

You don't always
have to be doing something.
You can just be, and that's plenty.
— Alice Walker

NEWS-STAR

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

Spread
kindness
See page 3

FREE

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NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

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(L) Rendering of the 27-story senior housing component of the Immaculata High School site development. (R) A 19-story high-rise will make up the larger of the two buildings proposed for 3600 block of N. Lake Shore Dr.

Images courtesy Perkins Eastman

Two projects on Lake Shore Dr. close in final plans

Just when you thought there was no more room on Lake Shore Dr. new buildings find spaces to pop up.

Three new buildings may soon grace the North Lakefront if approved by city officials.

The first project was announced in Jan. 2020 and is growing on space located adjacent to the landmark former Immaculata High School building, on the northwest corner of at Irving Park and Marine Dr.

Developers KGiles LLC and CA Ventures are proposing a

planned development that includes a 27-story high-rise and the rehabilitation of the historic Immaculata High School building, which was designed by Prairie School architect Barry Byrne and was built in 1921.

The developers are proposing a new 27-story, plus penthouse building on the current surface lot with 230 senior units of which 60 units will be assisted living and 32 units will be for memory care. It will rise from an existing parking lot.

Just to the south, two new

buildings may rise at the City Club Apartments, a proposal at 3636 N. Lake Shore Dr.

The developer is reportedly now in negotiations with East Lake View Neighbors to review this proposal. The two-building complex will rise in a vacant lot in front of the New York Private Residences, 3660 N. Lake Shore Dr.

The developers first had to come to terms with New York Private Residences regarding ingress, egress and other traffic and use issues.

Pride Parade organizers haven't filed for 2021 permits

BY CWBCHICAGO

With time ticking away, there are growing indications that the annual Chicago Pride Parade won't be held on its traditional date, the last Sunday in June, this year.

In fact, city officials confirmed Feb. 11 that parade organizers haven't even applied for a permit to hold a parade this year.

That's a pretty significant clue. Parade organizers have regularly applied for event permits in early December for the following year.

The Pride Parade, and Pride Week, are one of the largest tourist draws on Chicago's North Side each year.

The city is not issuing any permits for major events through the end of March due to COVID. And there are questions about what the summer will bring. But it takes months of work to pull off an event the size of Chicago's Pride Parade, so it's only natural to wonder when (or if) the city will have a parade this year.

Richard Pfeiffer, who organized Chicago's Pride Parade for 45 years, died in Oct. 2019, leaving the annual event in the hands of his husband, Tim Frye.

Pfeiffer's parade applications

were filed with military precision every year — on the first business day of December between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. — city records show. Frye filed for last year's parade permit on Dec. 3, 2019, but the event was canceled due to COVID.

The city's Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events said Thursday that no application has been filed for a 2021 parade.

The Northalsted Business Alliance, which organizes Boystown's annual Pride Fest and Market Days street festivals, "is planning for a wide range of potential scenarios in 2021 including options with limited festival operations due to the pandemic," according to notes from a recent meeting.

But just because there aren't official city-permitted events doesn't mean people won't be partying in the streets of Boystown on Pride weekend. Large groups of revelers overtook Halsted Street on the Sunday when last year's parade would have been held. And they stayed in the streets — sometimes dancing on CPD squad cars — until 4 o'clock the next morning.

Pride parade organizers did not respond to an email seeking information about their 2021 plans.

Police body camera mandate would require all CPD to use body cameras by 2022

BY RAYMON TRONCOSO
Capitol News Illinois

Data released by the Chicago Police Dept. [CPD] after last Summer's rioting shows that 64% of all arrests between May 30 and June 1 occurred without body camera footage.

CPD data analysis found that 834 CPD officers did not use body cameras during at least one arrest between May 28, and Aug. 18, when most of the rioting and looting occurred downtown and on the Near North and North sides.

Now an omnibus criminal justice bill passed by the General Assembly last month would, if signed by the governor, mandate all Illinois law enforcement agencies to use body cameras.

The Legislation, contained in House Bill 3653, would amend the state's 2015 Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act from affecting "any law enforcement" that may use body cameras to mandating "all law enforcement agencies must" use body



The cameras CPD uses are Axon Body 2 devices made by a division of the company that makes TASER weapons. They can record high-definition video for at least 12 hours and up to 70 hours at lower resolutions. The video can be uploaded to the cloud and viewed on a mobile phone. Audio can be muted.
Courtesy Loop North News

cameras for "all law enforcement officers" by 2025.

Effective dates for the legislation are staggered by the size of departments. Municipalities like Chicago and counties like Cook with more than 500,000 people must have law enforcement using body cameras by Jan. 1, 2022.

Municipalities and counties with more than 100,000 must comply by 2023, those with more than 50,000 by 2024 and those with less than 50,000 people by 2025.

Chicago right now has about

CAMERAS see p. 8

West Rogers Park man threatened to have Aryan Nation kill Black neighbor for singing gospel music

BY CWBCHICAGO

A North Side man faces hate crime charges for allegedly punching a Black neighbor and threatening to have her killed by the Aryan Nation Brotherhood when he confronted her about singing gospel music in her front yard.

Prosecutors said Gregory Gaimari, 52, also hurled racial slurs and damaged the woman's property during the incident in the 6300 block of N. Albany.

Authorities did not explain why charges weren't filed for more than three months after the alleged incident during Gaimari's bond court hearing Saturday.

Around 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 4, the alleged victim was playing gospel songs on a speaker in front of her home and singing along via a Facebook Live stream when Gaimari came across the street from his house and told her to get out of his neighborhood, prosecutors said.

The two had reportedly never met before.

According to prosecutors,

the woman ended her Facebook stream as Gaimari began yelling the n-word and calling her a b*tch. He then allegedly pushed over her loudspeaker and punched her in the chest.

Prosecutors said Gaimari threatened to have friends in the Aryan Nation Brotherhood kill the woman.

She reportedly defended herself by brandishing a can of pepper-spray and chasing Gaimari back into his apartment. He then came back out and continued to hurl racist insults from the stairs, prosecutors said.

The victim and Gaimari both called 911, bringing police to the scene.

Witnesses reported seeing Gaimari push the woman, yelling racial slurs, and pushing her speaker to the ground. One witness also confirmed hearing Gaimari talking about the Aryan Nation Brotherhood, according to prosecutors.

Gaimari allegedly told police that the situation escalated af-

THREATENED see p. 8

Are the golden arches seriously threatened?



