh in on Wisconsin politics.

The article helps illuminate where many issues reach a fulcrum: the courts and its leaders, who influence for so many years. This behooves voters to be paying attention to these significant, but off-year, races. As for me and my house, we will serve the lord of life!

— Al Theis, Tinley Park

Elon Musk’s meddling

America PAC, a super political action committee tied to Elon Musk, is offering Wisconsin voters \$100 for signing a petition in opposition to “activist judges.” It offers them an additional \$100 for each signer they refer. The fact that Musk must buy votes rather than persuade them by legal means shows that his cause may not be as good as he thinks.

You see how money corrupts government when there is little to no regulation of its accumulation or of its dispersal? This is naked bribery, which once was illegal in America.

Musk’s new lobbying program helps his company Tesla “secure a favorable ruling in his company’s lawsuit against the state,” according to the campaign spokesperson for the Democratic-backed candidate for the state’s Supreme Court.

Musk says he is preventing voting fraud. Some Americans might believe that this form of money laundering through a PAC means that it is Musk who is committing the fraud.

The very goal of becoming a billionaire in America is no longer to help other people but to crush them.

— Kimball Shinkoskey, Salt Lake City, Utah

Narrative about merit

For all of President Donald Trump’s ignorant bluster over diversity, equity and inclusion, one would be led to the erroneous conclusion that this country has been built solely on the backs of meritorious white men who somehow outshone women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people and differently abled people to create the very bedrock of American society. That would be a false assumption.

The insinuation that merit is most likely to be found in rich white men who are preferably Christian, whether they live such faith or not, is insulting. This administration seeks to erase history, to erase the gains made over generations for greater civil rights for those who do not fit the white male hegemonic mold. This mold was created and sustained to concentrate power in the hands of the few, while seeking to oppress the many.

While Trump cannot truly erase the events of history, he has already done incalculable damage by employing violent rhetoric against anyone who differs from him in ways he deems unacceptable. I fully expect historians to treat him with the harsh scrutiny his character and his so-called leadership deserve.

In the current moment, it is imperative to remain vigilant against this small-hearted bully who has a pulpit with global reach. Standing up against injustice is critical, even if fierce resistance against injustice will not always have the desired outcome. Indeed, fighting against the utter dehumanization of groups deemed “other” is necessary to preserve the tender bloom of human decency that still remains, I am convinced, within the collective soul of this nation we love.

— Jenny Kuderer, Goodview, Minnesota

JULIE WOESTEHOFF 1952-2025

Education activist urged local control of schools

By Bob Goldsborough
Chicago Tribune

Julie Woestehoff was the longtime executive director of Chicago-based Parents United for Responsible Education (PURE), a reform-minded schools advocacy group that pushed for citizen involvement in the city's schools and equitable use of standardized tests. Woestehoff encouraged "many parents to get involved with their children's education because she believed that parents were the key to advocating for their own children. They knew what the children needed," said Wanda Hopkins, a former PURE assistant director. "And we believed that every child had the right to have the best education possible." Woestehoff, 72, died of a blood infection Feb. 25 at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Florida, where she and her husband had a winter home, said her son, Sten Turpin. Woestehoff was living in Arlington Heights after many years in the North Side Rogers Park neighborhood. Born in Rochester, Minnesota, Julie Margaret Woestehoff was the daughter of Ellsworth S. Woestehoff, who taught education at the University of Chicago, and Margaret Ann Woestehoff, an elementary school music teacher. The family moved to Chicago when she was in kindergarten, later living in Rochester, New York. Woestehoff received a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from Northwestern University in 1974, then worked briefly in Germany, where she met her future husband. In 1976, the couple moved to the Chicago area and she enrolled at the U. of C., eventually earning a master's degree in comparative literature and taking coursework toward a doctorate. Staying at home with her children, she ran for the local school council at Eugene Field School in Rogers Park. "It was a matter of equity. The active teachers were steered toward an options program that was going on in CPS at that time, and the white children were steered toward the options program, and everybody else was...left to fend for themselves," her son said. "My parents were involved in opposition to

that." Woestehoff soon began volunteering for PURE, a coalition of parents, teachers and students that met weekly during a 19-day Chicago Teachers Union strike in 1987 to plan and carry out teach-ins and other activities during the strike. The nonprofit group built more momentum after the 1988 law creating the CPS' 559 local school councils. PURE soon evolved to become a local school council training group and a school reform advocacy organization. Woestehoff, who eventually became the group's executive director, frequently clashed with CPS CEO Paul Vallas over the balance between local control and City Hall's powers over the schools under a 1995 school reform law. "You have to look at the trend over time, and the trend since local school councils started has been very positive, which is why it's very disappointing that the present administration doesn't recognize the impact of local school councils," Woestehoff told the Tribune in 1997. Woestehoff regularly wrote letters to the editor and op-ed articles in the Tribune. As the watchdog group's leader, she was a "loud voice for the multicultural communities," recalled Ismael Vargas, a former PURE associate director. "It was very rare because you had this white lady who was just fighting for Latinos and Blacks," Vargas said. "Her voice was very loud on that, and so that was so beautiful. She prepped me and she trained me and she put me out there to defend parents' rights in the Chicago Public Schools." Vallas said his experiences with school reformers such as Woestehoff "helped influence my growth as a school superintendent." "We did battle, but it was a healthy battle," Vallas said. "Julie was tough, there was absolutely no doubt about it, but I never questioned her commitment. I welcomed the give and take with Julie." Woestehoff often spoke out against CPS testing practices, including its use of cut-off scores on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills to



Woestehoff

prevent the promotions of tens of thousands of children. "The practice of flunking children has proven harmful to them," Woestehoff wrote in a 2000 Tribune op-ed. "It pushes more and more children out of school. Four decades of studies, including a recent study of the Chicago program itself, have also found that retention does not help children progress academically." Woestehoff also regularly criticized charter schools, contending that studies at the time showed that they had not demonstrated an ability to perform much better than regular neighborhood schools. "What do students and parents really get?" she told the Tribune in 2001. "For one thing, none of these schools has a local school council, which gives parents a voice in how the schools are run." Woestehoff continued leading the charge against proposed school closings and charter schools, still advocating for schools with local control. She took aim at the city's Renaissance 2010 initiative, alleging that the plan was a way to privatize and eliminate local school councils and unionized teachers. Late in her career, Woestehoff continued her campaign against high-stakes standardized testing, having PURE join forces with the CTU and several other groups to form the More Than a Score Coalition, which advocated for limiting standardized tests. With funding harder to come by, Woestehoff wound down PURE in 2014. That year, Woestehoff and her husband moved to Wyoming, although she remained involved in education policy as a founding member and head of a national parent advocacy organization, Parents Across America. She retired from that role in 2018. In addition to her son, Woestehoff is survived by her husband of almost 50 years, Larry Turpin; another son, Anders Turpin; a sister, Kristin Ziama; a brother, Mark Woestehoff; and two grandchildren. An open house was held.

Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON MARCH 27 ...

In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon sighted Florida.

In 1625 Charles I became king of England after the death of James I.

In 1794 President George Washington and Congress authorized creation of the Navy.

In 1836 the first Mormon temple, in Kirtland, Ohio, was dedicated.

In 1884 the first long-distance telephone call was made, between Boston and New York City.

In 1886 architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe was born in Aachen, Germany.

In 1902 the Chicago Daily News becomes the first-known entity to refer to the city's National League team using the "Cubs" nickname.

In 1912 first lady Helen Taft plants the first Japanese cherry trees in Washington.

In 1917 the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. hockey team to win the Stanley Cup. (They defeated the Montreal Canadiens.)

In 1924 jazz vocalist Sarah Vaughan was born in Newark, N.J.

In 1945, during World War II, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower declared that German military forces on the Western front had been defeated.

In 1958 Nikita Khrushchev became Soviet premier in

addition to first secretary of the Communist Party.

In 1968 Yuri Gagarin, the Soviet cosmonaut who flew the world's first manned space mission, was killed when his training plane crashed; he was 34.

In 1973 "The Godfather" won the Academy Award for best movie of 1972, but its star, Marlon Brando, refused to accept his Oscar for best actor. (The best-actress award went to Liza Minnelli for her role in "Cabaret.")

In 1979 the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided to raise crude oil prices by 9 percent.

In 1994 Ukraine held its first parliamentary elections since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In 1995 former President Jimmy Carter announced he had brokered a two-month cease-fire between Sudan's Islamic government and rebels.

In 1996 an Israeli court convicted Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's confessed assassin of murder, then sentenced former law student Yigal Amir to life in prison.

In 1997 Dexter King, son of Martin Luther King Jr., met with James Earl Ray, the man imprisoned for the assassination of the civil-rights leader. Ray denied having anything to do with the shooting, to which King replied, "I believe you."

In 1998 the Food and Drug Administration approved

the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

In 2000 the Supreme Court decided that the federal government could deny food stamps and other welfare benefits to people who live permanently in the United States but who are not citizens.

In 2003 Serbian police killed two major suspects in the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic.

In 2005 , in a live Internet interview with Jesse Jackson, Michael Jackson declared himself "completely innocent" of child molestation charges and said he was the victim of a conspiracy.

In 2006 al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui testified at his federal trial that he was supposed to hijack a fifth airplane on Sept. 11, 2001, and fly it into the White House in Washington.

In 2008 North Korea underscored its anger over South Korea's tough new stance toward the communist country with the test-firing of short-range missiles.

In 2014 the Census Bureau faulted the worst recession since the Great Depression in announcing that the United States recorded the fewest births since 1998, according to 2013 data. Also in 2014 the Philippines and its largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, signed a peace pact, ending 45 years of conflict that killed more than 120,000 people.



Chicago Tribune Death Notices

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

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

In Memoriam

Joe Rubin

In loving memory of Joe Rubin. Husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, mentor, partner and friend. Your wisdom, kindness, knowledge, generosity and unselfish love remain in our hearts, our memories of you do not fade. Brother Joe, you are forever loved and forever missed.

Arnold
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Death Notices

Abramson, Floyd H.

Floyd H. Abramson, 93, died in Chicago on March 19, 2025. Born in Omaha, NE on July 1, 1931. Eldest son of the late Leo and Jean Abramson and husband of 54 years to the late Jane Beber Abramson. Survived by wife, Elaine, brother, Robert, children, Anne Abramson (Basil Chaltas), Paul Abramson, Amy Abramson (Kevin), Dr. Rachel Abramson and grandchildren Fern and Gabriel Abramson-Slater. Graduated from Omaha's Central High School, Yale University (B.A. 1953) and Harvard Law School (J.D. 1956). Practiced law at Abramson & Fox for over 50 years, retiring at age 90. With his late wife Jane, Floyd soaked up everything "Chicago," meeting artists, going to galleries, seeing ballet and theater. He always said that raising his family was his greatest accomplishment. He loved being a grandpa. He spent many magical summers in Michigan with his family as an annual tradition. He and a group of tennis buddies also took annual tennis trips to Jamaica. He was deeply committed to many charitable organizations including Beber Camp, which honored his late father-in-law, Sam Beber. Floyd will be remembered for his quiet charm, genuine kindness and unconditional love. Memorial contributions may be made to Beber Camp.

Garden Jr., James Macdonald 'Jim'

James Macdonald Garden, Jr., passed away peacefully on 12/12/24. He had the comfort of his son's hand and the strains of Johnny Cash music as his last memories. He was born in Chicago on January 18, 1938, to James Macdonald and Gertrude Garden. Although work opportunities and life experiences took him away from Chicago, he never lost his love of the Cubs, a good Vienna Beef hotdog, and the family he left behind. He met the love of his life, Gail Kent, while growing up on Patterson Ave. According to family lore, however, he might not have realized it as soon as she did. After graduating from Saint Mary's College, in Winona, MN, Jim returned to Chicago and courted Gail Kent in earnest. They were married in Chicago in September, 1962. During this time, Jim also joined the Naval Reserves and flew out of Glenview Naval Air Station- a service he remained proud of his entire life. Jim's work took him and Gail from Chicago to California to Georgia to Pennsylvania and finally back home to Chicago, first to Arlington Heights, and then to Barrington, where they finished raising their three boys, Jimmy, Kevin, and Bill. Jim shared his love of boating with both family and friends. While raising his three boys, Jim spent many hours with them "messing about" on a boat, first on the Fox River and later on Lake Michigan. He and Gail spent many wonderful days exploring Lake Michigan and its lighthouses. After raising their three boys, Jim and Gail moved to Bradenton, FL, to be closer to Gail's mother, Dorothy Kent, in her later years. While there, Jim became very involved in the Sunset Estates Civic Association, the Elks Club, Sts. Peter and Paul the Apostles Catholic Church, and much to the delight of his grandchildren, grand nieces, and grand nephews, selling and distributing "ice cream polish". Following Gail's death in the summer of 2020, Jim moved to Alexandria, Virginia, to be near his son, Kevin. Although Jim suffered from dementia during his last years, he never lost his gentlemanly manners, his enjoyment of a good joke, his appreciation of beauty, and his ability to love. While he did not always recall names, he always knew his people and was happiest when family and friends were around. He will be remembered by those who loved him for the love he and Gail shared with each other and their family and for his love of faith and country. He is survived by his five siblings- Marilyn Zieserl (Ed), Tom Garden (Suz), Ken Garden (Nancy), Jerry Garden, Richard Garden (Theresa, deceased); three sons- Jimmy Garden, Kevin Garden (Michelle), William Garden (Dana); five grandchildren- Andrew, Steven, Luke (Kevin and Michelle), Madison Frers, Macey Frers (Bill and Dana); many loving nieces, nephews and grand nieces/nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, March 29, 11 am at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Evanston, IL. Interment will happen at a later date in Bradenton, FL, at Sts. Peter and Paul the Apostles Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Alzheimer's Association or the American Heart Association.

Chicago, he never lost his love of the Cubs, a good Vienna Beef hotdog, and the family he left behind. He met the love of his life, Gail Kent, while growing up on Patterson Ave. According to family lore, however, he might not have realized it as soon as she did. After graduating from Saint Mary's College, in Winona, MN, Jim returned to Chicago and courted Gail Kent in earnest. They were married in Chicago in September, 1962. During this time, Jim also joined the Naval Reserves and flew out of Glenview Naval Air Station- a service he remained proud of his entire life. Jim's work took him and Gail from Chicago to California to Georgia to Pennsylvania and finally back home to Chicago, first to Arlington Heights, and then to Barrington, where they finished raising their three boys, Jimmy, Kevin, and Bill. Jim shared his love of boating with both family and friends. While raising his three boys, Jim spent many hours with them "messing about" on a boat, first on the Fox River and later on Lake Michigan. He and Gail spent many wonderful days exploring Lake Michigan and its lighthouses. After raising their three boys, Jim and Gail moved to Bradenton, FL, to be closer to Gail's mother, Dorothy Kent, in her later years. While there, Jim became very involved in the Sunset Estates Civic Association, the Elks Club, Sts. Peter and Paul the Apostles Catholic Church, and much to the delight of his grandchildren, grand nieces, and grand nephews, selling and distributing "ice cream polish". Following Gail's death in the summer of 2020, Jim moved to Alexandria, Virginia, to be near his son, Kevin. Although Jim suffered from dementia during his last years, he never lost his gentlemanly manners, his enjoyment of a good joke, his appreciation of beauty, and his ability to love. While he did not always recall names, he always knew his people and was happiest when family and friends were around. He will be remembered by those who loved him for the love he and Gail shared with each other and their family and for his love of faith and country. He is survived by his five siblings- Marilyn Zieserl (Ed), Tom Garden (Suz), Ken Garden (Nancy), Jerry Garden, Richard Garden (Theresa, deceased); three sons- Jimmy Garden, Kevin Garden (Michelle), William Garden (Dana); five grandchildren- Andrew, Steven, Luke (Kevin and Michelle), Madison Frers, Macey Frers (Bill and Dana); many loving nieces, nephews and grand nieces/nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, March 29, 11 am at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Evanston, IL. Interment will happen at a later date in Bradenton, FL, at Sts. Peter and Paul the Apostles Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Alzheimer's Association or the American Heart Association.

Gory, Henry W. "Hank"

Henry "Hank" Gory, passed away surrounded by the love he so freely gave. A proud son of Chicago, Hank built more than a career, he built a legacy, brick by brick, return by return, and hug by unforgettable hug. Hank is survived by his loving wife Deb, four children: Kate (Nick), Ryan (Margaret), Elizabeth, and Julia. He was the proud grandfather to Mason, Nolan, Maxwell, Amelia Taylor, and Ginny Gory Rathert - who all knew his boundless love and endless stories. Hank also leaves behind his brothers and their families, Thomas (Rudell) Gory, Michael (Sandy) Gory and James (Theresa) Gory. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Sr. and Mary Gory, his baby brother John, and a host of beloved aunts and uncles. Visitation Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Funeral Saturday, 10:00 a.m. from **Curley Funeral Home**, 6116 W. 111th St., Chicago Ridge, IL 60415 to St. Linus Church, 103rd Street & Lawler Ave., Oak Lawn. Mass 11:00 a.m. A live stream of the mass will be available via this link: <https://www.asimplestreaming.com/hwgory>. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. For Funeral Info: (708) 422-2700 or www.curleyfuneralhome.com.

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Chicago Tribune

Gorz, Robert J.

Robert J. Gorz beloved husband of Diane Gorz nee Kuhlman. Loving father of Katie (Taylor) Budrow and Robert (Anaka) Gorz Jr. Adored Pops of Lydia Gorz. Dear brother of Thomas (Brittany) Gorz and the late Daniel Gorz. Fond brother-in-law of Cliff (Lori) Kuhlman and Heidi (Jeff) Busch. Cherished uncle, cousin and friend to many. Friends may pay their respects Friday starting at 10am until time of Service at 11 AM at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1133 Pflingsten Rd, Northbrook, IL. Interment All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines, IL. Remembrances to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital www.stjude.org would be appreciated. Arrangement by **Eternal Light Funerals** 847-508-7763 or www.ELFunerals.com.



O'Neill, Rose Marie

Rose Marie O'Neill, 93, of Chicago, died peacefully Sunday March 23.

Rose was a Chicagoan at heart, having lived her entire adult life on the Near North side. She became a dual citizen of Ireland as well and a champion of Irish heritage, which defined her worldview. Never married, she was throughout a vital presence in the lives of her family and in particular her nine nieces and nephews for whom she served variously and loyally as friend, mentor, confidant and inspiration.

Rose was born in Champaign, the second child of Leo and Sarah (Bates) O'Neill. She moved to Chicago upon graduating from the University of Illinois in 1953. She earned a Master's Degree from Northwestern University in 1955, and she taught high school for a time at Streeter HS. In the 1960s and early 1970s, she worked as a runway and print fashion model for Marshall Fields, Carson's and Saks Fifth Avenue and she kept a collection of priceless photos from that time.

Early on, she joined the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago where she worked with Mayor Richard J. Daley and other well-known civic and political leaders who were at the IFC's helm during those years. Rose became the first female Director of the IFC, and she served as an influential member for more than 50 years organizing trips, facilitating business and social relationships, and organizing symposia on Irish culture, arts and history. In December 2021, the IFC awarded Rose the club's Irish Fellowship Life-Time Achievement Award in recognition of her unparalleled service and leadership.

Rose traveled frequently to Ireland, starting with IFC trips she arranged. Later, she owned a home in the Ballsbridge district of Dublin, near the American Embassy, where she hosted visiting guests and family memorably for many years. In 2006-08, she took a particularly active interest in 400th anniversary celebrations in Rome and Paris of the "Flight of the Earls," commemorating the historically significant exile of Hugh O'Neill and the O'Neill's of Ulster.

Closer to home, "Rosie" always remained active civically in Chicago. She was deeply involved locally (and nationally) in the Irish Georgian Society. She served over the years in the Traveler's Aid and Immigration Service League (President); the Women's Board of the American Cancer Society (Vice-President, Director); the Mannequin Guild (Founder and President) and the North, State, Astor and Lake Shore Drive Association (Vice-President).

She was a Bears fan (she took the bus to Soldier Field from Butch McGuire's in the day). She was a skier (until she famously broke her leg). She became a prolific painter later in life (and a shameless peddler of her artwork). She made countless wonderful friends along the way, a great many of whom she hosted at her annual, packed Christmas party (which she ended by turning out the lights and kicking everyone out when she'd had enough).

She was Aunt Rose to her family - loving and loved, caring, generous, ever-present for all life events large or small, sometimes needy, opinionated, always alive, strong-willed, sharp-witted and now fondly remembered as a truly one-of-kind woman who made an indelible mark.

Rose is survived by her nieces and nephews and grandnieces/nephews, her beloved sister, Alice Lamb, and her sister-in-law, Julie O'Neill, both of Champaign. She is preceded in death by her brother Terrance L. O'Neill and her brother-in-law Gene Lamb.

Visitation will be Friday March 28 at 10:00 at Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph's Church, 1107 N. Orleans Street, Chicago, followed immediately by a Funeral Mass at 12noon.

Interment Private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Rose's name may be made to:

The Irish Georgian Society, Inc., 1953 N. Clybourn Avenue, Suite R 286, Chicago, IL 60614, or at <https://www.irishgeorgiansociety.com/support-us>

Info: donnellanfuneral.com or (847)675-1990



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Chicago Tribune

Perlow, Sandra

Sandra Perlow was a professional fine artist, born, raised, and spent her whole life in Chicago. She was a talented and distinguished Chicago painter of colorful, abstract art that at times in her career incorporated figures and natural elements. She showed her art at many respected art galleries in the city, as well as, other art galleries, museums, and college art centers in the Midwest. She received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as her master's degree from SAIC in drawing and painting.

Sandra was an authentic person, always inquisitive, well-learned, kind, and generous of spirit. She also had a deep passion for travel both in the U.S. and around the world. Oaxaca, Mexico and Italy were two of her favorite places, which she visited on numerous occasions.

She was a wonderful mother to her beloved son Lloyd (Kate Thomas) Perlow and dear daughter, Julie Perlow Greene; adored grandmother of Katelyn and Andrew Perlow, Noah and Jared Greene, and Henry Bonzak; dear mother-in-law of Eric Greene; cherished sister of Yvonne (late Jerry) Sylvan and the late Douglas (Shelley) Stangle and the late Louis (Mae) Stangle. Sandra was married to her loving husband Michael Perlow, a successful investment counselor, who passed away in 2023, for 60 years. They raised Lloyd and Julie in Wilmette, IL, a suburb of Chicago. They moved to the city in 1991 so they could be closer to all the cultural activities they so enjoyed together. the city that they loved. One couldn't keep up with all the plays, films, art shows, museums, operas, ballets, and other events that they attended on a consistent basis. Moving to the city also allowed them to be closer to the places they worked. For Sandra that was her art studio in Chicago and Columbia College, where she taught drawing and painting for 10 years.

Michael and Sandra had quite a wonderful and vibrant life together. They had many close friends whom they enjoyed socializing with regularly throughout their lives and were very close with their relatives. They also donated generously to many art organizations and charities in Chicago. Additionally, Sandra gave her time to helping underprivileged youths in Chicago through the Marwen Foundation. Sandra was an inspiration to many, she will be dearly missed by all.

Service Friday 12 Noon CT at The Chapel, 195 N. Buffalo Grove Rd., Buffalo Grove (1 Block N. of Lake Cook Rd.). Sandra's service will be livestreamed on her webpage at www.goldmanfuneralgroup.com. Interment Shalom Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, contributions would be appreciated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, www.michaeljfox.org or the Marwen Foundation, www.marwen.org. Info: The **Goldman Funeral Group** (847) 478-1600.



Schlom, Corinne C. 'Cory'

Corinne "Cory" C. Schlom, long time resident of Park Ridge, passed away peacefully on March 23, 2025 at the age of 98. Cory was the loving mother to Chris (Gus) Chirchirillo, Charles M. (Yvonne) Schlom, Curt (Lynne) Schlom; cherished grandmother to Rachel (Matt), Renee (Cory), Lucas, Matthew; proud great grandmother of Jaxen, Nora, Clara, Lydia, Sophia. She now joins her beloved Charles "Peter" Schlom in eternal rest. Cory entered the Cadet Nursing Program in 1944 as part of the Bolton Act of 1943, to call up nurses for national service during WWII. At the age of 17, she entered St. Mary's Nursing School in La Salle, Illinois, for training and a 3 year service commitment. When the war ended in August, 1945, she was assigned to serve at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis, MN, taking care of the wounded and rehabilitating many of the young soldiers who were permanently disabled. Only the top nurses were selected for this duty. She entered civilian nursing as a surgical nurse, working for Dr. Loyal Edward Davis, Nancy Reagan's father. Cory later went on to earn her BSN at University of St. Francis, and then to practice in Geriatric Nursing until retirement, at the spry age of 92. Mass of Christian Burial, Friday, March 28, 10:00 a.m., held at Immaculate Conception Church, 7211 W. Talcott Rd., Chicago. Entombment to follow at All Saints Catholic Cemetery, Des Plaines. For information, 847-823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com



Taillet, Roberta "Ginger"

Roberta "Ginger" Taillet passed away peacefully March 21, 2025 at her home. She was born July 20, 1937 in San Francisco to Robert and Florence Clark. Ginger is survived by her only adopted son, Scott (Michelle) Taillet; grandchildren, twin brother, Robert Gordon Clark; and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Ernest Charles Taillet, and a sister-in-law. Memorial visitation will be held from 12pm until the memorial service at 4pm Saturday March 29th at **Davenport Family Funeral Home**, 419 E. Terra Cotta Ave (Route 176) Crystal Lake. Please visit www.davenportfamily.com to send messages of condolence to the family.



Ward, John Arthur "Jay"

John Arthur "Jay" Ward, III, 85, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2025 in Barrington, Illinois surrounded by family. Born in Riverside, Illinois on February 4, 1940 to Charlotte Noble Ward and John A. Ward, Jr., Jay married Elizabeth Howe ("Betsy") on September 7, 1963, and celebrated 61 years of marriage in September 2024. Jay and Betsy settled in Barrington Hills, Illinois, and raised three children: Brooke, John, and Michael. Jay was preceded in death by his son, John Arthur Ward, IV. Jay is survived by his wife, Betsy; his sister Linda Fiske (Gary), his daughter, Brooke Raymond (Patrick); and his son, Michael (Erica), and five grandchildren: Eliot, Owen, Grace, Michael "MJ", and John "Jack." Memorial services will be held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Barrington, Illinois, at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 26th and on July 5th, on Washington Island, Wisconsin, at a time and place to be announced. Memorial gifts may be made to the Trueblood Performing Arts Center on Washington Island, or to the Amherst Fund at Amherst College.

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ASSUMED NAMES

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County File No. **M25000287** on the Date: **March 7, 2025** Under the Assumed Name of: **APD MACHINE** with the business located at: **6321 W DEMPSTER ST 151, MORTON GROVE, IL, 60053** The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **ANTHONY DEMETRO 7811 KILDARE AVE SKOKIE, IL, 60076 313/ 3/20, & 3/27/25 7782234**

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. **M25000299** on the Date: **March 18, 2025** Under the Assumed Name of: **Botanic School of Nail Technology** with the business located at: **5520 N Lincoln Ave 2nd fl Chicago, IL, 60625** The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **Rosemary Huynh 5520 N Lincoln Ave Chicago, IL, 60625 3/27, 4/3 & 4/10/2025 7789311**

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. **M25000308** on the Date: **3/19/25** Under the Assumed Name of: **CONTROLMYFEARS** with the business located at: **11604 S. Harry J Rogowski Drive Merionette Park, IL, 60003** The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **Renee Olivia Milton 11604 S. Harry J Rogowski Drive Merionette Park, IL, 60003 3/27, 4/3 & 4/10/2025 7788640**

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

DBE/MBE/WBE Subcontract Opportunity
Thomas Engineering Group (762 Shoreline Drive, Suite 200, Aurora, IL 60504) is seeking qualified disadvantaged business testing services for the City of Lockport's Division Street Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Expansion Project. Services associated with this request shall be performed between 2026 and 2028, as needed. Interested firms should contact Kevin VanDewoestynne at kevin@thomas-engineering.com prior to April 30, 2025. Responses will be evaluated based on similar work experience (50%), scope of work (30%), past City of Lockport experience (10%), and availability (10%). 8555331700

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LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
March 27, 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: RING TUNNEL ELECTRICAL AND LIGHTING INFRASTRUCTURE
DEPARTMENT: CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION
TYPE: CONSTRUCTION

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

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM: Addendum # 1 will be e-mailed to all bidders on the Bid Opportunity Take-Out List

SPECIFICATION NO: 1297124
RFQ NO: 10392.1
BID OPENING DATE: April 30, 2025
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: May 14, 2025, Per Addendum # 1
TIME: 11:00 a.m., Central Time

CONTACT: Christopher Kusper, Senior Procurement Specialist
Email: christopher.kusper@cityofchicago.org

Bid Bond:
Bids requiring a bid deposit must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, provided by a surety company authorized to do business in the United States, and made payable to the City of Chicago. A scanned copy of the bid bond must be attached to the online bid submission, with the original bond to be received by DPS within 3 business days of the bid opening. This is required of all bidders, not just the apparent low bidder. Any late Bids received after announced date and time, for the opening of Bids, will not be accepted.
Pub: 3/27/2025 7789206

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
March 27, 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 the 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: Integrated Pest Management - Target Market
DEPARTMENT: Department of Fleet and Facility Management
TYPE: Work Services

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

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM: Addendum # 5 will be e-mailed to all bidders on the Bid Opportunity Take-Out List

SPECIFICATION NO: 1291433
RFQ NO: 10076.4
ORIGINAL BID OPENING DATE: December 4, 2024
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: January 3, 2025 - Per Addendum #1
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: February 3, 2025 - Per Addendum #2
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: February 24, 2025 - Per Addendum #3
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: March 24, 2025 - Per Addendum #4
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: April 30, 2025 - Per Addendum #5
TIME: 11:00 a.m., Central Time

CONTACT: LaKesha Rudd, Senior Procurement Specialist
Email: lakessa.rudd@cityofchicago.org
Pub: 3/27/2025 7789228

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

IN THE INTEREST OF
Abigail Gnonlonfoun

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Mireille Lozes (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 2025JA00172

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Alain Gnonlonfoun (Father) & Unknowns (Fathers)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **March 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 **Lisa M. Taylor** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on **April 21, 2025 at 9:30 AM** in CALENDAR 9 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 27, 2025 7789329

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
Angelica Casillas

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Erika Casillas (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 25JA00104

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Erika Casillas (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **February 11, 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 **Kimberly Lewis** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on **May 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM** in CALENDAR 8 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 27, 2025 7789322

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

IN THE INTEREST OF
ANTONIO WATKINS

A MINOR
NO 2025JD00368

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given, **SENARIA LEE (MOTHER) WALTER WATKINS (FATHER)**, respondents, and to **ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, that on **March 17, 2025**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **EILEEN M. O'NEILL-BURKE**, STATE'S ATTORNEY OF COOK COUNTY through her assistant State's Attorney in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Stuart Lubin** in the 1100 S Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60612 on **April 17, 2025 at 9:00 AM** in CALENDAR 58 COURTROOM 11 ,

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.

Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause to the contrary, an order of judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the petition.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, CLERK OF COURT
March 27, 2025

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY:
SAMANTHA SUDAT
ATTORNEY FOR:
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
ADDRESS: 1100 S HAMILTON AVE
CITY/STATE: CHICAGO, IL
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (312) 433-7000
ATTORNEY NO.: 33182

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT,
COOK COUNTY OF ILLINOIS
March 27, 2025 7789333



The City of Chicago.
Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events seeks proposals from qualified firms to provide art transportation and storage services. For additional information or copy of the Request for Proposal document, visit www.cityofchicago.org/dease or contact **JT Schwimer** at (312) 742-3849 or joshua.schwimer@cityofchicago.org. Proposals are due no later than May 05, 2025.
7786006
Pub: 3/24, 3/25, 3/26, 3/27, 3/28/2025

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Proposals will be received for the following by Chicago Transit Authority through Electronic Submission to the Bid Office's E-Procurement Platform no later than 3:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 to the link below: <https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities> Req No: B25R040903, Request for Proposals (RFP) For Sale of Surplus Property for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) at 300-304 East Garfield Boulevard.

PROPOSAL GUARANTEE: NONE
Questions regarding this Bid must be submitted via Bonfire no later than 4:30 p.m. (CST) Thursday, April 10, 2025. Questions will not be accepted after this date and time. For additional information, please contact Patrick McKenna Manager, Purchasing, pmckenna@transitchicago.com.

Any contract resulting from this advertisement will be awarded to the highest 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 proposal or to reject any and all proposals.

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
By: Ellen G. McCormack
Vice President
Purchasing & Supply Chain
March 27, 2025
3/27/2025 7789685

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

IN THE INTEREST OF
Baby Girl Webb, AKA, Angel Webb

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Veronica Delvalle, AKA, Veronica Del Valle (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 24JA00866

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Veronica Delvalle, AKA, Veronica Del Valle (Mother) & Unknown (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **November 21, 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 **Jennifer Payne** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on **May 1, 2025 at 2:30 PM** in CALENDAR 3 COURTROOM C, 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 27, 2025 7789331

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Responses will be received for the following by Chicago Transit Authority through Electronic Submission to the Bid Office's E-Procurement Platform no later than 3:30 P.M. on Monday, April 28, 2025 to the link below: <https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities> Req.: C25OP103199826, Request for Information (RFI) to Conduct a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Study in the CTA Service Area, update and implement LEP Plan.

Questions regarding this Bid must be submitted via Bonfire no later than 4:30 p.m. (CST) Thursday, April 10, 2025. Questions will not be accepted after this date and time. For additional information, please contact Iliana Linares, General Manager, ilinares@transitchicago.com.

Chicago Transit Authority hereby gives notice 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 responses 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 27, 2025
3/27/2025 7788297

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) (FSMC) FIXED PRICE PER MEAL CONTRACT
Notice is hereby given that North Shore School District 112 (The School Food Authority-SFA) is requesting proposals to provide the preparation and delivery of meals for the 2025-2026 school year for the operation in the Federally funded School Nutrition Programs.

Proposals will be accepted at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Proposals must be submitted in full as outlined in the solicitation. A meeting to tour the facilities will be held at Northwood Middle School on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 3:30 p.m., at 945 North Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory. Beginning March 27, 2025 proposals specifications will be available. Contact Fatima Chacon at fchacon@nsd112.org. Questions related to the solicitation may be submitted, in writing, via email to fchacon@nsd112.org. By April 17, 2025, Questions will be answered via email in the form of an addendum to all potential proposals. Proposals must be fully aware and comply with USDA and state regulations regarding School Nutrition Programs. All vendors must comply with applicable Illinois law requiring payment of prevailing wage by contractors working on public funded projects, and with Illinois statutory requirements regarding labor, including Equal Employment Opportunity Laws. This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.
March 27, 2025 - 7789691

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

IN THE INTEREST OF
Lesly Morales

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Regina Trujillo (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 25JA00158

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Unknown Father's**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **November 20, 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 **Kimberly Lewis** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on **May 8, 2025 at 9:00 AM** in CALENDAR 8 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 27, 2025 7789324

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) on the date and time (Central Standard Time) stated for the specific proposal listed below at 10 South LaSalle Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

Project Name: Natural Gas Supply
Solicitation Number: 2025-100-020
Proposal Due Date: April 23, 2025
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Contact Person: Deborah O'Donnell, Director of Procurement (312) 542-4725
e-mail address: doddonnell@thehacc.org

The RFP Package may be downloaded by registering on our website which lists a complete list of all current bid opportunities with the HACC: www.thehacc.org/e-procurement-services

Proposals that are not properly submitted will be considered non-responsive and be disqualified from consideration. Proposals submitted late will not be accepted. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the best interest of the Housing Authority of Cook County.

Danita W. Childers
Executive Director
3/27 & 4/4/2025 7789906

PACE, THE SUBURBAN BUS DIVISION OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY IS SOLICITING:

RFP NO. 423676
for Order Management System
Download the complete details about the solicitation and addenda
At Pace's Website www.pacebus.com
Click on Doing Business and Open Solicitations
Solicitation No. 423676
Publish Date: March 27, 2025
Issued by: Pace Chief Procurement Officer
March 27, 2025 - 7789720

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

COUNTY OF COOK OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR DEPARTMENT OF CAPITAL PLANNING AND POLICY REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR JOHN H. STROGER (JHS) HOSPITAL BUILDING AUTOMATION SYSTEM (BAS) REPLACEMENT (REBID) RFQ NO. 2416-04051R

RFQ Document: The RFQ document is available for download at https://apps.cookcountyll.gov/Procurement_EDS/BidList.

Contact Person: If you are not able to download the RFQ or if you have other questions, please contact Robert Stuart, Deputy CPO at robert.stuart@cookcountyll.gov.

Pre-Submission Conference Date, Time, and Location: A Pre-Submission Meeting will be conducted online via Microsoft Teams. Please refer to the solicitation document for the date/time and information on how to access the Pre-Submission Meeting.

Questions: Questions can be submitted in writing through the Bonfire Questions. Please reference the RFQ for the Questions Deadline.

Submission Due Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. CST All submittals are to be in PDF format and must be uploaded to <https://cookcountyll.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities> following the instructions set forth in the solicitation document.

Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

Raffi Sarrafian
Chief Procurement Officer

Late submittals will not be accepted.
3/27/2025 7789973

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

IN THE INTEREST OF
Serenity Brooks

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Stephanie Brooks (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 24JA00861

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Stephanie Brooks (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **November 20, 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 **Levander Smith** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on **May 8, 2025 at 1:30 PM** in CALENDAR 10 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.

Chicago Tribune
BUSINESS

COVID-19 funds pulled from state

Health department had allocated federal money to track spread of diseases, invest in testing labs

By Lisa Schencker
Chicago Tribune

The federal government is pulling back \$125 million in funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health and 97 local health departments for activities related to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, the state health department said Wednesday.

In all, the federal government is slashing \$11.4 billion in federal funding across the country for state and local health departments and other health organizations for COVID-19-related activities. The move is the latest by the administration of President Donald Trump to cut costs across the federal government.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is over, and HHS will no longer waste billions of taxpayer dollars responding to a non-existent pandemic that Americans moved on from years ago,” the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement.

State leaders, however, slammed the decision on Wednesday.

The Illinois Department of Public Health had allocated the money for technology to track the spread of diseases, invest in labs that test samples for infectious diseases, to conduct surveillance of wastewater, to build the public health workforce and strengthen local health departments.

“The decision to terminate already awarded federal funding

will cause immeasurable harm and disruption to the health and safety of the people of Illinois and generate larger expenses in the long run,” Gov. JB Pritzker said in a news release Wednesday. “The State of Illinois will do everything in our power to restore this vital federal funding and continue to invest in commonsense public health solutions to keep our state safe and healthy.”

The state health department noted that the funding was awarded to Illinois through the CARES Act during the first Trump administration, and that in addition to pulling back the already-allocated \$125 million, the move also blocks up to an additional \$324 million the state was slated to get for future work.

A number of local public health departments in Illinois said they were still evaluating the effects of

the pullback on Wednesday. Notices about the funding change started going out Monday, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expects to begin recovering the money within about a month.

Dr. Kiran Joshi, interim chief operating officer of the Cook County Department of Public Health, said in a statement Wednesday that the Cook County department learned Tuesday that two CDC grants to support COVID recovery, health equity and community health worker efforts totaling \$31 million were being terminated.

“Much of the funding has already been expended,” Joshi said in the statement. He said the two grants were supposed to end in May and August. “We are still working to determine the specific impact to CCDPH and grant sub-recipients.”

A spokesperson for the Chicago Department of Public Health said

in an email Wednesday, “The City is looking into these terminations and their impact on City services.”

Dr. Emily Landon, an infectious disease specialist at UChicago Medicine, on Wednesday called the cuts “short-sighted” in an interview with the Tribune.

“I totally agree we’re no longer in the state-of-emergency situation we were in five years ago,” Landon said. “But this is still a new disease that caused an absolute upheaval in the lives of Americans.”

Landon noted that she was working with a patient Wednesday in UChicago Medical Center’s intensive care unit with COVID-19.

“There is still a lot to learn about about how to treat this,” Landon said. “There’s still a lot to be learned about the consequences of having COVID.”

Associated Press contributed.

EVANSTON

Lakefront mansion conversion approved

Group plans to turn Harley Clarke into hotel, event space

By Richard Requena
Pioneer Press

A development company is inching forward in its plan to revamp and refurbish Evanston’s lakefront Harley Clarke mansion into a boutique hotel, event venue, speakeasy bar, restaurant and ice cream parlor.

After months of negotiations, the Evanston City Council approved a 40-year lease to Celadon Construction for the city-owned mansion at the March 11 City Council meeting. The construction group will make extensive repairs to Harley Clarke, and the city will earn \$1 a year in rent from the property.

The City Council previously considered other options for the management of the historic mansion.

Apart from what Celadon will pay in rent, the city’s preservation planner estimated that Harley Clarke’s new use will bring in an estimated annual revenue of \$1 million in hotel and liquor taxes to the city.

Several areas of the mansion will remain open to the public, according to the lease approved by the Council. The city will manage the reservation to the fire ring, and Celadon will be able to book the fire ring for up to 25% of the season usage.

The public will be able to access the on-site parking lot, beach, lighthouse park, public park to the north, fire pit, dune area, grotto area, and exterior green space during business hours and seven days a week, according to city documents. Temporary tents for weddings and other events might be placed adjacent to the mansion on the lake view side and Sheridan-facing side, and during those times, the tent area will be off-limits to the public.

“Inside, the Harley Clarke property will be available to the public when weddings or special events are not taking place. The doors will be unlocked during normal business hours and the public will be welcome to (and will be encouraged) to enter. Hours for the grounds will be between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. unless otherwise posted,” city documents state.

Celadon estimates no more than 150 weddings a year will take place at Harley Clarke.

The City Council approved the lease with a 7-1 vote, with City Council member Clare Kelly voting “no” and City Council member Bobby Burns absent for the vote.



Archer Courts was awarded more than \$11.7 million in federal funds for fixes that now are in limbo. ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS 2024

Affordable housing projects paused as White House threatens funding

By Lizzie Kane
Chicago Tribune

Some renovation projects aimed at preserving and greening existing affordable housing properties are on hold in Chicago as the Trump administration evaluates a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development program.

Archer Courts in Chinatown, a 146-unit apartment building, was awarded over \$11.7 million in federal funds for green energy fixes at an event a year ago with notable political officials, including then-acting HUD Secretary Adrienne Todman, HUD’s then-Midwest Director Jim Cunningham, Mayor Brandon Johnson and Chicago Department of Housing Commissioner Lissette Castañeda.

Now, the redevelopment is in jeopardy.

“It’s very likely that on this particular project, we will not be able to make any additional investments in the property beyond what we have already made,” without the HUD grant, said Lauren Zullo, managing director of impact for New York-based developer Jonathan Rose Companies.

The more than \$1 billion national program, known as the Green and Resilient Retrofit Program, is funded through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and provides developers with one piece of the complex and expensive capital stack required to complete affordable housing projects. Associated Press first reported the threat to the national HUD program. About 270 projects were awarded funds, with at least 15 of these projects in Illinois — in various stages of development. The Illinois developments are slated to receive over \$52.5 million, with some still forging ahead.

“The previous administration’s



Archer Courts Apartments resident Sheila Young is hugged by Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing Adrienne Todman following the announcement of millions of dollars for climate change improvements for the complex last year.

energy efficiency crusade diverted valuable resources, including funding, from the department’s mission,” said Kasey Lovett, a HUD spokesperson, in a statement to the Tribune. “The department is evaluating options to ensure rural, tribal and urban communities have the resources they need, which are not solar panels.” HUD did not answer the Tribune’s specific questions about the program.

The news comes as the city and country are grappling with how to address a severe shortage of affordable housing as housing costs have skyrocketed in recent years and could potentially increase more with President Donald Trump’s recently imposed and anticipated tariffs. The redevelopment projects aided by HUD dollars would help extend the lifetime of hundreds of affordable housing units in Illinois.

HUD is also undergoing scrutiny in other areas and faces cuts from Trump and billionaire Tesla

owner Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency in the Midwest region and at the national level.

Eight Chicago-based U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development staffers with more than 180 years of service collectively have retired or are retiring later this year as the agency undergoes scrutiny.

At least 20 local HUD workers lost their jobs or received layoff notices last month; some of these employees have since been placed on administrative leave following court orders. A dozen of these employees work in the local HUD Office of Field Policy and Management, which will wipe out the entire local department, apart from managers. Chicago-area housing organizations are also facing funding cuts from HUD, with some recently receiving termination notices for grants while others are in limbo as they wait for overdue contracts or to see what happens

with expected awards. (A judge temporarily blocked the Trump administration from terminating the grants in a ruling Tuesday.)

The renovation at Archer Courts was to be aided by a HUD-hired consultant who was conducting studies to create development plans. That consultant’s contract has now been terminated, Zullo said, and her company does not have a way to move forward on the project without that assistance. The work would include updates to aging building heating and hot water systems.

And, Zullo said, the loss of this rehab project would also mean the loss of local jobs and disappointment for the building’s residents.

A Chicago Department of Housing spokesperson said in a statement to the Tribune that it has “several critical projects in its pipeline that are currently dependent on these funds.”

“While we are reviewing the impact of HUD’s actions, it is deeply disappointing that our residents could be the ones most impacted,” the statement said.

Brainerd Senior Center, a 60-unit, \$14.5 million rehab project on the Far South Side aimed at decarbonization, was awarded a \$750,000 HUD loan. It is in the “group of a lucky few” that are more likely to receive their funding because the deal has already closed and construction has started, said Lindsey Haines, executive vice president of real estate development at Full Circle Communities, a Chicago-based nonprofit affordable housing developer.

Haines said her group is still “very nervous” about receiving the funds and has not heard anything directly from HUD.

“Any funding we need to put out

White House rounding up Easter event sponsorships

Move raises ethical questions for egg roll that dates to 1878

By **Minho Kim**
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The White House wants to recruit corporate sponsors to contribute to its Easter Egg Roll next month, raising ethical and legal concerns that President Donald Trump is allowing companies to profit from the 147-year-old tradition by turning it into a showcase for their brands.

The financial backers of the April 21 event would be able to choose from three options that cost \$75,000 to \$200,000, according to a nine-page guide for potential sponsors that was reviewed by The New York Times.

The most expensive package includes a corporate booth, logo placements, branded snacks or beverages, exclusive tickets to brunch with first lady Melania Trump, a chance to engage with the White House press corps, a private White House tour and 150 tickets to the event.

“Be a part of history,” reads the guide, which was written by Harbinger, an event production company founded by Republican aides in 2013. It invites sponsors to “provide financial support, activities and giveaways to enhance the event while gaining valuable brand visibility and national recognition.”

As in the past, any money raised through the event will go to the White House Historical Association, a private nonprofit educational organization founded by then-first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961. The event is largely held without taxpayer dollars, with the American Egg Board, a marketing group for the egg industry, sponsoring thousands of eggs for the event — but without the kind of visibility laid out by Harbinger’s guide.

Federal regulations prohibit government employees from using their public office for private gain.

Richard Painter, who served as chief ethics lawyer in the White House Counsel’s Office under President George W. Bush, said the White House was breaking that code by allowing private enterprises to use an official event to showcase their

brands and letting the proceeds flow into a private nonprofit.

“I’m shocked that they are doing this to raise money,” Painter said, adding that his team under Bush did not even allow public schools to be named after Bush. “You can’t use the power of the United States government to favor one nonprofit over another.”

Painter said that some in Trump’s White House have argued that the ethics laws technically do not apply to the president, but most presidents have complied with some sort of ethical guidelines since President Richard Nixon resigned in 1974.

The White House did not comment on the sponsorship plan, which was reported earlier by CNN. Harbinger and the White House Historical Association did not respond to requests for comment.

The White House Easter Egg Roll first took place in 1878 under President Ruth-erford B. Hayes, two years after Congress passed a law prohibiting children from rolling eggs — and themselves — down Capitol Hill. Tens of thousands of attendees congregate each year on the South Lawn as children try to roll hard-boiled eggs to the finish line without cracking them.

Dollar Tree sells Family Dollar chain to two firms

By **Michelle Chapman**
Associated Press

Dollar Tree is selling Family Dollar to two private equity firms for \$1 billion after a decade of trying to make its acquisition of the bargain chain fit.

Dollar Tree Inc. acquired Family Dollar for more than \$8 billion in 2015 after a bidding war with rival Dollar General.

Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData, said that after acquiring the rival chain, Dollar Tree struggled with supply chain issues, poor store locations and other operational difficulties.

“Basically, Dollar Tree bit off far more than it could chew,” he said.

Last year, Dollar Tree announced plans that it planned to close hundreds of Family Dollar stores.

Dollar Tree had been scouting options for Family Dollar for a while and said Wednesday that the sale to Brigade Capital Management and Macellum Capital Management will allow it to focus on its core business.

“This is a major milestone in our multi-year transformation journey to help us fully achieve our potential,” said Mike Creedon, who was made permanent chief executive officer of Dollar Tree late last year.

Bargain chains like Dollar Tree, which have raised some of their prices in recent years, are finding that they have little room to maneuver. Americans have tightened their spending as consumer confidence in the economy slides.

Family Dollar, which moved its headquarters from North Carolina to Chesapeake, Virginia, after the sale to Dollar Tree, will maintain its headquarters in Virginia.

Saunders said Brigade and Macellum will have several issues to fix at Family Dollar, including pricing that isn’t as sharp as its rivals and a customer base that isn’t as loyal.



George Foreman, who died Friday at age 76, provided the magic Salton needed to sell a countertop grill. **MATT SAYLES/AP 2008**

Foreman grill a heavyweight

Pugilist, pitchman helped sell more than 100 million of legendary kitchen appliances

By **Kim Severson**
The New York Times

The George Foreman Lean Mean Fat Reducing Grilling Machine was the kitchen appliance America didn’t know it needed.

When it arrived in the mid-1990s, Food Network and food blogging had just been born. Martha Stewart was redefining home entertaining, and Richard Simmons had made low-fat fun. Salsa was outselling ketchup for the first time, a reflection of the country’s changing demographics and its surging interest in food and cooking.

George Foreman, who had left boxing and became an evangelical preacher, was making money as a pitchman for Doritos and mufflers. He wasn’t an instant convert to the grill. An early model that the Salton company shipped him, as it searched for a spokesperson, sat unused until his wife, Mary, pulled it out and made a couple of hamburgers.

He agreed to let Salton, a manufacturer of juice extractors and pasta makers, slap his

name on the grill, and by 1996 it had sold \$5 million worth. The company would go on to sell more than 100 million of the appliances.

The George Foreman Grill infused itself into all layers of society. It became a dorm-room staple and a star on late-night TV.

Foreman, who died Friday at age 76, provided the magic that Salton needed to sell its recent acquisition, a countertop appliance with two nonstick metal grill plates held together with a floating hinge that could close over a beef patty and cook it in about two minutes.

And here was the real innovation: The grooved grilling surface was pitched 20 degrees so the fat would drain from the meat into a little plastic tray.

Low-fat food was wildly popular then, along with a newfound appreciation for cooking, especially for a generation that began toting the little grills to dorm rooms and first apartments.

The grill had a macho appeal too. It played into the man-at-the-grill cliché, but was also a gateway appliance for young men looking to join a food revolution.

The grill was also practical for vegetarians, who discovered that it kept 1990s-era vegetarian burgers from falling apart.

But its runaway success owed as much

to its pitchman: a grinning former heavy-weight champion of the world, dressed in an apron and a necktie. The infomercial was the perfect vehicle for Foreman, who mixed a preacher’s charisma and unabashed need to earn money with international fame to create a hit.

“You get all the flavor and you knock out the fat,” he’d say. “Tell them the king of the grill sent you.”

Line extensions followed, including a cookbook, a version just for quesadillas and a grill with a colorful plastic dome that served as a bun warmer.

Foreman earned a hefty cut of the royalties from grill sales. “There were months I was being paid \$8 million per month,” he told the AARP magazine in 2014. He and his partners sold their slice of the business in 1999 for an estimated \$137.5 million.

Fancier appliance makers now sell versions that can cost nearly \$200. And the George Foreman Grill company produces models that are smokeless, submersible or designed to grill 15 burgers outdoors.

But the 1995 model remains the classic. You can see one at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, near the first microwave, the Rival Crock-Pot and Julia Child’s complete kitchen.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

UK halves growth outlook for 2025

LONDON — The British economy will grow only by 1% this year, half the rate previously anticipated, Treasury chief Rachel Reeves said Wednesday in a statement to lawmakers about the state of the public finances that also saw her flesh out plans to boost defense spending.

The government’s independent fore-caster, the Office for Budget Responsibility, found an \$18 billion shortfall.

Reeves has partly sought to fill that hole with welfare cuts that has caused wide-spread unease within the governing Labour Party amid a government-backed assess-ment that they could push 250,000 people, including 50,000 children, into poverty.

She also announced measures to rein in tax avoidance and lowering the day-to-day costs of running government. — *Associated Press*

Justices mull FCC tax in phone bills

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday seemed likely to preserve the \$8 billion a year the government spends to subsidize phone and internet services in schools, libraries and rural areas.

The justices heard nearly three hours of arguments in a new test of federal regulatory power, reviewing an appellate ruling that struck down as unconstitutional the Federal Communications Commission’s Universal Service Fund, the tax that has been added to phone bills for nearly 30 years.

Liberal and conservative justices alike said they were concerned about the potentially devastating consequences of eliminating the fund that has benefited tens of millions of Americans.

A decision is expected by late June. — *Associated Press*

US adds Chinese tech firms to restricted list

By **Elaine Kurtenbach**
Associated Press

BANGKOK — China protested Wednesday after the U.S. added dozens of companies to its export control list, including more than 50 based in China that it says sought advanced information in supercom-puting, artificial intelligence and quantum technology for military purposes.

Companies from Iran, Pakistan, South Africa, Taiwan and United Arab Emirates also were included in the roughly 80 companies added to the “entity list” of the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security.

Six are subsidiaries of the Inspur Group, China’s leading cloud computing and big

data service provider. It was listed in the U.S. government’s entity list in 2023.

The update also includes the Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence, which objected vehemently.

“We are shocked that a private non-profit scientific research institution has been added to the entity list. We strongly oppose this wrong decision without any factual basis and ask the relevant U.S. departments to withdraw it,” the research institute said in a statement.

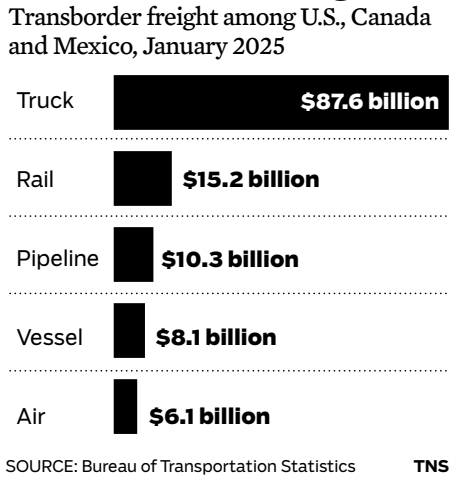
A review committee said the BAAI and another company, the Beijing Innovation Wisdom Technology Co., were judged to have developed large AI models and advanced computer chips for military purposes.

China’s Foreign Ministry also lashed back, saying the entity list and other export controls were an abuse meant to “unjustly suppress Chinese enterprises.”

“It seriously violates international law and basic norms of international relations, severely damages the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises, and undermines the security and stability of global supply chains. China firmly opposes and strongly condemns this,” ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a routine news briefing Wednesday.

The aim is to restrict China’s capacity to acquire and develop ultra fast, or “exascale” supercomputers, to develop hypersonic weapons and other sensitive technologies, the bureau said in a notice on its website.

North America cross border freight



Search underway at Disney to find CEO Iger’s successor

By Michelle Chapman
Associated Press

Behind Disney’s red carpet movie premieres and new thrill-inducing rides for fans of its amusement parks, a quiet search is underway for a successor to Bob Iger, the face of the entertainment empire for most of the past two decades.

Disney went through the CEO search recently, and it was nearly a disaster.

Only two years after stepping down as CEO, Iger returned to Disney in 2022 following a time of clashes, missteps and a weakening financial performance under his hand-picked successor, Bob Chapek.

But how do you replace a chief executive who is considered by many to be the gold standard?

Iger strengthened the Disney brand through his acquisitions of Lucasfilm, Marvel and Pixar. He also oversaw the expansion of the company in China and India and focused on technology that both made the Disney product better and more accessible. Iger, at the same time, is approachable, media savvy and has deftly managed a company that is like no other.

Under Disney’s umbrella are theme parks, movies studios and streaming technology, all with priorities seemingly at odds with each other, or at least vying for the attention of the company’s chief executive.

Disney did not provide succession updates at its annual shareholders meeting March 20. Still, the question of who can follow Iger remains on investors’ minds.

Disney created a succession planning committee in 2023, but the search began in earnest last year when the company enlisted Morgan Stanley Executive Chairman James Gorman to lead the effort.

Gorman said in a January



CEO Bob Iger, who returned to Disney in 2022, beefed up the company’s brand through acquisitions of Lucasfilm, Marvel and Pixar. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION 2019

letter to shareholders that the committee had made “strong progress” over the past year.

“The full board is engaged in and committed to finding the right leader for the company and we are planning for a smooth leadership transition that will enable Disney’s continued success,” he wrote.

Disney does have the benefit of time. After signing a two-year contract mostly to right Disney’s trajectory after a rocky two years under his hand-picked successor, Iger agreed to a contract extension that keeps him at Disney through the end of 2026.

Disney declined to comment on its succession planning efforts.

It is a broad search. Disney is looking inside and outside of the company. Internal candidates are being mentored by Iger, interacting with the company’s 15 board members (including Iger) and receiving external coaching.

The internal candidates are believed to include Alan Bergman, co-chair of Disney Entertainment; Josh D’Amaro, chair of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts; Jimmy Pitaro, chairman of Disney-owned ESPN; and Dana Walden, co-chair of Disney Entertainment.

Individuals on that list

are notably more visible at a time in which Iger has taken a bit of a step back from public appearances. Walden appeared at the Morgan Stanley Technology, Media & Telecom Conference this month to speak about components of the business. Bergman and D’Amaro showed up at the South by Southwest festival this month to discuss collaborative efforts at Disney.

Given the complex and unique nature of Disney, many expect the next leader of the company to come from within.

“Internal candidates make sense when a company doesn’t need a major shake-up and when the bench of potential candidates is deep,” said Jason Schloetzer, associate professor at Georgetown McDonough School of Business.

Henning Piezunka, associate professor of management at Wharton Business School of the University of Pennsylvania, agrees.

“The challenge for Disney—but also the beauty of it—is that it is a somewhat unique company,” he said. “While it is very feasible for Ford to recruit from GM, and for Volkswagen to recruit from BMW, it is less evident what is an equivalent for Disney. So, it is harder for an external CEO to hit the ground running.”

