

If we had no winter,  
the spring would not be  
so pleasant.

— Anne Bradstreet

# INSIDE-BOOSTER

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

FREE

VOL. 120, NO. 49

NEWS OF LINCOLN PARK, LAKE VIEW, NORTH CENTER & LINCOLN SQUARE

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## 'A team of destiny'

### DePaul Prep wins State Football Championship 40-6 over Mt. Zion

BY JACK LYDON

The DePaul Prep Rams (11-4) finished off their historic IHSA 4A playoff run Nov. 29 with a convincing 40-6 victory over the Mt. Zion Braves (10-4) at Hancock Field in Normal, IL.

The Rams weren't supposed to get this far. They finished second to Benet Academy in the CCL/ESCC's Purple Division. They lost their last two games of the regular season. They have not qualified for the playoffs or even had a winning season in nine years.

Some observers thought this game would be close. DePaul Prep was not a Chicago Catholic League powerhouse the way Montini, Mount Carmel and Loyola are. Mt. Zion runs a high-power offense fueled by two top division one prospects.

The preceding three championship games were blowouts. In 1A, Althoff Catholic defeated



DePaul Prep celebrates after senior QB Fernando "Juu" Rodriguez (#2) scores. Photo courtesy Michael Felish

Lena-Winslow 57-14. In 2A, Chicago Christian defeated Maroa-Forsyth 47-0. In 3A, Montini defeated Monticello 49-9.

Those who thought DePaul Prep would not win this game don't know these Rams. This is a special group of seniors. When Mike Passarella took over the

DePaul Prep football program six years ago, the teams improved year after year even if their records didn't reflect it. But they never seemed to get over the hump and into the playoffs. Instead of finding a way to win, they found

TEAM see p. 12

## Plumbing upgrades, accessibility improvements stalled at Lincoln Square's DANK Haus

BY PETER VON BUOL

Despite receiving over \$2 million in tax-increment financing [TIF] money from the city of Chicago and an additional \$200,000 from the state of Illinois, most of the bathrooms at Lincoln Square's non-profit DANK Haus German American Cultural Center, 4740 N. Western Ave. remain closed due to a major plumbing project that seems to have stalled at the 97-year-old building.

On Oct. 15, Mayor Brandon Johnson signed a replacement redevelopment agreement ordinance passed by the Chicago City Council which reaffirmed the city's commitment of more than \$1.562,786 of TIF Funding for the project.

In November, officials at DANK Haus had sent out a fundraising email asking its supporters to contribute towards a fund so the organization would be able to complete the project.

At about the same time, work came to a halt on the building's plumbing.

"DANK Haus must contribute the remaining \$1.5 million. Help us close our \$1.5 million funding gap today!" the email pleaded.

The same email shows a pie chart which displays sources of funding for its ongoing plumbing and accessibility improvements project. According to this chart, DANK received only \$800,000 from the city of Chicago and \$200,000 from the state of Illinois. This contradicts the amount that was initially posted in March, 2023 and which was also the figure in the ordinance signed by Johnson in Oct., 2024.

According to the written statement from DANK, the non-profit is also seeking to underwrite bringing new water service to the building and to complete handicapped-accessible restroom facilities on the building's 2nd, 5th and 6th floors. Also planned is an auto-operated front door to provide easier access for those with limited mobility.

In March, 2023, city officials said the TIF Funding was being provided to DANK as part of the



Most of the public bathrooms at the DANK Haus are now out of order.

organization's planned \$2.3 million in visitor enhancements to the

PLUMBING see p. 12



A new hotel is proposed for 3257 N. Halsted St. in Boystown. It is the former site of Yoshi Cafe.

## New hotel proposed for Halsted St. in Boystown

Last week plans were released for a proposed new hotel on Halsted St. in Boystown at the former site of Yoshi Cafe, 3257 N. Halsted St.

Set for the corner of Aldine and Halsted, the new structure would replace the vacant two-story restaurant building and its parking lot. The developer behind the proposal has not yet been named.

Details were released by the 44th Ward Alderman's office of Bennett Lawson. They said the developer hopes to build a 6-story, 51-room boutique hotel with a focus on serving the community.

As part of the project, the developers are requesting a zoning change from C1-3 to C1-5, allow-

ing for a nearly 42,000 square foot building.

The hotel may include a first-floor restaurant and a basement speakeasy. The development is located in a transit-served location along Halsted bus routes, and in proximity to the Belmont CTA station, and therefore will not be providing any on-site off-street parking. The sixth floor will be dedicated to an indoor amenity space and indoor/outdoor pool area. The hotel will contain a loading zone along Aldine and two parking spaces, and they claim to be seeking to contract with nearby parking lots for their guests.

## It's the hottest scam going on now

BY CWBCHICAGO

It's the hottest scam in years and there's no indication that it's gonna go away anytime soon. What is it? Schemers use the banking apps on their victims' phones to transfer large sums of money to themselves.

Typically, they approach people on the street, claiming to be raising funds for a charity or by sharing a heartbreaking story about a critically ill child in need of money.

When a target takes out and unlocks their phone to contribute, a couple of things can happen. One of the bad guys may snatch the phone away and transfer money, while an accomplice prevents the victim from intervening. Or a schemer can offer to make the transfer himself ("It's easier"). But, instead of transferring the \$5 or \$10 that the victim agreed to, the guy transfers hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Theft crews have been working Lakeview all year, but they've been extremely active lately. On Nov. 31, two scammers who promised to take only \$5 tried to transfer \$3,000 to themselves at Diversey and Sheffield, according to media reports.

Chicago police detectives have successfully brought charges in cases like these.

The most recent person to be charged is Jamie Miller, 30. Prosecutors hit him with charges of wire fraud and theft of \$500 to \$10,000.

In court filings, prosecutors said Miller transferred \$1,900 via Zelle from a 22-year-old man outside Shake Shack, 3519 N. Clark, in Wrigleyville on Jan. 7. Court records do not say exactly how investigators believe Miller gained control of the man's phone. However, CPD warned in January that money transfer scammers had been working outside that Shake Shack location.

About two weeks later, Miller made headlines when prosecutors accused him of murdering a concertgoer outside the House of Blues on Nov. 15, 2023.

During a detention hearing in January, prosecutors said Miller was soliciting money outside the venue for a "fictitious school basketball program" when the victim, 47-year-old Andrew Hulburt, swore at him.

Miller responded by walking up to Hulburt and punching him once in the left temple, causing Hulburt to fall backward and strike his head on the pavement, according to the state's detention petition. Hulburt never regained consciousness, and the medical examiner determined he suffered from a dissected vertebral artery.

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# Savor the flavors dancing in the soul of the widow



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Are you a Champagne lover? Does it quench the eternal dryness that can only be refreshed by a superb vintage of cold sparkling French bubbly?

Do you remember your first sip of Champagne? The first time it went to your head? Or what it was like to sip along with Irish smoked salmon, soft scrambled eggs and croissant?

I have close friends who cannot get enough of the rare varieties. I also have friends that have neither the tolerance or the appreciation for really good Champagne. They say it gives them gas, or the hiccups or a headache or simply an empty wallet.

This reporter was recently twice gifted with bottles of vintage Champagne, Veuve Clicquot. My favorite after a lifetime of sampling various vintages and superb growths.

Neither bottle was able to clock

more than 48 hours in my refrigerator door before I popped the corks. First making sure that there was no one else expecting to share in my good fortune. And I am a sharing kind of guy. Guzzling Champagne for me is strictly a solo experience.

So you will understand how excited I was during the first snow of winter. As the white flakes piled high on the sidewalks, streets and tavern signage, I pulled out a vintage coupe-style glass to use with gift bottle number one. As I did so, I discovered that Netflix had just added a new movie to my queue, ironically, France's greatest story about Champagne, entitled, "Widow Clicquot."

It's the biography of a 19th century woman of learning, science and halting business skills, Barbe-Nicole Clicquot Ponsardin. She is the young bride who would become the famed young widow of Francois Clicquot. With her, he was at the forefront of the 19th century renaissance in the production of superior modern Champagnes. Legends.

The film records her determination to take over her husband's business enterprise following his early death. A woman taking over a man's responsibilities of a huge vineyard in the Age of Napoleon. She dedicates her life to the successful creation of what will become France's heartiest and most sought after of Champagnes.

The film is soulful, unfolding the emotional and psychological cost of a woman of scientific curiosity and a passion for hard work to take on the established order of the day.

She crosses the lines of the established order of life, unafraid to enter new territory for women at a moment of great unrest in France.