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

I'm a pretty old-fashioned guy. Don't get me wrong, I'm no anti-modernist, but I thrive on the things that bring comfort, coziness, reasoned understanding and uncomplicated responsibility.

I like the things I know will work. The things that cause the fewest problems, the smallest glitches, the least amount of turmoil.

That's good because I suspect that's the best way to engage time and its movement through our living.

Isn't that how we connect to the things we most like? Like, for me, soft poached eggs and cassoulet. Cold white Portuguese Vinho Verde. Or rare rib eye steaks or Roast Duck with Cherries.

Another friendly signpost for me is homemade Thousand Island dressing and crisp Romaine lettuce. Any form of roasted lamb, au gratin potatoes, baking powder biscuits, chocolate gelato, Stilton cheese, Barry's Red Label tea and vintage port. No great shocks here, just the flavors

of our well-shaped everyday, old-fashioned eating. Uncomplicated, easily prepared and nourishing. Though not available in quick microwavable preparation.

Time, you see, is one of the most valuable ingredients of such savory delights. To cook well, you must be a friend of time. Which is one reason these luscious meals become scarcer and scarcer in the kitchens of America. When customers stop shopping for ingredients, shopkeepers stop stocking them. Treasured items can easily disappear. When was the last time you found oxtails easy to buy? Or kippers? Or you came upon a generous supply of veal kidneys? Where can you find creme fraiche, watercress or fresh horse-radish root?

Tastes change over time. Foods that once delighted older generations often lose their appeal as time and fashions change. Things we once took for granted seem to disappear from the grocery stores and markets of our neighborhoods. Nowhere is that more true than in communities of fast aging Millennials.

Social commentators have been looking closely at the customs and habits, likes and dislikes of the Millennials. And the trends appear, to me, to be of interest. They give us a glimpse of our future.

For instance, it appears that the generation has little appreciation for cloth napkins, fabric softeners or cruises.

I, myself, never cared much for the "April Fresh" fragrance of my laundry. The good old soapy clean scent of Tide is good enough for me.

I was once a fan of the Cunard Steamship Lines providing unrushed ocean travel to Europe, until the jet age killed it. I have never felt the need to sail anywhere with the suburban set.

But I'll have to say that I wouldn't sit down at the table for dinner if I didn't have a cloth napkin beside me. I like everything about them, and cannot fathom switching to paper towels as is the

Millennial custom.

It's also thought that the group has little appreciation for whole milk, cereal, mayonnaise or beef. During the pandemic I have been a devotee of the full Irish breakfast in my own kitchen. Poached eggs, toasted homemade biscuits, strawberry jam. Ham or sausage and big mugs of Irish tea. That's what I need to get me through the day. Maybe some broth at midday. But a good eggy breakfast gets me revved up. And no big need to stop midday for a big meal. But I do love blueberries and Special K. I'm not sure what turned Millennials away from cereal. I'm thinking Fruit Loops and Cap'n Crunch.

But of course now half our population seems to be lactose intolerant.

I'm one of those skeptics who can't buy the sudden lactose free, gluten free lifestyle. But I've held my tongue.

I don't use a lot of mayonnaise. Never put it on sandwiches or use it in salad dressings. But you can't make egg salad without the Hellmann's, or homemade potato salad, which I crave.

Besides, I delight in knowing that Napoleon's chef was an Irishman named McMahon who was always trying to please his boss. When he invented the mixture of melted butter and egg yolk that so pleased the Emperor, it was only right that the creation be named after McMahon. Hence mayonnaise. Or more correctly, McMahononnaise.

Vegetarianism appears so rampant among the fun-loving Millennials that I can just picture all the burgers, Sloppy Joes, Italian beefs, T-bones, rib eyes, tenderloins and prime ribs that have been tossed out by the very serious young folk who make up the generation. While I eat far less beef than I grew up eating, I still love rare rib roast, rib eye or juicy burger on occasion.

I've been known to snag a few White Castles in my day as well.

But I eat lots of fish and chicken because its so tasty and you can do so much in the kitchen with it. But you'd have to pry my cold, dead fingers off my current favorite Boeuf Bourguignon. I cannot let go of that.

Millennials are also rejecting the great American retail insanity of bulk and wholesale buying.

Bye, bye Costco.

They are also said to have little use for steam irons, preferring to live with their wrinkles; preferring outdoor exercise over joining gyms and prefer watching films at a movie theater.

Those are all in the same boat as doorbells, marriage, the Lottery, sending postcards or drinking non-craft beers. Must not be a lot of Miller Lite fans.

What fascinates me about these trends is the image of America that emerges from these choices that indicate time has run out for a lot of former favorites.

McDonald's is another American icon that holds little value for the group. Are the golden arches seriously threatened?

I'd love to see some analysis about what type of comedy the Millennials find attractive. I imagine it is something akin to the French. Dry as dust observation. Droll, stream of consciousness without any hee-haws or guffaws.

My question is what does this mean for America, internationally? In the past we gave the world Sinatra, the Beach Boys, Seinfeld, the hotdog, the slider, the dry martini, Kentucky Bourbon, the Philly cheesesteak, corned beef on rye and the milk shake. Will we also be toasted internationally for our contribution of almond milk, pumpkin seeds, cauliflower steak, tofu burgers and vegan chili that we unleash upon the world?

What kind of world will that be?

Will people be trying to cross our borders at all costs for the sake of our hummus or egg white omelettes?

What kind of professional politician will emerge on the scene, all svelte and bright-eyed from a life of gluten free living and lactose measurement?

I hope, then, that I will still thrive on the things that bring comfort, reasoned understand-

ing and uncomplicated responsibility. Facing time like a realist. Embracing its movement like an old friend. Sounds to me like the perfect world where all of us will be de-floured.

ALL THE REST IS HEAVEN: Mary Jo McGuire ran the greatest saloon on Division St. But her larger-than-life celebrity husband, **Butch McGuire**, surely invented the



Butch and Mary Jo McGuire

"singles bar" in the early 1960s. I always said it was so he could whisk Mary Jo off her feet. Mary Jo wore Chicago like it was a mink coat. Proud of every inch of it. Knowing the ins and outs of urban life and Irish malarky. She lit up rooms and could quell their



Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell

racket with equal aplomb. She was a friend to too many people to count, and was devout in her faith. Mary Jo died of COVID at Mayo Clinic. Dinners at Erie Cafe will never be the same. Say a prayer. Lower the flag. Turn out the lights

on the marquee. Send love to the family.