Ex-senator launches pro-worker group

By Julie Carr Smyth
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Former U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown launched a pro-worker organization this week to promote the “Dignity of Work,” a creed that he has advanced for years as an officeholder and candidate and that he recently described in a national magazine column as the key to the future of the Democratic Party.

The nonpartisan Dignity of Work Institute will focus on better understanding the lives of American workers, through polls, interviews and other research, Brown said in an Associated Press interview.

The move Monday comes as speculation swirls about Brown’s political future and adds a familiar voice to the national conversation among Democrats about how best to respond to their poor showing in the 2024 election, which saw Republicans take control of all three branches of the federal government.

But Brown said the institute is not political or partisan. Its first national poll did not mention his name but

rather explored how politicians talk about the economy. The political dialogue is “fundamentally flawed” and “doesn’t reflect the reality of workers’ lives,” he said.

Brown, 72, is weighing whether he’ll run for office ever again, he said, after losing his bid for a fourth term to Cleveland businessman Bernie Moreno last year.

Before that, the Ohio Democrat had spent three decades in Congress and consistently won statewide elections even as the former bellwether state turned reliably Republican in the era of Donald Trump.

“My focus isn’t there now,” he said. “I’m not going around the state campaigning. My focus is on getting this up and running.”

The institute will be based in the state capital of Columbus, where Brown and wife Connie Schultz, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, moved last week to be closer to their grandchildren.

They previously lived in Cleveland.

Brown said he wanted it in Ohio, not the coasts. “This isn’t a plaything, this

isn’t a launch for higher office,” he said. “I’m serious about this. I always have been on these issues.”

Brown recently offered a treatise of sorts in The New Republic magazine for restoring the national Democratic Party and regaining the support of working-class voters.

“We cannot solve this problem without an honest assessment of who we are,” he wrote. “How we see ourselves as the Democratic Party — the party of the people, the party of the working class and the middle class — no longer matches up with what most voters think.”

Brown told the AP neither party is doing an adequate job of focusing on workers.

“The Democratic Party is the compensate-the-be-trayed (party),” he said. “You know, we pass a trade agreement, people lose jobs, we give them a little money.”

“The Republicans are the party of compensate-the-winners, tax cuts for rich people.”

He added, “Neither party is the make-workers-the-winners party, and that’s what this is about.”

Projects

from Page 1

the door to fill in a gap from funding we were counting on puts our ability to do our core mission at risk,” Haines said.

The Preservation of Affordable Housing, a national housing developer, has three projects in Chicago in various stages of redevelopment that were awarded HUD funds.

The \$117 million rehab for the 240-unit Island Terrace Apartments in the Woodlawn neighborhood — whose HUD grant was put toward upgrading to a more energy efficient heating system — is completed and POAH has requested reimbursement for the \$750,000 grant from HUD, said Bill

Eager, senior vice president of real estate development for the Midwest region of POAH and who is based in Chicago.

Eager said his company is going through the normal requisition process and has not yet heard from HUD.

“We are hopeful that money will come through,” Eager said.

The other two projects, Corcoran Place and Austin Renaissance, both in the Austin neighborhood and awarded funds of about \$5.6 million each, are on hold as the developer awaits word from HUD, Eager said. The New York Times first reported the Corcoran Place project’s status.









Corcoran Place, a 94-unit apartment building for older adults, is supposed to receive green upgrades,

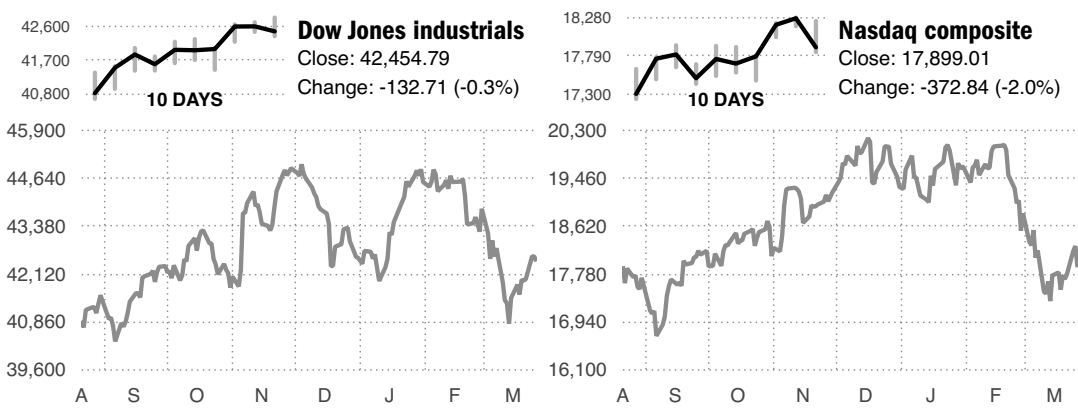
including an improved HVAC system, under its \$39.5 million renovation. The deal was expected to close in a couple of months, Eager said. Austin Renaissance, a 71-unit complex for families, is still in the early stages of its \$33.9 million redevelopment plans.

Eager said that while the GRPR funds are for energy retrofits, the dollars “unlocked an ability to do a substantial rehab” to “improve the quality of life” for residents at properties like Corcoran Place and Austin Renaissance.

“Yes, we don’t want to lose our deals, but this stuff really affects people’s everyday lives,” Eager said. “We may not be able to preserve and revitalize these properties” without the GRPR funds.

MARKET ROUNDUP

 DOW 42454.8 -132.71	 NASDAQ 17899 -372.84	 S&P 500 5712.2 -64.45	 EURO 1.07427 -0.00503	 CRUDE OIL 69.65 0.65	 GOLD 3020.9 -2.8	 6-MO T-BILLS 4.23 0.0	 30-YR T-BONDS 4.703 0.042
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StocksRecap

	NYSE	NASD
Vol. (in mil.)	3993	3566
Pvs. Volume	4344	3498
Advanced	966	1154
Declined	1715	2220
New Highs	27	39
New Lows	24	145

	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR	YTD
DOW	42,821.83	42,326.67	42,454.79	-132.71	-0.31%	▲	▼	▼	-0.21%
DOW Trans.	14,909.14	14,806.12	14,891.98	+85.35	+0.58%	▲	▼	▼	-6.31%
DOW Util.	1,002.00	992.16	999.60	+6.74	+0.68%	▼	▼	▲	+1.72%
NYSE Comp.	19,741.08	19,529.37	19,585.83	-92.61	-0.47%	▲	▼	▲	+3.04%
NASDAQ	18,236.55	17,837.26	17,899.01	-372.84	-2.04%	▲	▼	▼	-5.38%
S&P 500	5,783.62	5,694.41	5,712.20	-64.45	-1.12%	▲	▼	▼	-2.88%
S&P 400	3,026.72	2,983.50	2,991.10	-18.48	-0.61%	▲	▼	▼	-4.16%
Wilshire 5000	57,803.77	56,888.47	57,066.60	-667.17	-1.16%	▲	▼	▼	-2.10%
Russell 2000	2,103.71	2,066.30	2,073.83	-21.54	-1.03%	▲	▼	▼	-6.04%

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	YTD	LO	HI	DIV	Huron Consulting Group Ir	142.51	-2.49	-1.7%	+20.74	84.26	153.85
ANI Pharmaceuticals Inc.	67.17	+84	+1.3%	+11.05	52.50	70.31	...	Hyatt Hotels Corp.	125.21	-0.50	-0.4%	-31.27	116.12	168.20
AbbVie Inc.	201.30	-0.04	-0.0%	+23.64	153.58	218.66	6.56	IDEX Corp.	184.74	+37	+0.2%	-24.92	177.71	245.70
Abbott Laboratories	126.61	+1.01	+0.8%	+12.49	99.71	141.23	2.36	IF Bancorp. Inc.	23.59	+0.01	+0.1%	+28	14.85	25.76
Acco Brands Corp.	4.40	+0.02	+0.5%	-0.87	4.29	6.43	0.30	Illinois Tool Works Inc.	255.89	+90	+0.4%	+1.43	232.77	279.13
Addus HomeCare Corp.	96.15	+1.14	+1.2%	-30.34	87.88	136.72	...	Ingredion Inc.	135.04	+2.56	+1.9%	-5.08	109.53	155.27
Adtalem Global Education	101.28	-0.69	-0.7%	+11.12	45.18	112.44	0.18	JBT Marel Corp.	126.77	-0.91	-0.7%	+5.8	82.64	139.05
Allstate Corp., The	209.28	+1.16	+0.6%	+15.33	156.66	212.91	4.00	John B. Sanfilippo & Son I	69.70	+48	+0.7%	-17.89	68.56	106.70
AptarGroup Inc.	148.56	+1.35	+0.9%	-9.89	135.96	178.03	1.80	Jones Lang Lasalle Inc.	254.43	-5.26	-2.0%	+6.55	171.45	288.50
Archer Daniels Midland Cc	47.07	+1.02	+2.2%	-4.47	44.92	66.08	2.04	Kemper Corp.	67.71	+0.07	+0.1%	+1.20	54.11	73.01
BankFinancial Corp.	12.55	+0.05	+0.4%	-0.20	9.60	13.97	0.40	Knowles Corp.	16.05	-0.11	-0.7%	-3.77	15.13	20.86
Baxter International Inc.	33.36	+0.42	+1.3%	+3.78	28.34	43.99	0.68	Kraft Heinz Co., The	29.69	+59	+2.0%	-1.61	27.25	38.96
Broadwind Inc.	1.41	-0.02	-1.4%	-0.45	1.41	4.65	...	LKQ Corp.	40.99	+21	+0.5%	+4.03	35.56	53.68
Brunswick Corp.	56.34	+0.11	+0.2%	-8.45	54.97	96.65	1.72	Lifeway Foods Inc.	24.65	+1.15	+0.2%	-0.30	10.06	28.61
CCC Intelligent Solutions I	9.11	-0.08	-0.9%	-2.54	8.82	12.88	...	Littelfuse Inc.	211.73	-4.73	-2.2%	-19.19	201.97	275.58
CDW Corp.	167.33	-1.19	-0.7%	-5.52	162.84	263.37	2.50	MYR Group Inc. (Del.)	120.97	-8.00	-6.2%	-19.80	86.60	181.02
CF Industries Holdings Inc	76.64	+1.61	+2.1%	-10.29	69.13	98.25	2.00	McDonald's Corp.	313.58	+6.66	+2.2%	+17.03	243.53	326.32
CME Group Inc.	262.72	+6.66	+0.3%	+29.83	190.70	267.91	5.00	Methode Electronics Inc.	6.88	+0.03	+0.4%	-4.94	5.84	17.45
CNA Financial Corp.	50.26	+4.46	+0.9%	+1.43	42.33	52.36	1.84	Middleby Corp., The	156.52	-0.13	-0.1%	+21.20	118.41	182.73
Cboe Global Markets Inc.	217.95	+3.73	+1.7%	+18.82	166.13	223.51	2.52	Mondelez International Inc	66.33	+1.64	+2.5%	+4.96	53.95	76.06
Century Aluminum Co.	19.00	+0.40	+2.2%	+0.38	11.40	25.23	...	Morningstar Inc.	300.74	-4.52	-1.5%	-31.50	278.64	365.00
Chicago Rivet & Machine (13.80	+4.45	+3.4%	-2.49	13.11	22.27	0.12	Motorola Solutions Inc.	431.23	+2.04	+0.5%	-33.04	332.98	507.82
Coeur Mining Inc.	6.14	-0.21	-3.3%	+6.3	3.40	7.72	...	NISOURCE Inc.	39.98	+37	+0.9%	+2.85	26.25	41.45
ConAgra Brands Inc.	25.92	+0.57	+2.2%	-2.40	23.06	33.24	1.40	Northern Trust Corp.	101.44	-0.16	-0.2%	-0.90	79.32	114.67
Deere & Co.	483.62	+4.69	+1.0%	+55.23	340.20	505.05	6.48	Oil-Dri Corp. of America	45.74	+0.04	+0.1%	+1.88	29.47	49.72
Discover Financial Service	166.14	-3.52	-2.1%	-3.57	119.31	205.76	2.80	Old Public Int'l Corp.	38.65	+18	+0.5%	+2.28	28.59	39.27
Distribution Solutions Grp	26.50	-0.31	-1.1%	-5.59	27.58	41.47	0.48	Old Second Bancorp Inc.	16.93	+0.02	+0.1%	-0.87	13.20	19.46
Dover Corp.	182.25	-3.49	-1.9%	-1.86	168.20	214.57	2.06	OneSpan Inc.	16.32	-0.17	-1.1%	-2.05	9.68	20.36
Enova International Inc.	100.39	-1.73	-1.7%	+6.24	57.46	117.56	...	Paylocity Holding Corp.	194.12	-0.57	-0.3%	-4.78	129.94	223.80
Equity Commonwealth	1.63	+0.04	+2.5%	-0.18	1.40	21.00	1.00	Potbelly Corp.	9.41	-0.09	-0.8%	+0.8	6.28	13.48
Equity Lifestyle Propert. In	67.18	+0.33	+0.5%	+2.5	59.82	76.60	2.06	QCR Holdings Inc.	73.12	+0.27	+0.4%	-7.79	54.37	96.08
Equity Residential	71.57	+0.54	+0.8%	-0.73	59.48	78.83	2.77	RLI Corp.	78.31	+0.31	+0.4%	-4.42	67.53	91.14
Exelon Corp.	44.02	+1.26	+2.9%	+0.12	34.01	45.20	1.60	Richardson Electronics Lt	11.75	-0.34	-2.8%	-1.94	9.00	15.51
Federal Signal Corp.	79.37	-0.28	-0.4%	-13.30	74.23	102.18	0.56	Ryan Specialty Holdings Ir	71.54	-0.99	-1.4%	+8.37	48.48	75.97
First Bussey Corp.	22.16	-0.02	-0.1%	-1.39	21.20	28.97	1.00	Sigmatron International Inc	1.35	-0.03	-2.2%	-0.40	99	6.47
First Indust.Realty Trust In	54.41	+0.31	+0.6%	+3.97	45.10	58.16	1.78	Stapan Co.	57.37	+0.21	+0.4%	-7.54	56.50	94.77
First Mid Bancshares Inc.	35.67	+2.3	+6.1%	-1.38	28.86	43.86	0.96	Suncoke Energy Inc.	9.29	+0.02	+0.2%	-1.43	7.47	12.82
Fortune Brands Innovator	62.27	-0.52	-0.8%	-5.54	59.64	90.53	1.00	Telecom & Data Systems	38.08	-0.24	-0.6%	+2.41	14.04	21.41
FreightCar America Inc.	6.16	-0.71	-10.3%	-2.09	3.02	16.10	0.36	Titan International Inc.	9.03	+21	+2.4%	+2.03	6.33	12.77
Fuel Technologies Inc.	9.99	-0.01	-0.8%	-0.05	8.7	1.34	...	Tootsie Roll Industries Inc.	31.35	+62	+2.0%	-1.60	27.58	34.00
GATX Corp.	158.50	-0.52	-0.3%	+4.06	122.00	168.89	2.44	TransUnion	85.70	-1.96	-2.2%	-5.05	66.07	113.17
Gallagher & Co., Arthur J.	336.73	-0.63	-0.2%	+53.51	230.08	345.43	2.60	TreeHouse Foods Inc.	26.53	0.01	0.0%	-8.60	25.69	43.84
Gogo Inc.	8.70	+0.08	+0.9%	+5.3	6.17	11.00	...	US Foods Holding Corp.	65.61	+41	+0.6%	-2.26	49.65	73.19
Grainger Inc., W.W.	988.19	-2.01	-0.2%	-63.85	874.98	1227.66	8.20	Ultra Beauty Inc.	371.90	+1.15	+0.3%	-64.18	309.01	529.67
Great Lakes Dre.&Dock Cc	8.97	-0.22	-2.4%	-2.10	6.55	12.89	0.08	United Airlines Holdings Ir	77.87	-1.03	-1.3%	-18.20	37.02	116.00
Groupion Inc.	18.19	-0.05	-0.3%	+6.09	7.75	18.80	...	United States Cellular Corp	69.16	-0.08	-0.1%	+6.52	33.38	70.00
Heidrick & Struggles Intl Ir	43.82	-0.10	-0.3%	-0.39	29.03	49.02	0.60	Ventas Inc.	68.18	+55	+0.8%	+8.74	41.45	71.04
Horace Mann Educators C	42.58	+0.38	+0.9%	+2.97	31.95	43.53	1.40	Walgreens Boots Alliance	11.10	-0.02	-0.2%	+1.79	8.08	22.05
Hub Group Inc.	38.01	+2.9	+6.0%	-6.84	36.04	53.21	0.50	Wintrust Financial Corp.	114.95	-1.04	-0.9%	-8.72	91.38	142.04
								Yunhong Green CTI Ltd.	1.15	-0.00	-0.1%	+6.30	43	1.70

NATION & WORLD

More of attack plan leak published

Hegseth gave strike details; definition of 'classified' debated

By Tara Copp
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Atlantic on Wednesday released nearly the entire Signal chat among senior national security officials, showing that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth provided the exact timings of warplane launches and when bombs would drop — before the men and women flying those attacks against Yemen’s Houthi this month on behalf of the United States were airborne.

The publication of additional messages Wednesday came hours before top intelligence officials who were part of a group chat, which had inadvertently included The Atlantic’s top editor, testified before the House Intelligence Committee.

The disclosure follows several days during which leaders of President Donald Trump’s intelligence and defense agencies have struggled to explain how details — that current and former U.S. officials have said would have been classified — wound up on an unclassified Signal chat that included Atlantic Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Goldberg.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt has said no classified information was posted to the chat.

Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he and Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, the committee’s top Democrat, plan to send a letter to the Trump administration requesting an inspector general investigation into the use of Signal. They seek a



Democratic Colorado Rep. Jason Crow, center, questions witnesses during a worldwide threats assessment hearing Wednesday that also addressed the leak by top Trump administration officials of plans to bomb Yemen. KAYLA BARTKOWSKI/GETTY

classified briefing with a top administration official “who can speak to the facts” of the episode.

Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national intelligence, and John Ratcliffe, the director of the CIA, faced questions over the chat, whose disclosure was a stunning breach of operational secrecy that Trump administration officials have attempted to downplay.

The newly published messages, which include screenshots of the full chat on the messaging app Signal, make clear that Hegseth included specific details of the timing of the launches from aircraft carriers of the U.S. military jets that were to strike Houthi targets.

Launch times are typically

closely guarded to ensure that the targets cannot move into hiding or mount a counterattack as planes are taking off, when they are potentially vulnerable.

Testifying before the House panel, Gabbard reiterated her assertion that no classified information was shared on the chat. She was pressed by Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the committee, about her testimony to a Senate panel Tuesday that precise details of the attack were not included in the messages. She replied: “My answer yesterday was based on my recollection, or the lack thereof, on the details that were posted there.”

Ratcliffe said the newly released information shows

that he did not put classified information into the chat. “I used an appropriate channel to communicate sensitive information,” he said. “It was permissible to do so. I didn’t transfer any classified information.”

The Atlantic said its release Wednesday included all the texts except the name of a CIA officer working as an aide to Ratcliffe at the request of the CIA.

Hegseth has refused to say whether he posted classified information onto Signal.

Speaking to reporters in Hawaii on Wednesday after the full release of the texts, he said they showed he was just providing the national security team a “general update in real time.”

Hegseth shared the infor-

mation on the manned warplane launches a half-hour before those crews were airborne, not in real time. Democratic lawmakers said that could have put American troops at risk.

What was revealed was jaw-dropping in its specificity and includes the type of information that is kept to a very close hold to protect the operational security of a military strike. But Hegseth’s spokesman, Sean Parnell, said in a statement Wednesday that “there were no classified materials or war plans shared. The Secretary was merely updating the group on a plan that was underway.”

The Pentagon and White House have tried to deflect criticism by attacking

Goldberg and The Atlantic.

In the group chat, Hegseth posted multiple details about the impending strike, using military language and laying out when a “strike window” starts, where a “target terrorist” was located, the time elements around the attack and when various weapons and aircraft would be used in the strike. He mentioned that the U.S. was “currently clean” on operational security.

“Godspeed to our Warriors,” he wrote.

“1215et: F-18s LAUNCH (1st strike package)”

“1345: ‘Trigger Based’ F-18 1st Strike Window Starts (Target Terrorist is @ his Known Location so SHOULD BE ON TIME — also, Strike Drones Launch (MQ-9s)”

“1410: More F-18s LAUNCH (2nd strike package)”

“1415: Strike Drones on Target (THIS IS WHEN THE FIRST BOMBS WILL DEFINITELY DROP, pending earlier ‘Trigger Based’ targets)”

“1536 F-18 2nd Strike Starts — also, first sea-based Tomahawks launched.”

“MORE TO FOLLOW (per timeline)”

“We are currently clean on OPSEC” — that is, operational security.

A strike package includes the personnel and weapons used in an attack, including Navy F-18 fighter aircraft. MQ-9s are armed drones. Tomahawks are ship-launched cruise missiles.

Goldberg has said he asked the White House if it opposed publication and that the White House responded that it would prefer he did not publish.

The New York Times contributed.

Supreme Court upholds Biden rule on ghost guns

Decision allows use of serial numbers, background checks

By Lindsay Whitehurst
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld a Biden administration regulation on the nearly impossible-to-trace weapons called ghost guns, clearing the way for continued serial numbers, background checks and age verification requirements for buying the kits online.

The 7-2 opinion found that existing gun laws allow regulation of the kits increasingly linked to crime. It comes after President Donald Trump ordered a review that could undermine or reverse the regulations championed by his predecessor.

Sales of the homemade firearms grew exponentially as kits allowing for easy at-home building came into the market, Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote in the majority opinion. “Some home hobbyists enjoy assembling them. But criminals also find them attractive,” he said.

The number of ghost guns found at crime scenes

around the country has also soared, according to federal data. Fewer than 1,700 were recovered by law enforcement in 2017, but that number grew to 27,000 in 2023, according to Justice Department data.

Since the federal rule was finalized, though, ghost gun numbers have flattened out or declined in several major cities, including Baltimore, Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia, according to court documents. Manufacturing of miscellaneous gun parts also dropped 36% overall, the Justice Department has said.

Ghost guns are any privately made firearms without the serial numbers that allow police to trace weapons used in crime. The 2022 regulation was focused on kits sold online with everything needed to build a functioning firearm — sometimes in less than 30 minutes, according to court documents.

Ghost guns have been used in high-profile crimes, including a mass shooting carried out with an AR-15-style ghost gun in Philadelphia that left five people dead. Police believe a ghost gun used in the slaying of UnitedHealthcare’s CEO

in Manhattan was made on a 3D printer rather than assembled from a kit of the kind at the center of the Supreme Court case.

Finalized at the direction of then-President Joe Biden, the “frame and receiver” rule requires companies to treat the kits like other firearms by adding serial numbers, running background checks and verifying that buyers are 21 or older.

Gun groups challenged the rule in court in the case known as *Garland v. VanDerStok*. Most crimes are committed with traditional firearms, not ghost guns, they argued. It’s legal for people to build their own firearms at home, the challengers said, arguing that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives overstepped its authority by trying to regulate the kits.

The Supreme Court majority disagreed, pointing out that the law gives the ATF the power to regulate items that can be quickly made into working firearms.

“The ‘Buy Build Shoot’ kit can be ‘readily converted’ into a firearm too, for it requires no more time, effort, expertise, or specialized tools to complete,” Gorsuch wrote, referring to



Ghost guns, like these shown at an ATF field office, are privately made firearms without serial numbers, which allow police to trace weapons used in crime. T. ROBYN BECK/GETTY-AFP 2022

a specific product.

Some kits may take more time to build into guns and therefore fall outside the ATF’s power, he wrote, but many popular kits are subject to regulation.

Gun safety groups celebrated the ruling, with Everytown Law executive director Eric Tirschwell saying the rule also had broad support from law enforcement. “Fundamentally, today’s decision confirms the ghost gun industry is dead as a viable business model,” he said.

A Michigan woman

whose son lost an eye when he was accidentally shot by a friend who bought a ghost gun before he was old enough to legally buy a typical weapon also applauded. “We are deeply relieved by today’s ruling, which will help ensure that a tragedy like ours never happens again,” she said.

The court previously expanded Second Amendment rights with a finding that modern gun regulations must fit within historical traditions. The justices also struck down a firearm regulation from Trump’s

first administration, a ban on gun accessories known as bump stocks that enable rapid fire.

In a dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that the ghost gun rule should meet the same fate.

The kits, he wrote, are only firearm parts and shouldn’t be subject to a regulation that could open the door to rules on other popular weapons. “Congress could have authorized ATF to regulate any part of a firearm or any object readily convertible into one,” he wrote. “But, it did not.”

Brazil justices order Bolsonaro to stand trial over alleged coup attempt

By Eléonore Hughes
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — A panel of Brazil Supreme Court justices on Wednesday unanimously accepted charges against former President Jair Bolsonaro over an alleged attempt to stay in office after his 2022 election defeat, and ordered him to stand trial.

Prosecutor-General Paulo Gonet has accused Bolsonaro and 33 others of attempting a coup that included a

plan to poison his successor, current President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and kill a Supreme Court judge.

The justices said seven close allies should also stand trial on five counts: attempting to stage a coup, involvement in an armed criminal organization, attempted violent abolition of the democratic rule of law, damage characterized by violence and a serious



Bolsonaro

threat against the state’s assets, and deterioration of listed heritage.

The former president has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and says he’s being politically persecuted.

“It seems that there is something personal against me,” Bolsonaro told journalists after the panel’s decision. “The accusation is very serious and (is) unfounded.”

Under Brazilian law, a

coup conviction carries a sentence of up to 12 years. When combined with the other charges, it could result in a sentence of decades behind bars.

“Coups kill,” Justice Flávio Dino said when casting his vote. “It doesn’t matter if it happens today, the following month or a few years later.”

Gonet on Tuesday said those facing the charges sought to keep Bolsonaro in power “at all costs,” in a multistep scheme

that accelerated after the far-right politician lost to the current president.

As in his February indictment, Gonet said part of the plot included a plan to kill Lula and Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who were put under surveillance by the alleged conspirators. The plan did not go ahead at the last minute because the accused failed to get the army’s commander on board, Gonet said.

“Frustration overwhelmed the members of

the criminal organization who, however, did not give up on the violent seizure of power, not even after the elected president of the republic was sworn in,” he said.

That was a reference to the riot on Jan. 8, 2023, when Bolsonaro supporters stormed the Supreme Court, presidential palace and Congress in Brasília a week after Lula took office.

De Moraes on Wednesday showed the panel a video with scenes from that day.

US to curb vaccines for poorer nations

By Stephanie Nolen
The New York Times

The Trump administration intends to terminate the United States' financial support for Gavi, the organization that has helped purchase critical vaccines for children in developing countries, saving millions of lives over the past quarter-century, and to significantly scale back support for efforts to combat malaria, one of the biggest killers globally.

The administration has decided to continue some key grants for medications to treat HIV and tuberculosis, and food aid to countries facing civil wars and natural disasters.

Those decisions are included in a 281-page spreadsheet that the U.S. Agency for International Development sent to Congress on Monday night, listing the foreign aid projects it plans to continue and to terminate. The New York Times obtained a copy of the spreadsheet and other documents describing the plans.

The documents provide

a sweeping overview of the extraordinary scale of the administration's retreat from a half-century effort to present the United States to the developing world as a compassionate ally and to lead the fight against infectious diseases that kill millions of people annually.

The cover letter details the skeletal remains of USAID after the cuts, with most of its funding eliminated, and only 869 of more than 6,000 employees still on active duty.

In all, the administration has decided to continue 898 USAID awards and to end 5,341, the letter says. It says the remaining programs are worth up to \$78 billion. But only \$8.3 billion of that is unobligated funds — money still available to disburse. Because that amount covers awards that run several years into the future, the figure suggests a vast drop in the \$40 billion that USAID used to spend annually.

A spokesperson for Secretary Marco Rubio's State Department, which now

runs what is left of USAID, confirmed the terminations on the list were accurate and said that "each award terminated was reviewed individually for alignment with agency and administration priorities, and terminations were executed where Secretary Rubio determined the award was inconsistent with the national interest or agency policy priorities."

The memo to Congress presents the plan for foreign assistance as a unilateral decision. However because spending on individual health programs such as HIV or vaccination is congressionally allocated, it is not clear that the administration has legal power to end those programs. This issue is being litigated in multiple court challenges.

Among the programs terminated is funding for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, which conducts surveillance for diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans, including bird flu, in 49 countries. Some major programs to track and fight

malaria, one of the world's top killers of children, have also been ended.

Dr. Austin Demby, the health minister of Sierra Leone, which relies on Gavi's support to help purchase vaccines, said he was "shocked and perturbed" by the decision to terminate U.S. funding and warned that the ramifications would be felt worldwide.

"This is not just a bureaucratic decision, there are children's lives at stake, global health security will be at stake," he said. "Supporting Gavi in Sierra Leone is not just a Sierra Leone issue, it's something the region, the world, benefits from."

In addition to trying to reach all children with routine immunizations, Sierra Leone is battling an mpox outbreak, for which Gavi has provided both vaccines and critical support to deliver them, he said.

"We hope the U.S. government will continue to be the global leader it always been — putting money in Gavi is not an expenditure, it's an investment," Demby said.

Gavi is estimated to have saved 19 million children since it was set up 25 years ago. The U.S. contributes 13% of Gavi's budget.

The terminated grant to Gavi was worth \$2.6 billion through 2030.

New vaccines with the promise to save millions of lives in low-income countries, such as one to protect children from severe malaria and another to protect teenage girls against the virus that causes cervical cancer, have recently become available, and Gavi was expanding the portfolio of support it could give those countries.

The loss of U.S. funds will set back the organization's ability to continue to provide its basic range of services — such as immunization for measles and polio — to a growing population of children in the poorest countries, let alone expand to include new vaccines.