The ultimate verdict on all that unfolds is easy to see on the faces of those who taste the extraordinary sparkling wine. Before the film ends, the crowned heads of Europe are the Widow Clicquot's most satisfied customers of my favorite bubbly.



Barbe-Nicole Clicquot-Ponsardin

We applauded the retelling of this tale of a French woman of profound intelligence and courage. Unwilling to let the narrow imaginations of marginally successful men control her land. Her grapes. And her bubbles.

The dilemmas created by her young husband's deteriorating health and her awareness that the time had come to reinvent great Champagnes of world class significance.

It really was the perfect film on a snowy day. Sipping homemade soup and French Rose wine. I made sure there were enough blankets to keep life toasty.

The unfolding of this cinematic feature was a great warm-up for the holidays.

Veuve Clicquot has always been a remarkable part of the holidays for my household. What's better with the Thanksgiving turkey and savory stuffing than Champagne? It's better than mistletoe in reviving tired spirits on Christmas Day or helping the family unwind and engage one another with fresh interest, genuine endearment and crisper repartee.

But be civil and hold your tongue about the last election. Democrats can't buy enough Champagne to ease their way through this episode of American history.

There are lessons to be learned and admired that unfold in the

story of the Widow Clicquot. We admire her spunk and poetic soul. We appreciate her inventive chemistry of two centuries ago and her ability to reason the flavors and hidden beauty of great modern Champagne. We enjoy her talking to the vines to stimulate their growth.

So, be lifted to freshness and new awareness of the needs of the world as we move through preparations for Christmas. Savor the flavors dancing in the soul of the widow, reminding us of W.B. Yeats' sense of the season in his poem "The Magi," reflecting on his memory of the Christmas Crèche, his words holding the power to open our souls. Remember, let no one steal your bubbles.

"Now as at all times I can see in the mind's eye, in their stiff, painted clothes, the pale unsatisfied ones appear and disappear in the blue depth of the sky.

With all their ancient faces like rain-beaten stones, and all their helms of silver hovering side by side, and all their eyes still fixed, hoping to find once more.

Being by Calvary's turbulence unsatisfied, the uncontrollable mystery on the bestial floor."

## FAMILY OWNED RESTAURANT:

La Scarola is on Eater Chicago's list of Chicago's best. "An Italian American time capsule awash in Joe Mondelli's legendary hospitality, gigantic portions, and red sauce." When a restaurant is so tied to the taste buds of its hometown you know that they skimp on nothing. Mondelli has created an eatery whose heartbeat is in sync with the City of Chicago itself. Great place to find famed Chicago attorneys and powerful politicians. Congrats to Joey and Kathy Wolter Mondelli.

**HAWAII BIRTHDAY:** Radio legend Steve Dahl and wife, Janet Joliat Dahl, in Hawaii with the whole family for Steve's 70th birthday. Re-calibrating vacation energy as the kids and grandkids celebrate in Maui, embracing the good fortune to have shared this magical place so loved with the people they treasure. Truly paradise. Congrats.

**MAC'S DELI:** Chicago's first restaurant staffed intentionally with people in recovery opened last week in the West Loop. Mac's Deli is a project from Haymarket Center, a nonprofit that helps people with substance abuse disorders, mental health challenges and primary care conditions. MAC'S honors the memory of Monsignor Ignatius McDermott, founder of all things Haymarket.

**LITERATI:** Michael Kutza's book is a huge, entertaining hit, view his story to listen to his latest chapter of Starstruck on his podcast. Available for purchase on Amazon.

## MONTROSE DUNES:

A lovely fall morning workday in the dunes, with Mark Kolasa and 20 volunteer stewards helping collect and disperse seed from conservative panne species, including three types of goldenrod - Ohio, Riddell's, and White Flat-topped.

## A STORY

**COURT:** The William Goodman Mansion, home of Chicago's lumber baron and founder of the Goodman Theater established in memory of their son, is for sale. Formerly owned by Chicago playwright Kenneth Sawyer

## SAVOR see p. 8

- Ronald Roenigk *Publisher & Editor*
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INSIDE is published every Wednesday by Inside Publications  
6221 N. Clark St., rear Chicago, IL 60660  
(773) 465-9700  
E: insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com



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# CPS teachers tied students in school year absenteeism

**41% of CPS teachers absent more than 10 days a year**

BY BOB ZULEY

Chicago Public School [CPS] District 299 teachers virtually tie students in the race for school year absenteeism, according to data from the Illinois Board of Education.

Statewide, Illinois public schools average 26.3% of students who miss 10% of school days per year with or without a valid excuse.

Among CPS students, it's 40.8%.

However, 41% of CPS teachers were absent from their classes for more than 10 days during the 2023-24 school year, according to state records. Those 10 days represent a statistical benchmark the profession uses to monitor

"chronic absenteeism" among teachers.

Whereas non-teachers generally work 260 days per year, a CPS teacher is paid for 208 days, including 190 work days for teachers. Teachers receive 12 paid professional development days, according to the Chicago Teachers Union.

The 2024-25 calendar includes 176 student attendance days, 12 professional development days, and two parent-teacher conferences.

There is also a two-week winter vacation, a one-week spring vacation, and no classes the week of Thanksgiving. Classes are also cancelled on local and national election days.

CPS teacher absences also include 10 sick days, three personal days, and eight other scheduled holidays. They may also take additional time off for bereavement

parental leave. And, teachers are generally off for two months of summer vacation.

For the truncated school year for CPS teachers, they are well compensated receiving a median salary of nearly \$95,000. That's 21% more than Chicago's suburbs where the median salary is \$78,000. CPS says it pays its teachers more than any other large public school district in the nation.

"The Chicago Teachers Union continues to demand nine percent annual raises, an outlandish ask, and is growing ever more shrill as CPS CEO Pedro Martinez and his administration try to hold the line on behalf of Chicago's beleaguered taxpayers and in the face of heavy pressure from Mayor Brandon Johnson to give CTU everything it wants," wrote the Chicago Tribune in an editorial on Nov. 24.

**For the truncated school year for CPS teachers, they are well compensated receiving a median salary of nearly \$95,000. That's 21% more than Chicago's suburbs where the median salary is \$78,000. CPS says it pays its teachers more than any other large public school district in the nation.**

Chicago is not unique in facing the problem of teacher absenteeism. At Evanston-Skokie School District 65, nearly 43% of teachers were absent more than 10 times last year. Oak Park-River Forest District 200 was slightly better at 38.5%.

Doing better for their students were the teachers of Naperville Community Unit School District 203 who were absent less than 20% of the school year. In Waukegan Community Unit School District 60, 0.1% of teachers were chronically absent. Yes, 99.9% of teachers remarkably had fewer

than 10 absences in their large and complicated school system.

Chicago parents are continually bombarded from the Bud Billiken Parade to Memorial Day of the heavy emphasis school leaders put on school attendance. There isn't an equal focus on the attendance of teachers. "Teachers need to be present. And in Chicago showing up is the least we should expect from our very well-compensated public school educators," concluded the Tribune editorial.

# State watchdog uncovers at least \$7.2 million in PPP fraud by state employees

BY AMALIA HUOT-MARCHAND  
Capitol News Illinois

A state watchdog has identified at least \$7.2 million in fraudulent claims and more than 275 instances of misconduct by state employees accused of bilking a federal program designed to help businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2022, the Office of the Executive Inspector General has been investigating allegations that state employees fraudulently claimed Paycheck Protection Program loans for small businesses they didn't disclose or entirely fabricated. State workers may engage in secondary employment, but only if it's disclosed and permission is granted.

Employees from 13 different state agencies are involved in the fraud and have illegally taken these federal public funds, according to the OEIG, which is charged with investigating allegations of misconduct within state government. As of April, more

than 60% of those implicated to date worked for the Illinois Department of Human Services, which operates mental health hospitals and developmental centers across the state.

The Paycheck Protection Program was an initiative established by the federal CARES Act in 2020. The Small Business Administration [SBA] oversaw the implementation of the PPP to provide forgivable loans to cover payroll costs or other expenses for small businesses struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic. By Oct. 2022, the program gave out \$786 billion in loans and forgave 93% of them, according to the SBA.

Quickly, PPP loans led to "unprecedented fraud levels," according to the SBA inspector general.

Applicants self-certified their small business status and income. The OEIG is investigating only public employees who received more than approximately \$20,000 from the program. To receive a \$20,000 loan, businesses investigated by the OEIG typically declared \$100,000 or more of net profit or gross income on the loan application.