DANCE DIRECTOR: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago has hired **Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell** as artistic director, effective March 1.

THREATENED see p. 6

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21

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Spread a little kindness on National Random Acts of Kindness Day



Heart of the 'Hood By Felicia Dechter

One of my New Year's resolutions is to do something kind to honor loved ones that I've lost on their birthdays. For example, for my mother's birthday, Jan. 3, I baked dozens and dozens of chocolate chip cookies and drove them out to a nursing home in Arlington Heights to thank the nurses and staffers for taking such good care of my best friend, who at the time was a patient there.

I wasn't and still am not looking for a pat on the back for doing it, that's not really my style. I like to do good deeds or nice things quietly, without fanfare. And although I do them as often as possible, it's no doubt not nearly enough.

Today, Feb. 17, is National Random Acts of Kindness Day, which some folks celebrate all week long. I feel as if kindness is something that's slipping away, why are we not kind to each other any more? It's as if my generation, the Baby Boomers, are the last to know what the world was once upon a time ago. It seems as if the generations after mine don't know what it was like to live in a time without constant killings and people with horribly nasty attitudes.

When I was growing up, if you didn't like someone, you punched each other in the nose after school and then an hour later you were best friends. You didn't shoot, stab or beat them to death. Kindness, respect, and common courtesy have van-

ished. People are downright rude. I mean I can't even get a thank you wave most of the time when I let someone in front of me while driving.

Sorry, I'm ranting a little.

National Random Acts of Kindness Day was created in 1995 in Denver by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, whose mission is to help "individuals and communities committed to spreading kindness."

"We are rooted in the belief that all people can connect through kindness and that kindness can be taught," said the Day's creators. "We follow a simple framework for everything we do. Inspire, empower, act, reflect, share."

By 2004, celebrating the day with kindness had spread to New Zealand and apparently it has continued to grow globally ever since in countries such as Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Italy, India, the UK and more.

Research has shown that there are positive effects when doing acts of kindness for others, and when we receive or even witness kindness it also has an uplifting effect on us. And as we all know, an act of kindness -- whether it be small or big -- has the ability to change a life. People make kind gestures that to us may seem insignificant, but to others may mean everything.

Practicing kindness, even for a day, is good for the soul. It's a win-win situation. It gives us hope. It reinforces that there's still good in this big bad world. When so many people are struggling these days, something as simple as a kind smile can at least make them feel a little better.

People have enough sorrow on their plates. I decided a long time ago to try not to add to that. The late, great Maya An-



Practicing kindness, even for a day, is good for the soul. It's a win-win situation. It gives us hope. It reinforces that there's still good in this big bad world.

gelou once said the words that I strive to live by: "Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."

Please try and spread a little sunshine and kindness this week. Lord knows we all need it. The possibilities of paying it forward are endless as to what you can do, but here are a few easy suggestions:

- Say an enthusiastic "Good Morning!" to someone or give them a compliment.
- Smile.
- Spread positive thoughts and vibes on social media.
- Send flowers or a hand-written card to someone you care about.
- Buy a homeless person something to eat, or just give them \$5 and don't worry about how he may spend it.
- Call or text a friend you haven't spoken to in a while and let them know you miss them.
- Make a donation to a charity.
- Sign up to volunteer at a local school or church or synagogue when it is safe to do so.

- Give blood. It's so badly needed.
- Leave a generous and unexpected tip.
- Pay for the person behind you in a drive-thru line.
- Help an ill or elderly neighbor or bake them homemade goodies.
- Thank someone who has made a difference in your life.
- Thank a teacher. They are heroes.
- Thank a health care worker as they are heroes too. More than ever.

And finally, if someone is kind enough to extend a courtesy to you while driving, let them know you appreciate their kindness with a quick wave of the hand!

Whether small or large, your random act of kindness can help make the world a much better place.

"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you," Princess Diana once said.

That's exactly what I'm going to do, and I hope that you will too.

One very kind deed... the bitter cold has left plenty of people out freezing and Third Estate Art has shown its kindness by setting up a community table at Pottawattamie Park, 7340 N. Rogers Ave. It's filled with handmade and new hats, scarves, gloves and mittens that can be accessed during regular park fieldhouse hours.

Knitters or crocheters looking for something kind to do can drop off winter gear in the porch donation box at 1823 W. Touhy Ave., which is 24/7 and no contact. You can also email thirdestateart@gmail.com for a pickup.



When Dementia Leads to Drama

Presented by Attorney Kerry Peck, Managing Partner of Peck Ritchey, LLC



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Police Beat...

Cops find gun on Loop street, perp wants it back

Prosecutors say a man who threw a gun out of his car window after an alleged road rage incident in the Loop almost got away with it — until he circled around the block and asked cops to give him his gun back.

Police responded to a call of a person with a gun in a car downtown around 4 p.m. Feb. 7 and spotted a silver Ford Focus that matched the one described in a 911 call, according to Assistant State's Attorney Franka D'Antignac. The caller said the man pointed a handgun at them during a road rage incident moments earlier.

Cops pulled the car over in the 100 block of N. State and spoke with its driver Charles Owens, 36. They didn't find a gun in the car, so they sent Owens on his way.

A few moments later, cops found a loaded handgun on the street nearby. As officers recovered the gun, Owens pulled back around, got out, and told the cops that the gun belonged to him.

Investigators located CPD surveillance camera footage that shows Owens allegedly throwing the gun out of his car.

D'Antignac said Owens, who works as a security guard supervisor, doesn't have a concealed carry license. His Firearm Owner's ID card, which is required for Illinois gun owners, expired in August.

Owens has never been arrested before, according to his defense attorney. He is charged with unlawful use of a weapon.

Attempted murder charge filed in River North domestic-related hotel stabbing

A man who made headlines after his 5-year-old son shot himself with an illegal firearm in their home three years ago is now charged with attempted murder and domestic battery for allegedly stabbing his longtime girlfriend inside their River North hotel room Feb. 6. The woman is also the mother of his child, prosecutors said.

Judge John Lyke ordered Kevin Collins, 29, held without bail after a bond court hearing Monday in which the judge said prosecutors laid out "a roadmap of escalating domestic violence."

Collins "poses a real and present threat to this victim and any female he comes in contact with as well as this community," Lyke said.