By Gavi's own estimate, the loss of U.S. support may mean 75 million children do not receive routine vaccinations in the next five years,

with more than 1.2 million children dying as a result.

The U.S. has been among the top donors to the organization since its creation, and became the largest during the COVID-19 pandemic. While European countries have historically provided significant funding, many are now reducing foreign aid spending as they grapple with the change in U.S. policy on Ukraine and the U.S. demand that they increase their defense spending. Japan, another major Gavi donor, is struggling with a depreciating currency.

Dr. Sania Nishtar, Gavi's chief executive, said she hoped the Trump administration would reconsider the decision to end its support. Gavi's work keeps people everywhere, including Americans, safe, she said. Vaccination also reduces the possibility of large outbreaks. The organization maintains global stockpiles for vaccines against diseases such as Ebola and cholera.

Gavi requires countries to pay part of vaccine costs.

NEWS BRIEFING

Appeals court rejects US push to lift order barring deportations

From news services

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Wednesday declined to lift an order barring the Trump administration from deporting Venezuelan migrants to El Salvador under an 18th-century wartime law.

A split three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit wouldn't block a March 15 order temporarily prohibiting deportations under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798.

Invoking the law for the first time since World War II, President Donald Trump's administration deported hundreds of people under a presidential proclamation calling the Tren de Aragua gang an invading force.

The Justice Department appealed after U.S. District Judge James Boasberg blocked more deportations and ordered paneloads of Venezuelan immigrants to return to the U.S. That did not happen.

Attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of five Venezuelan noncitizens who were being held in Texas.

Judges Karen LeCraft Henderson and Patricia Millett voted to reject the government's request to lift the order. Each wrote concurring opinions. Judge Justin Walker wrote a dissenting opinion. Millett was nominated by a Democratic president. Henderson and Walker were nominated by Republican presidents.

Trump and his allies have called for impeaching Boasberg. In a rare statement this month, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts said that "impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision."

The Alien Enemies Act

allows noncitizens to be deported without the opportunity for a hearing before an immigration or federal court judge.

Boasberg ruled that immigrants facing deportation must get an opportunity to challenge their designations as alleged gang members. His ruling said there is "a strong public interest in preventing the mistaken deportation of people based on categories they have no right to challenge."

US debt ceiling: The United States is on track to hit its statutory debt ceiling — the so-called X-date when the country runs short of money to pay its bills — as early as August without a deal between lawmakers and the White House, according to a Congressional Budget Office report Wednesday.

By that time, the government would no longer have enough of a financial cushion to pay all its bills after exhausting its "extraordinary measures" the accounting maneuvers used to stretch existing funds.

Washington would risk defaulting on its debt unless Congress and Republican President Donald Trump agree to lift the borrowing limit or abolish the debt ceiling concept altogether.

The debt limit was reinstated Jan. 2, following its suspension by Congress in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.

"The Treasury has already reached the current debt limit of \$36.1 trillion," according to the CBO report.

An analysis by the Bipartisan Policy Center estimates that the U.S. could run out of cash by mid-July if Congress did not raise or suspend the nation's debt limit.

US soldiers missing: NATO on Wednesday clarified comments that Secretary-General Mark Rutte made



City of toy bricks: Paula Young, senior creative manager at Legoland Windsor Resort, places a toy brick Wednesday at the theme park's latest attraction, which features sculptures of London's iconic buildings, in Windsor, England. Young used more than 2 million bricks to re-create The Gherkin, left, The Cheesegrater, far right, City Hall and other landmarks. KIN CHEUNG/AP

earlier in the day, when he suggested that four U.S. soldiers who went missing while training in Lithuania had died, even though the U.S. Army said their fate was not yet confirmed.

"The search is ongoing," NATO said in a statement posted on X. "We regret any confusion about remarks @ SecGenNATO delivered on this today. He was referring to emerging news reports & was not confirming the fate of the missing, which is still unknown."

The U.S. Army said the Hercules armored vehicle the four U.S. soldiers were in during a training exercise had been found submerged in a body of water. It said recovery efforts were underway by U.S. Army and Lithuanian Armed Forces and civilian agencies.

Tufts student held: A Turkish national who is a doctoral student at Tufts University in Massachusetts has been detained by federal agents without explanation, her lawyer said Wednesday.

Rumeysa Ozturk, 30, had just left her home in Somerville to meet with friends Tuesday night when she was detained by U.S. Department of Homeland Security agents, lawyer Mahsa Khanbabai said in a petition filed in Boston federal court.

Video obtained by The Associated Press appears to show six people, their faces covered, taking away Ozturk's phone as she yelled and was handcuffed.

"We're the police," members of the group are heard saying in the video.

A man is heard on camera asking, "Why are you hiding your faces?"

The U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement's online detainee locator system listed Ozturk, who is Muslim, as being held at the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center in Basile.

Russia-Ukraine war: Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of breaking the terms of a tentative U.S.-brokered deal to pause strikes on energy infrastructure,

underscoring the challenges to negotiating a broader peace in the war in Ukraine.

Russia's Defense Ministry alleged that Ukrainian drone attacks hit an electric facility in the Bryansk region early Wednesday and a power grid facility in the Kursk region Tuesday, leading to a power cut affecting thousands of people.

Ukraine's General Staff denied the allegations, saying in a statement Wednesday that Russia's claims were part of a broader disinformation campaign aimed at justifying continued hostilities.

The accusations came hours after Washington announced a tentative agreement with Ukraine and Russia to pause attacks on energy sites and ensure safe shipping in the Black Sea, following three days of separate talks in Saudi Arabia aimed at implementing a limited, 30-day ceasefire that Moscow and Kyiv agreed to in principle last week.

The Kremlin said

Russia hasn't attacked any Ukrainian energy facilities since March 18. Ukraine has contested those claims.

Mangione case: Someone tucked a heart-shaped note of encouragement into socks packed for Luigi Mangione to wear to court last month in the UnitedHealthcare CEO murder case, prosecutors said in a filing made public Wednesday in New York.

A court officer intercepted the note, which urged the defendant to "know there are thousands of people wishing you luck," Manhattan prosecutors wrote in responding to recent requests from Mangione's defense lawyers.

They include a bid for him to get a laptop to review legal material in his cell while he awaits trial in the December shooting death of Brian Thompson, 50. Thompson was killed outside a hotel where the health insurer was holding an investor conference. Mangione, 26, has pleaded not guilty.

Trump orders 25% auto tariff, promising \$100B in revenue

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Wednesday he was placing 25% tariffs on auto imports, a move the White House claims would foster domestic manufacturing but could also put a financial squeeze on automakers that depend on global supply chains.

"This will continue to spur growth," Trump told reporters of the directive he signed.

The tariffs, which the White House expects to raise \$100 billion in revenue annually, could be complicated as even U.S. automakers source their components from around the world. The tax hike starting Thursday means automakers could

face higher costs and lower sales, though Trump argues that the tariffs will lead to more factories opening in the United States and the end of what he judges to be a "ridiculous" supply chain in which auto parts and finished vehicles are manufactured across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

To underscore his seriousness, Trump said, "This is permanent."

Shares in GM fell roughly 3% in Wednesday trading. Ford's stock was up slightly. Shares in Stellantis, the owner of Jeep and Chrysler, dropped nearly 3.6%.

Trump has long said that tariffs against auto imports would be a defining policy of his presidency, betting that the costs created by the taxes would cause more

production to relocate to the United States while helping to narrow the budget deficit. But U.S. and foreign automakers have plants around the world to accommodate global sales while also maintaining competitive prices — and it could take years for companies to design, build and open the new factories that Trump is promising.

"We're looking at much higher vehicle prices," said economist Mary Lovely, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "We're going to see reduced choice. ... These kinds of taxes fall more heavily on the middle and working class."

She said more households will be priced out of the new car market — where prices already average about

\$49,000.

Trump also indicated he would like to let car buyers deduct from their federal income taxes the interest paid on auto loans if their vehicle is American made.

The auto tariffs are part of a broader reshaping of global relations by Trump, who plans to impose "reciprocal" taxes next Wednesday to match the tariffs charged by other nations.

Trump has already placed a 20% import tax on all imports from China for its role in fentanyl production. He similarly placed 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada, with a lower 10% tax on Canadian energy products. Parts of the Mexico and Canada tariffs have been suspended, including the taxes on autos,

after automakers objected and Trump responded by giving them a 30-day reprieve, expiring in April.

The president has also imposed 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports, removing the exemptions from his 2018 taxes on the metals. He also plans tariffs on computer chips, pharmaceuticals, lumber and copper.

His taxes risk igniting a broader global trade war with escalating retaliations that could crush global trade, potentially hurting economic growth while raising prices for families and businesses as some of the costs of the taxes get passed along by importers.

When the European Union retaliated with plans for a 50% tariff on U.S. spir-

its, Trump responded by planning a 200% tax on EU alcoholic beverages.

The president on Monday cited plans by South Korean automaker Hyundai to build a \$5.8 billion steel plant in Louisiana as evidence that tariffs would bring back manufacturing jobs.

Slightly over 1 million people are employed domestically in the manufacturing of motor vehicles and parts, about 320,000 fewer than in 2000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Another 2.1 million people work at auto and parts dealerships.

The U.S. last year imported nearly 8 million cars and light trucks worth \$244 billion. Mexico, Japan and South Korea were the top sources of foreign autos.

Trump silences what Castros couldn't

Radio Martí gave US view of news to Cuba; DOGE cut it

By Frances Robles
The New York Times

Journalists from Radio Martí, the U.S. federally funded news outlet aimed at communist Cuba, were in the middle of interviewing a Cuban activist in Miami on a recent Saturday when bleak looks suddenly came over their faces.

The 40-year-old news agency, designed to send uncensored news in Spanish into Cuba, had just been ordered closed by the Trump administration, the crew learned in an email. The profile of the activist — Ramón Saúl Sánchez, known for leading protest flotillas to Cuba — was scrapped.

“They were very confused,” Sánchez said. “They said, ‘We think we’ve been terminated. We need to leave.’”

President Donald Trump did in a flash what the Castro brothers in Cuba couldn’t do in four decades: He took a news station that had long drawn the communist regime’s fury off the air.

Radio Martí became the latest in dozens of programs and agencies in the U.S. government to fall to the massive cost-cutting carried out by Trump and the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, which billionaire adviser Elon Musk is spearheading.

For years, the broadcaster had been dogged by a reputation as an outdated relic of the Cold War, a bloated boondoggle where politically influential people found jobs for their relatives. It spent tens of millions of dollars a year producing what critics called one-sided, right-wing screeds against the Cuban government, and was repeatedly mired in journalistic and corruption scandals that were the focus of



Orlando González Esteva records his show, “Entre Nosotros” (Between Us), in a Radio Martí studio in Miami. For four decades, the U.S.-financed broadcaster provoked the ire of Cuba’s communist government. ANGEL VALENTIN/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2015

congressional reports.

Its television station, TV Martí, was so thoroughly blocked on the island that it was called “No See TV.”

But in recent years, a leaner operation with a crop of fresh recruits under new management was making serious inroads on social media platforms, including Facebook and YouTube, the agency’s data shows.

After budget cuts by the first Trump administration that trimmed its staff and funding by about 40%, veteran journalists and filmmakers were hired to revamp the newsroom for the digital age.

With short video clips posted online, Radio Martí was attracting millions of readers and viewers a year, the network’s data shows, just as Cuba underwent the largest mass migration in its history, suffered days-long power outages and an economic crisis unlike anything seen in decades.

But the question remains: With Cuba cracking down on dissent and jailing its citizens for critical Facebook posts, and with the nation facing its most difficult period in 66 years under communism, has Radio Martí put out its last broadcast?

“The website was blocked in Cuba. The TV signal was blocked, the radio signal is blocked,” said Abel Fernández, the outlet’s digital and social media director who lost his job last week. “But the people are reaching the content on social media. What we are doing is important, and it matters to people.”

Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart, R-Fla., one of the three Cuban American members of Congress, told Telemundo that he would work with Trump to restore Martí.

Asked whether Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who is Cuban American, supported the broadcaster, the State

Department said Trump was elected to make tough decisions, and “the situation remains complex and fluid.”

As a U.S. senator from Florida, Rubio was among a bipartisan group of lawmakers who signed a 2022 letter demanding a “thorough justification” for planned layoffs.

The White House declined interview requests with Kari Lake, who is overseeing the dismantling of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, which includes Radio Martí.

Mauricio Claver-Carone, Trump’s adviser on Latin America, said he believed some semblance of Radio Martí would be saved. “I think you can appreciate the historic importance of something and the role it plays while recognizing it needs to be updated toward the world we live in — it’s not the ‘80s anymore or the ‘90s or even early 2000s,” he said. “We can look at this as

the great Martí reset.”

President Ronald Reagan created Radio Martí in 1983, at the height of the Cold War, at the urging of a Cuban American exile leader, Jorge Mas Canosa. It was meant to penetrate censorship on the island, where media is tightly controlled by the government and independent journalists generally wind up in prison or in exile.

It went on the air in 1985, and later expanded to include television. But as recently as 2019, an internal audit commissioned by the U.S. Agency for Global Media said it produced “bad journalism” and “ineffective propaganda.”

The Castro brothers detested Radio Martí’s programming, and former President Raúl Castro famously demanded it be taken off the air.

“The United States maintains programs that are harmful to Cuban sovereignty, such as projects to

promote changes in our political, economic and social order,” he said in 2015, after President Barack Obama normalized relations between the two nations.

As the internet became widely available in Cuba, critics wondered whether Martí was even necessary.

But Martí had a distinction that set it apart from the other pro-democracy stations such as Voice of America and Radio Free Europe that were also silenced last week: The dictatorship it targets is still in power.

“Radio Martí was designed for a different time in the 1980s in Reagan’s battle against the Soviet Union and communism, but the fact is that Cuba never transitioned, and now we live in a digital world,” said Ted Henken, a Baruch College professor who studies Cuba’s media landscape. “Martí has had to reinvent itself three or four times.”

In the past two years, audiences started to surge.

According to Tubular Labs, a video analytics firm, with six months left in the fiscal year, Martí has already doubled its viewership with 14 million views on YouTube so far this fiscal year, and another 84 million on Facebook, where it has more than 1 million followers.

About 80% of their audience is in Cuba, editors said.

Lake, a former television journalist whom Trump chose as a special adviser to the U.S. Agency for Global Media, last week called the agency rotten to the core. On the social platform X, she suggested that employees check their emails.

Shortly afterward, employees received emails saying they were on paid administrative leave until further notice, then they were locked out of their email accounts.

New employees who were on probation had already received termination notices, and journalists on contract were also let go.



A fire burns early Wednesday on a hillside in Andong, a city 175 miles southeast of Seoul, South Korea. About 4,650 personnel are fighting the wildfires. CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

At least 24 dead as wildfires rage across southern SKorea

By Kim Tong-Hyung and Hyung-Jin Kim
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Wind-driven wildfires that were among South Korea’s worst ever have ravaged the country’s southern regions, killing 24 people, destroying more than 300 structures and forcing 28,800 residents to evacuate, officials said Wednesday.

The death toll included a pilot who died after a helicopter crashed during efforts to contain a blaze in the southeastern town of Uiseong, one of the hardest-hit areas. The aircraft had no other crew members. Police said that most of the dead are those in their 60s and 70s.

The National Fire Agency said at least 26 people sustained varying degrees of injuries.

An ancient Buddhist temple, houses, factories and vehicles were destroyed in the wildfires that have burned 43,866 acres, the government’s emergency response center said.

In a televised address, South Korea’s acting President Han Duck-soo said the wildfires that began last Friday were worse than

many previous ones.

“Damages are snowballing,” Han said. “There are concerns that we’ll have wildfire damages that we’ve never experienced, so we have to concentrate all our capabilities to put out the wildfires in the rest of this week.”

Han said crews struggled to extinguish the wildfires because strong winds swept the areas overnight. He also said about 4,650 firefighters, soldiers and other personnel were working Wednesday with the help of about 130 helicopters, adding that “a small amount” of rain, expected to be less than half an inch, was forecast for Thursday.

Firefighters were tackling at least six active wildfires, including in the southeastern coastal town of Yeongdeok, which alerted residents of the nearest village to evacuate to an indoor gymnasium.

Strong winds and smoke-filled skies forced authorities in the southeastern city of Andong to order evacuations in two villages, including Punctureon, home to the Hahoe folk village — a UNESCO World Heritage Site founded around the 14th-15th century. Hikers

were advised to leave the scenic Jiri Mountain, one of the country’s largest national parks, as another fire spread closer.

Observers say the wildfires are the third-biggest in South Korea’s history in terms of land burned. The largest fires were in Andong, the neighboring counties of Uiseong and Sancheong, and the city of Ulsan.

On Tuesday, officials said firefighters had extinguished most of the flames from the largest wildfires in those areas, but wind and dry conditions allowed them to spread again.

The blaze in Uiseong destroyed about 20 of the 30 buildings and other structures at Gounsa, a temple said to have been originally built in the 7th century. Among the burned structures were two state-designated “treasures” — a pavilion-shaped 1688 building overlooking a stream, and a Joseon Dynasty structure built in 1904 to mark the longevity of a king.

Government officials suspect human error caused several of the fires, possibly due to the use of fire while clearing overgrown grass or sparks from welding work.

Palestinians protest Hamas in rare display of dissent in Gaza

By Samy Magdy, Fatma Khaled and Sarah El Deeb
Associated Press

CAIRO — Thousands of Palestinians marched amid the wreckage of a heavily destroyed town in northern Gaza on Wednesday in the second day of anti-war protests, with many chanting against Hamas in a rare display of public anger against the militant group.

The protests, which centered mainly on Gaza’s north, appeared to be aimed generally against the war, with protesters calling for an end to 17 months of deadly fighting with Israel that has made life in Gaza insufferable.

But protesters also leveled unusually direct and public criticism of Hamas, which has quashed dissent violently in the past in Gaza, a territory it still rules months into the war with Israel.

In the town of Beit Lahiya, where a similar protest took place Tuesday, about 3,000 people demonstrated, with many chanting “the people want the fall of Hamas.” In the hard-hit Shijaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City, dozens of men chanted, “Out, out out! Hamas get out!”

“Our children have been killed. Our houses have been destroyed,” said Abed Radwan, who said he joined the protest in Beit Lahiya “against the war, against Hamas, and the (Palestinian political) factions, against Israel and against the world’s silence.”

Ammar Hassan, who took part in a protest Tuesday, said it started as an anti-war protest with a few dozen people but swelled to more than 2,000, with people chanting against Hamas.

“It’s the only party we can affect,” he said by phone. “Protests won’t stop the (Israeli) occupation, but it can affect Hamas.”

The militant group has



Palestinians chant slogans Wednesday against the war and Hamas in Beit Lahiya, northern Gaza Strip, in a rare show of public anger against the militant group. JEHAD ALSHRAFI/AP

violently cracked down on previous protests. This time no outright intervention was apparent, perhaps because Hamas is keeping a lower profile since Israel resumed its war against it.

Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim, in a post on Facebook, wrote that people had the right to protest but that their focus should be on the “criminal aggressor,” Israel.

Family elders from Beit Lahiya expressed support for the protests against Israel’s renewed offensive and its tightened blockade on all supplies into Gaza. Their statement said the community fully supports armed resistance against Israel.

“The protest was not about politics. It was about people’s lives,” said Mohammed Abu Saker, a father of three from the nearby town of Beit Hanoun, who joined a demonstration Tuesday.

“We want to stop the killing and displacement, no matter the price. We can’t stop Israel from killing us, but we can press Hamas to give concessions,” he said.

A similar protest occurred in the heavily destroyed area of Jabaliya on Tuesday, witnesses said.

Later, one protester expressed regret for participating because of Israeli media coverage, which emphasized the opposition to Hamas.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz urged Palestinians to join the protests.

The protests erupted a week after Israel ended its ceasefire with Hamas by launching a surprise wave of strikes that killed hundreds of people. Earlier this month, Israel halted deliveries of food, fuel, medicine and humanitarian aid to Gaza’s roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Israel has vowed to escalate the war until Hamas returns the 59 hostages it still holds — 24 of them believed to be alive. Israel is also demanding the group give up power, disarm and send its leaders into exile.

Hamas has said it will only release the remaining captives in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

The war was triggered by Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack into Israel, in which Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251.

Israel’s retaliatory offensive has killed more than 50,000 people, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. Israel’s bombardment and ground operations have caused vast destruction and at their height displaced some 90% of Gaza’s population.

ARTS & LIVING



Orcas Island cabin near Washington state split into two structures to build around old-growth Douglas fir

‘UNIQUE PLACE’ SENSE OF

By Lauren Gallow | The New York Times

On the San Juan Islands off northwest Washington state, land meets sea along rocky outcrops, and views stretch to Canada. Weather and water command the field, and the pace of life bends to meet them. Existence there is one of self-reliance, where stoves are fed with hand-chopped firewood, dinner is often vegetables from the garden, and homes are secluded refuges, especially in winter. “It’s one of the most idyllic places,” said Joe

Turn to Unique, Page 8

Traci and Lucas Donat sit Feb. 10 at their home on Orcas Island in Washington. Artisans in a corner of the Pacific Northwest turned the rocky retreat into a permanent residence. TAJ HOWE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Planting extra row in garden can help feed people in need

By Jessica Damiano Associated Press

If you’re gearing up to plant fruits, vegetables or herbs this spring, why not grow some extra to donate to your local soup kitchen or pantry?

The national Plant a Row for the Hungry campaign, launched in 1995, has been encouraging home and community gardeners to do just that every year to help feed neighbors in need of fresh food.

The program was spearheaded in 1995 by Anchorage Daily News garden columnist Jeff Lowenfels, who wrote a column encouraging his readers to plant extra crops and donate their harvests.

After seeing the impact that his column had on local food donations, Lowenfels partnered with GardenComm International, then known as Garden Writers of America, to enlist garden columnists all over the country to promote the cause in their own communities. Since then, more than 20 million pounds of produce, provid-



A Plant a Row for the Hungry sign hangs in a garden Aug. 20 in Port Washington, New York. MARVIN MAKOFSKY PHOTOS

ing more than 80 million meals, have been donated through the campaign by home gardeners.

“All of this has been achieved without government subsidy or bureaucratic red tape — just

people helping people,” according to organizers on the campaign’s website. And there’s no big advertising campaign, either — just garden columnists and their readers spreading the word.

If everyone reading this column planted one extra row and donated its harvest, together we could have an impact on hunger. So what do you say? To participate, plant an extra row or container (or,



The campaign encourages people to plant and donate extra produce for neighbors in need of fresh food.

if you’re short on space or resources, even just one additional plant) and donate its harvest to your local food pantry, soup kitchen, house of worship or informally to a neighbor who could use it.

If you’d like to help even more, consider starting your own Plant a Row campaign with friends, neighbors or co-workers and plant individually or at the office, in a community garden, school garden, prison garden — whatever garden you have at your disposal.

If you need help getting started, GardenComm.org has posted steps for running your own campaign and a listing of existing campaigns to join in your state and town.

But it’s not necessary to join a group. To find food drop-off sites near you, visit AmpleHarvest.org and plug in your zip code.

Before dropping off food, call the organization to confirm they accept perishables (soup kitchens are generally more likely to have the refrigeration necessary for storage than pantries or food banks, but there may be exceptions).

Jessica Damiano writes a weekly gardening column for The Associated Press and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter.



June Carter Cash performs with Johnny Cash at Madison Square Garden. **RON FREHM/AP 1992**

CELEBRITIES

Carter among country hall inductees

From news services

June Carter, Kenny Chesney and Tony Brown have been invited to join the Country Music Hall of Fame. The Country Music Association announced the new 2025 inductees Tuesday in Nashville, Tennessee.

Carter, the Grammy-winning member of one of country music's pioneering families and wife of country giant Johnny Cash, joins as this year's veteran-era artist. Chesney, who has won the CMA Awards entertainer of the year four times, joins as the modern-era artist. And Brown — a Nashville producer who has supervised a wide array of bestselling hits by Vince Gill, Reba McEntire, George Strait and many others — will join the non-performer category.

The three will be formally inducted during a ceremony in the fall.

"Johnny once said that his wife was one of the most neglected artists in country music," said singer Gill, who introduced the inductees. He said Cash worried that his wife's contributions would be "underrecognized simply because she's my wife."

"That changes as she takes her rightful place

among family, friends and legends in the Country Music Hall of Fame," Gill said.

Some of Carter's accomplishments include writing more than 100 songs, including co-writing "Ring of Fire," a top hit for Cash. The two married in 1968 and recorded several Grammy-winning hits like "Jackson" and "If I Were a Carpenter."

Chesney told the crowd that if someone had said he would one day be inducted into the same Hall of Fame class as June Carter Cash, he would have called it "unbelievable." His career includes 16 platinum albums and more than 50 Top Ten country hits. He said he was just hoping to spread love and positivity through his music.

"I had a really big dream and I'm still pushing that dream as far as I can," Chesney said. "I just wanted to record and write songs that reflected the lives of a lot of people that came to our shows."

For Brown, getting the call about his induction into the Hall of Fame almost knocked him over. He called it one of the biggest accomplishments of his career.

"You make records and you make some money, but

this is better than money," Brown said. "This is about making an impact."

Singer on shortlist for book prize: A moving memoir by Swedish singer Neneh Cherry and the gripping story of a heart transplant by British doctor Rachel Clarke are among finalists for the Women's Prize for Nonfiction, set up to help fix the gender imbalance in nonfiction publishing.

Cherry's "A Thousand Threads" and Clarke's "The Story of a Heart" are on a six-book shortlist for the \$39,000 prize.

The other contenders are "Raising Hare" by British writer Chloe Dalton, "What the Wild Sea Can Be" by U.K. biologist Helen Scales, "Agent Zo" by British historian Clare Mulley and "Private Revolutions" by China-born British lawmaker Yuan Yang.

March 27 birthdays: Actor Julian Glover is 90. Actor Jerry Lacy is 89. Actor Michael York is 83. Keyboardist Tony Banks is 75. Saxophonist Dave Koz is 62. Director Quentin Tarantino is 62. Actor Pauley Perrette is 56. Actor Nathan Fillion is 54. Singer Fergie is 50. Actor Brenda Song is 37. Singer Halle Bailey is 25.

Man seeks another female-led relationship after death of wife



R. Eric Thomas
Asking Eric

Dear Eric: I was married for 27 years to a wonderful woman who has passed away. We lived in a female-led relationship (FLR), which meant she was in charge of most things. We made joint decisions on the big things, but for the most part, what she said was what we did.

Included in this was discipline for me, including assignments such as standing in the corner, physical discipline and the like. None was abusive, all consensual. It worked for us, and only a few other people were aware of our situation.

It's been two years since she's been gone, and I'm back online with a pretty normal dating site. We never went to "clubs" or "parties" to meet other people in our lifestyle. How do I bring up my desire to be back in an FLR with potential dates?

Obviously, not our first get-together, but when? I'm puzzled. Any ideas?

— *Submissive Husband*

Dear Husband: I'm sorry for the loss of your wife, and sorry that the inability to share this part of yourself has made the grief process more isolating.

Try dating sites that are geared more toward specific interests and communities. Apps like Chyrpe and Feeld are designed to connect you more quickly and effectively with women looking for female-led relationships, for instance. More discreet than a party but also more far-reaching, apps and dating sites can be a boon for those who

are clear about what they want. Always exercise caution, of course. Review a site's safety procedures and use sites that include identity verification, if possible.

Additionally, consider putting your desire to be in an FLR in your regular dating profile. Even if you don't elaborate on the definition, including this important detail can invite questions from those who don't know what that is and messages of interest from those who do.

Dear Eric: My mother is 92 and lives alone in the Midwest; I'm here in Southern California. She lives around 18 miles from town on 65 acres. I phone her twice weekly and sometimes more often.

After I retired, I asked her to move here and found a place for her as she prefers her own space. She refused, and I tried my best to offer all the reasons why it would be the best option. I visit her twice yearly, and my sister and brother visit as well, but not as often. She doesn't drive, and thankfully my niece lives close to her, shops and helps her whenever my mom asks her for help.

I know she's lonely, and it upsets me, but I feel like she made the decision to stay in her home. Here's the dilemma: When I call, I talk about my life and what's going on with my daughters and grandsons, etc. She has such a narrow life without much to talk about, so the conversation is one-sided.

She reads but doesn't want to discuss books or what she's watching on television. I try to bring up memories, and she enjoys this angle of conversation. Sometimes, after talking for an hour, I try to end our conversation, and her response is scolding and negative that I don't have

time for her. It's hurtful and guilt-inducing. I'd appreciate your thoughts.

— *Loving but Frustrated Daughter*

Dear Daughter: This is a tough spot for you; I'm sorry. I suspect your mom's reaction comes from the conflict between wanting a well-earned autonomy and finding herself lonely, nonetheless. So, when she guilt-trips you, try to remind yourself that it's a reflection of the circumstance, not a fault in your actions.

Try scheduling your calls before another appointment and letting her know in advance that you're setting aside this time for her. A preset end time may help you to redirect any guilt-tripping. "Of course I have time for you, Mom. I've got to go do X right now, but remember I'll call you again tomorrow at 10. I'm looking forward to it." You can also talk through this pattern before the next call ends. "I feel sad when you say I don't have time for you. Can we talk about why you feel that way and try to find solutions?"

You're already actively listening and using your observations to guide the conversation to topics that interest her. But you can also gently toss the ball back to her by asking what she would like to talk about. Lastly, see if she has interest in scheduling a call during one of her shows. You could chat during the commercials and simply be in each other's company when the show comes back on. Sometimes a call demands conversation, but at other times it's just nice to know someone is on the other end of the line.