The OEIG could not comment on whether this investigation was close to the end. Due to the sheer size of this fraud, investigations involve many different agencies. In May 2023, the Illinois legislature passed House Bill 3304, which allows criminal prosecutions for COVID-19 related fraud to start up to five years after authorities discover the fraud.

Rep. Fred Crespo, D-Hoffman

Estates, who filed the bill, said most of the routine checks such as cross-referencing data on the loan forms with other agency databases were suspended for this program. A large issue was also the lack of personnel. According to Crespo, between April 2020 and April 2022, the fraud hotline of the SBA received millions of calls, of which a large number went unanswered.

"The vulnerabilities that led to

the issues with PPP fraud weren't really attributable to things at the state level. I would say that the issues had far more to do with the unaccountable nature of the program itself," said State Rep. Mike Kelly of Chicago, who co-sponsored the bill.

IDHS employees have been heavily involved in the fraud. Since 2022, at least 43 employees

FRAUD see p. 9

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# Commissions remain the same despite realtor settlement



## The Home Front

by Don DeBat

First of two articles on how realty commissions are changing.

Despite all the hubbub about the impact of federal court litigation, it appears real estate brokers in Chicago and across the nation will continue to collect about the same commissions as they did last year.

According to a new report from internationally recognized commission-analyst Mike DelPrete, there has been no change in average buyer-agent commissions since the settlement went into effect in August. DelPrete is a global real estate tech strategist, and a scholar-in-residence at the Univ. of Colorado Boulder.

On Nov. 28, a federal judge granted approval of a \$418-million settlement agreement to resolve litigation against the National Assoc. of Realtors [NAR] and its members. The litigation was brought on behalf of home sellers related to broker commissions.

Attorneys said they expected the litigation would lead to changes in the real-estate brokerage community that would result in lower commission fees, because agents will be forced to compete on service.

DelPrete's research reported that average buyer-agent commissions nationwide were 2.62% when the settlement was announced on April 24. After brokerage commission changes were implemented on Aug. 24 commissions averaged 2.59%.

"Historically, buyer-agent commissions fluctuate based on a variety of factors, including overall market conditions and seasonality," DelPrete said.

For reference, he noted that a 0.06% annual decrease in buyer-broker commissions equates to \$245 on a median-priced \$409,000 U.S. resale home.

"A big part of the commission lawsuit was about consumer selection, replacing a default path with more transparency and more choice around buyer-agent compensation," said DelPrete.

"The evidence to date doesn't support the hype around this be-

ing a seismic shift in the industry—consumers still value a buyer agent in the same way as before," he said.

NAR is now requiring real estate brokers to enter into written agreements—often referred to as "buyer agency agreements" with prospective buyers. The agreement states how the buyer's agent will be paid and the amount of their compensation.

NAR also directed member Multiple Listing Services [MLS] to remove all offers of compensation to buyer's agents. The MLS is the main data platform used by real estate agents across the nation to market home listings. If brokers are not members of NAR, or do not use an MLS platform that adheres to NAR's rules, they will not be subject to the rule changes.

The landmark federal verdict found NAR and several large brokerage firms conspired to artificially inflate commissions on home sales. The settlement will be paid out over about four years to about 21 million home buyers nationwide, who will be eligible as long as it was listed on the MLS after Oct. 31, 2019, and commission was paid.

The recent settlement was for less than a quarter of the \$1.8 billion issued by a Kansas City jury in March 2024. The final settlement is for \$418 million, which after attorney's fees, will likely be as low as \$13 per seller.

Regardless of the national settlement, it doesn't mean home sellers or buyers suddenly are protected from commission-gouging, brokers who over-charge for their services, warned consumer advocates.

Brokerage commissions typically are paid by home sellers.

Commissions are generally in the range of 5% to 7%—roughly \$20,000 or more on the sale of a \$400,000 home.

When a buyer is represented by a Realtor, the seller's agent usually agrees to split a portion of the commission with the buyer's agent.

Historically, compensation offers have been listed on the MLS, but the court settlement will forbid this practice, which Realtors have used since the 1920s. For example, in 1923, the chairman of the National Assn. of Real Estate Boards (NAR's precursor) "Committee on Commissions" claimed that the Chicago broker's association had used a commission schedule for more than 40 years.

Critics say home sellers often feel powerless to negotiate a better deal for themselves because of the risk that offering lower commissions may cause brokers to steer buyers to other properties.

When you consider that NAR may be the biggest Congressional lobbyist group in the U.S., the court action truly is a landmark.

"Increasingly, compensation will reflect agent competence, experience and the effect they make on a sale," said Stephen Brobeck, senior fellow at the Consumer Federation of America.

"This agent-commission change is long overdue," said Gold Coast buyer broker Sara E. Benson, CRB, ABR, president of Chicago-based Benson Stanley Realty.

"Personally, I find the practice of a listing agent dictating the buyer agent's compensation disconcerting at best—and reprehensible at worst."

For decades, Benson noted that listing agents have been incessantly "chiseling" the offer of buyer

broker compensation. "Rarely, is the commission split 50/50. In many parts of Wisconsin, buyer agents, who do not have a signed Buyer Agency Agreement, are lucky to get a mere 35% of the total commission, Benson said.

In Chicago, some listing agents are "offering" only 33% of the gross commission—or less—to buyer's agents, and publishing that commission in the MLS.

In the past, a buyer's agent meddling with the commission structure would have been considered "contract interference" and prohibited by NAR.

"Under the NAR settlement, buyer agents finally will be empowered to set their own rates and get paid what they are worth," Benson said.

NEXT WEEK: How do home buyers find experienced buyer-brokers to represent them.

For more housing news, visit [www.dondebat.biz](http://www.dondebat.biz). Don DeBat is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit [www.escapingcondojail.com](http://www.escapingcondojail.com).

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## Yule Love It sing-along at Edge Theater, Dec. 15

The Edgewater Historical Society Presents Yule Love It, Seasonal Music, and sing-along for everyone, 3 p.m. Dec. 15, at the Edge Theater, 5451 N. Broadway.

Tickets available at the door or from [bit.ly/ehsevent4](http://bit.ly/ehsevent4), for \$15.

## Chicago premiere of The Berlin Diaries

In association with Her Story Theater, Open Space Arts/Arts Judaica has announced the Chicago premiere of The Berlin Diaries, an acclaimed play by three-time Oregon Book Award-winning playwright Andrea Stolowitz.

The production will run from Dec. 20 - Jan. 5 at Open Space Arts' intimate 20-seat theater in Uptown, at 1411 W. Wilson Ave.

The Berlin Diaries follows Stolowitz's quest to learn about her extended Jewish family, who lived in Germany during the rise of the Nazi party before emigrating to New York City in 1939. When Andrea receives her late great-grandfather's diary recounting the family's life in Berlin before World War II, she sees its potential as a play because of the complex narrative that challenges her family's long-held assumptions about their Holocaust story. Through this research, she gains a deeper connection to her family and Germany, exploring themes of memory, identity, and generational trauma.

The Berlin Diaries features a two-person cast performing all roles.

The show has earned accolades, including its inclusion in the 2019 Kilroy's List and the NYFA/NYC Mayor's Office Award for Theater, Film, and TV. It will open to the public on Dec. 20, in Open Space Arts's 20-seat theater. Tickets are on sale now ranging from \$25 to \$15.

# Aldermen push for spending cuts to address \$340M budget gap

BY ADRIANA FOUSTANOU

In a Nov. 26 letter written to Mayor Brandon Johnson before a Dec. 2 City Council meeting, 14 aldermen, including Brendan Reilly [42nd], Scott Waguespack [32nd] and Brian Hopkins [2nd] called for urgent cuts to the city's Corporate Fund spending.

The city faces a dire \$340 million budget deficit that must be addressed by Dec. 31 to avoid unprecedented consequences, highlighted by a warning of "the risk of the first shutdown of city government in anyone's memory, due to a series of unforced

errors by the Mayor's office."

The city also faces a nearly \$1 billion deficit for 2025.

The letter was sent last week hoping that the Mayor would right-size department and program budgets. The letter requests that budget cuts - and a new budget and revenue package - be presented at the Dec. 2 meeting.

(This meeting was held after this newspaper's deadline, and is not a part of this story.)

The letter highlights significant growth in Chicago's budget over recent years. "The FY2020 budget was \$11.7 billion whereas the proposed FY2025 budget is \$17.1 billion," they wrote. That is a nearly 61% in-

crease in spending in just four years.

It appears the growth in spending has now created a schism between City Hall and city taxpayers, as polling data shows 81% of residents favor budget cuts over increases in property taxes, or other taxes and fees.