Assistant State's Attorney Franka D'Antignac said Collins and his girlfriend were drinking and spending the night in their room at Spring Hill Suites, 410 N. Dearborn, when he called 911 to ask for an ambulance.

Police and EMS personnel went to their 17th-floor room around 3:30 a.m. and found the woman on the couch with a stab wound to her

chest, lacerations on her hand, and head trauma, according to D'Antignac and CPD records.

The woman was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in critical condition, but she has stabilized after surgery, D'Antignac said.

She allegedly told police that she remembers Collins punching her in the head during an argument and recalls seeing blood coming from her chest, screaming for help, and realizing he had stabbed her before she lost consciousness.



Kevin Collins

D'Antignac said Collins had been arrested six times for domestic violence, including five times for incidents involving the woman he allegedly stabbed. None of the cases resulted in conviction because the victims either refused to sign complaints or failed to appear in court, she said.

In 2018, Collins received a two-year prison sentence for possessing a defaced firearm after his five-year-old son found the gun in a bedroom closet and shot himself in the hand, according to D'Antignac and contemporaneous news reports.

The boy was also shot in the face during a 2016 drive-by.

Man pleads guilty to brutal attack, let out of prison on the day he arrived



Deonta Terry

The man who was accused of beating, robbing, and trying to sexually assault a woman he followed from the Damen Blue Line CTA station in Dec. 2017, has reached a plea deal. And, after receiving the state's standard 50% sentencing discount and credit for time spent in jail while awaiting trial, he was released on the same day he arrived in prison.

Around 3:25 a.m. Nov. 26, 2017, a man followed the 23-year-old victim from the CTA station as she walked to her Wicker Park apartment. He pulled her into a gangway on the 1600 block of N. Bell, where he beat, robbed, and undressed her, police said.

A source told this reporter the woman was still unclothed when a passerby found her about 15 minutes after the attack.

Police later released surveillance images of the suspect returning to the Damen Blue Line station after the attack. Deonta Terry, then 27-years-old, turned himself in to police hours later.

Court records said he grabbed the woman from behind, "dragged her into a gangway [and] strangled her unconscious" with his bare hands before he "ripped off" her clothes. Terry took the woman's green coat, purse,

iPhone, and cash, prosecutors said.

They charged Terry with robbery, kidnapping by force or threat of force, aggravated battery, and attempted criminal sexual assault by force.

Terry has now struck a deal with prosecutors, according to court records.

Under the agreement, Terry pleaded guilty to robbery, theft, and aggravated battery by strangling in exchange for three concurrent sentences of six years, four months. Prosecutors dropped eight felony counts in the deal, including attempted criminal sexual assault and kidnapping.

Terry received a 50% sentencing discount for anticipated good behavior in prison and credit for three years and 66 days that he spent in custody before pleading guilty.

According to Illinois Dept. of Corrections records, Terry arrived at Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet Feb. 3 and he was released the same day. Judge Ursula Walowski oversaw the case.

Career burglar, sentenced to 371 years in prison since 1991, adds seven more

A career burglar who was sentenced to a combined 371 years in prison between 1991 and 2018 is adding another seven years to his impressive total.



Walter Miller

Walter Miller, 63, has pleaded guilty (again) to posing as a city worker to burglarize a man's home on the North Side in Dec. 2018 — six months after he got out of prison for another set of burglaries and home invasion.

The victim identified Miller as one of the burglars who pretended to be a city employee to enter his home. The burglary came during a time when police were repeatedly warning residents about conmen who were posing as Chicago workers or contractors to access homes.

Typically, one offender occupies the victim in conversation while the other goes to another area of the home to collect valuables.

Cook County Judge Diana Kenworthy, who oversaw the case, sentenced him to seven years with 747 days credit for time served. Illinois Dept. of Corrections records do not currently list his anticipated parole date. He was also ordered to pay the victim \$1,000 restitution.

Miller is no stranger to the world of burglary and home invasion, according to court records.

Six months before the burglary he just pleaded guilty to, Miller was paroled after serving ten years for a home invasion and five burglaries. Court records show he had been sentenced in July 2008 to six 20-year terms, but he served them concurrently and with a 50% good behavior "discount." So, instead of 120 years in prison, he was freed after ten.

Just seven years earlier, Miller was sentenced to thirteen terms of 12-1/2 years each for burglaries. Those were also served concurrently. So, instead of serving 162.5 years, he was released after six years behind bars.

Back in 1991, Miller was sentenced to five terms of 15 years each for burglaries. Once again, his sentences were served concurrently, so he was in prison for about eight years instead of 75.

Two arrests, cops hopeful of "big break" in weeks-long violent crime spree

Chicago police are hopeful that they made a major step toward neutralizing a violent armed robbery and carjacking team suspected of com-

mitting crimes across the city and suburbs this winter.

Cops have connected the crew to the carjacking of Lyft driver outside Willis Tower, street robberies, hijackings, and a string of restaurant hold-ups in which gunmen crawled through the businesses' drive-thru windows.

Police arrested two men just after midnight Feb. 10 following a three-hour string of fast food restaurant robberies, including a Northwest Side Dunkin' where the offenders crawled through the drive-thru window with guns. When the men were arrested, they were driving an SUV that was carjacked last week in West Town.

"The [detectives] have a lot to do," a source said, saying the arrests "look promising."

After the Willis Tower carjacking on Jan. 20, Chicago police detectives released two separate community alerts that linked the hijacking to a violent group of criminals that investigators said was responsible for shootings and other violent crimes across the city and west suburbs.

CPD also said the men robbed fast-food restaurants during late evening and early morning hours by crawling through the businesses' drive-thru windows — and cops released video of the crew slithering through the drive-thrus of Dunkin' and McDonald's restaurants with handguns.

Last week, two men crawled through the drive-thru window of a Dunkin' at 5000 W. Irving Park Rd. and robbed the store while displaying a handgun that had a light or laser attached to its barrel, according to a CPD report.

A Subway restaurant and at least two other Dunkin' locations were also robbed late that night. And they're suspected of robbing a Dunkin' on the 3300 block of W. Addison earlier in the day.

Shortly after midnight, cops who were monitoring a CPD "blue light" camera saw two men get out of a recently-hijacked SUV in the Austin neighborhood. Tactical officers moved in and detained the duo. Police say they found a handgun with a light attached to its barrel inside the car.

According to CPD records, the Toyota RAV-4 the men were driving was taken at gunpoint in West Town earlier this week.