Send questions to eric@askingeric.com.

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Unique

from Page 7

Herrin, an architect in Seattle who grew up boating around the San Juans. In 2002, he and his wife, Belinda Bail, bought a vacation home on the largest of them, Orcas Island, where their family now spends every summer and several weeks in the offseason.

Since then, Herrin, 58, and his firm, Heliotrope Architects, have designed more than 30 houses on the islands.

"We always try to create a unique sense of place with our projects," he said in a recent video call. "When it's a home in a stunning natural landscape like the San Juans, our goal is often to design in deference."

Among those deferential projects is a 1,500-square-foot cabin on Orcas Island built for Traci and Lucas Donat.

The couple, who had a 30-year advertising career with their Los Angeles agency, Tiny Rebellion, were living in Southern California with a teen daughter when they bought the property, part of an apple orchard, in 2016. For decades, they had made family pilgrimages to Orcas Island, and they spent several years camping in a tent on their land before deciding to build.

"As a sailor, Joe is very tuned in to the natural rhythms that impact a home," Donat, 62, said in a recent interview.

The cabin offered little disturbance of the 7-acre, heavily forested site, which included a treeless clearing on the property's highest point with views of the U-shape island's inlet and the Olympic Mountains beyond.

Herrin designed a simple glass-and-wood structure that edges into the high-land clearing, opening to the landscape at every opportunity. The cabin and much of its contents are made from local materials and assembled by island artisans.

"Because the clients were coming from another



Traci and Lucas Donat relax Feb. 10 inside their 1,500-square-foot cabin on Orcas Islands near Washington state. **TAJ HOWE/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

state, I wanted them to arrive at their home and instantly feel like they were in the Pacific Northwest," Herrin said. "The material selection and being ruthless about working with a local team were all in service of that."

The home was split into two structures organized around an old-growth Douglas fir.

"We suggested having the primary bedroom be in a separate building, so they would always have to go outside to reach it," Herrin said of his clients.

The approach created space for an exterior deck containing an outdoor dining area. Herrin designed the picnic table, which was built on nearby Obstruction Island out of cedar.

"It was another little way of helping root the project in its place," he said.

A local contractor assembled a team of fabricators and subcontractors from the San Juan Islands to do the finishing.

For the floors, ceilings and cabinetry, the team used mixed-grain Douglas fir, all of which was sourced and milled on Orcas Island.

The wood-frame windows and doors were built by a company 30 miles from the cabin. Interior handrails and fireplace surrounds were supplied by a local steel fabricator.

Bookshelves that were integrated into a seating nook, with storage drawers below and tongue-and-groove ceilings above, required close coordina-

tion between the cabinet-maker, the framer and the finish carpenters.

Above the half-wall defining the seating area, sliding panels open to reveal a guest room, where a built-in desk of Douglas fir frames a view of the dominating fir tree just outside.

"The idea was, if we are going to make a small house, let's make it a jewel box," Lucas Donat said.

The family's collection of green-and-white McCoy pottery inspired the sea-foam green kitchen island. Along with tiles from revived midcentury company Heath Ceramics, they create a homey, vintage feeling.

Outside, Herrin worked with Chuck and Marguerite Greening, landscape

designers based on Orcas Island, to incorporate native plantings around the home and help restore the landscape after construction.

"Access to the site was very difficult, so we had to put in a temporary road and then peel it all back afterward," Herrin said. "Construction required a wound to be made, and it needed to be healed." Even so, not a single tree was removed from the site because of construction.

The Donats became so enamored of the cabin that they made it their full-time residence. With their daughter off to college, their primary home felt empty.

"We had a life moment where we fantasized about downsizing and

living simply, so we did it," said Donat, who is now chief marketing officer of Constellation, a New York software company.

The house will function at net-zero energy when a photovoltaic panel array is installed on the roof. And it has been prepared to withstand increasingly common smoke pollution in the summer forest fire season with an energy-recuperating fan with HEPA filters.

The Donats are slowly acclimating to island life, with its ever-changing weather and inconvenient travel.

"Living here has taught me a level of surrender and to embrace quiet time," Donat said. "It's very different from how we lived previously, but I love that."

Break away from these bad cleaning habits

Save time, money by fixing common mistakes in routine

By Quincy Bulin
SouthernLiving.com

Sometimes it's obvious when you're cleaning something incorrectly. Other times, it's not — until something happens, like damage to your home or even sickness.

The good news? Often, fixing the bad habit just saves you time and money. This is what to look out for in your cleaning routine.

Using too many cleaning products

According to Becca Crandall and Bentley Rosser, owner and director of cleaning operations at Beck Cleaning and Organization, respectively, you can actually clean your entire home with dish soap and warm water.

“Our point is that you don't need a specific cleaner for every surface,” they explain. “Using excessive products can be costly and even contribute to indoor air pollution. We recommend sticking to essential cleaners — like wood, stainless steel, and multipurpose cleaner — to minimize the environmental impact.”

Neglecting deep cleans

Surface cleaning is important, but so is deep cleaning.

“Schedule regular deep cleaning sessions for often overlooked areas, such as behind furniture or inside appliances,” advises Alicia Sokolowski, president and co-CEO of AspenClean.

Not doing so might create a bigger problem for you later on, whether it be tedious scrubbing or



Cleaners should be sprayed on a cloth and not directly onto a surface, says Alicia Sokolowski, president and co-CEO of AspenClean. **GETTY**

expensive repairs.

Using too much laundry detergent

More isn't always more. You may think employing an excessive amount of laundry detergent will make it extra clean, but you should always follow the manufacturer guidelines.

“Not doing so can lead to soap residue buildup, cause skin irritation, damage fabric, and negatively

impact the environment,” Crandall and Rosser say.

Not vacuuming regularly

Your carpet may look clean, but Sokolowski insists there's always more than meets the eye. When you vacuum, you suck up invisible dirt and allergens like dust mites and pet hair.

How often you vacuum depends on how often a room is used, and as well as your symptoms (think

sneezing and runny noses).

Mixing cleaning products

This is an important one. “If you've ever felt light-headed, gotten a headache, or experienced shortness of breath while cleaning, you may very well be poisoning yourself,” warn Crandall and Rosser. “Chemicals like bleach and vinegar should never be mixed together, or with other cleaning products, as they can create

toxic fumes.”

Be sure to read labels carefully and avoid combining products unless explicitly recommended.

Spraying cleaners directly on surfaces

“You should spray cleaners onto a cloth or sponge first, rather than directly on surfaces,” Sokolowski says.

Though this may feel like you're adding an unnecessary extra step, she insists

that this practice “prevents overuse and reduces inhalation of fumes.”

Not cleaning your cleaning tools

Think about it: Your sponges, mops and brushes are exposed to the grossest stuff in your home every single time they're used.

According to Sokolowski, not washing and disinfecting them regularly can lead them to harbor bacteria — and put it right back where they got it from.

Using specific cleaners on unrecommended surfaces

Take glass cleaner, for example: “Most glass cleaners have ammonia or vinegar to break down marks like hard water and smudges,” say Crandall and Rosser. “Surfaces like granite, wood, metal, or laminate may be sensitive to the acidic substances.”

Using glass cleaner on these surfaces won't actually disinfect or sanitize them, and it may lead to damage or discoloration over time. The same goes for toilet cleaner, which is made to tackle tough stains and germs unique to toilet bowls. It often contains hydrochloric acid or bleach that can damage the finish on surfaces, discolor material, or cause forms of deterioration.

Not letting cleaning products sit

When you're tackling tough stains, patience is key. Let the cleaning products sit for a while and let their chemicals have time to work.

“You should also allow disinfectants to sit for the recommended contact time before wiping,” Sokolowski explains. “This ensures they effectively kill germs and bacteria.”



The silvery, fluffy hairs of pussy willow buds insulate the flowers inside against cold in early spring. **BETH BOTTS/THE MORTON ARBORETUM**

Pussy willow can grow in a sunny, moist site

By Beth Botts
For The Chicago Tribune

In early spring, bits of fluff appear along the branches of some willow shrubs, silvery gray and as soft to the touch as a kitten's paw. They may seem furry, but these are actually the flower buds of pussy willow (*Salix discolor*).

The hairs are insulation, protecting the flowers inside the buds against cold weather until they bloom in late March or early April.

“Pussy willow is a large shrub or small tree that can be part of a home landscape if you have a site with plenty of space, full sun and moist soil,” said Spencer Campbell, Plant Clinic manager at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle. “Children love it.” Pussy willows can be seen in the Children's Garden and the Willow Collection at the Arboretum.

By early April, the bunches of silvery hairs, called catkins, will become tiny yellow flowers. Rich in pollen and nectar, these blooms are an early-season feast for many kinds of pollinating insects, including several kinds of native bees. The shrubs also host the larvae of 18 kinds of butterflies and moths, including eastern tiger swallowtail and mourning cloak

butterflies.

If you'd like to try growing pussy willow in your yard, check the tag to make sure you have chosen the native plant, *Salix discolor*. Several other non-native willow species have similar buds and are sometimes called pussy willow, but they don't provide the same support for native insects, and some of them are invasive.

Most importantly, be sure to get a male plant. “There are male and female plants, and only male pussy willows develop the pretty, silvery catkins,” Campbell said. “It can grow to 25 feet tall and wide.” When it's not blooming, a pussy willow is unspectacular, but it is big enough to be a good privacy screen.

The size can be controlled somewhat by pruning. Regular pruning in winter to open up the plant and remove the oldest stems also will result in larger catkins.

A full-sun site with at least six hours of direct sunlight daily is essential. “The branches need lots of sunlight to develop catkins,” Campbell said. Avoid planting a pussy willow near sewer pipes, since its fast-growing roots

will seek out moisture.

Pussy willow is a wetland plant and cannot tolerate drought. “The good news is that it doesn't need well-drained soil, as long as there is plenty of organic matter,” he said. It might be a good choice for a low spot that always seems to be wet, or as the anchor and focal point of a rain garden.

When you prune a pussy willow in winter, you can enjoy the branches and buds indoors. Make a fresh cut at the base of each stem and immediately place it in water. Keep the branches in a cool place for a few weeks. When the buds open to show the silvery fur, you can preserve them at that stage by removing the branches from water so they dry out and do not go on to bloom.

Like many fast-growing trees and shrubs, pussy willows are relatively short-lived. “The willow is likely to live 20 to 25 years, long enough for the children to enjoy it,” Campbell said. “And in that time, it will feed a lot of bees and butterflies.”

For tree and plant advice, contact the Plant Clinic at The Morton Arboretum (630-719-2424, mortonarb.org/plant-clinic, or plantclinic@mortonarb.org). Beth Botts is a staff writer at the Arboretum.



It may take one to four weeks for branches to bloom. **RJ CARLSON/CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN**

Q&A

After pruning, bring branches to bud inside

By Tim Johnson
For the Chicago Tribune

Q: A couple of my gardening friends told me I should do some pruning and then bring the branches inside to force them into flower. How do I go about doing this?

— Anna Eisenberg, Arlington Heights

A: I was out in the garden pruning last Saturday and took the opportunity to save some magnolia branches with flower buds to bring inside. It's a tree that I have not tried forcing branches from before, but I expect good results! Spring flowering trees and shrubs such as lilacs and crabapples form their flower buds in late summer or fall before the plants go dormant for the winter. The branches can be cut and forced into bloom indoors after at least eight weeks of cold temperatures that remain below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. This will typically be late in January, though each year is different weather-wise, so your timing might vary from year to year. In general, the earlier in the spring the tree or shrub flowers, the earlier it can be forced inside. I've had good results forcing branches to flower when pruning in the middle of March. It may take one to four weeks for the blos-

soms to open; two weeks is typical. Cut branches close to their natural bloom time for best results.

Prune branches for forcing carefully, using proper pruning techniques and cut off only branches that are not essential to the plant's basic shape. Prune when temperatures are above freezing and cut branches that are at least one foot long (18 inches is better) and full of flower buds. Flower buds are usually larger and fatter than foliar buds — branches with large flower buds will bloom more quickly when forced. If you're pruning branches just for forcing, try to choose branches from more dense areas of the plant and remove them evenly around the plant, since you'll be removing some of the plant's natural spring display. Be careful not to disfigure the tree or shrub. If pruning for routine winter maintenance, select branches from your trimmings to bring inside. Cut a few more branches than you expect to use because some may not absorb water properly.

Next, place the cut branches in a container of warm water and recut them 1 inch from the base of the stem when the stems are underwater. This will help prevent

air from entering the stem through the cut end and blocking water uptake. Remove any buds and twigs that will be underwater. You may want to add a floral preservative to the container water to help control bacteria. It's best to place the branches in a cool room out of direct sunlight initially and to change the water about once a week if you did not use a preservative. When the buds color up or the foliage begins to unfurl, arrange the branches in a vase and display them in a cool room in bright light — but out of direct sunlight.

Some good choices for forcing branches indoors include serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), magnolia (*Magnolia*), flowering quince (*Chaenomeles*), forsythia (*Forsythia*), crabapple or apple (*Malus*), flowering pear (*Pyrus*), flowering cherry (*Prunus*), spring-flowering witch hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*), lilac (*Syringa*), viburnum (*Viburnum*), cornelian cherry dogwood (*Cornus mas*) and redbud (*Cercis*).

For more plant advice, contact the Plant Information Service at the Chicago Botanic Garden at plantinfo@chicagobotanic.org. Tim Johnson is senior director of horticulture at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

In gardening, when is it really spring?

Be on the lookout for these indicators of seasonal change

By Margaret Roach
The New York Times

I'm micro-dosing my way through this wintry moment in American history, with the simple act of looking closely for each tiny hint of spring-to-be as my drug of choice. The nature-infused prescription was laid out for me in the new book "Phenology" by Theresa Crimmins, a primer on the why and how of taking sharper notice of what happens when.

"I invite you to weave a practice of observing seasonal cycles of plants and animals into your life to contribute to science as well as soothe your soul," writes Crimmins, director of the USA National Phenology Network, a plant ecologist and an associate professor at the University of Arizona, where the network is based.

Her ask: Become an "everyday phenologist." After a focused look around outside at particular plants, sign in to the network's community science app, Nature's Notebook, and answer some questions about what you just saw.

I could easily get hooked on missions like going to check for signs of life in the beds of ferns and bloodroot, or among the branches of the flowering dogwood or pussy willow. Both the soothing part and the idea of making a contribution feel right just now.

Phenology is about the timing of recurring seasonal events in plants and animals, "timing that is a function of environmental conditions," Crimmins said in a recent conversation. These events don't happen on the same date each year; the variables exerting the strongest



Watch closely for the smallest hints of spring, such as these shadbush, at left, and red maple flowers. ELLEN G. DENNY PHOTOS

influence on their timing, especially in plants, are temperature, day length, and moisture.

As gardeners, our biggest question about timing right now is probably pretty straightforward, though: Is it spring yet?

The calendar insists that the new season arrived in the Northern Hemisphere precisely on March 20. Instead we can piece together a more textured sense of its start from real-time clues: the first shoots poking through the soil surface, perhaps, or leaf buds swelling and gradually opening. Is the shadbush — always one of the first bloomers — awake yet, or have the magnolias' furry bud scales parted to make way for the blooms?

Was it spring when the Eastern chipmunks, absent since late fall, were suddenly scurrying around in numbers the last week of February? Or will it not truly arrive until the first peeper peeps, or I see a

mourning cloak butterfly on the wing — a species that overwinters as an adult even here in my Northern zone, hence its early flight?

It feels as if each organism has its own answer — or maybe more accurately, holds a tiny but essential clue to the vast, intricately connected puzzle.

Tuning into phenology is an exercise in attention — specifically in learning to catch the moments of transition in plants and animals, to discern one phenophase from the next, from the first leaf bud starting to burst open to the last leaf to drop in autumn.

But even with plant species I have long grown, do I really know how to read their signals? In December, the network's website published its 240-page, lavishly illustrated "Phenophase Primer" focused on the life stages of flowering plants, to help observers differentiate each subtle phase in their seasonal cycles,



including flower development, from bud break to open flowers and pollen release right through fruiting. Even deciphering what exactly an open flower is can be bewildering.

"In some species, like a tulip, it's very obvious," Crimmins said. "But in a lot of others, like maples, it's not so clear. You might not even know there are flowers on a maple tree, for example. And so this document is just super detailed."

Repeat observations on the same plant

With most of the familiar community-science apps, we are simply asked to record a sighting. The network's process of sharing is a bit more rigorous, because it seeks not just a species' presence but its phenological status — trying to get at the "when" of each unfolding stage.

Some 2,000 species are in the network's database as candidates to be formally observed, 80% of them

plants. What's sought are repeat observations on the same individual specimens, so a user must name the individuals they intend to observe ("backyard purple lilac," or "front yard mayapple"), enter them into their account, then answer a series of structured, species-specific questions every time they check on one.

The network's phenological records are the modern-day Western science application of a practice of keen observation that Indigenous cultures worldwide have relied on throughout history.

Among farmers and gardeners, inferences about connections made from such observations have likewise been drawn, yielding bits of folk wisdom like to plant peas when the peepers peep, sow corn when the oak leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear, or prune roses when the Forsythia blooms.

More than 40 million records have been submitted since 2009 to Nature's Notebook, data that can be put to many uses. The observations add up to a leading indicator of climate change, and get at the existential question around each plant and animal species: Can it adapt, or will it perish? And will longtime partners in nature adapt in tandem?

"Interactions between species are at risk of disruption when their seasonal events are cued by different environmental drivers," Crimmins writes. Many plants respond to warmth, but many insects become active according to day length. These mismatches can be hard on both: no food for the one, and no pollination services for the other.

Watching spring roll up the country

So when is it spring, anyhow? The network's records can help forecast its timing, and a popular website feature displays animated maps showing the gradual arrival rolling up the country, week by week. The maps indicate when different locations have experienced enough warmth to achieve conditions associated with spring's historical start — both leafing out, and the earliest blooms.

In her Tucson yard, Crimmins is gathering clues on spring's progress as she makes her focused passes twice-weekly through the space, adding fresh observations into the app, and deepening her knowledge, too.

"I have a strong biology background, and I think I know what's going on," she said. "But I have witnessed so much more incredible detail unfolding right in my midst, and learned a much deeper appreciation for these different organisms and what they do."

Let's hear it for the ladies who lathe

Woodworking women enjoy new wave of appreciation for craft and high art

By Diana Budds
The New York Times

It often starts with a box. These utilitarian objects are expressions of a woodworker's technical rigor and style. But for Wendy Maruyama, who earned a master's degree in furniture design from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York in 1980, boxes were also political statements. Early in her career, she created boxes awash in vivid color, perched atop 4-foot-tall stands with spiked handles on their lids. Auction sites frequently describe these pieces as "modesty boxes," but they started out with a specific use: to hold an 18-pack of tampons.

"I loved the idea of gender-specific furniture, making something that men could not possibly grasp or experience," Maruyama, 73, said in an email interview recently. One of the few women in the American studio furniture movement, a cohort that combined fine woodworking skills and artistic expression, she went on to build larger versions that held menstrual pads and sex toys.

Last year, the Fresno Art Museum in California handed Maruyama its Distinguished Woman Artist award and hosted her first career survey. No furniture-maker before her had received the honor, which had previously gone to sculptor Ruth Asawa, assemblage artist Betye Saar and weaver Kay Sekimachi. In November, Manhattan gallery Superhouse exhibited her prismatic tambour cabinets in "Colorama," a show that also included furniture by her friend and fellow woodworker Tom Loeser.

Maruyama is not alone in stepping into a gender-specific spot-

light. With boundaries dissolving between craft and high art, and women in both areas enjoying a new wave of appreciation, woodworking — which remains a male-dominated field — has become more interesting. It is filled with narrative content, social commentary and visually daring forms courtesy of its female makers. Pathbreakers of the American studio furniture movement who are now in their 70s and 80s are still creating new work, while younger generations of women who learned from them continue to advance the medium.

"Over the years, women are much more likely to be woodworkers or furniture-makers or designers," said Rosanne Somerson, 70, a woodworker who co-founded the Rhode Island School of Design's furniture design department in 1995 and later became the institution's president. "With every generation, interests change. My generation had more of a lineage from high-level decorative arts, but women now are bringing in a lot more narrative interest and identity issues. It's less about the highest levels of craft and more about the highest levels of expression — and almost provocation."

Because the material carries so many cultural and ecological associations, it is well suited to engage with contemporary issues. Joyce Lin, 30, a furniture-maker in Houston, created her "Material Autopsy" series of conceptual domestic objects to explore the effects of our industrialized society and how most of us are far removed from how things are made. For one chair in the series, which looks like it was grown from a single log sliced open to reveal



This side table was designed by Rosanne Somerson, who is a former president of the Rhode Island School of Design.

its rings, Lin riffed on the decorative arts tradition of faux bois, or realistic-looking artificial wood.

"When I post photos of the piece online," Lin said, "I get people who think I actually grew the wood, and then there are a lot of people who think it was AI generated."

For Kim Mupangilai, 35, a Belgian Congolese interior designer in New York City, wood was a natural choice for her first furniture collection, in 2023.

"I really wanted my furniture to come from me, kind of like a self-portrait," she said. Her utilitarian objects loosely refer to archival photographs taken in Central Africa and are made of materials common in Congolese crafts, including teak, banana fibers and rattan. Her Mwasi armoire, an hourglass-shaped piece with woven doors, is currently on view at "Making Home — Smithsonian Design Triennial" at the Cooper Hewitt museum in Manhattan, and she recently exhibited chairs and stools that refer to art nouveau and the colonial history of Belgium at the Fog Design + Art fair in San Francisco.

Deirdre Visser, 54, a curator and woodworker in San Francisco, said that

speaking more directly about the role of gender in the field is important to welcoming new perspectives and creating more exciting objects.

Visser rejects the notion that to be classified as a female woodworker rather than just someone working in wood diminishes the maker.

"All of us have identities we bring to making, and that is, more and more, where the discussion is rooted," she said. "The most cisgender, straight white male is also bringing identity and a set of experiences to the wood shop, and so this perceived neutrality of their identity as a maker is foolish."

Faye Toogood, a British designer, has become more attuned to the ways that her identity shapes what she creates. She used wood for her earliest works but quickly shifted to industrial materials.

"I looked to my left and my right and thought, if I want to be taken seriously, I need to pick up bronzes and steel," she said. "I now realize that was because I felt like I was wacky in a male-dominated field of industrial design."

Recently, Toogood, 48, returned to wood with "Assemblage 7: Lost and



Wendy Maruyama, one of the few women in the studio furniture movement, created this table. COURTESY PHOTOS

Found II," a series of monolithic chairs, tables and cabinets that includes pieces hand-carved from oak and covered in shellac, a finish popular in 18th-century England.

"It made the pieces really modern but feel quite ancient at the same time," she said.

With all the leaps, woodworking can still be unwelcoming and isolating for women, and some makers are bent on building community and support.

Natalie Shook, 42, an artist and self-taught woodworker in New York City, is one of them. After her products grew from stools to large-scale modular shelving, she opened her own workshop. This allowed her to "completely

insulate" herself from the hostility she had experienced at other shops, she said.

Katie Thompson, 38, an artist in rural South Carolina, started a blog and Instagram account called Women of Woodworking in 2015 to connect with other makers.

"I felt pretty isolated as a woman woodworker at the time and wanted to help amplify the stories of other women and gender-nonconforming woodworkers out there so more people could see themselves being a part of the field, too," she said. The community has grown to thousands of members from around the world and hosts interviews on Instagram Live and virtual meetups.

What to watch THURSDAY

March 27, 2025

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Soul of a Sister

BET+ ■ Original Film

A singer with a once-bright future (Veronika Bozeman) falls victim to the music business at a young age. A decade later, despite addiction and depression, she rises up one more time with the help of a special friend and her God-given gift of voice.

Survival of the Thickest

Netflix ■ Season Premiere

Co-creator Michelle Buteau returns as Mavis Beaumont in Season 2 of this romantic comedy series. In the Season 1 finale, Mavis turned down her ex-boyfriend Jacque when he came crawling back to her and instead flew out to Italy in a sweeping, grand gesture to try to win the heart of the sweet and supportive Luca (Marouane Zotti).

MLB Baseball

ESPN, beginning at 2 p.m. Live

Opening Day festivities include the reigning NL Central champion Milwaukee Brewers visiting the 2024 AL champion N.Y. Yankees, and the Detroit Tigers at Dodger Stadium to take on the 2024 World Series champion L.A. Dodgers.



VANESSA CLIFTON

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament: Sweet 16 Regional Semifinals

CBS & TBS, beginning at 6 p.m. Live

The NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Sweet 16 regional semifinals are held today and tomorrow in Atlanta (South), Indianapolis (Midwest), San Francisco (West) and Newark, New Jersey (East).

Doctor Odyssey

ABC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Sophisticated Ladies," Tristan (Sean Teale) strives to prove himself

to Avery (Phillipa Soo), while Captain Massey (Don Johnson) is shaken by shocking news. Meanwhile, Sophisticated Ladies Week brings a disruptive passenger onboard, while the crew navigates the delicate care of a terminal patient.

Grey's Anatomy

ABC, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Ridin' Solo," Meredith (Ellen Pompeo) and Amelia (Caterina Scorsone) prepare a funding proposal for their Alzheimer's research. Meanwhile, Teddy (Kim Raver) and Owen (Kevin McKidd) hit a breaking point in their marriage.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



COLUMBIA / TRISTAR

Fences (2016, Drama) Denzel Washington, Viola Davis **BET, 5 p.m.**

The Killer Inside: The Ruth Finley Story (2024, Docudrama) Teri Hatcher, Tahmoh Penikett **LMN, 5 p.m.**

Yes Man (2008, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Zoëy Deschanel **E!, 5 p.m.**

A League of Their Own (1992, Comedy-drama) Tom Hanks, Geena Davis **VH1, 6 p.m.**

Aquaman (2018, Action) Jason Momoa, Amber Heard **TNT, 6 p.m.**

The Shawshank Redemption (1994, Drama) Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Superbad (2007, Comedy) Jonah Hill, Michael Cera **E!, 7:30 p.m.**

Gremlins (1984, Fantasy) Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates **Vice, 8:30 p.m.**

The Matrix (1999, Science fiction) Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne **VH1, 8:30 p.m.**

Avengers: Infinity War (2018, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth **TNT, 9 p.m.**

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (2022, Action) Letitia Wright, Angela Bassett **FX, 9 p.m.**

The Sixth Sense (1999, Suspense) Bruce Willis, Haley Joel Osment **AMC, 10 p.m.**

Second Act (2018, Romance-comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Vanessa Hudgens **E!, 10:30 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



ARE YOU MISSING SOME GREAT SHOWS?

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MOVIES 24/7 GRIDS BEST BETS

Successful YouTube game show giddy with glee about Season 3

By DeAsia Paige
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The objective of "Round Table Game Show" is simple: You laugh, you're out.

The Atlanta-based YouTube show features a group of female friends, comedians and content creators gathered around a table to share jokes in an effort to make each other laugh.

Quotes can range from simple observations like "You can't feel your tongue when you're smiling?" to more explicit humor. To keep from cracking up, the women collectively belt an "mmmmm" sound that's become synonymous with the show. It's also emblazoned on the cloth covering the table the friends sit around.

The show's chemistry and laughter is infectious, making viewers feel like they're a part of the game, too. It's a standard that has made "Round Table Game Show" an instant success. The series launched last summer, but most episodes already have hundreds of thousands of views (one episode has close to 1 million views).

Comedian Kid Fury praised the show on his popular podcast, The Read, and recently the game show taped a sold-out live episode. Creator Melonie Torres says "Round Table" has exceeded her expectations. They started filming the show at Airbnb properties and have since expanded to using studio spaces. "It's created a space for women, especially Black women, to feel safe enough to laugh and joke because you don't really see that in the comedy space," she said. "That's rare."

Torres came up with the concept for the show last year. The content creator wanted to poke fun at how



"Round Table Game Show" films Season 3 Feb. 25 in Atlanta. NATRICE MILLER/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

some podcast hosts "will say anything that's kind of deep, but it's really not."

She started making skits based on that idea, but felt it would be funnier as a game show instead. She recruited her fiancé and fellow content creator, Chase Brown, to produce. Brown and Torres have been digital creators for over a decade.

Brown said he thought the concept was "super hilarious" and instantly wanted to be a part of it. "It is really fun, but you have to capture the shot, so you can't really sit behind the camera laughing," Brown said. "Dissociating from what they're actually saying is kind of hard. But also, the chemistry is probably the most important thing in collaboration."

Though special guests, including popular comedian B. Simone, have made appearances, the show's recurring cast includes a small collection of comedians, actors and content creators like Torres, Tee Sanders, Whitney Code, Jordan "Jojo" Johnson, Beverly "Bevvv Boo" Buu, Vanessa D. Fant, Tamara "Thee Little Person" McLaughlin and Anjali Persad.

Some were friends before the show and wanted to participate. Others became closer as the show developed.

Sanders said "Round Table" offers a space for healing.