But not all North Side aldermen agree with the proposed approach, and did not sign the letter. Absent from the list of signatories are Aldermen from the 40th, 43rd, 44th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, and 50th wards, illustrating the challenges of achieving consensus on spending cuts, and adding complexity, and urgency to the upcoming negotiations.

The letter suggests a starting point for budget discussions be focused on Corporate Fund spending and associated revenue. The Aldermen are asking the Mayor to return to pre-pandemic spending levels, adjusted for inflation.

The letter states that "proposed FY2025 budget spending projections are \$982 million more than current FY2024 revenue despite an anticipated \$223 million property tax levy adjustment as well as the repeal of the 911 Surcharge approved by Springfield which will add \$40 million to the 2025

GAP see p. 10

# West Ridge hate crime shooter found dead inside Cook County jail

BY CWBCHICAGO

Sidi Mohamed Abdallahi, the man accused of targeting a Jewish man, Chicago Police Officers, and paramedics during a shooting spree in West Rogers Park five weeks ago, was found dead at the Cook County jail on Nov. 31. Officials said his death appeared to be suicide by hanging.

An autopsy was conducted Sunday, but the results are still pending, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office.

Abdallahi, 22, was seriously wounded by Chicago police officers who shot him as he continued his mid-morning rampage on Oct. 26. A sheriff's office spokesperson said Sunday that Abdallah had been housed since November 15 at Cermak Health Services, the jail's medical facility operated by a division of Cook County Health.



Sidi Mohamed Abdallahi

Sheriff's office personnel conducting routine security checks at Cermak "found Abdallah unresponsive due to an apparent suicide attempt by hanging in his cell" around 3:30 p.m. Saturday, the spokesperson said. "Staff immediately initiated life-saving measures and Abdallah was transported by a Chicago Fire Department ambulance to Mt. Sinai Hospital where he was subsequently pronounced deceased."

The spokesperson said there was "no evidence of foul play at this time."

In announcing charges, prosecutors said Abdallah's phone data showed he spent days selecting targets, including a synagogue not far from where he shot a 39-year-old Jewish man who was walking to synagogue. After shooting the man in the 2600 block of W. Farwell, Abdallahi allegedly got into his car and drove a short distance, only to return to the area about 20 minutes later and

start shooting at police and paramedics.

For more than two minutes, Abdallahi popped up at different locations to exchange gunfire with Chicago cops, officials alleged. He was eventually brought down by police gunfire in the 6800 block of N. Washtenaw.

Prosecutors did not initially charge him with a hate crime, but those counts were added within days after detectives cracked his phone and allegedly found its history included searches for gun stores, firing ranges, synagogues, and Jewish commu-

nity centers in the days leading up to the shooting.

Abdallahi "sought out this particular community. Sought out this particular faith," Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx said at the time.

Officials said Abdallahi, from the West African country of Mauritania, crossed paths with U.S. Border Patrol agents in San Ysidro, California, in March 2023.

The Illinois State Police Public Integrity Task Force has been asked to conduct an independent investigation of his death.

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# Police Beat...

**Man sentenced to 14.5 years for carjackings**



Earrious Moore (inset) and the scene of one of his carjacking attempts on Lake Shore Drive.

A federal judge has sentenced a man to 14.5 years in prison for carjacking multiple vehicles at gunpoint in Chicago.

On a single afternoon in April 2018, Earrious Moore stole three cars, attempted to steal two others, and shot two people during a series of crimes in Chicago.

The two-hour spree began around 4 p.m. on April 26, 2018, when Moore shot his own brother in the arm during a domestic altercation and then forced four people out of a Jeep at gunpoint in the 5200 block of W. Jackson.

"Get the f\*\*\* out of the car and give me everything you got and drop your cell phones," he allegedly ordered. The group complied.

Almost an hour later, Moore approached a victim sitting in a Jaguar in the 1100 block of N. Milwaukee.

"Get the f\*\*\* out of the car," he allegedly screamed. "I'm taking your car. Leave your phone."

The victim complied. Moore crashed the Jaguar a short time later and abandoned it in the 800 block of N. Halsted.

Almost immediately, Moore carjacked a plainclothes Chicago police officer near Jesse White Park in the 600 block of W. Chicago Ave. He abandoned the cop's vehicle behind Gibson's Steakhouse in the 1000 block of N. State.

Moments later, he shot a driver near Rush and Oak during another attempted carjacking, officials said. Eventually, he pulled a driver from a Jeep in front of Hugo's Frog Bar, 1024 N. Rush, and sped away.

In the final attempted carjacking, a victim sitting in a Mercedes-Benz in the 1400 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. in the Gold Coast neighborhood was shot in the back of the shoulder and subsequently treated at a hospital. Moore ran from that vehicle and was apprehended by Chicago Police officers in the lobby of a nearby building.

Moore, 30, pleaded guilty earlier this year to carjacking, attempted carjacking, and firearm charges. U.S. District Judge Elaine E. Bucklo imposed the sentence during a hearing Nov. 22 in federal court.

**Man shot in Rogers Park did not cooperate with investigators**

A man who was shot in Rogers Park on Nov. 25 did not cooperate with cops who responded to help him, according to Chicago police.

The 31-year-old was standing outside a vehicle in the 1600 block of W. Juneway Terrace when some-

one fired shots shortly before 6 p.m. He suffered a gunshot wound to his right leg.

Officers at the scene said they were told that the man got "caught in the crossfire" of gunmen who were firing between two vehicles, but the police later said the victim stopped talking to them and refused to cooperate further.

He was in good condition at St. Francis Hospital.

So far this year, 31 people have been shot in Rogers Park. That's exactly the same number shot at this point last year and only one more than in 2022. Authorities determined that four of 2022's shootings were acts of self-defense.

**Child stalker in West Ridge**

Police are warning residents of a stalking incident in the West Ridge neighborhood.

In the incident, a 13-year-old female was walking in the 2110 block of W. Greenleaf when an unknown male offender, parked in an older model black Lexus SUV, called the victim pretty and requested her phone number and social media information.

The offender was described as a Black male in his 30s, parked in what appeared to be an older model black Lexus SUV.

Those who have any information on this incident can contact Area Three Detectives at 312-744-8261 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use reference # JH512245.

**Attempted theft on Red Line**



In this criminal incident, two crooks approached a CTA passenger on a CTA Red Line train and attempted to take the passenger's wallet and backpack. When the passenger resisted, a physical altercation ensued and the thug punched the passenger with closed fists.

The incident occurred at the Granville Station 10:40 p.m. Nov. 13.

The offender is described as an African American male, approximately 18-19 years old, 5'-7" to 5'-9", 150-165lbs, wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt with "Chicago-The Windy City" emblem on the chest, gray pants. The second crook is also African American male, approximately 18-19 years old, 5'-7" to 5'-9", wearing a black Nike hooded sweatshirt, black ski mask, grey colored sweatpants, and white shoes.

**Gunmen carjack driver in Edgewater on Thanksgiving morning**

Two armed men carjacked a woman in Edgewater on Thanksgiving morning. No arrests have been announced so far.

According to initial information, the hijackers, both wearing ski masks and armed with handguns, confronted the woman in the 5400 block of N. Kenmore around 6 a.m. They took her property and drove away with the victim's blue 2021 Jeep Cherokee. It was last seen getting onto Lake Shore Dr. at 6:05 a.m. At least one accomplice may have followed the hijackers in a white Kia sedan.

Two armed men carjacked a woman in Edgewater on Thanksgiving morning. No arrests have been announced so far.

According to initial information, the hijackers, both wearing ski masks and armed with handguns, confronted the woman in the 5400 block of N. Kenmore around 6 a.m. They took her property and drove away with the victim's blue 2021 Jeep Cherokee. It was last seen getting onto Lake Shore Dr. at 6:05 a.m. At least one accomplice may have followed the hijackers in a white Kia sedan.

**Man sentenced to prison after stealing mail**

Jonathan Minter, 38, pleaded guilty Nov. 25 to burglary charges, he has now been sentenced to seven years in jail for his role in a series of burglaries and identity thefts spanning several years.



Jonathan Minter

The crimes were committed between Sept. 2023 and Feb. 2024, during which Minter used counterfeit postal keys to illegally access residential mailboxes in condominiums and apartments all across town.

Minter has been linked to over 20 burglaries and identity thefts, including those in Andersonville, Edgewater, Lake View, Peterson Park, and in the South Loop. He was arrested Sept. 28, 2023.