Now, the two men are at the center of a "significant" investigation into dozens of violent crimes over the past few weeks.

Man gets 12 years for carjacking committed days after completing parole for another carjacking

In Jan. 2018, just two weeks after Salvador Reitinger completed an eight-year sentence for carjacking a driver in the West Loop, he tied up a woman inside her Irving Park garage and drove away with her car, prosecutors alleged.



Salvador Reitinger

Now, Reitinger has pleaded guilty to the crime in exchange for a 12-year sentence. He's scheduled to be released early in 2024.

Around 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 2018, a 49-year-old woman was in her garage in the 4100 block of N. Central Park when Reitinger walked in, put a handgun to her face, and collected her money, debit card, and keys, police said.

He tied the woman's hands and feet with electrical cords and a phone charger, then drove away in her 2013 Ford Focus with an aging "Bernie" bumper sticker on the back, according to cops.

Unbeknownst to Reitinger, the victim's cellphone was in the car, emitting pings as he allegedly drove to a nearby McDonald's.

Cops followed the phone pings and found a 2013 Ford Focus with a Bernie Sanders sticker parked in the 2700 block of N. Sawyer. Reitinger, then 26-years-old, was in the driver's seat eating his McDonald's, they said.

He ran and ditched a loaded handgun along the way, prosecutors alleged. But cops caught up with him.

A grand jury returned 16 felony counts against Reitinger. Last month, he pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm in exchange for a 12-year sentence. The other 15 charges were dropped.

He received 999 days credit for time spent in jail before sentencing and the state will lop off half of his 12-year term for good behavior. Illinois Dept. of Corrections records show he is scheduled to be released on Jan. 10, 2024.

Judge Michael Hood handled the case. Reitinger was sentenced to eight years behind bars for carjacking a victim in the West Loop on Jan. 11, 2010. He completed parole in the 2010 case two weeks before his latest hijacking.

Man kicked 4-year-old in the face at Belmont CTA station

A man kicked a 4-year-old boy in the face at the Belmont CTA station in Lakeview Feb. 12, according to police and prosecutors. Felony charges have been filed.

The boy and his 20-year-old mother were on a Brown Line CTA train that pulled into the station around 1:15 a.m. When the doors opened, the woman noticed two men fighting on the platform, and



Calvin Williams

she looked onto the train doors to see what was going on, prosecutors said.

They said one of the men, Calvin Williams, 23, walked onto her train car and kicked her young son in the face.

The mother struck Williams on his shoulder and then continued hitting him on the platform until police arrived to break them up, authorities said. Officers took Williams into custody.

An ambulance took the boy to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where he was given pain medication, but he did not appear to have severe injuries, according to prosecutors.

A CPD spokesperson said he had a cut to his chin and facial bruising. Prosecutors charged Williams with felony aggravated battery of a child.

"This individual was four-years-old?" Judge Arthur Willis asked after hearing the allegations. When prosecutors confirmed the boy's age, Willis said he found that "extremely aggravating."

The judge ordered Williams held in lieu of \$100,000 bail and said he must go onto electronic monitoring if he can post the required \$10,000 deposit to get out of jail.

Williams has four felony convictions, including two for burglary and one for a 2015 hate crime, prosecutors said.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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Letter to the Editor

Yes, but the new Red Line stations are pretty

Let me see if I have this correct.

You could be carjacked at gunpoint, then be out on the street with muggers who are loose on affordable bail, perhaps survive long enough to reach the Red Line, where you will undoubtedly be harassed or robbed by wayward youth.

But it's ok, there are going to be some brand new Red Line CTA stations, featuring public art installations by local artists.

I ♥ Chicago.

John Loftus, Edgewater

You're welcome

On behalf of the volunteers who have maintained Edgewater's Heirloom Books, 6239 N. Clark St., since the passing of its founder, Chelsea Carr Rectanus, I would like to extend our thanks to both Thomas O'Gorman for his notice in the February 10-16 edition of the News-Star and to our Clark St. neighbor and long-time supporter, editor of Inside Publications, Ron Roenigk. Mr. O'Gorman's piece has already prompted several persons to visit and/or communicate with the shop.

Erik Graff, Edgewater

Pay attention to surroundings

Regarding Tom O'Gorman's "warning" about coyotes in Chicago cemeteries, why are readers advised to "Be careful?"

I have heard of coyote attacks in Chicagoland, but they've all been in streets or back yards, and the usual target is a small dog who is either off leash, or being walked by a human who's not paying enough attention to his surroundings.

I've seen coyotes in Graceland Cemetery from the nearby 'L'. The only coyotes I've seen in a cemetery from ground level are in a nearby suburb; they were raising a family last year. Word got around among humans, who have often gone there mainly to see these coyotes.

These coyotes keep a long distance from their human visitors, though they'll tolerate cars closer than pedestrians. They probably do this in all the cemeteries, since it's a place to live (even if temporarily) and they know cemeteries are not good places to hunt small dogs to eat. If a coyote allowed me to get closer than normal, or did that voluntarily, I'd be most concerned about rabies. Last year, two mangy coyote puppies were rescued from Rosehill.

Jean SmilingCoyote, West Ridge

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The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Back in late 2018, the decluttering virus hit. This writer faced the dilemma of downsizing to a smaller abode. Maybe readers will recall that more than two years ago I wrote:

Now that the kids have grown up and moved out, a 4,000-square-foot single-family home with 4 bedrooms, 3.5-baths, a family room, media room, game room with wet bar, wine cellar, two fireplaces and attached garage, seemed too big for this writer and his wife.

After the garage sale, a list was made of the cherished pieces of furniture and family heirlooms that must be given away, shipped to our new tiny house in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, or stored.

New staging furniture pur-

chased to sell the house, along with original art and framed posters were recycled by my wife to furnish and decorate an Old Town garden apartment which was converted to an Airbnb.

Thankfully, the huge armoire and the grand piano are gone. Yet, I confess, hundreds of books, 10 file cabinets full of home rehab and photo files, and 50 years of newspaper clips are still in my possession.

Then, there are the signed 16" softballs from more than 50 championships, bats, Hall-of-Fame memorabilia, bags of game-worn softball jerseys and jackets.

During our 2018 decluttering experience, Diane Krojanker, president of Let's Organize, a professional home and office organizer, kept repeating her motto: "When in doubt recycle, repurpose or throw it out." She says owning fewer things means you'll have less to clean, and less to maintain. "You'll be able to spend your precious time on what you love."