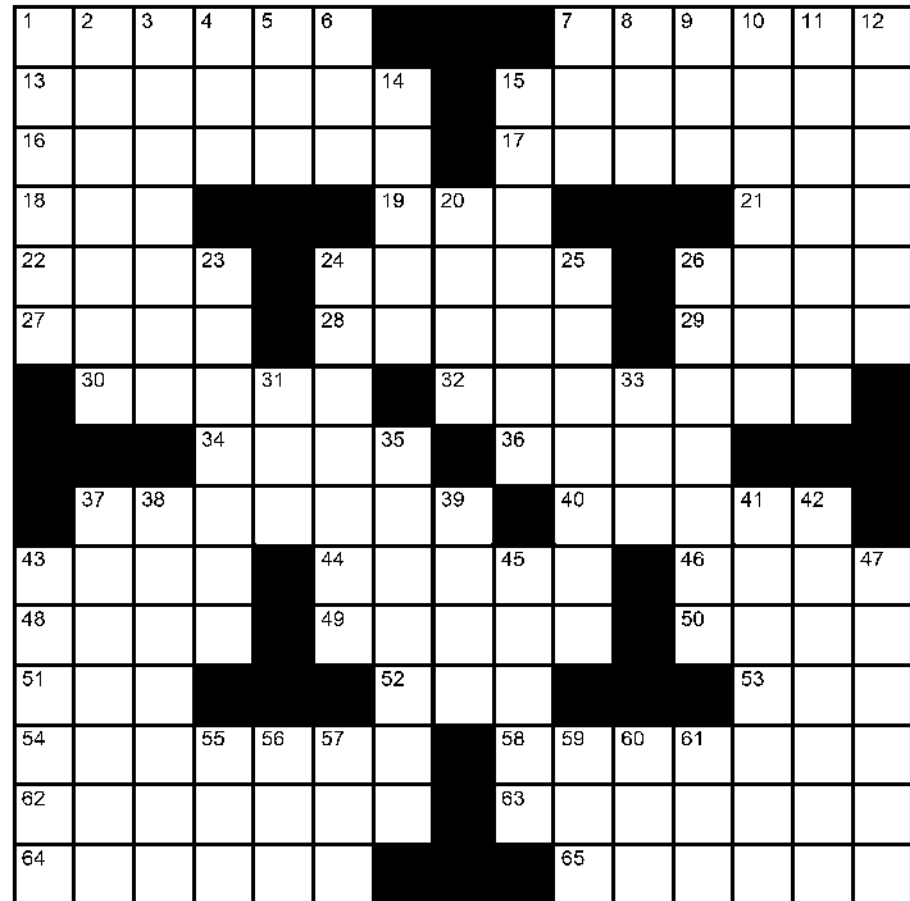
"We all have our own personal stuff," she said, describing how the show has helped reduce her impostor syndrome. "But when we come into the room, when we come into wherever we are, it's gone. It's done. Nothing else matters."

During the first two seasons, Torres said the group figured it out as they went along, incorporating elements like referees and an actual round table. Everyone comes prepared with jokes to elevate the show beyond "basic dad jokes," she said.

For the third season, she said fans can expect "bigger and better jokes with more special guests." But her main goal is to continue the same fun spirit that has defined the show's success. Torres would like to take the live show to more cities.

"I was definitely surprised as to how much it's grown in less than a year, and the response it has gotten, because it's something I just wasn't expecting," Torres said. "That wasn't the intent behind creating it, but it's been beautiful to see that it's resonated with so many people all around the world. And it keeps growing."

Crossword



By Stella Zawistowski. © 2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

3/27/25

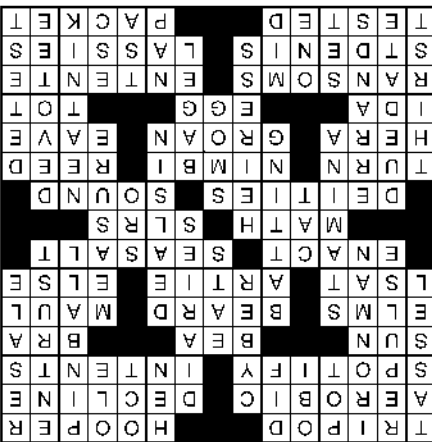
ACROSS

- 1 Camera supporter
- 7 Mr. ("Sesame Street" grocer)
- 13 Like strenuous exercise
- 15 Say no
- 16 Pandora competitor
- 17 Purposes
- 18 Our star
- 19 Actress Arthur
- 21 Upper undergarment
- 22 Shade trees
- 24 Goatee, for example
- 26 Savagely attack
- 27 Future attorney's exam: Abbr.
- 28 Clarinetist Shaw
- 29 "Anybody?"
- 30 Make into law
- 32 Flaky seasoning: 2 wds.
- 34 Calc or algebra, for short
- 36 Some cameras: Abbr.
- 37 Gods and goddesses
- 40 Rational
- 43 Go left or right
- 44 Rain clouds
- 46 Part of an oboe
- 48 Zeus's wife
- 49 Response to a bad pun
- 50 Roof edge
- 51 Journalist Wells
- 52 Omelet ingredient
- 53 Tater
- 54 Kidnappers' demands
- 58 Diplomatic agreement
- 62 Patron of Paris: 2 wds.
- 63 Scottish girls
- 64 Tried out
- 65 Small sugar holder

DOWN

- 1 Graduation cap attachment
- 2 Disgust
- 3 Tony Stark's alter ego: 2 wds.
- 4 Cooking vessel
- 5 Japanese sash
- 6 "What's the ___?"
- 7 Laying bird
- 8 Tenth month: Abbr.
- 9 Spanish cheer
- 10 Mechanical arcade game
- 11 Put faith in
- 12 Secondhand transaction
- 14 ___ Monday (shopping occasion)

Solutions



- 15 Personal journals
- 20 Consumes
- 23 Physical endurance
- 24 Facing the pitcher
- 25 Buys and sells: 2 wds.
- 26 Use a ruler
- 31 Purring pet
- 33 "No seats left": 2 wds.
- 35 Woman who inherits
- 37 Deadline info: 2 wds.
- 38 Gofer's tasks
- 39 Visible air pollution
- 41 Clean freak
- 42 Big fan
- 43 Craving for water
- 45 Roll with a hole
- 47 Can't stand
- 55 Ready to go
- 56 Three minus two
- 57 -Atlantic region
- 59 Short rest
- 60 ID-checking agency: Abbr.
- 61 Key used to exit

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (March 27): You're especially creative this year. Nurture yourself with regular private time. Your work, health and physical performance thrive this spring, inspiring summer's personal growth and development. Autumn organization prepares dreamy results. Adjust winter routines around work or health challenges. Talk about what you love.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 6. Maintain mystery. Don't reveal your secrets all at once, with Venus in Pisces. Fantasies abound. Prioritize quiet time. Finish old jobs and rest peacefully.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 9. Have fun with friends. You're especially popular for the next month, with Venus retrograde in Pisces. Community collaboration flourishes.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Grow your career toward a passion over the next month, with Venus backing into Pisces. Watch for professional opportunities advancing an old dream.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. Set goals, and plan your next adventures. Travel, explore and study, with Venus retrograde in Pisces over the next month. Discover new worlds.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 9. Find a sweet deal. Review family finances this month, with Venus in Pisces, and rediscover ways to save. Increase your assets. Expect expenditures.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 9. Collaborate on creative projects. Partnerships flow with familiar ease, with Venus backing into Pisces. Compromise on details. Share support around a challenge. Strengthen bonds.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 9. Prioritize your work, health and vitality, with Venus in Pisces this month. Push to provide excellent results. Practice recharges you and builds energy.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 9. Remember who and what you love this month, with Venus retrograde in Pisces. Create works of beauty. Develop hobbies, passions and talents.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 8. Burrow into your love nest. Enjoy domestic renovation over the next month, with Venus in Pisces. Prioritize home and family. Increase the comfort level.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 8. Study something fun. Words flow with ease. Express from your heart, with Venus in Pisces. Take advantage to write and issue communications.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 9. Do what worked before. Gather income from reliable sources. Venus retrograde in Pisces can get especially profitable. Focus on providing simple, classic excellence.

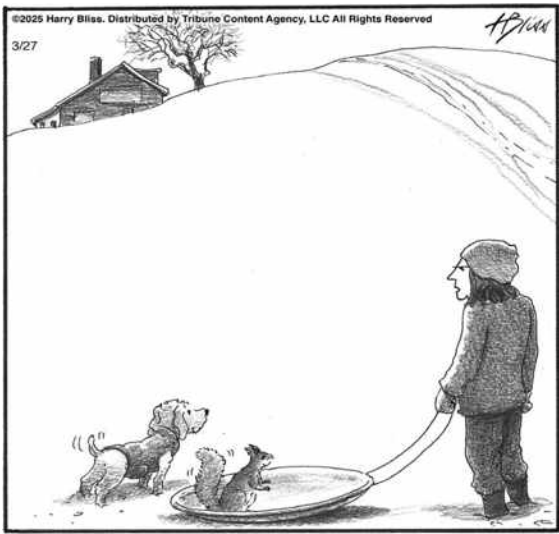
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 9. Try a new style or look. You're in the spotlight again over the next month, with Venus retrograde in your sign. You're irresistible.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn



Bliss By Harry Bliss



Bridge

Both vulnerable, South deals

North			
♠ 8			
♥ K J 9 4 2			
♦ 6 4			
♣ A Q 10 9 2			
		East	
		♠ Void	
		♥ Q 8 6 5	
		♦ K Q J 9 5	
		♣ K 7 6 4	
		South	
		♠ A K Q J 9 4 2	
		♥ A 10	
		♦ 8 2	
		♣ 8 5	

Larry Cohen, of Delray Beach, Florida, is one of the world's most popular bridge teachers. In addition to a busy schedule of cruises, he travels throughout the USA and Canada, lecturing on bridge. Cohen is also in the bridge Hall of Fame as a player. He was South in today's deal, which poses an interesting defensive problem. How can East get West to shift to a club at trick two?

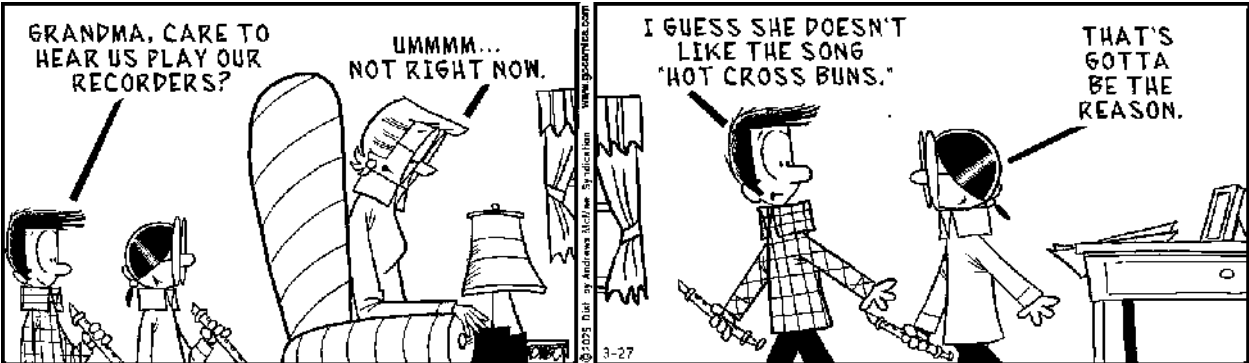
The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
1♠*	Pass	1♥**	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	All pass

*Precision, at least 16 points, any shape
**Natural, game forcing
Opening lead: Ace of ♦

diamond and West did shift, but to a heart instead of a club. The heart shift turned out to give Cohen his tenth trick when the spades split 5-0. Cohen suggests that East might play the jack of diamonds at trick one. That might work, but it might also be confusing. What would East play from, say, king-jack-ten-nine? The jack seems like a normal descriptive play. We think the queen of diamonds might be better. South would probably have bid three no trump instead of bidding spades for a third time if he held the king of diamonds. If so, why would East play the queen from king-queen? Perhaps for a club shift? What do you think?

— Bob Jones, Tribune Content Agency

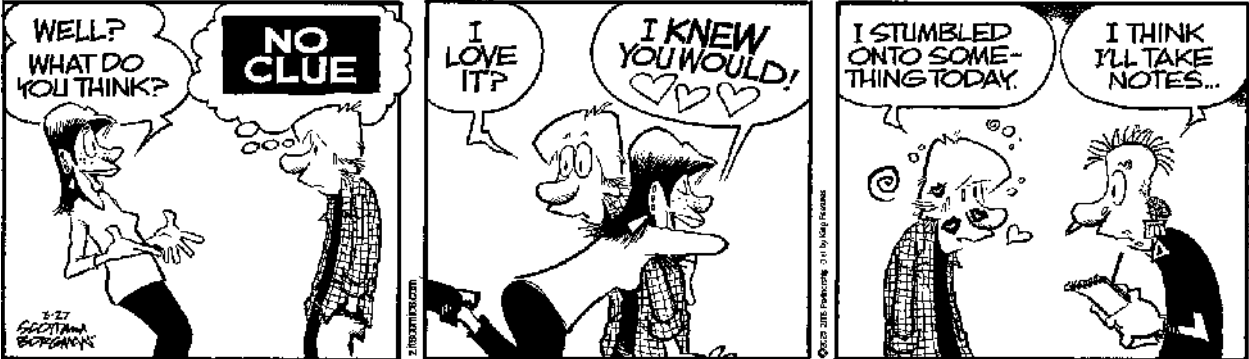
Grand Avenue By Mike Thompson



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



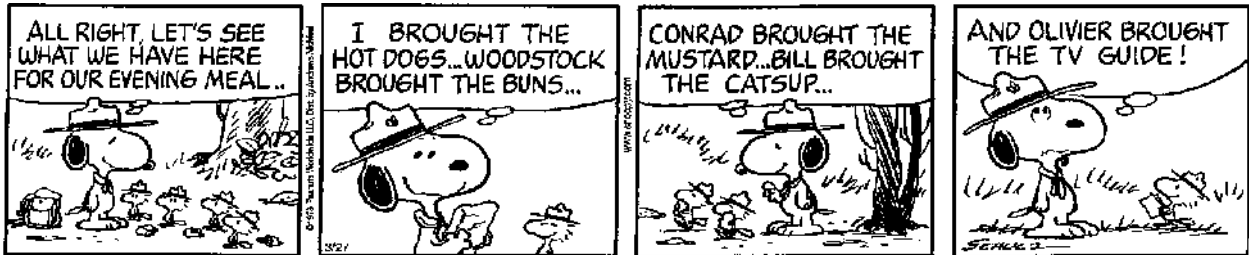
Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin



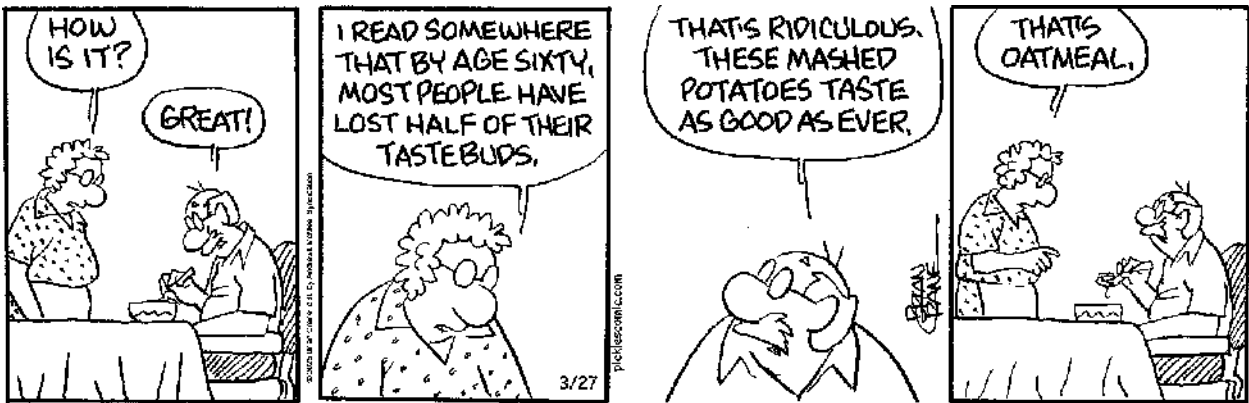
Frazz By Jef Mallett



Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz



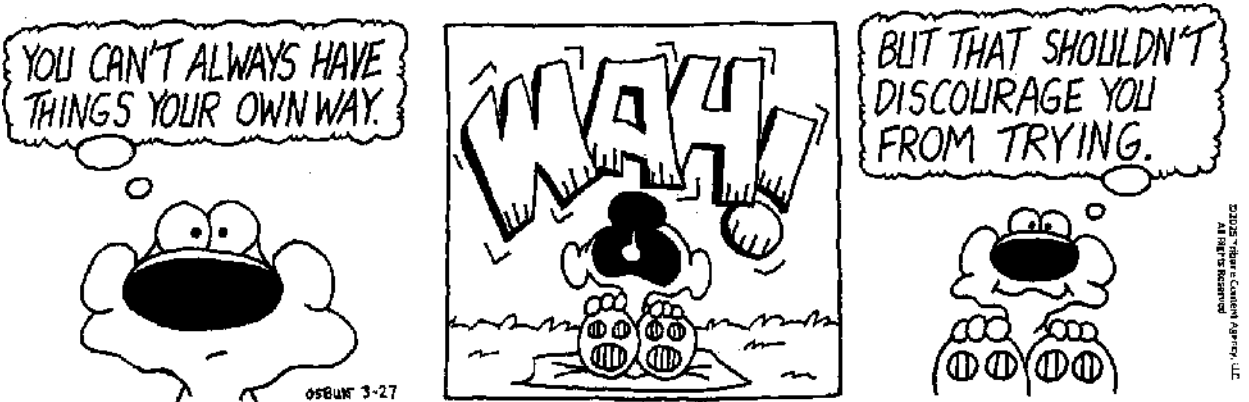
Pickles By Brian Crane



Dick Tracy By Charles Ettinger and Mike Curtis



Animal Crackers By Mike Osburn



Prickly City By Scott Stantis



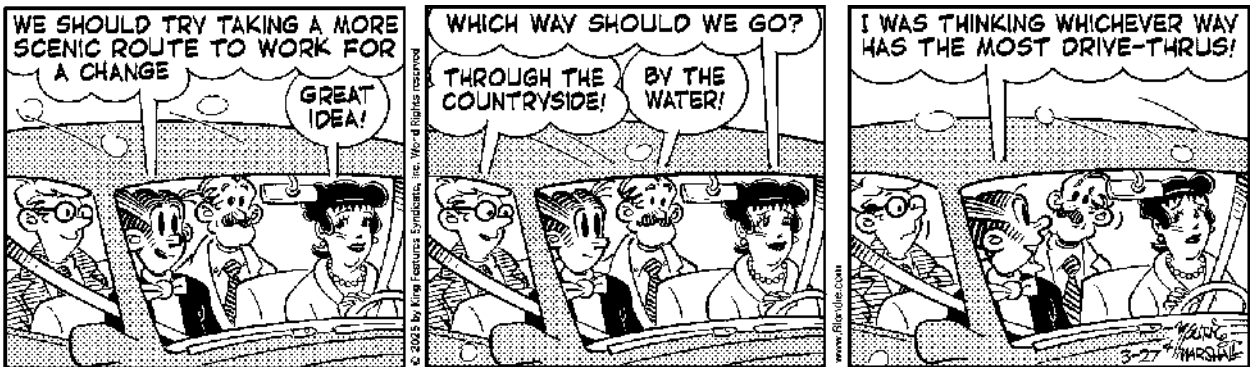
Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



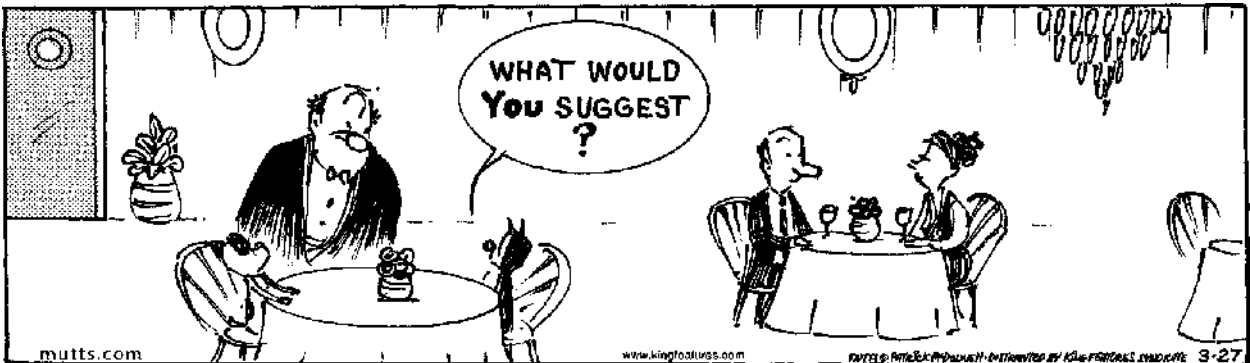
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



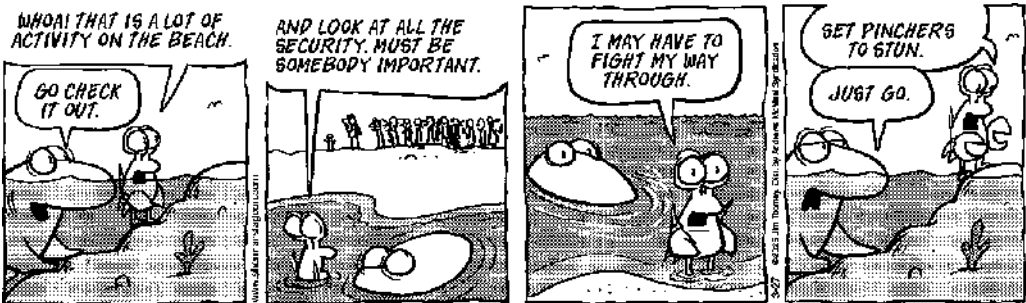
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers



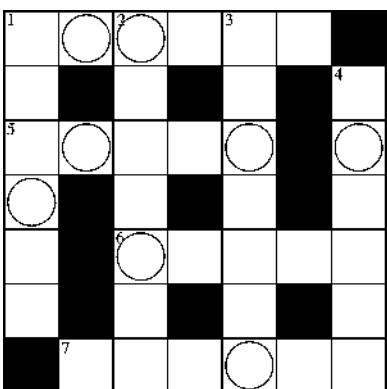
Trivia Bits

Which of these is among Thomas Edison's many inventions?
A) Laser
B) Talking doll
C) Windshield wiper
D) X-ray machine

Wednesday's answer: The idea of a cloud with a silver lining comes from the John Milton poem "Comus."

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Jumble Crossword



CLUE
1. Sash, strip
2. Fumes, vapor
3. Vast
4. ___ office
CLUE
1. Outcome
2. Cooking appliance
3. Defeat, swamp
4. ___ Cotten

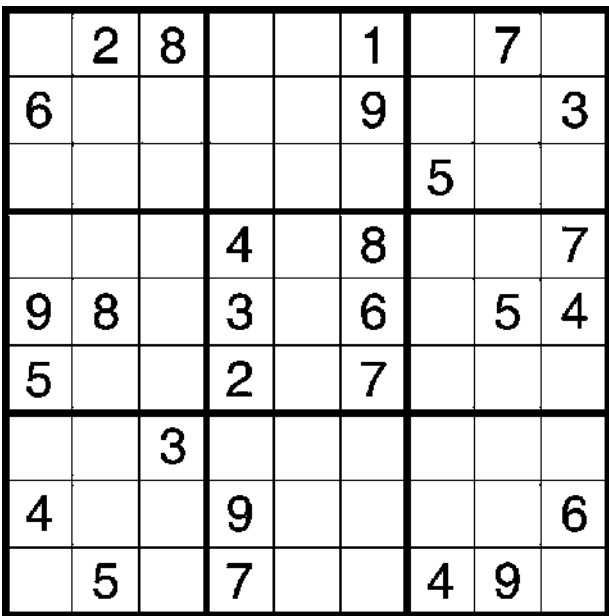
How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

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Sudoku 1 2 3 4

3/27



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

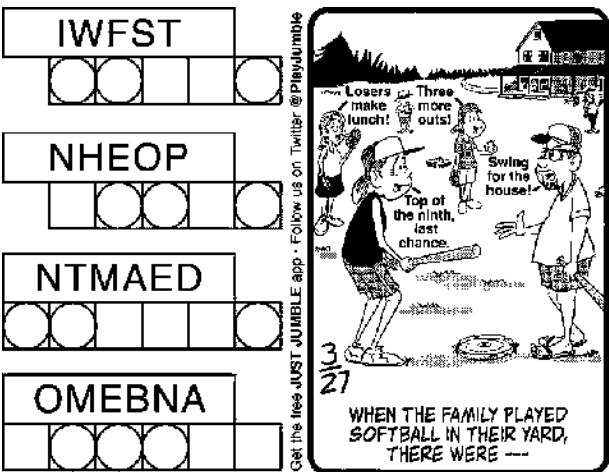
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Wednesday'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



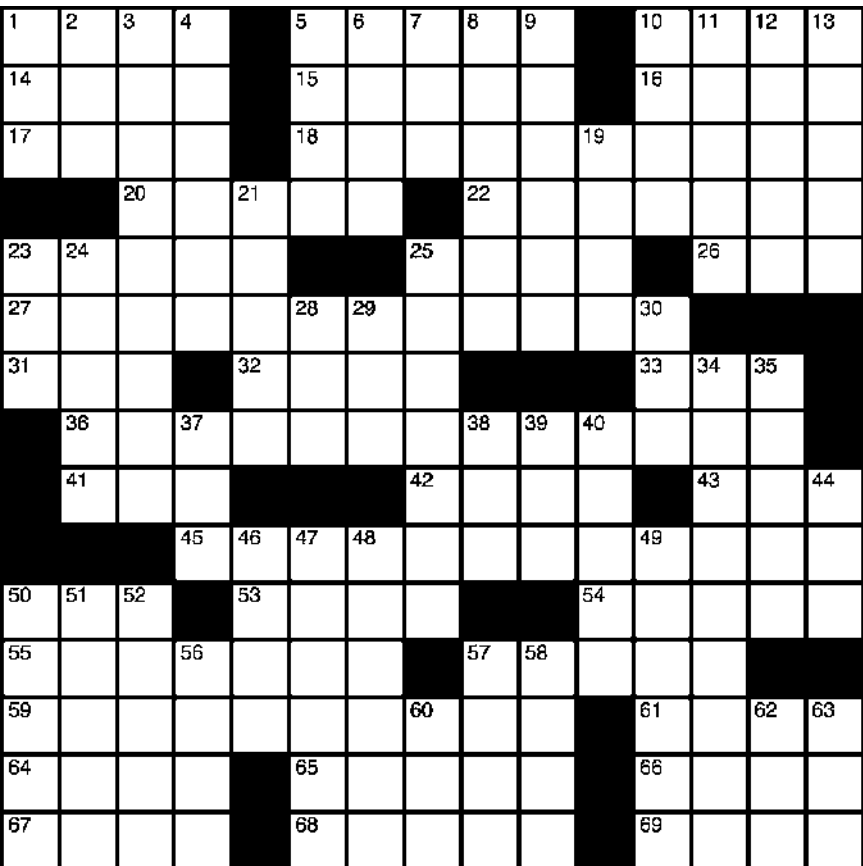
Wednesday's answers

Jumbles: ANKLE GUEST POROUS STURDY
Answer: The circle said goodbye to the other circle by saying — SEE YOU AROUND

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

Crossword

3/27



Across

- 1 Hurtful remark
- 5 Can't help but
- 10 Get smart with
- 14 Cookie with a Dirt Cake flavor
- 15 Two twos, say
- 16 Miller option
- 17 Director Preminger
- 18 One-hit-wonder by the New Zealand band OMC
- 20 Collect
- 22 'Just tell me the answer'
- 23 Twiddled one's thumbs
- 25 Advil target
- 26 Online convos
- 27 Title theme song of a 1985 John Hughes film
- 31 Egg cells
- 32 Mosul's country
- 33 Broke bread

Wednesday's solution



By Joe Rodini. Edited by Patti Varol. © 2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

- 36 Tom Jones classic that accompanied the Carlton dance on "Fresh Prince"
- 41 Island garland
- 42 Steak sauce brand
- 43 Cryptology org.
- 45 ELO hit from the album "Face the Music"
- 50 Texting segue
- 53 "Dateline NBC" anchor Lester
- 54 Cruise stopover
- 55 Snoopy alter ego
- 57 "Cabaret" director
- 59 Figures on right-hand pages, or an apt title for this puzzle
- 61 "Ferrari" actor Driver
- 64 Wrath
- 65 Lifts, as spirits
- 66 Sounds from a comedy club
- 67 Russian refusal
- 68 Far from shore
- 69 Duration

Down

- 1 Bae
- 2 Return d'
- 3 Object like for like
- 4 Child of the 1950s
- 5 Sounds of derision
- 6 Mil. addresses
- 7 Tool that can make music
- 8 Fibulae neighbors
- 9 Where the x-axis and the y-axis cross
- 10 Serb or Croat

- 11 Put on TV
- 12 Play lightly
- 13 Trickle
- 19 Metal in pennies
- 21 Introduce to the mix
- 23 ___ Jima
- 24 New Jersey athlete
- 25 Pleasingly tangy
- 28 Packed theater letters
- 29 Monopoly token that replaced the iron
- 30 ___ de cologne
- 34 Snarled
- 35 Pitcher of milk?
- 37 Family girl
- 38 Eggy drink
- 39 Arles article
- 40 18-wheelers
- 44 Play, or part of a play
- 46 Commandment start
- 47 iRobot vacuum
- 48 Nearly entirely
- 49 Analyzes chemically
- 50 ABBA singer Ulvaeus
- 51 "While I'm young"
- 52 Trivial Pursuit piece
- 56 Tech review site
- 57 Boot company since 1863
- 58 Mount of Greek myth
- 60 Volkswagen model until 2016
- 62 Alias letters
- 63 AOL alternative

Want more PUZZLES?
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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO SPORTS

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



The White Sox work out Wednesday at Rate Field ahead of Thursday's opening day. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ready for a pivot

As Cubs kick off crucial season in Arizona, it's playoffs or bust in 2025

By Meghan Montemurro
Chicago Tribune

PHOENIX — The Cubs understand what is at stake.