A second arrest occurred Oct. 23, 2023, after he was accused of unlawfully entering at least seven residences and stealing items.

**Man shot, critically injured while handling gun with girlfriend in Lakeview**

Detectives are questioning a woman after a man was shot while handling a gun with her in Lakeview on Nov. 27.

Cops responded to the 2900 block of N. Pine Grove shortly after 3 a.m. when the woman called 911 to report that her boyfriend had been shot in the head. Officers found the 25-year-old man inside a Nissan Altima, critically injured, according to CPD.

The woman, 23, told police that she and the man were passing a gun when it "went off." Officers recovered a firearm at the scene.

Citing preliminary information, a source said the man is licensed to carry a concealed firearm.

So far this year, 13 people have been shot in Lakeview.

**Man stabbed during fight outside Howard CTA station**

A man is recovering this morning after someone stabbed him during a fight near the Howard CTA station in Rogers Park on Nov. 28. The assailant remains at large.

Police said the 35-year-old got into a fight with several men on a sidewalk in the 1700 block of W. Howard, just outside the train station, around 2:10 a.m. During the altercation, one of the men pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim in the left leg.

EMS took the victim to St. Francis Hospital in fair condition.

The assailant was last seen running east on Howard and then south through an alley. Officers were told to be on the lookout for a Black male with a backpack wearing a blue jacket with gray jogging pants.

**Bystander shoots 'erratic' man on Clark St.**

A man is in critical condition after someone shot him on Nov. 27 as he was "exhibiting erratic and dangerous behavior" on a busy Lincoln Park street, according to the local alderman.

"There is reason to believe this is an isolated incident wherein the victim and offender had a preexisting relationship," Ald. Timmy Knudsen [43rd] said in an email, adding that the case is still under investigation.

Police said a 34-year-old man was approaching people on the sidewalk



Left to right: The bank robber's note, an archived mugshot of Naenb Mersha, and a CTA surveillance image of the robbery suspect.

Images courtesy U.S. District Court records, Chicago Police Dept.

**Bank robber identified through face tats and ankle monitor GPS data**

The FBI is charging a Chicago man with bank robbery, saying agents were able to identify him by his face tattoos and records from the court-ordered GPS ankle monitor he wore during the holdup.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Keri Holleb Hotaling signed an arrest warrant for 31-year-old Naenb Mersha this week.

In a criminal complaint and affidavit, an FBI agent said Mersha walked into Chase Bank, 5715 N. Broadway, around 2:20 p.m. on November 19 and handed the teller a note.

"I have Gun," the note read. "Give me the money Before I shot"

The teller handed over \$2,545.

Mersha took the cash and headed out the door, leaving an errant \$50 bill on the bank's floor, the affidavit said. He allegedly changed some of

his clothes near the Bryn Mawr Red Line CTA station and hopped on a southbound train.

Investigators identified Mersha as a suspect by comparing his state ID photo with images of the bank robber. His numerous facial tattoos were helpful in the identification efforts, the agent wrote.

The police learned Mersha was on electronic monitoring as a condition of a two-year probation sentence he received for shoplifting on Sept. 4, according to the affidavit.

GPS coordinates from Mersha's ankle monitor showed he was at the bank, the Bryn Mawr Red Line station, and the Wilson CTA station in Uptown at the same time as the bank robber, the FBI agent said.

It is unclear if Mersha remains at large.

in the 2400 block of N. Clark when an "altercation" broke out around 3:58 p.m. During the conflict, another man pulled out a gun and fired shots, striking the victim in the chest.

The gunman fled south on Clark St. on foot, according to the alderman. Neither he nor CPD released a suspect description.

A bullet hole was seen in a nearby salon window. Investigators found a spent round inside the business. Two shell casings were found outside.

"According to initial reports, the victim was exhibiting erratic and dangerous behavior at the time of the shooting and engaged with the offender aggressively prior to the incident," said Knudsen.

The alderman encouraged anyone with information that may be useful in the investigation to contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8261 or the Town Hall 19th District at CAPS.019District@chicagopolice.org.

Only three people have been shot in Lincoln Park this year, down from 12 during all of 2023.

**Woman charged with setting merchandise on fire inside downtown Target store**

Prosecutors have charged a woman with setting fire to merchandise inside a downtown Target store. Judge Susana Ortiz ordered the detention of Brittney Brown, 39, on one count of arson.

Officials said video showed Brown entering the store at 1 S. State and heading to the second floor around 6 p.m. Nov. 23. She proceeded to set fire to "multiple items which were displayed for sale," a Chicago police report said. According to a criminal complaint, those items included shelving, bedding, bathing items, "perishables," and dog treats.

Loss prevention officers extinguished the fire and detained Brown, a CPD report said. No injuries were reported. Officials did not offer a motive for the incident.

The same store suffered an arson fire in Sept. 2023 that prosecutors now say was set as a diversion for a robbery scheme.

Ronald Langley, 26, was given a ten-year sentence this summer for setting the fire. Officials said he entered the store, went to the second

floor, grabbed a can of WD-40, and then used it to set a blanket on fire on a display shelf.



Brittney Brown

Although there were no reported injuries, officials estimated that the store's damage exceeded \$100,000. Police arrested Langley at a different Target store about two weeks after the fire when a loss prevention officer recognized him.

Not long after Langley pleaded guilty, prosecutors charged a second man with robbery and arson, saying the fire was meant to serve as a distraction while the second man stole cellular phones from Target's electronics department.

While customers and Target employees were distracted by the fire or evacuating the building, 37-year-old Kenneth Hasley was secreted near the elevators, officials said. When the coast was clear, Hasley allegedly stepped out of hiding and used a crowbar to break a display case in the electronics department. He scooped up phones worth \$2,017 and headed toward the door, prosecutors said in a detention petition.

Even with the fire blazing elsewhere in the store, a Target security guard tried to prevent Hasley from leaving with the merchandise. Prosecutors said Hasley pepper sprayed the guard and fled.

In a separate matter, a grand jury has indicted Halsey on multiple counts of arson and criminal damage in connection with a fire that was set inside a guest room at the Radisson Hotel Schaumburg on Nov. 22, 2022. No specific details about the suburban incident were immediately available.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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# Not guilty! Man acquitted of murdering teen during 'large group' incident in Millennium Park

BY CWBCHICAGO

It is one of the most shocking and consequential shootings Chicago has seen in recent years: A 16-year-old boy was shot dead steps from The Bean in Millennium Park during a large gathering of teens in May 2022. And it was caught on video.

The death of Seandell Holliday prompted Mayor Lori Lightfoot to largely ban unattended minors from the crown jewel of Chicago's parks, which she encircled with security fences and metal detector-equipped admission gates. Many of those restrictions continue to this day.

Marion Richardson was 17 on that fateful spring evening, but prosecutors charged him as an adult with two counts of second-degree murder and aggravated battery by discharging a firearm.

This month, a judge found him not guilty of those charges, saying prosecutors fell short of proving their case, although she did



Marion Richardson (inset) is seen in a video image recorded moments before the shooting. *Image courtesy Cook County Sheriff's Office*

convict him of felony firearms violations.

A couple of social media videos showed parts of what happened, but not with great clarity.

Richardson, wearing an orange hoodie and ski mask, walked slowly on a plaza near The Bean, nearly encircled by dozens of other teens and preteens, some wearing ski masks of their own. That circle appeared to be closing in on Richardson.

As bystanders recorded with their phones, Holliday suddenly

sprung into view, landing on Richardson's back and wrapping his arms around Richardson. In the same blink of an eye, another teen seems to throw a punch at Richardson, and the crowd moves closer.

During the chaos, as Holliday hung on Richardson's back, a single, muffled gunshot was heard, followed by a chorus of screams as panic swept through the crowd.

"That track practice [sic] come in handy," read the caption on one

viral video as dozens of teens sprinted from the gunfire.

"He go the video of folks shooting his self inna chest," read another caption.

A second viral video showed the severity of Holliday's injuries. Sitting on the park pavers as a Chicago police sergeant leaned down and radioed for help, the boy took off his jacket, revealing a circle of dark red blood on the back of his white t-shirt. Holliday leaned back, exposing the front of his white shirt to the camera. From chest to waist, it was drenched in blood.

Seconds later, officers who heard the gunshot saw Richardson drop a handgun as he ran from the scene, prosecutors said. Richardson allegedly stopped, picked the gun up, put it in his waistband, and continued running. He was arrested nearby.

### Not guilty

Richardson took his case to a bench trial this month. On Nov.

14, Judge Carol Howard announced her findings.