Luckily, we had access to basement storage spaces at other buildings and didn't have to rent a \$300-a-month storage locker like most folks.



When downsizing, a homeowners worst nightmare is to be paying monthly fees for an expensive storage locker that may soon be forgotten.

Storage horror stories abound, and inspired "Storage Wars," a cable show on auctioned lockers. A forgotten storage locker cost one relative \$31,000 in fees over a decade, and he never visited the space. A friend forgot to pay the storage fees for his family's rare antiques and lost the heirlooms.

Krojanker's first mission was to help us declutter an existing storage room we had at a nearby property. The storage space was stacked with boxes and file cabinets.

They were filled with old business, banking and tax records, public relations files and awards,

and outdated computer equipment. The debris we tossed filled six city garbage cans.

Unfortunately, six empty file cabinets soon were filled once again with files we decluttered from our house. With one basement storage room filled, pretty soon five decades of news clips spilled into two four-drawer files in the building's tool room, and more archival material ended up in lateral files in a small closet housing the buildings gas meters.

Two additional armoires then housed a dozen bound copies of

DOWNSIZING see p. 6

CPS basketball getting underway— Catholic League opens with DePaul Prep win, Loyola loss



By Jack Lydon

The Chicago Public Schools [CPS] announced Feb. 8 that high school basketball could begin Feb. 11. Coaches are now working through

practices and will start games on Feb. 19.

The IHSA announced is extension of the CPS season to March 20, a week longer than the March 13 limit with applies throughout the rest of the state. This gives CPS teams one month and one day to play as many games as can safely be scheduled.

"We have 10 teams in our league [Red West-North]. So it's nine games that CPS has given us for a league schedule," said Lane Tech Coach Nick LoGalbo. Lane will play Clark, Farragut, Lincoln Park, Marshall, North Lawndale, Orr, Schurz, Westinghouse and Young. The dates and time have not been finalized.

"What the non-conference schedule looks like, I don't know.



DePaul Prep's standout senior guard Rasheed Bello dunks in Rams' 54-37 victory over St. Joseph in Feb. 8.

Are they going to allow us to schedule and extra game per week or are they going to cap it? I don't know," LoGalbo said.

"Unfortunately, all the Catholic League and 30-mile radius teams have their schedules pretty locked up already. We were going to play DePaul and Pat's and Ignatius. I don't know if we are going to be able to get those teams in."

"I wish I knew more. When [the IHSA] extended [the season] a week, I really thought they

were going to do a regular season schedule and then a conference tournament that last week. But based upon the preliminary schedule I received, the regular season goes all the way to deadline. So I don't think there is going to be any playoff or tournament."

The preliminary CPS rules given initially to coaches do not allow spectators at all. Each team is allowed 20 people--15 players, two coaches and three others. There would also be two people

at the table, three officers, one administrator and a maintenance person. There is not specific allowance for press. However, that may change.

Sixth ranked DePaul Prep played its first game Monday, Feb. 8, defeating St. Joseph 54-37 in St. Joseph's nearly empty gym.

The Rams came out cold. Suffering jitters from the nearly year-long layoff, both teams missed shots and turned the ball over.

After a St. Joseph 7-0 run to open the game and about half of the first quarter, DePaul Prep coach Tom Kleinschmidt dialed up the pressure having his Rams trap the ball handler.

"Slow start coming out. You have to hand it to Joe's. They were way more physical than us. They came and punched us in the face... It's a Catholic League road game so you have to be ready and we weren't. For whatever reason. I'm not making any excuses. We picked up pressure and started getting some live ball turnovers. We started getting some baskets," Kleinschmidt said.

BASKETBALL see p. 6

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THREATENED from p. 2

HOUSE MUSIC: Future, Mr. Fingers, Steve 'Silk' Hurley, Farley "Jackmaster" Funk, Chip E., Green Velvet, DJ Lady D, Gene Ferris, Felix Da Housecat and Frankie Knuckles, widely known as "the godfather of house music," introduced house music in Chicago's underground clubs. These 10 Chicago natives reinvented the cultural environment of dance and they will be saluted during Black History Month for their lasting cultural influence.

HEALTHY TIP: Now that indoor capacity at bars and restaurants are at 25%, let's make that the new starting point tip - 25%. Trust me, the waitress needs it now a lot more than you do. Even higher too if you were once a pre-COVID 'regular' and always well-served.

LINO'S: Rory O'Connor was a cop's cop and ran Old Mayor Daley's, Michael A. Bilandic's and Jane Byrne's protection detail before opening Lino's Ristorante on Ohio St. O'Connor passed away on January 19.

BEACH HOUSE: The Swift Estate in Lake Geneva hits the market for \$20.75 million. Built in 1906 for **Edward F. Swift**, the son of **Gustavus Swift**, who established the famous Swift Meat Packing Co. founded in 1885. The first meat packing company in Chicago. The original name of this Lake Geneva lakefront estate was Villa Hortensia, named for Edward's wife **Hortense Swift**. More recently the home has been called Edgewood and is the summer home of a prominent Chicago business family. **Michael MacDonald**, with his parents, **Ralph** and **Sally MacDonald**, and other family members, have owned the estate in a family trust since 1997. An interesting note about this property is the fact that the famous architect **Howard Van Doren Shaw** designed this mansion, and noted landscape architect **Jens Jensen** did the original landscaping.



Doris, the Countess Castlerosse is up for auction.

IT'S NO MARSHALL FIELD: Macy's has decided to pull the plug on its annual "Gardens within the Store" campaign. The fresh and fragrant spring rite was a crowd pleaser, but an expense in an age when the shoppers are descending into online rabble. Since announcing they would be leaving their Water Tower Place location on Michigan Ave., "descent and decline" appears to be the operative business model. Long gone is Field's saying, "Give the lady what she wants."

FAIR WARNING: The scandalous English aristocrat, **Doris, the Countess Castlerosse**, was a social force of nature during the grandeur of the years leading up to World War II. Her most famous assists were her long legs and her equally lean code of moral probity. She was the belle

of the naughty ball with plenty of appeal to the real Downton Abbey set. She died of an overdose in 1942, at the age of 42. But not before the famed Irish artist **Sir John Lavery**, the darling of the aristo set, painted her poolside with her assets in the air. No word on what Lavery's wife, **Lady Hazel Lavery**, thought of the work whose price tag kept her in furs. She was a Chicago-born, Astor St., meatpacker's daughter, Hazel Martyn, who lived her own high life in London. I've been working on a book on her for 25 years. Anyway, Christie's is putting the Lavery "Lady Castlerosse" painting up for

auction and the opening bids are already north of \$650,000. What times the Countess could have had with those funds.