In a loaded National League, the path to the postseason likely runs through the Central division, where the Cubs haven't been able to take command since the pandemic-shortened 2020 campaign. After dropping the two games against the Dodgers in the Tokyo Series last week, the Cubs kick off their domestic opener Thursday against the Diamondbacks in Arizona to begin a pivotal season for the organization.

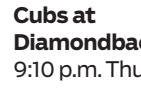

"In the National League, teams keep pushing each other," president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer said before their opener in Tokyo. "I've had American League executives that have commented on it, like, the talent keeps going to this direction, and those things are cyclical. Five years from now, it might be very different, but right now, it's a really hard league."

"When you look at our schedule, there's not a lot of easy series or a series off. And it's good for baseball because it's real parity. But, yeah, the National League is really difficult."



Shota Imanaga pitches during a workout day at the Tokyo Dome on March 17 ahead of a two-game series. KENTA HARADA/GETTY

UP NEXT



Cubs at Diamondbacks
9:10 p.m. Thursday, Marquee

How the Cubs win the division/make the playoffs

The NL Central is there for the taking by the Cubs.

On paper, the Cubs are the best team in the division following key offseason additions of star right fielder Kyle Tucker,

Turn to Cubs, Page 2

Sox eager to turn page on disastrous 121-loss season

By LaMond Pope | Chicago Tribune

Opening day presents a fresh start.

For the White Sox, the 2025 opener represents a chance to turn the page following a modern-day major league record 121 losses in 2024.

"There's certain times throughout the season that you get so caught up in the grind that you lose focus or sight on how special being a part of a major-league team is," manager Will Venable said Wednesday at Rate Field. "But opening day is fresh, it's new, it's exciting and it's the one time that you are really uninhibited in your focus on how special this opportunity is."

"It's just a good time to reflect on how special being here is."



The Sox open the season at 3:10 p.m. Thursday against the Los Angeles Angels at Rate Field. It's also Venable's first regular-season game as the team's manager.

"Any time you're part of an organization and here on a big-league staff or roster for opening day, it's special," Venable said. "What it means for me personally as a manager, we'll find out (Thursday)."

When it comes to team expectations for 2025, general manager Chris Getz said it's about "showing up each and every day and competing."

"We've got high internal expectations

SEASON OPENER



Angels at White Sox
3:10 p.m. Thursday, CHSN

Forecast: Cloudy with a 20% chance of rain, high of 53. ESE winds at 15 mph with stronger gusts.

that Will and the staff and myself are going to carry throughout the season," Getz said. "This is a group (of players) that really like playing with each other. We've got some leaders within this group that are going to support some of our younger players or lesser experienced players."

"Throughout all of that, I think we are going to see a lot of positives come out. It's not just focused on wins and losses. Obviously, that's very important but we also understand where we are as an organization. So many of these guys are getting experience for the first time in the major leagues to really help us not only now but in the future as well."

Venable has a similar mindset.

"We understand our situation, but internally, our focus is on the things we can control and the things we can do to win the game and execute plays," Venable said.

Turn to White Sox, Page 2



AUDREY RICHARDSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NIT LOYOLA 72, KENT STATE 62

Loyola headed to Final Four

Loyola forward Jalen DeLoach dunks against Kent State during the first half of an NIT quarterfinal Wednesday at Gentile Arena. The Ramblers won 72-62 and will face Chattanooga in the Final Four on Tuesday in Indianapolis. The championship game is April 3. For coverage, go to chicagotribune.com/sports

BEARS

Boise State RB Jeanty to Bears? It's fun to imagine ...

... if only it's a possibility for Poles when it's team's turn to pick

Ashton Jeanty may be the best player the Bears do not take this year.

Projections on the Bears differ when it comes to what they need in the NFL draft, but there has been an undercurrent through the league that they are interested in the Boise State running back. If only he's there when it's their turn.

The Bears are counting on new coach Ben Johnson to spark an offensive renaissance after he directed the highest-scoring team in the league in Detroit. Maybe you've heard of the catchy nickname for the Lions backfield — Sonic and Knuckles, with Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery



Brad Biggs
On the Bears

ery playing those roles, respectively.

Jeanty is so talented he could be both Sonic and Knuckles, and there is at least a chance he will be an option for Bears general manager Ryan Poles.

Last fall, Jeanty looked like a Division I workhorse running through, around and by high school players on Friday nights as he compiled video-gamelike statistics in leading the Broncos to a 12-2 season and spot in the College Football Playoff.

Boise State offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter, who worked for the program


Turn to Biggs, Page 4

NFL DRAFT

April 24-26 in Green Bay
Bears picks: Round 1, No. 10 overall, 2-39, 2-41, 3-72, 5-148, 7-233, 7-240

MORE COVERAGE

Brad Biggs answers your questions, including: Could the Bears trade up to get Penn State defensive end Abdul Carter. **Page 4**

Team	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
 BULLS	LAL 7 p.m. CHSN		DAL 7 p.m. CHSN		@OKC 7 p.m. CHSN
 BLACKHAWKS		VEG 7:30 p.m. CHSN		UTA 3 p.m. CHSN+	
 CUBS	@ARI 9:10 p.m. Marquee	@ARI 8:40 p.m. Marquee	@ARI 7:10 p.m. Marquee	@ARI 3:10 p.m. Marquee	@ATH 9:05 p.m. Marquee
 SOX	LAA 3:10 p.m. CHSN		LAA 1:10 p.m. CHSN	LAA 1:10 p.m. CHSN	MIN 1:10 p.m. CHSN
 FIRE			MON 7:30 p.m. Apple TV		
 STARS				LOU 3 p.m.	



White Sox manager Will Venable, left, and GM Chris Getz talk while their team works out Wednesday at Rate Field. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

Cubs

from Page 1

left-hander Matthew Boyd, reliever Ryan Pressly and catcher Carson Kelly. The Cubs have both the veteran experience and upside on the roster to take advantage of a division that didn't see significant upgrades to the other four teams. The Milwaukee Brewers, winners of four of the last five division titles, shouldn't be overlooked, but the Cubs are positioned well.

"I think over time that your talent and your depth really pays dividends," Hoyer said. "And I think we're deep, and hopefully that does pay dividends as we start the season."

An X-factor for the Cubs is their young core of first baseman Michael Busch, center fielder Pete Crow-Armstrong, catcher Miguel Amaya and third baseman Matt Shaw. They need quality production and ideally at least two of them to take significant steps forward in their development to bolster the lineup offensively.

"Ultimately, it's really about having guys outperform their expectations, I mean, if we want to be as good as we think we can be, you're going to have to have some exceptional seasons and all those guys individually have the ability to do that," Hoyer said.

A healthy Dansby Swanson and Nico Hoerner up the middle, after both had surgery in October to fix issues that impacted them most of last year, should make a difference, especially if they tap into more power. Seiya Suzuki, if he can stay healthy, gives them a top-15 hitter in the league who should be able to replicate his 2024 production. Ian Happ in the lead-off spot again gives them an ideal mix of on-base ability and slug.

The Cubs might not possess the traditional No. 1 ace on the pitching staff, but their rotation — Justin Steele, Shota Imanaga, Jameson Taillon, Boyd and Ben Brown — has a mix of consistency, experience and upside that should keep them in plenty of games. The bullpen remains one of their biggest question marks, and the Cubs hope they have assembled a group that can stay healthy and avoid the late-inning woes that plagued them early last year.

How the Cubs miss the playoffs

The Cubs' schedule the first month of the season is a gauntlet.

They play 13 of their next 19 games on West Coast time and in the first four weeks will face only one team that finished below .500 last year. By the end of the month, they will have completed their season series against three of the projected top teams in the NL: the Dodgers, Padres and Diamondbacks.

The Cubs are well aware of the tough slate ahead, and finding a way to avoid a deep hole in the first month will be paramount. This is a big test that could make the rest of the season an uphill climb.

"We've got to go play the games and we've



Kyle Tucker bats in the top of the third inning against the Yomiuri Giants during an exhibition game at the Tokyo Dome on March 16 in Tokyo. **KENTA HARADA/GETTY**

got to live with the results, and there's going to be a game the next day," manager Craig Counsell told reporters. "No matter who you're playing or who's pitching, we're going to try to win that game. ... The great thing about the schedule now is it really is the same for everybody. When you play teams, you've got no control over, and who's hurt and all that stuff. But the schedule's the same for everybody now, and I think that's a good thing."

Beyond the challenging schedule to begin the year, injuries to key players are always a potential deterrent to a successful season. The Cubs largely avoided significant injuries in 2024 and while the organization is confident in the depth they've built — and injuries are unavoidable over a 162-game season — some players would be much harder to replace than others, most notably Tucker, Imanaga and Steele.

If the Cubs fall short of the playoffs, the always-volatile bullpen would likely play a role in that shortcoming.

Wrigley Field was a haven for pitchers and a nightmare for hitters during 2024 — the second-most-oppressive offensive environment in the majors. Ballpark factors are difficult to predict year to year, but trends suggest Wrigley won't be so extreme this year. Cubs pitchers benefitted from last year's environment as much as it hurt their hitters, setting up a likely regression on the pitching side, a potential challenge for fly-ball pitchers like Imanaga, while the lineup should get a boost. Limiting walks will be important for the pitching staff.

The weight of expectations can be difficult to quantify, but undeniably, there is pressure on this group to get back to the postseason for the first time since 2020 and secure their first division title in a full season since 2017. The aggressiveness of the front office as the summer progresses will be an intriguing subplot. With Hoyer not under contract beyond this season nothing is guaranteed, but winning and taking advantage of the team's best roster in years always helps job security.

Anything less than a playoff appearance would be a failure and could result in leadership changes by ownership.

White Sox

from Page 1

"That's what we talk about, that's where our focus is and it's going to continue to be every day during the season.

"We talk about some things specifically (in terms of team identity) that are really important to us. Defensively, first-step stuff, on the bases, maximizing our leads. But then it's really about going out and competing. Executing plays is important, but how we go about doing it matters, right? We're not going to make every play, that's all right, we'll continue to work. But we need to go out and play hard and compete. And if that's the one thing you watch from us, then I'll feel good about it."

The Sox will begin the season with infielder Josh Rojas (hairline fracture in his right big toe) and outfielder Mike Tauchman (right hamstring strain) on the injured list.

"It's one of those types of injuries where we probably could have activated them on opening day, but there was no sense in pushing it," Getz said. "We want those injuries to be behind them so when they come up they can have confidence and have enough body of work and at-bats. All the boxes that need to be checked before playing a major-league game."

Infielders Brooks Baldwin and Nick Maton and outfielder Travis Jankowski are on the roster to provide depth.

"All three of those players offer a fair amount of versatility and I feel like it could certainly help us win ballgames based on their skill set," Getz said.

Jacob Amaya and Baldwin will be available to handle the shortstop duties.

On the pitching side, the bullpen includes lefties Brandon Eisert, Fraser Ellard and Cam Booser. Lefty Tyler Gilbert begins the season on the injured list (left knee).

The right-handed relievers are Bryce Wilson, Jordan Leasure, Penn Murfee, Mike Vasil and Mike Clevinger. Rule 5 draft pick Shane Smith will be part of the rotation, joining Sean Burke, Jonathan Cannon, Martin Pérez and Davis Martin.

The Sox made several moves on the eve of the opener, including claiming infielder/outfielder Greg Jones off waivers from the Colorado Rockies and optioning him to Triple-A Charlotte.

They also optioned reliever Justin Anderson to Charlotte, reassigned infielders Bobby Dalbec, Tristan Gray and Chase Meidroth and pitchers James Karinchak and Steven Wilson to minor-league camp and designated outfielder Oscar Colás for assignment.

The roster is in place. And now it's time to see how the year unfolds.

"We are all competitive — I'm certainly competitive, Will is competitive, all these players are," Getz said. "Our fans, we have tremendous fans here in Chicago. They want to see a winner. We had so many fans that were in spring training in Arizona that I was able to interact with, and our players as well. We feel the support.

"We also understand the frustration, certainly they want to come to a game and expect us to win each and every night. That's not going to be the case. But our intent to win each and every night could be shown with the effort, the attention to detail and this roster will certainly shape in a fashion where we feel very confident for the future."



Sox infielder Jacob Amaya takes the field to work out Wednesday.

SPORTS



Bulls guard Lonzo Ball takes a breather against the Suns on Feb. 22 at the United Center. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BULLS

Ball planning to return for final postseason push

By Julia Poe
Chicago Tribune

Lonzo Ball will not make his return against the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night at the United Center — but the Bulls guard is hopeful he will be available before the end of the regular season.

Ball missed the last 12 games with a sprained right wrist, an injury that occurred in an October game against the Memphis Grizzlies.

At the time, Ball said he narrowly avoided a Grade 3 sprain, which would have required immediate season-ending surgery. He was able to return after a 15-game absence, but the injury never fully healed.

After nearly two full months back on the court, Ball reaggravated the injury in February — a frustrating setback in a come-back season for the guard after missing 33 months due to a left knee injury.

Although he will require another week to return to in-game conditioning, Ball participated in Wednesday’s practice at the Advocate Center, which included a round of 5-on-5 scrimmaging.

“I’m happy to be back out there,” Ball said. “I just want to get a little bit more comfortable, want to get back into the playing rhythm. I’ve been out, I don’t want to come back too early and just do something that doesn’t need to be done.”

Returning by the end of the regular season will come at a price. Ball’s wrist is not pain-free — and will not be until he undergoes a more extensive recovery process in the offseason.

While he has avoided risk of further injury or surgery, Ball will continue to play through discomfort. His shot was visibly stiff during scrimmages, creating a shallow arc that missed off the front of the rim.

Still, Ball’s return will offer a crucial lift to the Bulls (32-40) as they make a final postseason push — they enter Thursday in ninth place in the Eastern Conference, one game ahead of the Miami Heat with 10 remaining. He was averaging 7.6 points, 3.4 rebounds and 3.3 assists before the injury, sparking the offense in transition and providing a veteran anchor on defense.

“We’re in a pretty good spot right now at ninth,” Ball said. “We’re gearing up to be in the play-in. We know we got to win two games. That’s the goal for us right now. That’s why I’m just trying to get as healthy as possible before that happens and do what I can to help the team.”

On paper, the Bulls rostered an excess of guards after their final moves at the trade deadline. But injuries have reduced that to a limited pool.

Ayo Dosunmu underwent season-ending surgery on his left shoulder this month. Josh Giddey missed a week after suffering

a sprained right ankle against the Indiana Pacers. The moment Giddey was ready to return, Tre Jones suffered a sprain in his left foot that placed him in a walking boot for at least two weeks.

As a result, the Bulls have leaned heavily on guard Coby White, who has averaged 35.4 minutes since the All-Star break.

“People was shooting on us for having 20 guards, but I guess it’s coming in handy right now,” Ball said jokingly.

Ball did not travel with the Bulls during their recent six-game trip, in which the Bulls went 4-2, upsetting the Lakers and Denver Nuggets to improve to 8-2 in their last 10 games. The time at home for Ball prevented potential swelling and agitation to the sprain that can be caused by air travel, offering additional time to rehab both his wrist and knee.

During his absence, Ball praised White and Giddey for their individual performances and team leadership to buoy the Bulls through this positive stretch of the season.

“I was super proud of them,” Ball said. “I was watching the games. I was screaming at the TV, man. That’s probably the best games of this year, the best stretch for sure. It’s been an up-and-down season, but it’s a great time to get hot right now. ... With Coby playing how he’s playing, I feel like we can beat anybody.”

BLACKHAWKS

Coaching? TV? Maroon considering some options

By Phil Thompson
Chicago Tribune

For someone who is about to hang up his skates, Chicago Blackhawks forward Pat Maroon appears to have a lot on his plate in the coming weeks.

He’s considering several pursuits once he retires at the end of the season — coaching? broadcasting? — while also getting ready for a baby due April 23, his 37th birthday.

“It’s still fresh, it’s still early, so I’m just taking it day by day, to be honest with you,” Maroon told the Tribune.

“Once everything settles down here and the season’s over, and my new baby is born, get through the summer, (I’ll) just kind of figure out what I really want and navigate that. But I’m going to do some ... stuff during the playoffs, hopefully on broadcast, and do all that, and then see if I really take a liking to it and enjoy it.”

Maroon said nothing is confirmed yet with a network, but his representatives have started conversations with potential outlets.

“Still got a lot of progress to work on that, but they for sure reached out, and now it’s just getting my feet wet in that industry and see if I really enjoy it, which I think I will, because it’s more like locker room talk, and it’s more banter and more of that feel of talking about the game,” he said.

“I love talking hockey, and I watch a ton of hockey. So it’s something that I’ll probably really like.”

Maroon’s fellow Hawks paint him as unvarnished off the ice as he is on it: He’ll throw a punch during a game and pull no punches with teammates afterward.

“I’ll miss seeing his face — as much as I hated it throughout my whole career,” forward Nick Foligno said. “But that’s usually the sign of a great player and a guy that’s made an impact, right?”

“He’s a guy that you knew when he was

on the ice.”

Hawks interim coach Anders Sorensen said, “He’s a calming influence on a lot of the younger guys but he can lighten up the room a bit for sure. But he also knows when it’s time to be serious.”

Those aspects, as well as his 14-year hard-nosed reputation that earned him the nickname “Big Rig,” will translate to the bench or the camera, whichever avenue Maroon pursues, defenseman Connor Murphy said.

After playing with eight teams and winning three Stanley Cups, Maroon is “just known so much around the league, his role is so for the team,” Murphy said. “Like fighting and playing like limited minutes, where it’s not fun sometimes, but sacrificing yourself for the greater good of the team.”

Asked how Maroon might handle being a broadcaster, Murphy said, “It’s hard to be fast-paced and be good at the words and vocal. He’s really personable, and I feel like he holds conversation well with anyone.

“You see him, he always hits the nail on his head with his interviews, with how he’s trying to portray his thoughts. So I think that that speaks to his comfort level, and hopefully he can do well with it. I think his personality suits it.”

Forward Ryan Donato said Maroon is “infectious” and dedicated to hockey, so if he seeks a coaching role, Donato’s on board.

“His personality is awesome, and I could definitely see him being a coach,” he said.

Maroon said he has loved coaching his son Anthony’s team in the past or just attending his games.

“I get on the ice with them, so I really enjoyed it,” he said. “I really enjoyed working with them and watching their progress throughout the season and helping them out. ...

“If I did coach, it would probably be in the NHL, but I’ve got to figure out what I want to do, if I want to get back right into



Blackhawks left wing Patrick Maroon is guarded by Capitals defenseman John Carlson in December at the United Center. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

this lifestyle and jump right back into it.”

He’s also interested in player development or a role of some kind to get his feet wet in personnel.

“But the door’s open for me, and there’s going to be a lot of doors open, I feel like, and hopefully, just got to figure out what I really want to do,” he said.

The only role that’s assured is becoming a dad again.

“Yeah, me and Marty (Alec Martinez),” Maroon said. “He’s a day before.”

Maroon doesn’t know if Anthony and Goldie will have a baby brother or sister when wife Francesca is set to give birth in a month.

The question is where. Maroon, a St. Louis native, has a home in Tampa, where he won Cups in 2020 and ’21 with the Lightning.

“I’m just going to wait until Tampa is out of the playoffs because my house is being rented by a player,” he said. “But I think we’re going to end up going back there after the baby’s born and finding a little place until (then). ...

“I have a lot of good friends over there. I hope they win, but it’d be nice to get in my house.”

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Neuqua Valley grad preps for NBA draft

Yale’s Poulakidas made splash during NCAA Tournament

By Matt Le Cren
Napperville Sun

Former Neuqua Valley basketball star John Poulakidas is on the cusp of turning his dream into reality.

The Yale senior guard completed his college career by scoring 23 points in a loss to Texas A&M in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday and intends to declare for the NBA draft.

“If you would have told me my senior year at Neuqua that by the end of my Yale career I’d have an opportunity to play in the NBA, I would have told you you were crazy,” Poulakidas said. “I had a handful of Division I offers, and playing in the NBA was always my biggest dream, but at that point in time it was really just a dream.

“That’s why I wanted to play in the Ivy League because I valued my education very significantly and I knew that would carry me farther than basketball ever could.”

But the 6-foot-6 Poulakidas, who will graduate in May with a degree in political science, is focused on the path to a professional basketball career. He expects to work out for NBA teams in May.

“There have been a handful of scouts from various teams that have come to practices this year expressing some interest in me,” he said. “If they’re taking the time out of their day to come to New Haven, Connecticut, to watch a practice, there’s definitely something that they might be checking out.”

There is a lot to like about Poulakidas’ game. He has always been an elite shooter.

“I take absolutely no credit for John’s success because when he came to camp as a kindergartner, he was a knockdown shooter,” Neuqua Valley coach Todd Sutton said. “You could tell he was a natural from day one. Smoothest shot I’ve ever seen.

“He was a born shooter. I had nothing to do with it.”

But Poulakidas said Sutton did have a huge influence on him on and off the court.

“Coach Sutton ran Neuqua like it was a college basketball program,” Poulakidas said. “I’ve heard a lot about various high school programs and how a lot of it is similar to AAU travel ball, where there is not really a system, and coaches are kind of just throwing the ball out and letting the kids play.

“Our playbook at Neuqua was probably bigger than my playbook at Yale. As far as having to learn a system and learn plays, I was terrifically prepared for Yale just because of the way coach Sutton ran the Neuqua program throughout my entire tenure there.”

Poulakidas was a rare four-year starter at Neuqua Valley. He held the program’s career scoring record until Luke Kinkade, who plays at William and Mary, broke it last year.

But Poulakidas didn’t start the season opener in his freshman year. He still remembers why.

“Coach Sutton was always super hard on me,” he said. “In a practice, I had messed up just one out-of-bounds play, and coach Sutton pulled me out of that starting lineup for missing an assignment on an out-of-bounds play.

“As a freshman, I kind of think he was being harsh for no reason, and it’s not until later on that I could fully understand and appreciate him being hard on me like that because it really molded me into a better player as my career went on. He made me focus on the little things, on the intangibles, becoming a smarter basketball player in that regard. I think coach Sutton saw a potential in me that I didn’t see in myself, and I think that’s why he held me to that high of a standard. He’s a fantastic coach, a fantastic leader of young men.”

Poulakidas took his work ethic to a new level at Yale, adding muscle in the weight room and working to upgrade his defense and other skills like ballhandling and creating shots for himself. It paid off.

Poulakidas led the Bulldogs to back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances for the first time in school history. As a junior, he scored 28 points in Yale’s 78-76 upset win against Auburn in the first round.

This season, Poulakidas led the Ivy League in scoring, averaging 19.4 points while shooting 40.8% from 3-point range and 89.7% from the free-throw line. He finished his career with 1,362 points, which includes 243 3-pointers.

Sutton, who watched all of Yale’s games on ESPN+, continues to give Poulakidas constructive criticism.

“I’m still mad he doesn’t rebound enough,” Sutton said. “I chewed him out last summer because of free throws.



Yale’s John Poulakidas, a Neuqua Valley graduate, drives against Texas A&M’s Hayden Hefner on Thursday in the NCAA Tournament in Denver. MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY

BEARS

ASK THE REPORTER
BRAD BIGGS

Is there any talk of possibly trading up for Abdul Carter? Maybe swapping first-round picks and trading one of the seconds? — @gomergup

I was a little surprised to get a handful of questions this week about trading up for Carter, the All-America defensive end from Penn State. That seems unrealistic for a number of reasons. For starters, Carter probably would really have to slide for the Bears to have a shot at getting him for the No. 10 pick and one of their second-round picks. They might only be able to get up to No. 5 with just one of their second-round picks (Nos. 39 or 41) as teams put a premium on high selections.

Just for the sake of conversation here, why would Carter move down draft boards? Teams learned at last month's NFL combine that he has a stress reaction in his right foot. The hope for Carter is it's a non-issue moving forward, but if it is an issue, the Bears would have to feel secure about his health to pull the trigger on a move like this if other teams are shying away from him. Again, this is a complete hypothetical, but you have to ask yourself: "In what scenario would the best pass rusher in a draft that is weak for quarterbacks slide out of the top three or four picks?"

General manager Ryan Poles has not traded up in the first round yet, although we're still working with a relatively small sample size. The Bears need to keep their draft capital and would be better off taking advantage of the situation they are in with three of the top 41 picks. That's three chances to land players who can really contribute in a draft that some believe has pretty good depth when you get into the back half of Round 1 and Round 2.

Carter, the Big Ten defensive player of the year, had 24 tackles for a loss, 66 quarterback pressures and 12 sacks last season. He should be good in the NFL right away. He took to social media Monday to push back on the idea that Miami quarterback Cam Ward would be the first player chosen.

"Don't let all this QB need talk fool yall. It's already known who's the Best, and no QB is in that discussion! like I said, the Best PLAYER goes number 1. Generational, remember."

The Bears need more difference makers and depth, and they're in a fortuitous position. My hunch is Carter will be gone in the first three picks, and if he makes it past No. 4, there's probably concern from multiple clubs about his foot injury. A trade into the top three to select Carter would be much costlier than the No. 10 and a second-round pick.

The draft philosophy shouldn't be for immediate needs, and Ryan Poles has made this clear. With that in mind, what are positional needs in two to four years that the front office should focus on? — @dersour

Rosters turn over faster in the NFL than you probably think, a process expedited when a new coaching staff takes over. It will be interesting to see how many players who finished here last season will be with the club in Week 1 of the 2026 season. That number will probably hover somewhere in the neighborhood of 20. In that respect, three or four years from now, pretty much every position could be a "need," right? The Bears are sure hoping Caleb Williams solidifies them at quarterback for a decade. They have other young players with bright futures, but it's difficult to project too much when coaches haven't even worked with players yet.

If the Bears don't add to the offensive and defensive lines, they're going to be in a familiar position entering next offseason in needing young talent to build with in the trenches. What they have to do is identify their needs, stack their draft board (a process that is at least a few weeks from being completed) and then see what it looks like. Are there players at those positions of need with grades that make them sensible picks?



Penn State defensive end Abdul Carter celebrates after sacking SMU quarterback Kevin Jennings during a game in December. **BARRY REEGER/AP**



Boise State running back Ashton Jeanty fires up the crowd before the Mountain West championship game against UNLV in December. **LOREN ORR/GETTY**

Biggs

from Page 1

during Jeanty's freshman season in 2022 and returned last year, knew the back was going to be good. But that good?

Jeanty immediately inserted himself as a rare Heisman Trophy candidate from the Mountain West Conference when he rushed for 267 yards and six touchdowns in a season-opening victory at Georgia Southern, including runs of 77 and 75 yards. He finished a close second to Colorado wide receiver/cornerback Travis Hunter in Heisman voting.

"He came out of the gate and rushed for 267 yards and had unbelievable long runs," said Koetter, the former Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach who also was an offensive coordinator for the Jacksonville Jaguars and Atlanta Falcons. "I just didn't know he had that kind of home run speed."

The legend of Jeanty grew — quickly — as he ran for 192 yards and three touchdowns, including a 70-yarder, the next week in a 37-34 loss at Oregon, the No. 1-ranked team in the nation entering the playoffs. Three weeks later he had 259 yards and four scores in a romp at Washington State with long touchdowns of 64 and 59 yards. Defenders put both arms on him time and again, and he just kept going.

"He broke so many tackles in that game," Koetter recalled. "That one run that gets shown over and over on ESPN, it's like their whole defense hit him at one time or another."

Jeanty's timing is perfect as the best at the position in a loaded draft class the year after the running back made a big return in the NFL. Saquon Barkley, signed by the Philadelphia Eagles in free agency in 2024 after the Chicago Bears pursued him, challenged Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing record, finishing with 2,005 yards before leading the team to a Super Bowl LIX victory. The top-six rushing teams in the league made the playoffs, including the Green Bay Packers and Lions.

It begs the question whether Jeanty is good enough for the Bears — who have made a splash since the hiring of Johnson by fortifying the trenches — to detour from rebuilding the roster from the inside out and draft a running back in the first round for the first time since selecting Cedric Benson fourth in 2005.

Poles and Johnson were at Ohio State's pro day Wednesday when Boise State held its pro day. The team's West Coast scout, Reese Hicks, was in attendance. Top brass does not need to see Jeanty perform in shorts (video is available) when his game tape is packed with wow moments. Plus, Jeanty is one of 30 prospects the Bears are bringing to Halas Hall for a predraft visit.

Positional value has been a talking point for running backs, just as it is for positions such as safeties, guards and off-the-ball linebackers. Questions for the Bears linger at left tackle. They have struggled drafting and developing pass rushers and could use a defensive end to team with Montez Sweat and Dayo

Odeyingbo. You can make a case an athletic defensive tackle would be a wise addition.

Plus, they have considerable options after Jeanty as running back is arguably the most stacked position in the draft. It gives Poles, his staff and Johnson plenty to consider in the next month as they weigh attractive options that include two picks in the top of Round 2 at Nos. 39 and 41.

"It's always been my philosophy, and I really think it's coming back around to what I've believed in — that a dominant running back sets the tone for the offense," one general manager said on the condition of anonymity. "You can ask any offensive lineman that's ever played the game, they love to run block. When you can run the ball, you set the tone for the game. That player lifts the whole offense up and opens up a lot of stuff in the passing game."

"Even though this is a passing league and everybody is emphasizing points, I have always thought the running back sets the tone for the game offensively because it also gets the O-line in rhythm."

He went on to say the Eagles wouldn't have rolled to a 14-3 regular season and title without Barkley.