She reviewed the evidence she had seen, which included testimony from two police officers and two women, as well as "several" videos and police bodycam footage.

The evidence showed Richardson and his girlfriend went to Millennium Park to participate in a teen "trend," a large gathering of teens fueled by social media promotion. While there, the couple crossed paths with a group of teens who recognized Richardson from a previous trend, the judge summarized.

That group started to follow Richardson and his girlfriend. Howard said that the couple tried repeatedly to get away from the group. As they were trying to leave the park, Holliday jumped on Richardson's back.

"There was a loud pop, and the crowd that had been gather-

**NOT GUILTY** see p. 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Ice resurfacers

Thanks for the [Nov. 27] piece about deonyms. I hadn't known this word before.

I wonder if anyone else will gently point out that you didn't include Zamboni. Being a long-time ice skater, of course I would say this. I'm not even sure what the common name is for this machine: "ice resurfacers"?

*Jean SmilingCoyote  
West Ridge*

### Shut up Paul

Aren't we all tired of "Pontificating Paul Vallas" [Nov. 27 newspapers]?

Now he is sticking his big suburban nose into the CTA. Doesn't he have any unexpressed opinions?

First he admits the CTA is bloated with bureaucracy. Then he states he wants to combine the CTA with Metra and Pace. Why???

To expand the Chicago Machine's graft and corruption to six more counties?

Remember, Vallas got his start in Chicago politics working for the Mayor Daley "Friends, Felons and Family Plan."

Since the CTA is a government creation, enforce the law that the farebox must cover half of the cost. Otherwise eliminate that route. Maybe less used routes should be served by smaller Pace style buses.

Make a law that no more than 12% of the salaries can be paid to employees that do not operate nor maintain the el trains and buses. Get rid of the politically connected, do-nothing bureaucrats and hire sworn, armed police officers.

Vallas should go back to his quest to beat Bob Fioretti's record of most local election defeats.

*Mike Sullivan  
Avondale*



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## It's outdoor skating season

The Chicago Park District will continue the tradition of ice skating in neighborhoods throughout the city. Programs and hours vary at each ice-skating site. On the North Side three outdoor ice rinks are now open, and will close on Feb. 17, 2025. They include Warren Park Ice Rink, 6601 N. Western Ave., and two downtown in Millennium Park.

### Park ice rink and ribbon now open

The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Millennium Park is now open until Feb. 2, 2025, 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. daily.

Also very popular is the skating ribbon at Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph. The skating ribbon is available now through Mar. 9, 2025.

More information at [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/ice-rinks](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/ice-rinks).

### Cirque Experience show, Dec. 21

Warren Park Ice Rink hosts the Cirque Experience Holiday Show

on Dec. 21 at 5 p.m.

More information at <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/cirquesexperience-enjoy-season-show-warren>

### Holiday hockey tournament at Warren Park, Dec. 27-28

Warren Park is hosting a woman's 4-on-4 Holiday Ice Hockey Tournament, on Dec. 27-28 at 6601 N. Western Ave.

Sign-up costs \$200 per team, and one captain from each team must sign up. There will be two divisions, beginner and intermediate, and all teams are guaranteed three games and a chance at playoffs. Games take place on Dec. 27 and Dec. 28.

### Silver Skates Citywide Championship, Jan. 18

McFetridge Sports Center, 3843 N. California Ave., hosts the 108th Silver Skates Citywide Championship on Jan. 18, 2025 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information at [https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/chicagoparkdistrict/activity/search/detail/527181?onlineSiteId=0&from\\_original\\_cui=true](https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/chicagoparkdistrict/activity/search/detail/527181?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true).

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## SAVOR from p. 2

**Goodman** who died during the pandemic of 1918. This is a once-in-a-life time opportunity to own one of Chicago's iconic estates, showcasing over 25,000 sq. ft. of combined living spaces and situated on nearly a third of an acre on the Gold Coast's coveted Astor St. This palatial architectural masterpiece designed by **Howard Van Doren Shaw** for the Goodman Family is on the market for the first time in 40 years, promising to leave you speechless, all for only \$21 million.

**PAX TIBI: Robert Kotner** of Seneca was an erudite member of the intelligentsia, a noble man of learning and wit. He is remembered now as a true Caxtonian, a man of wisdom who cherished the physical and intellectual value of books. In all their aspects. Most especially their artistic and historical conceptualization that opens minds and hearts. In 1993, Bob founded the Caxtonian Literary Magazine which continues today to be distributed bi-monthly by the Caxton Club of Chicago. I was privileged to be a member years ago of the Caxton Club of Chicago, named for **William Caxton**, the individual who first printed, in 1473, a bound volume of literature, "Recuyell of the Histories of Troye," in Bruges. Bob gave his heart and soul to cherishing the value, physicality and the artistry of the book. This scholar's passing will be memorialized on December 22 in Seneca. His many kindnesses and shared wisdom are remembered with gratitude.



Proposed changes for landmark bank building at Halsted and Exchange streets.

**STOCKYARD REBUILD:** An \$80 million music facility is the winning respondent to a Dept. of Planning and Development Request For Proposal for the landmark bank building and nearby land at Halsted and Exchange streets in New City.

The \$80 million "Scoring Stage" complex by developer Third Coast Music would be capable of recording musical ensembles up to 100 people for film, television and music industries. The project would also include space for post-production, special events, education and a Chicago Music Museum.

The proposed project is subject to City Council review and approval.



Tom Skilling

**WHO'S WHERE: Jim and Fleur Sweaney** with **Father Rich Jakubik**, pastor at St. Marty of the Woods... **Jane Justic** and daughter, **Jill Justic Cress**, in Kansas City for the H&R Block kick-off... **Bob and Cindy Curran** lapping beside the blue waters of Hawaii... TV Weatherman **Tom Skilling** in his favorite place, a garden dearly loved and so beautiful, the Hawaiian Tropical Botanical Garden just north of Hilo on the Big Island off Highway 19... **Cheri James** had festive dinner with friends at Tre Dita, grateful to Leye for the delicious food and excellent hospitality not to mention just how gorgeous the restaurant is. Lots of holiday cheer, even some snow... **Marilyn Marilyn** on a morning film set in Chicago during a snowstorm. Can't reveal the name but she'll let us know soon where we can catch 10 seconds of her... **Sally Jo Morris Pfaff** celebrated a birthday with an army of dazzling ladies, including **Debi Catanacci**, **Sherrill Bodine**, **Bobbi Panter**, **Myra Reilly**, **Sheree Schimmer**, **Denise Tomasello**, **Sherry Lea Fox**, **Kathy Wolter Mondelli**, **Beverly Kitick**, **Irene Mojica** as **Tina Turner**, **Julia Jacobs**, **Lea Chavie**,



Devin Hester. Courtesy Jacob Funk/Chicago Bears

**Kate Krause Prange, Lauren Lein Cavanaugh**, and a full circle of Chicago... Team Joaquin at the Hilton Chicago for the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois' Gala, with **Jennifer Sutton Brieva** and **Dr. Joaquin Brieva**... Bears legends came to town to honor **Devin Hester**... **Bill and Cathy Bell Bartholomay**, iconic Chicago media and a walk down memory lane, an amazing afternoon behind the scenes at WTTW/Channel 11 studios... **Dr. Sandy Goldberg** thrilled with her Associate Board for the Silver Lining Foundation, she says, "They knocked it out of the park"... **Blase Foria** feeling festive at the "Great Escape" in Schiller Park... **Tina Weller** and **Dr. Nick Weller** at Eastnor Castle, in Herefordshire, England... **Steve Davis** and dad, **George Davis**, having scrumptious lunch at Piccolo Sogno... **Hector Gustavo Cardenas**, **Marius Morkvenus** at JFK Airport, NYC, with **Mama Cardenas** traveling to Japan... **Susan Gohl** and **Jonathan Grabill** walking the red carpet in Naples, FL, at the famed Zoo Ball Gala, ready to stay for the winter, they'll be missed... **Mark Olley** lunching in the bar at Gibson's Steakhouse in his Harry Potter outfit, Holy Hogwarts.

**RATZINGER PRIZE:** The prize established to honor the late Benedict XVI, **Joseph Ratzinger**, has been awarded to Notre Dame theologian, **Cyril O'Regan** and Japanese sculptor **Sotou** whose voluminous works of art fill the Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona.