ART INSTITUTE: How'd I miss this? The Art Institute of Chicago has hired **Fabrizio Barozzi** and **Alberto Veiga** of the Barcelona-based architecture firm Barozzi/Veiga to overhaul the museum. Looks like a full campus re-vamp. Back in September President **James Rondeau** said, "We're really just at the point of saying that we've enlisted thought partners to dream the future." The institute hasn't undergone changes since the completion of the 264,000-square-foot, **Renzo Piano**-designed modern wing in 2009.

WHO'S WHERE: Cardinal Blase Cupich in Rome, maybe getting a new job... **Karin Carlson** at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill brunch with **Wynnis Mackie** and **Meeghan Griffin Kenney**... A very happy birthday to beautiful **Bonnie Spurlock** at LeColonial, yum... A very happy birthday to **Abraham Lincoln** too, still standing proud on pedestals around town, and there when we need him most... **Sherry Lea Fox** in sunny Naples with author **Sherill Bodine** and on their way to St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands to meet up with **Laurie Demma Davis** and **Ann Khan**, wish I could be there... artist **Adam Scott Ubach** opens his exhibition's Gala this week in the Hamptons... **Tom Cooney** lunching at Zo-zo's at Caneel Bay, St. John's US Virgin Islands meeting up with pal **Laurie Jennifer... Sutton Brieva** checking out the growing population of snowmen springing up in frosty Lincoln Park... **Rhonda J. Liesenfelt, Tina Kanis** and **Sandy Jo Morris Pfaff** getting some sun on the southern ocean... **Eddie Burke Jr.** and wife, cover-girl **Jackie Burke**, welcoming cousin **Marty McGlone** in Bonita Springs, FL... The **Borg Family** out in style at The Capital Grille. **Paula Borg** out for dinner with the

lovely **Vonita Reeser, Candace Tillman Tyndall ... Jim Kinney** and **Brian White** in the sunbelt with friends **Joe** and **Eileen** at Le Bilboquet in Buckhead, Atlanta GA before they were off to Palm Beach for dinner with **Lynn** and **Charlie Poekel, Julie Harron, Krehbiels, Kipper Lance Hendrick** and **Bud Hendrick**.

REGARDEZ: Artist **David Cook's Grande Dame**, oil paint, 31" x 35" on wood. He peels back the page on a new genre of work. Check him out.

If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.

— *George Washington*

tog515@gmail.com



Frankie Knuckles



Rory O'Connor

DOWNSIZING from p. 5

the Chicago Sun-Times Homelife sections from the 1980s and 1990s and placed in the corner of the basement. Our hardwood breakfast table from the big house now serves as a folding table in the building's laundry room.

Another storage space was created by removing old plank-walled storage lockers in another Old Town basement. Recessed lighting, a dehumidifier and sleeve heat/air conditioner were installed to protect hundreds of books, more art and photos, and a bare-bones building office was created.

Treasured heirlooms such as a curved glass curio cabinet, vintage movie posters and this writer's favorite Hemingway and Steinbeck books were moved to the mountain house, which also has four attic storage scuttles for more family artifacts.

So, after more than two years of decluttering, we still have storage places in five locations in two states.

This downsizing nightmare reminds me of that old "Morrie Mages Moment of Madness" commercial on black and white WGN-TV in the 1960s. Picture all sorts of sports equipment—bats, balls, baseball

gloves, footballs and helmets, bikes, skis, workout equipment—floating in a circle in thin air over Morrie's head.

Why didn't I heed the sage advice of Margareta Magnusson, a Stockholm artist, decluttering specialist and author of "The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning"?

She said: "If you don't love it, lose it. If you don't use it, lose it." The book's grim title deals with an issue we all must face. How to put our lives in order before we pass on so our loved ones won't have to.

Magnusson says there's a word for it in Swedish: *döstädning*, which means, "death cleaning." The idea behind *döstädning* is to gradually remove unnecessary things and get your home in order as you age.

It is likely that your family may only cherish a few sentimental items, photographs, and letters, perhaps some nice pieces of furniture, Magnusson reasons. Family and friends don't need to inherit everything, just a few meaningful things.

For more housing news, visit www.don-debat.biz. *Don DeBat* is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

BASKETBALL from p. 5

Midway through the second quarter the Rams opened a 12-point lead and it never was close after that.

DePaul senior guard Tyler "TY" Johnson lead all scorers with 26 points. DePaul senior guard Rasheed Bello finished with nine points but had an end-to-end monster dunk in the first half that fired up the Rams.

Senior center Brian Mathews did not play until the start of the fourth quarter. "Brian hasn't practiced yet. That's the only reason [he didn't play]. We brought him in in the fourth to give Dylan a little blow and that's it," Kleinschmidt said.

Postponements and cancellations have crippled the Chicago Catholic League schedule. The Rams were scheduled to play Marmion Academy on Feb. 10. However, St. Joe's had a player with a positive test within 48 hours after DePaul game, and after contact tracing, DePaul Prep determined that the majority of their varsity

team would have to quarantine for 10 days. The Rams will play their Marmion, Montini and Providence St. Mell games. The Rams next scheduled game is Feb. 17. at DeLaSalle Academy.

Loyola Academy opened its season at home Feb. 5, against Maine South. The Ramblers lead going into halftime but fell behind in the third quarter and could not recover eventually losing 47-26.

Despite the loss, Ramblers' coach Tom Livatino was upbeat. "It felt normal in an abnormal time. I always thought we would play. It was all good. It was so phenomenal to be back."

It's strange season. The schedule is fluid. Teams are just going to schedule and play as many games as they can. With no play-offs, postponed and cancelled games on a daily basis, sports fans should all just enjoy any game we can see. For most fans, that will have to be through a live stream. Most schools are making such arrangements. Check school websites and social media for live stream information.