"I don't think the question should be about position value," the GM said. "The question should be is this a guy who can come in and dominate games? Shoot, who touches the ball more than the running back other than the quarterback? Now the skill set has changed over the years. He has got to be a runner and a receiver. He's got to be on the field three downs. He's got to be able to catch the ball and make plays in space. He can't be a one-dimensional, between-the-tackles guy. But if you're picking him up in that area, he's a three-down guy."

Turns out Poles and Johnson didn't miss a lot Wednesday. Jeanty, who opted against working out at the combine, chose not to run the 40-yard dash. Ohio State wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. did the same a year ago, and it's unlikely to affect the running back's stock. There's plenty of evidence of how fast and elusive he is. Jeanty did run routes and catch passes with Las Vegas Raiders general manager John Spytek in attendance. The Raiders pick sixth.

There's no doubt Poles is hunting a running back in this draft. Johnson praised D'Andre Swift, with whom he worked in Detroit, and it stands to reason the Bears are, at minimum, seeking a back with different traits who can establish a physical identity similar to what Montgomery gives the Lions.

A franchise that counts in its legacy some of the greatest running backs ever to play the sport — Walter Payton, Gale Sayers and Red Grange, among others — has finished in the top 10 in rushing only four times since 2000, and the two most recent instances (second in 2023, first in 2022) were because quarterback Justin Fields propped up the numbers. In that same 25-season span, the Bears have ranked in the bottom 10 nine times.

Jeanty seemingly would give

the Bears a chance to transform their offense with Caleb Williams, and a dynamic ground game would take pressure off the quarterback as he learns a new scheme in his second season.

"I've seen a lot of Jeanty," said a national scout with more than 30 years in the business. "I can't remember one as good as him since Saquon. He's good-good. He does some stuff with contact balance and power, and it's almost like the Matrix some of the s— he does. It's crazy. His combination of power, balance and change of direction is really good."

Good-good enough to go in the top 10, a range only six running backs were selected in over the last decade?

"Yes," the national scout said. "There's just not enough good players in this draft, to be honest with you. When you put him on (tape) and you're just watching, and I understand level of competition, but the stuff he does, it doesn't matter who he's going to play against."

One of the reasons the positional-value conversation does take place is running backs can have shorter careers. Sink a huge investment in a back who becomes injured — which happened with Benson before he went to the Cincinnati Bengals — and it can set a team back. The San Francisco 49ers made a huge trade for Christian McCaffrey and paid him handsomely. He has been elite — when he has been on the field.

"I don't think there is push back on drafting a running back in the top 10," said a second national scout with more than 15 years of experience. "The whole, 'You can find a running back anywhere' is bull—. The duration of their career is shorter, I guess, and I am sure the money gurus have done studies on it and they have some hypotheses of why they are lower-valued."

"But if you're looking at it as a five-year player and, shoot, running backs can play six, seven, eight years, I've never believed that. If it's an elite player, you take him wherever you have to. I don't care if it's a guard, a safety or a running back, take the guy."

Comparisons for Jeanty, who measured 5-foot-8½ inches and weighed 211 pounds at the scouting combine, are fun. He's similarly built to Maurice Jones-Drew, who was 5-7, 207 when he entered the NFL in 2006. But Jeanty probably has more breakaway speed. He's electric in the open field like Hall of Famer LaDainian Tomlinson once was. He runs with the power of prolific backs who were significantly larger.

Koetter ticked off a list of dynamic backs he worked with in the NFL, including Jones-Drew, Fred Taylor, Doug Martin, Michael Turner and Steven Jackson, and said Jeanty every bit belongs with those names.

"Ashton, he doesn't really have a weakness," Koetter said. "A lot of guys coming out of college can't pass protect at all. He's good in pass protection. Even though we didn't throw it to him much this year, he's got excellent hands. That just wasn't our strength. He's durable. He's got home run speed. Really good balance and he's got power. He's got everything you're looking for."

Jeanty caught only 14 passes last season but was productive in 2023 with 43 receptions for 569 yards (13.2 average) and five touchdowns. A third scout said that's the remaining question for him in the evaluation puzzle: How effective can he be in the passing game and on third down? Is he on a tier just below guys such as Gibbs, Barkley and Bijan Robinson?

As a pure runner, Jeanty is on a different level in this draft and probably will be in elite company as a rookie in terms of playmaking ability. In a season with a Division I-high 2,601 yards, 1,970 of those came after contact. That second figure also would have led the nation in rushing. He had 10 runs of 60 yards or more, eight of them touchdowns, and was such a threat to break a big play that he averaged 27.8 yards on his 29 touchdown runs.

Jones-Drew, who had three consecutive seasons of 1,300-plus rushing yards for the Jaguars under Koetter, including 1,606 in 2011, has been evaluating running backs for the NFL Network's draft coverage since 2016. He puts Jeanty No. 1.

"Ashton is the best one by far," Jones-Drew said, "and it's not even close. Being at Boise State, playing Oregon, Penn State and some of these other teams, I really like him. Great contact balance, vision, physical, long speed, he does it all. He catches the ball well out of the backfield, and the other part that made it easy for me was he was with Dirk Koetter."

"They weren't using a lot of college run schemes, if that makes sense. A lot of times, you watch these (college) backs and they're running RPO or shot-gun-run stuff. You don't see as much of that in the NFL. You're going to see more traditional stuff where the running back is 7 yards deep, and that helps the scouting process."

"I've had a lot of coaches compare him to me. I tried not to do that. We're similar in stature so I can see why people say that. But in the last 10 years, he's the best prospect I've seen come out. Saquon wasn't as good of a pass blocker at Penn State where as Ashton will put his face in there. That's why I gave him a nod up. Plus, Saquon was playing with the crème de la crème."

It's a decision Poles might not have to wrestle with when he's on the clock in Round 1 on April 24. Will Jeanty even be available at No. 10?

"Probably not," the first national scout said.

Asked for some other backs who profile as players who potentially could pair well with Swift, he ticked off a robust list of options, including North Carolina's Omarion Hampton, TreVeyon Henderson and Quinshon Judkins of Ohio State, Virginia Tech's Bhayshul Tuten, Oklahoma State's Ollie Gordon II, Devin Neal of Kansas, Kyle Monangai of Rutgers and Oregon's Jordan James.

So if it's not Jeanty for the Bears, they have a multitude of options. Poles, with his free-agency pursuit of Barkley — drafted No. 2 in 2018 by the New York Giants — proved he's willing to be all in for the right back.

For now, it's fun to let the mind wander about Jeanty.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Boston	53	19	.736	—
New York	45	26	.634	7½
Toronto	25	47	.347	28
Brooklyn	23	49	.319	30
Philadelphia	23	49	.319	30
SOUTHEAST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	35	37	.486	—
Orlando	35	38	.479	½
Miami	31	41	.431	4
Charlotte	18	54	.250	17
Washington	15	56	.211	19½
CENTRAL				
	W	L	PCT	GB
y-Cleveland	58	14	.806	—
Indiana	42	29	.592	15½
Milwaukee	40	31	.563	17½
Detroit	41	32	.562	17½
Chicago	32	40	.444	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	47	26	.644	—
Memphis	44	28	.611	2½
Dallas	35	38	.471	12
San Antonio	31	40	.437	15
New Orleans	20	53	.274	27
NORTHWEST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
z-Oklahoma City	60	12	.833	—
Denver	45	28	.616	15½
Minnesota	41	32	.562	19½
Portland	32	41	.438	28½
Utah	16	57	.219	44½
PACIFIC				
	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Lakers	43	28	.606	—
Golden State	41	31	.569	2½
L.A. Clippers	40	31	.563	3
Sacramento	35	37	.486	8½
Phoenix	35	37	.486	8½
x-clinched playoff spot				
y-clinched division				
z-clinched conference				

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Washington at Philadelphia, late
Indiana at Cleveland, 6p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, late
Boston at Phoenix, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Dallas at Orlando, 6p.m.
Indiana at Washington, 6p.m.
San Antonio at Cleveland, 6p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 6:30p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Chicago, 7p.m.
Houston at Oklahoma City, 7p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 8p.m.
Portland at Sacramento, 9p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Cleveland at Detroit, 6p.m.
Charlotte at Toronto, 6:30p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn, 6:30p.m.
Golden State at New Orleans, 7p.m.
New York at Milwaukee, 7p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 7p.m.
Utah at Denver, 8p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Detroit 122, San Antonio 96
Orlando 111, Charlotte 104
New York 128, Dallas 113
Miami 112, Golden State 86
Houston 121, Atlanta 114
Memphis 140, Utah 103
Cleveland 122, Portland 111
Oklahoma City 121, Sacramento 105

AVERAGE TOUCHES PER GAME
through Tue.: nba.com/tats; Tch-avg.
touches; Time Pos-time of possession;
Sec/Tch-avg. seconds per touch

nba.com/stats	Player	TM	Tch	Pos	Time Sec/Tch
Nikola Jokic	Ind	104.6	4.5	2.59	
Tyrese Haliburton	Ind	94.1	5.7	3.64	
Tade Young	Atl	91.6	8.4	5.49	
Trade Cunningham	Det	90.9	8.1	5.34	
Tyrese Maxey	Phi	90.1	7.6	5.04	
Jalen Johnson	Atl	87.6	3.7	2.53	
Damian Lillard	Mil	85.8	7.5	5.22	
LaMelo Ball	Char	85.5	6.7	4.72	
Jalen Brunson	NY	85.2	8.7	6.09	
LeBron James	LAL	85.2	5.6	3.92	
Jayson Tatum	Bos	84.0	5.2	3.75	
Garrison Mathews	Mil	82.6	5.6	4.04	
James Harden	LAC	82.1	7.5	4.45	
Luka Donicic	LAL	82.0	6.5	4.78	
Dejounte Murray	NO	80.5	6.7	4.96	
De'Aaron Fox	SA	80.1	5.6	4.18	
Austin Reaves	LAL	79.5	5.3	3.96	
Scottie Barnes	Tor	78.7	4.4	3.36	
Fred VanVleet	Hou	77.1	5.9	4.60	
Paolo Banchero	Orl	75.3	5.2	4.12	
Josh Giddey	Chi	75.2	4.1	3.30	

ODDS

MLB	THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE UNDERDOG
at NY Yankees	-146 Milwaukee +134
at Houston	-130 NY Mets +120
Minnesota	-115 at St. Louis +105
at LA Dodgers	-165 Detroit +151
Baltimore	-109 at Toronto -101
Boston	-114 at Texas +104
at Kansas City	+122 Cleveland +112
LA Angels	-147 at Chi Wh. Sox +135
at Seattle	-164 A's +150
Philadelphia	-163 at Wash. +149
Pittsburgh	-149 at Miami +137
at Cincinnati	-105 San Fran. -105
Atlanta	-124 at San Diego +114
at Arizona	-126 Chi Cubs +116
World Series Champion	
LA Dodgers	23-10 Atlanta 17-2
NY Yankees	9-1 NY Mets 11-1
Philadelphia	11-1 Baltimore 15-1
Boston	18-1 Texas 20-1
Houston	21-1 San Diego 25-1
Seattle	28-1 Arizona 30-1
Chi Cubs	30-1 Detroit 30-1
Minnesota	33-1 Cleveland 40-1
Kansas City	40-1 Milwaukee 45-1
Tampa Bay	50-1 Toronto 55-1
Cincinnati	75-1 San Francisco 90-1
Pittsburgh	130-1 St. Louis 130-1
Athletics	200-1 LA Angels 200-1
Washington	350-1 Chi White Sox 500-1
Colorado	500-1 Miami 500-1

NBA	THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE O/U UNDERDOG
Indiana	11 (238) at Washington
at Cleveland	14½ (238½) San Antonio
at Orlando	6½ (219½) Dallas
at Miami	1 (226½) Atlanta
at Okla. City	10 (239½) Memphis
LA Lakers	3½ (238½) at Chicago
Houston	12½ (228) at Utah
at Sacramento	5½ (226½) Portland

NHL	THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE UNDERDOG
Montreal	-114 at Philadelphia -105
at Buffalo	-144 Pittsburgh +120
at Tampa Bay	-196 Utah +162
Ottawa	-134 at Detroit +112
Washington	-160 at Minnesota +132
St. Louis	-134 at Nashville +112
Dallas	-144 at Calgary +120
at Colorado	-160 Los Angeles +132
Edmonton	-120 at Seattle +100
Toronto	-265 at San Jose +215

COLLEGE BASKETBALL	THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE UNDERDOG
at Alabama	5½ BYU
at Florida	6½ Maryland
at Duke	9½ Arizona
at Texas Tech	5½ Arkansas
Auburn	9 Michigan
Michigan State	3½ Mississippi
Houston	8 Purdue
Tennessee	4½ Kentucky
Butler	1 Utah
Boise State	8 George Wash.
Nebraska	5 Arizona State
Georgetown	3½ Washington St.
Cincinnati	9 DePaul
UCF	2½ Oregon State
Villanova	3 Colorado
USC	6½ Toledo
For the latest odds, go to BetMGM Sportsbook	

UFL FOOTBALL

SEASON SCHEDULE
WEEK 1
Friday's game St. Louis vs. Houston, 7p.m.
Saturday's game San Antonio vs. Arlington, 3p.m.
Sunday's games Michigan vs. Memphis, noon Birmingham vs. DC, 2p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Toronto	71	43	25	3	89	231	210
Florida	71	43	25	3	89	229	193
Tampa Bay	71	41	25	5	87	251	192
Ottawa	70	37	28	5	79	204	203
Montreal	70	33	28	9	75	211	234
Detroit	71	33	32	6	72	205	227
Boston	72	30	33	9	69	190	236
Buffalo	70	29	35	6	64	220	246
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
x-Washington	71	47	15	9	103	259	184
Carolina	71	43	24	4	90	228	191
New Jersey	73	38	28	7	83	219	193
N.Y. Islanders	70	32	28	10	74	193	209
N.Y. Rangers	72	34	32	6	74	214	216
Columbus	70	32	29	9	73	225	233
Pittsburgh	73	29	33	11	69	214	267
Philadelphia	73	28	36	9	65	202	254

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
x-Winnipeg	72	49	19	4	102	249	172
Dallas	70	45	21	4	94	237	182
Colorado	72	44	25	3	91	244	206
Minnesota	70	40	27	5	85	196	204
St. Louis	73	38	28	7	83	224	209
Utah	71	32	28	11	75	203	216
Nashville	71	27	36	8	62	182	229
Chicago	72	21	42	9	51	196	259
PACIFIC							
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Vegas	71	43	20	8	94	242	191
Los Angeles	70	40	21	9	89	206	178
Edmonton	70	41	24	5	87	229	203
Calgary	70	34	25	11	79	186	206
Vancouver	71	33	26	12	78	201	217
Anaheim	70	30	32	8	68	188	221
Seattle	72	30	36	6	66	216	236
San Jose	70	19	42	9	47	182	259

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.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
New Jersey 5, Chicago 3
Vancouver at N.Y. Islanders, late
Boston at Anaheim, late
Dallas at Edmonton, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Montreal at Philadelphia, 6p.m.
Ottawa at Detroit, 6p.m.
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 6p.m.
Utah at Tampa Bay, 6p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 6:30p.m.
St. Louis at Nashville, 7p.m.
Dallas at Calgary, 8p.m.
Edmonton at Seattle, 9p.m.
Los Angeles at Colorado, 9p.m.
Toronto at San Jose, 9:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Montreal at Carolina, 6p.m.
Utah at Florida, 6p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 6p.m.
New Jersey at Winnipeg, 7p.m.
Vegas at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim, 9p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Nashville 3, Carolina 1
Buffalo 3, Ottawa 2
Toronto 7, Philadelphia 2
Tampa Bay 6, Pittsburgh 1
Vegas 5, Minnesota 2
Winnipeg 3, Washington 2 (OT)
St. Louis 6, Montreal 1
Colorado 5, Detroit 2
Calgary 4, Seattle 3 (OT)
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 1

SOCCER

MLS	EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Philadelphia	4	1	0	12	12	6	6
Charlotte FC	3	1	1	10	10	4	4
Inter Miami CF	3	0	1	10	9	4	4
Nashville	3	1	1	10	8	3	3
Chicago	3	1	1	10	12	9	9
Columbus	2	0	3	9	6	3	3
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	2	8	6	4	4
New York City FC	2	1	2	8	6	5	5
Orlando City	2	2	1	7	13	11	11
Cincinnati	2	2	1	7	6	8	8
D.C. United	1	1	3	6	7	9	9
Atlanta	1	2	2	5	6	8	8
New England	0	3	1	1	1	5	5
Toronto FC	0	4	1	1	6	12	12
CF Montréal	0	4	1	1	2	9	9
WESTERN		W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Vancouver	4	1	0	12	10	5	5
Austin FC	3	2	0	9	4	3	3
Los Angeles FC	3	2	0	9	6	6	6
San Diego FC	2	1	2	8	7	4	4
St. Louis City	2	1	2	8	4	1	1
Minnesota United	2	1	2	8	7	6	6
Colorado	2	1	2	8	6	7	7
FC Dallas	2	2	1	7	7	8	8
Portland	2	2	1	7	6	7	7
San Jose	2	3	0	6	8	8	8
Real Salt Lake	2	3	0	6	5	9	9
Seattle	1	2	2	5	7	7	7
Houston	0	3	2	2	3	8	8
LA Galaxy	0	3	2	2	4	10	10
Sporting KC	0	4	1	1	5	10	10
Three points for win, one point for tie.							

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
N.Y. Red Bulls at New England, 1:30p.m.
Vancouver at Toronto FC, 1:30p.m.
Charlotte FC at Colorado, 3:30p.m.
New York City FC at Atlanta, 6:30p.m.
Columbus at D.C. United, 6:30p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 6:30p.m.
CF Montréal at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
Sporting KC at FC Dallas, 7:30p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Minnesota, 7:30p.m.
Cincinnati at Nashville, 7:30p.m.
Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 9:30p.m.
Los Angeles FC at San Diego FC, 9:30p.m.
Seattle at San Jose, 9:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Austin FC at St. Louis City, 1:15p.m.
Houston at Portland, 6p.m.

NWSL	CLUB	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Orlando	2	0	0	6	8	0	0
Kansas City	2	0	0	6	5	1	1
Bay FC	1	0	1	4	3	1	1
San Diego	1	0	1	4	4	3	3
Seattle	1	0	1	4	3	2	2
Houston	1	1	0	3	3	3	3
Washington	1	1	0	3	2	3	3
Angel City	0	0	2	2	2	2	2
Utah Royals FC	0	1	1	1	3	4	4
North Carolina	0	1	1	1	2	3	3
Portland	0	1	1	1	2	4	4
Gotham FC	0	1	1	1	1	3	3
Louisville	0	1	1	1	1	3	3
Chicago	0	2	0	0	1	8	8
Three points for win, one point for tie.							

FRIDAY'S MATCHES
Gotham FC at Houston, 7p.m.
Bay FC at Washington, 7p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
San Diego at Orlando, 11a.m.
Utah Royals FC at Kansas City, 6:30p.m.
North Carolina at Portland, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES							
Louisville at Chicago, 3p.m.							
Seattle at Angel City, 7p.m.							
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE							
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Liverpool	29	21	7	1	69	27	70
Arsenal	29	16	10	3	53	24	58
Notting. Forest	29	16	6	7	49	35	54
Chelsea	29	14	7	8	53	37	49
Man City	29	14	6	9	55	40	48
Newcastle	28	14	5	9	47	38	47
Brighton	29	12	11	6	48	42	47
Fulham	29	12	9	8	43	38	45
Aston Villa	29	12	9	8	41	45	45
Bournemouth	29	12	8	9	48	36	44
Brentford	29	12	5	12	50	45	41
Crystal Palace	28	10	9	9	36	33	39
Man United	29	10	10	7	45	40	37
Tottenham	29	10	12	7	35	43	34
Everton	29	7	13	9	32	36	34
West Ham	29	9	7	13	33	49	34
Wolverhampton	29	7	5	17	40	58	26
Ipswich	29	3	8	18	28	62	17
Leicester	29	4	5	20	25	65	17
Southampton	29	2	3	24	21	70	9

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Lillard out due to blood clot in calf



Bucks guard Damian Lillard likely will be sidelined indefinitely, with the team announcing Tuesday night that he has deep vein thrombosis in his right calf and is taking blood-thinning medication. The Bucks provided the update on the seven-time All-NBA guard's status without offering a target date for his potential return. Lillard has missed the last three games for the Bucks, who closed a five-game trip Wednesday against the Nuggets. Thrombosis is the formation of a blood clot inside a blood vessel. "Damian's health is our No. 1 priority," Bucks GM Jon Horst said in a statement. "We will support him as he moves through this weekly process of strict criteria to ensure that it is safe for him to return to play. Doctors have indicated that his situation is very unlikely to occur again." The Bucks said Lillard's medication has stabilized the thrombosis. Lillard, 34, is the second high-profile player to be sidelined this season because of DVT. Victor Wembanyama of the Spurs was diagnosed with it in his shoulder last month and was ruled out for the season.

Wilson expects to be Giants' No. 1 QB



Russell Wilson has bounced around the NFL the last few years, a one-time Super Bowl winner suddenly without a consistent home while facing doubts and critics about his play. The 36-year-old quarterback is now officially at his latest stop after signing his one-year contract with the Giants on Wednesday, a day after agreeing to terms on the deal with what is his third team in as many years and fourth in five years. But with the Giants, Wilson has his sights set on one thing. "I expect to be the starter and to be able to come here and rock and roll every day," Wilson said during a Zoom call Wednesday. "I think this team's really looking for somebody to lead them in every way." Wilson's one-year reportedly is worth up to \$21 million with \$10.5 million guaranteed. The 10-time Pro Bowler joins a quarterback room that includes veteran Jameis Winston, who signed a two-year contract last week, and Tommy DeVito, an exclusive rights free agent who was re-signed on March 8. The Giants also have the No. 3 overall pick in the NFL draft next month and could still target a quarterback.

Swiatek gets extra security at Miami



Iga Swiatek was given extra security protection at the Miami Open after being verbally attacked during a practice session by a man who had sent the five-time Grand Slam champion harassing messages via social media. "We monitor the network to catch these types of issues. Constructive criticism is one thing, and threats, hate speech or even disturbance during training is another — this cannot be condoned," a statement from Swiatek's team said Wednesday. "We reported the matter to the tournament organizer, as well as to the WTA ... which reacted immediately and took additional precautions, such as additional security, for which we are very grateful." The episode — first reported by BBC Sport — comes a little more than a month after a stalker was removed from a match being played by 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu in Dubai. The No. 2-seeded Swiatek lost to wild card Alexandra Eala in the quarter-finals Wednesday. Asked afterward whether the security situation disrupted her match preparation, Swiatek replied: "No, I wouldn't say so." —Associated Press

NCAA TOURNAMENT WEST REGION

'Not changing how I do things'

Calipari won't back off relying on freshmen in NIL, portal era

By **Kyle Hightower**
Associated Press

John Calipari embraced the one-and-done era like few college basketball coaches, becoming one of the best annually at bringing in talented freshmen and routinely getting them to Final Fours before shipping them off to the NBA.

The formula served him well during his 15-year run at Kentucky that ended after last season, as NIL money and the transfer portal skewed rosters older and created more parity.

But Cal is up to his old tricks in his first season at Arkansas.

"I'm kind of back to the roots of being the underdog," Calipari said before the Razorbacks' NCAA Tournament first-round win over Kansas last week.

And now, he has the 10th-seeded Razorbacks back in the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 following their win over second-seeded St. John's and Calipari's longtime rival Rick Pitino. The Razorbacks face West Region No. 3 seed Texas Tech on Thursday in the regional semifinals.

Once a staunch competitor of Calipari's for the best high school talent, Pitino's philosophies toward building championship teams have shifted during his latest coaching stop.

"We're not recruiting any high school basketball players, not this year," Pitino said recently when asked how he planned to keep St. John's relevant after the school captured its first Big East tournament title since 2000.

But Pitino — and others for that matter — may reconsider after watching Arkansas freshmen Karter Knox, Boogie Fland and Billy Richmond III combine for 37 points and 19 rebounds in its upset over the Red Storm.

For Calipari it is confirmation that he can still follow the blueprint that produced six Final Four appearances and a 2012 NCAA title with Kentucky.

"I'm not changing how I do things," Calipari said.

Pitino, who along with Calipari are the only two men's coaches to take three different programs to the Final Four, said his decree to rely exclusively on transfers even extends to the highest-rated high school seniors in the country as he tries to replace three seniors who were instrumental in St. John's run this season.

"I probably wouldn't take him because I don't think you can win and win big with high school kids," Pitino said.

"I really don't believe it."

While Calipari has vowed not to alter the DNA that earned him a place in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, he does acknowl-



Coach John Calipari will lead No. 10 seed Arkansas against No. 3 seed Texas Tech in the Sweet 16 on Thursday in San Francisco. The Razorbacks get important contributions from freshmen, which has been Calipari's calling card throughout his Hall of Fame career. **MICHAEL WOODS/AP 2025**

edge some tweaks to his formula do have to be made.

"I'm not going to take seven or eight freshmen, which I have done," Calipari said. "We started five freshmen in the national championship game (in 2014 at Kentucky). That's done. That'll never happen again. But bringing guys in, developing talent, let them go through the wars, prepare them and if they leave after the year, I'm good. They're leaving anyway! Whether they're a junior or a senior."

Purdue coach Matt Painter sees both sides of this conversation around developing young talent versus relying heavily on veteran transfers.

His Boilermakers are back in the Sweet

16 largely because of the play of veterans Braden Smith, Trey Kaufman-Renn and Fletcher Loyer. All three started in last year's national title game loss to UConn.

But to get back to March Madness' second week, Painter's team also had to beat a portal player-rich McNeese team that upset a Clemson squad in the first round that also started two transfers.

"I just think there's a lot of parity in college basketball, a lot of change in college basketball. Whoever can get enough guys to be good together," Painter said. "You see those coaches who do a better job than others just because they have that discipline and get them to buy into their system."

Following his team's win over St. John's,

Calipari said going forward he is content to put the onus on his staff to get his college newbies to overachieve.

"We have a couple really good freshmen coming in," he said. "I'm hoping we get one more and then we have to get in the transfer portal and grab a couple of guys. I'm hoping we get a crew of these guys coming back, but we got to sit down with them. I got to have those talks. When is it open? The portal?"

"Monday," a reporter replied.

"When? This Monday?" Calipari responded, glancing over at the news conference's moderator.

"Don't look at me," the moderator said with smile.

"Welcome to my world," Calipari said.

NCAA TOURNAMENT EAST REGION

Duke's Proctor rediscovers his lethal 3-point stroke

By **Aaron Beard**
Associated Press

It wasn't that long ago that Tyrese Proctor was struggling to make much of anything outside the arc. Shot after shot clanged away in a befuddling stretch of misses spanning nearly a month of the stretch run for Duke's national-title contender.

Now he can't miss.

The junior guard has been on an absolute tear with his outside shot, hitting at least six 3-pointers for the past three games going back to the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament final. It's been a boost to an offense already humming at elite efficiency as the top-seeded Blue Devils head into Thursday's matchup with Arizona in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament's East Region in Newark, New Jersey.

"I think the main thing is the mentality," Proctor said Sunday. "I'm just shooting knowing the ball is going to go in and not hoping it's going in as the big thing."

The 6-foot-6 guard from Australia has made 19 of 28 3-pointers (67.9%) since missing his first two attempts in the ACC title-game win against Louisville. And he's only gotten hotter with each passing possession.

First came a 6-for-8 output in the first round against Mount St. Mary's — the kind of shooting display that's typically more of a one-game blip than a sustained push.

Only he topped that two days later, making 7 of 8 against Baylor.

That's 13 for 16 through two March Madness games, a shocking 81.3% hit rate. The 13 made 3s are the most of any player in the Sweet 16, with Houston's LJ Cryer and Tennessee's Chaz Lanier each hitting 10.

And Proctor is striking from a variety of ways: on the catch in transition, curling around a screen, using a stepback, even pump-faking a defender off his feet and then resetting off a single dribble to his right — a move he pulled three times to send a Baylor player flying by on Sunday.

As he kept burying the Bears, he flashed

triumphant gestures and unleashed I'm-feeling-it screams toward a home-state crowd as he retreated back to the defensive end.

"Such a talented player, such a weapon for us when he's being confident looking for his shot," teammate Cooper Flagg said.

The Blue Devils (33-3) have long counted on Proctor as a starter with perimeter length, giving him the ability to create matchup problems at both ends for smaller guards. He has long been a complementary scorer behind Flagg and another freshman in Kon Knueppel, who was averaging 11.8 points entering the Louisville game.

But his kicked-up offense behind that 3-point shot through the last three games has increased his scoring average by approaching a full point (12.5).

It was hard to see this coming as recently as 10 days ago.

After a strong start to February, Proctor's outside shot suddenly abandoned him. Over the next seven games, he would miss 23 of 29 3s, including a pair of 0-for-5 days to start

the ACC Tournament. By the time he missed his first two against Louisville in the final, Proctor had missed 14 straight 3s going back to missing his last two in the regular-season finale at rival North Carolina.

Proctor spent time looking at film of his shot with assistant Will Avery after the first two games of the ACCs, trying to decipher where things were misfiring.

"It's just little things — just my balance and stuff like that," Proctor said. "At the end of the day, it's just confidence. As soon as my feet get set and I hold my follow-through, I'm just going to keep trusting it."

"All the 0-for, whatever it was, all that felt good. A couple of them I knew what I did wrong. It's just realizing and understanding that, and just fixing it on the fly is a big thing."

It's a challenge any shooter can understand: finding a delicate balance of tweaking any deficiencies showing up in the form, yet not meddling too much with what has worked for so long. So far it's working.