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale**Real Estate For Sale**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF Cook County, Illinois, County Department, Chancery Division. Nationstar HECM Acquisition Trust 2015-2, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not individually, but solely as Trustee Plaintiff, vs. Sandra Graff; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendants, Case #2017CH5204 Sheriff's # 210007-001F F17030262 CPN Pursuant to a Judgment made and entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, Thomas J. Dart, Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will on March 23rd, 2021, at 1pm in room LLO6 of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction the following described premises and real estate mentioned in said Judgment: Common Address: 6749 North Rockwell Street, Chicago, Illinois 60645 P.I.N: 10-36-404-037-0000 Improvements: This property consist of a Single Family Home. Sale shall be under the following terms: payment of not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the successful and highest bid to be paid to the Sheriff by cashier's check or certified funds at the sale; and the full remaining balance to be paid to the Sheriff by cashier's check or certified funds within twenty-four (24) hours after the sale. Sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments. Premise will NOT be open for inspection. Firm Information: Plaintiff's Attorney DIAZ ANSELMO LINDBERG, LLC 1771 W. DIEHL, Ste 120 Naperville, IL 60563 Sales Department foreclosurenotice@fal-illinois.com 866-402-8661 fax 630-428-4620 For bidding instructions, visit www.fal-illinois.com This is an attempt to collect a debt pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Real Estate For Sale

COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION LOWELL HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- TRINITY GREEN LLC-88 W SCHILLER Defendants 19 CH 10492 88 W. SCHILLER ST, #1001 CHICAGO, IL 60610 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 14, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 25, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 88 W. SCHILLER ST, #1001, CHICAGO, IL 60610 Property Index No. 17-04-209-043-1008 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$60,897.28.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than

Real Estate For Sale

a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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For information, Thomas M. Olson, KOVITZ SHIFFRIN NESBIT Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Archer Avenue, Mundelein, IL, 60060 (847) 537-0500. Please refer to file number CLOW001/39010.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

Thomas M. Olson KOVITZ SHIFFRIN NESBIT 175 N. Archer Avenue Mundelein IL, 60060 847-537-0500 E-Mail: tolson@ksnlaw.com Attorney File No. CLOW001/39010

Attorney Code: 38862 Case Number: 19 CH 10492 TJSOC# 41-76

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Feb. 22 program uncovers quilts' secret codes to freedom

What secret messages are hidden in handmade pre-Civil War quilts that slaves decoded on their escape routes from the South to the North on the Underground Railroad?

Illinois Humanities' Road Scholar Connie Martin, a sixth-generation descendant of captured African slaves, shares her family's stories of secrecy and fugitive slave routes that passed through Illinois. She'll also show quilt replicas sewn by her mother especially for this presentation.



Connie Martin

The free program will be 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22. It's offered via Zoom by Friends of the Edgewater Library in partnership with the Edgewater Branch. To register, visit the Events page of foelchicago.org or chipublib.org.

THREATENED from p. 1

ter he asked the woman to turn her music down, but he denied pushing her or knocking over her equipment.

His defense attorney said Gaimari has "some past mental health diagnoses."

Judge Arthur Willis set bail at \$10,000. Gaimari will need to post \$1,000 to get out of jail and is then required to stay on electronic monitoring, Willis said.

CAMERAS from p. 1

8,200 cameras for roughly 11,700 sworn officers. The cost of operating a camera comes to \$780 per officer, or about \$6.4 million a year.

In Chicago the priority had been to equip patrol officers with body cameras, leaving some officers in specialized units not always outfitted with cameras. That issue came up in Aug. 2020 when an officer from a new unit called the community safety team, shot and wounded 20-year-old Latrell Allen in Englewood after Allen allegedly shot at officers. The officer who shot Allen did not have a body camera, prompting Mayor Lori Lightfoot to call for all officers on the streets to have cameras.

That shooting was one of the triggers for the Aug. 10 looting and rioting in Chicago.

Despite the legislation mandating the use of body cameras, it does not contain any penalties for noncompliance. A previous version of the bill reduced the Local Government Distributive Fund—the portion of state income tax revenue given to county and municipal governments—by 20% as a penalty.

That provision was stripped from the final package after it was characterized as an attempt to defund the police and faced heavy opposition from law enforcement groups and municipal associations.

Now, instead of penalizing agencies that flout the mandate, the legislation attempts to reward compliance. Law enforcement agencies that institute body cameras by the effective date relevant to them will receive preference for grants awarded by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

Unlike many of the other provisions

in the criminal justice reform legislation, body cameras have, by and large, been supported by law enforcement.

The expanded use of body cameras is one area where there appears to be some consensus among both police reform advocates and many in law enforcement. Reformers see body cameras as crucial tools for protecting civil rights and holding the CPD accountable, while some in law enforcement see them as a way to gather evidence that would protect officers against unfounded accusations of misconduct.

However, there are reservations about making them mandatory for police departments when the bill offers no monetary assistance.

Last October, lawmakers in the state Senate held a hearing on body camera usage as part of the preparation for crafting the eventual omnibus bill. In that hearing, representatives from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police testified to the prohibitive costs of body camera installation.

The body cameras themselves are relatively inexpensive. However, Illinois law requires all body camera footage be stored for at least 90 days, and body cameras must be on at all times an officer is on duty, with some exceptions. The data storage involved can create a strain on local budgets.

Currently only 75 law enforcement agencies out of approximately 900 in Illinois use body cameras.

Many police departments around the country canceled or ended their body camera programs due to the cost of storage, including the East Dundee Police Department in the suburbs of Chicago. The small village with fewer than 5,000 residents, which under the law would be required to implement body cameras by 2025, did not want to pay \$20,000 annually to maintain

storage for its 20 police officers' camera footage.

With no actual penalty for noncompliance and no financial assistance being offered by the law, it's unclear how successful the provision will be in encouraging the adoption of body cameras. Some state lawmakers and police organizations think the inclusion of the unfunded mandate may be setting the officers up to fail, and have

The expanded use of body cameras is one area where there appears to be some consensus among both police reform advocates and many in law enforcement. Reformers see body cameras as crucial tools for protecting civil rights and holding the CPD accountable, while some in law enforcement see them as a way to gather evidence that would protect officers against unfounded accusations of misconduct.

repeatedly called on Gov. JB Pritzker to veto the legislation once it arrives on his desk.

The primary sponsors of the bill, Sen. Elgie Sims and Rep. Justin Slaughter, have said issues of funding and budgetary constraints for law enforcement can be addressed in follow-up legislation in the new legislative session.

State regulators anticipate that a body camera law would increase demand on existing camera grant programs and have asked that funding for this program be increased.

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