Paul Hansen and Liam O'Connell

### FAMILY HISTORY TO A GRANDSON: by Paul J. Hansen

"Really do not recall which it was that night I prefer to think he liked the story that I told I've shared many with him as I have grown old My grandfathers died when I was a little guy So I want them to know me as time passes by The tales of family handed down to me That tell of how we all came to be Georg Burbach seeking a new land He sailed with wife and child in hand Germans settlers a 170 ago Were drovers, dealers, butchers did you know Or my Irish grandfather Michael Connery Who in the 1870s crossed the sea A saloonkeeper, builder and real estate man And the Norwegian Uncle Oscar who began A company building skyscrapers into the sky And bridges and subways before he would die This history of our family, the tales passed on He will remember and share after I am gone I wish I had heard them when I was a kid I wish I had known of all the things they did Hints, bits and pieces I heard along the way I turned into the stories I share today So listen carefully kids to that old man Learn the family stories as early as you can One day you will marry, have kids of your own And tell stories they'll tell when they're grown."

tog516@gmail.com

# Chicago Public School's classic Peanut Butter Cookies



Peanut butter cookies.  
Image courtesy The Country Cook by Brandie

BY ANDRIANA FOUSTANOU

For many Chicagoans, peanut butter cookies are a nostalgic treat, evoking memories of school cafeterias and lunchtime trays. Served in Chicago Public Schools [CPS] for decades, these cookies became a beloved staple of student meals and hold a special place in the city's culinary and cultural history, reflecting efforts to provide nutritious and affordable food during the mid-20th century.

And now the recipe has travelled beyond the school cafeteria line.

CPS alumni say they became popular in the 1960s at both elementary and high schools. The origins of the CPS peanut butter cookie are unclear, but the cookies were likely a variation on the original recipe for the school's butter cookies.

Though the recipe was nearly lost, it was rediscovered in 2015 thanks to a former school cafeteria worker and Chicago Tribune's detective work, reviving the tradition for nostalgic bakers. Just in time for

cookie season, here is the recipe:

- Ingredients:
- 1 cup granulated sugar
  - 1 cup packed brown sugar
  - 1 cup peanut butter (preferably creamy)
  - 1 cup shortening (or unsalted butter for a modern twist)
  - 2 eggs
  - 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
  - 1 ¼ teaspoons baking soda
  - ½ teaspoon baking powder
  - ¼ teaspoon salt

Instructions:  
Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C).  
Cream sugars, peanut butter, and shortening. Add eggs one at a time.

Sift together flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Gradually mix into wet ingredients.

Roll dough into walnut-sized balls, place on ungreased baking sheet, and flatten with a fork in a crisscross pattern.

Bake for 8–10 minutes until the edges are golden. Cool on sheet for 2 minutes, then transfer to a rack.

## Christmas Trees from Around the World, Dec. 6

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas invites the public to the 21st annual Christmas Trees from Around the World celebration. The event takes place on Dec. 6, from 5–6:30 p.m. at 118 N. Clark St., Room 112. The display runs Dec. 2–Jan. 2, 2025.

“All year long I work with people from countries all over the world,” said Pappas. “Over the years I have come to appreciate how Chicago is a melting pot of many different beautiful cultures and traditions.”

No reservation is required.

## Moody Bible Institute Candlelight Carols, Dec. 6-7

The Moody Bible Institute is hosting their annual Candlelight Carols on Dec. 6-7 at 820 N. LaSalle Blvd.

For more information about tickets and the concerts, visit [https://www.moodyconferences.com/?utm\\_source=2nd+Ward+Alerts&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3a38d3733c-f3855e43b1-182598813](https://www.moodyconferences.com/?utm_source=2nd+Ward+Alerts&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3a38d3733c-f3855e43b1-182598813).

### FRAUD from p. 3

have been discharged and 53 resigned before further action by management. In most cases on the OEIG website, the employees either lied about being self-employed or provided false information about their income.

Records show Deborah Reynolds-Jones was a human services caseworker who had been working for the IDHS since 2016. Reynolds-Jones told OEIG investigators that her barber recommended a company that could help her apply for the loan. She sent the company her personal information, including her Social Security number. The company filled out the form and simply asked her to sign. The information was inaccurate. Reynolds-Jones paid the company \$3,000 for their service after she fraudulently received a \$20,000 PPP loan.

In another case, Shanythia Anderson admitted to the OEIG that she allowed a third party to apply for a PPP loan on her behalf and that the information provided was inaccurate. She began working as a mental health technician at IDHS in 2020. Anderson met a woman on Facebook, and she sent her personal records. In exchange for this service, the woman was to receive half of her loan, \$10,000. Anderson worked at the Ludeman Development Center in Forest Park, where at least 36 other employees were accused of wrongdoing.

“It happens that in one particular location when you find out there are 37 people that have done this, they’ve obviously been talking to one another at work,” Gov. JB Pritzker said in a news conference last year. “Maybe somebody committed this kind of fraud and then tried to convince somebody else.”

IDHS declined to comment on why so many of its employees were implicated. IDHS is the largest public agency in Illinois, which could be one explanation. Crespo said that his best guess was that public employees had early access to the loan forms, so it was easier for them to understand how to file them, fraudulently or not.

“While the vast majority of IDHS’ roughly 14,000 State employees are hard-working people of strong character who work tirelessly to help the most vulnerable, it is deeply concerning any time an employee takes advantage of public programs,” IDHS said in a statement.

Other state agencies where the OEIG found multiple cases of PPP fraud included the Dept. of Corrections (31 cases), the Dept. of Children and Family Services (27), Pace (10) and the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services (8).

The OEIG, through the Executive Ethics Commission, publishes reports of wrongdoings only if there is proof of employee misconduct. It can refer cases to the Attorney General if the fraud is significant enough. The Attorney General, specifically the Public Integrity Bureau, then conducts its own investigation in order to prosecute involved public employees.

Many cases mentioned third parties who applied for the PPP loan on behalf of an individual. The DOJ has gone after some of these third parties in Illinois, but it’s unclear that these are the same third parties that helped public employees.

In June, a federal jury in Chicago convicted Had Isbah on charges of wire fraud. According to the DOJ, Isbah used his company, Flash Tax Service Inc., to file fraudulent loan applications on behalf of

his clients. Isbah would ask for an upfront fee to file the loan form, and when the client received the loan, he would charge an additional fee. A sentencing date has not yet been announced for Isbah.

In Sept. 2023, two Illinois businessmen were indicted on federal charges for obtaining \$7.8 million in fraudulent business loans. According to the DOJ, they recruited self-employed individuals to provide personal information. With that, they would fill out loan forms with false data by inflating the individuals’ income, for example. They would then charge the clients up to \$4,000 if the loan was successfully received. These two have not been

convicted.

There are severe consequences for PPP fraud. Knowingly declaring false statements to a financial institution can result in up to 30 years in prison or a fine of up to \$1 million. Wire fraud, the use of the Internet or electronic communication to carry out fraud, is a federal crime that can be punishable by up to 20 years in prison.



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DONATE SHOP SUPPORT

**GAP** from p. 5

budget.”

Programs like the Guaranteed Income Program, initiated under former Mayor Lori Lightfoot, exemplify pandemic-era spending that critics say is unsustainable. The program costs \$30 million annually to provide \$500 monthly payments to 5,000 low-income households. And certainly all the spending on recently arrived illegal aliens has blown up the 2024

budget.

Many Aldermen are calling for an end to such spending. They claim “59% of respondents in their survey support ending all pandemic-era programs funded by federal relief dollars,” their letter noted.

But crime and public safety remains a top priority. The 14 Aldermen emphasized that Police, Fire, and OEMC budgets have not kept pace with inflation, leaving them underfunded by \$316 mil-

**INSIDE PUBLICATIONS**

lion. Their polling data reveals 69% of residents believe the city spends “too little” on crime and public safety, reinforcing calls to redirect funds to essential services.

Criticism of the Mayor’s fiscal policies runs deep.

Ald. Waguespack noted, “Over the past year, as Mayor Johnson’s expenses were running out of control, he was not working collectively with the state but continued blaming them for the budget dis-

stress.” By a shocking 50-0 vote, aldermen rejected the Mayor’s proposed property tax increase, citing the lack of substantial efforts to reduce spending burdens on taxpayers.

Chicago’s fiscal crisis underscores the need for immediate action. The aldermen’s proposals include rightsizing city departments to pre-pandemic spending levels adjusted for inflation, which could save an estimated \$568 million, and redirecting

remaining American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] funds to reimbursable opportunities. As Ald. Waguespack noted, “Many aldermen hope that the mayor and his staff take this seriously and come back with a right-sized budget based on reality.”

With the Dec. 31 deadline looming, the pressure is on City Hall to implement meaningful reforms and avoid disastrous financial outcomes.

**Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale**

**Real Estate For Sale**

040404 -----  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- CHARLES C. FRAZIER, PARK TOWER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION Defendants 2024 CH 03640 5415 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, APT 1401 CHICAGO, IL 60640 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 6, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 3, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 5415 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, APT 1401, CHICAGO, IL 60640 Property Index No. 14-08-203-017-1141 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$318,025.26. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by

**Real Estate For Sale**

certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and 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 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). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN

**Real Estate For Sale**

POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiff’s Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, Chicago, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 24-005199. 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. MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250 Chicago IL, 60601 312-651-6700 E-Mail: AMP5@manleydeas.com Attorney File No. 24-005199 Attorney Code. 48928 Case Number: 2024 CH 03640 TJS#:# 44-2979 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is

**Real Estate For Sale**

deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. **Case # 2024 CH 03640** IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT – CHANCERY DIVISION EVERBANK, N.A. Plaintiff, -v- DONALD W SLACK; SHORELINE TOWERS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. 24 CH 00491 6301 North Sheridan Road, #18a, Chicago, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 7/22/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on 1/8/2025 located at 100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 6301 North Sheridan Road, #18a, Chicago, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-203-011-1242 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$39,255.76 Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certi-

**Real Estate For Sale**

fied funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC, No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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 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). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POS-

**Real Estate For Sale**

SESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff’s attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 23-172191L. Auction.com LLC 100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 – 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 23-172191L **Case Number: 24 CH 00491** NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 272727 ----- 202020 ----- **Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We’ll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700**

**Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale**

**Real Estate For Sale**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FREDDIE MAC SEASONED LOANS STRUCTURED TRANSACTION TRUST, SERIES 2019-3 Plaintiff -v- PHILLIP E. TAYLOR, ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DAUPHINE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 22 ch 11217 CALENDAR 57 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on January 8, 2025, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty’s office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 11-32-312-022-1007. Commonly known as 1301 W Northshore G, Chicago, IL 60626. The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Altman, Strautins & Kromm, LLC d/b/a Kluever Law Group, 200 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1880, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (312) 236-0077.

**Real Estate For Sale**

SPS001416-22FC1 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com **13256403** 040404 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR INDYMAC IMSC MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2007-HOA1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-HOA1 Plaintiff, -v- KRISTI BROWN, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF MORRIS LANDA, KATIE LANDA, MIRELLA DEMMA, DAMON RITENHOUSE, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MORRIS LANDA (DECEASED) Defendants 2017 CH 14739 6725 N ROCKWELL ST CHICAGO, IL 60645 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 27, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 3, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6725 N ROCKWELL ST, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 10-36-404-008-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

**Real Estate For Sale**

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and 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 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). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts

**Real Estate For Sale**

foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 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. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-17-14813 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2017 CH 14739 TJS#:# 44-3057 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. **Case # 2017 CH 14739 13256271** IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT – CHANCERY DIVISION Santander Bank, N.A. Plaintiff, -v- Emmanuel Brown; Farwell Avenue Condominium Association; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants Defendants. 2024CH02435 1652 WEST FARWELL AVENUE

**Real Estate For Sale**

UNIT GL, CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 8/21/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on 1/8/2025 located at 100 N LaSalle St, Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 1652 WEST FARWELL AVENUE UNIT GL, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-31-222-041-1039, (11-31-222-022 underlying) The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$112,243.97 Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC, No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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 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

**Real Estate For Sale**

is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff’s attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES PC (630) 794-5300 please refer to file number 14-24-01814. Auction.com LLC 100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 – 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 14-24-01814 **Case Number: 2024CH02435** NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 272727 ----- 202020 ----- **Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We’ll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700**

**North Township Real Estate For Sale**

**Real Estate For Sale**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff, -v- LESTER W. RODGERS, ROBERTA F. RODGERS, THE BELVEDERE CONDOMINIUMS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2022-JR1 TRUST Defendants 2023 CH 00979 270 EAST PEARSON STREET #602 CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 3, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 6, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 270 EAST PEARSON STREET #602, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-03-228-035-4086, Property Index No. 17-03-228-034-4015 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and 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.

**Real Estate For Sale**

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(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). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 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. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-23-00523 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21762 Case Number: 2023 CH 00979 TJS#:# 44-2822 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. **Case # 2023 CH 00979 13256589** IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**Real Estate For Sale**

COUNTY DEPARTMENT – CHANCERY DIVISION CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff, -v- UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF DANIEL P SHANNON A/K/A DP SHANNON, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DANIEL P SHANNON A/K/A DP SHANNON, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF DANIEL P SHANNON A/K/A D P SHANNON, DECEASED, WINTRUST BANK, N.A., 600 LAKE SHORE DRIVE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, CHRISTOPHER T. SHANNON AND JULIE FOX, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF DANIEL P SHANNON A/K/A DP SHANNON, DECEASED, Defendants. 22CH10749 600 N LAKE SHORE DR, UNIT 2509, CHICAGO, IL 60611 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 7/10/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on 1/8/2025 located at Auction.com, LLC, 100 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 600 N LAKE SHORE DR, UNIT 2509, CHICAGO, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-208-020-1273. The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$477,888.19 Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC, No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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.

**Real Estate For Sale**

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (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). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff’s attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC (217) 422-1719 please refer to file number 1665661. Auction.com LLC 100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 – 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 1665661 **Case Number: 22CH10749** NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 040404 ----- IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST2019-A Plaintiff, -v- MIKE TEOFILOVICH A/K/A MILAN TEOFILOVICH A/K/A MICHAEL TEOFILOVICH, DNA FINANCE CORPORATION, GOLD COAST GALLERIA GARAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, GOLD COAST GALLERIA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD

**Real Estate For Sale**

CLAIMANTS Defendants 19 CH 10674 111 WEST MAPLE STREET UNIT 1401 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 November 21, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 6, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 111 WEST MAPLE STREET UNIT 1401, CHICAGO, IL 60610 Property Index No. 17-04-422-039-1252 The real estate is improved with a white stone, high rise unit condominium with an attached multi car garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and 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 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). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POS-

**Real Estate For Sale**

SESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff’s Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. 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. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 20-057301L\_616171 Attorney Code. 61256 Case Number: 19 CH 10674 TJS#:# 44-3001 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. **Case # 19 CH 10674 13255881** 272727 ----- 202020 ----- **Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We’ll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700**

**NOT GUILTY** from p. 7

ing around them dispersed," said Howard.

"A gun was recovered from Mr. Richardson's person, and so this Court believes that the State has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Richardson is guilty of the offenses of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon," Howard found.

But, the judge said, prosecutors failed to prove Richardson committed second-degree murder or aggravated battery.

"It is not clear from the evidence or from any of the videos who had the gun or who fired the shots. It is as likely that Mr. Holliday had the gun and it accidentally went off when he was tussling with Mr. Richardson

as it is that Mr. Richardson had the gun," the judge explained.

"It's unclear from the video that... Mr. Richardson ever turned all the way around, as would have been necessary to actually shoot Mr. Holliday in the chest and had the bullet proceed on the trajectory that it did proceed," she continued. "And even if one assumes that Mr. Richardson fired the gun, given the fact that Mr. Richardson and Ms. Hill were leaving the park, had tried to get away from the crowd that the video clearly shows following them on at least two other occasions, I don't know that the State has met its burden under the requirements of second-degree murder, that his belief was unreasonable."

For those reasons, Howard

**INSIDE PUBLICATIONS**

said, she found Richardson not guilty of two counts of second-degree murder and one count of aggravated battery by firearm."

Richardson had been on electronic monitoring since Dec. 2022. Howard terminated those arrangements and ordered Richardson into custody to await sentencing next month.

She denied efforts by Richardson's attorney to put his client back on an ankle monitor and, when that failed, to get Richardson housed at the juvenile detention center instead of the Cook County jail.

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at 1930 N Clybourn Ave, Chicago, IL 60614 will sell the contents of the following units to satisfy a lien to the highest bidder on 12-27-24 by 11:00 AM at [WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM](http://WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM). All goods must be removed from the unit within 48 hours. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account. Unit #136 Barton Faist

**Notice of Public Sale**

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 18th of December, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at 3632 Lake Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091 at [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m. Jasmine Vale #F17 Jesse Lazar #A15

This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

**Notice of Public Sale**

Pro Self Storage intends to enforce its lien on certain self-service Storage Spaces in default listed below on the 18th of December, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at 2724 W. 21st St, Chicago, IL 60608 at [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) with the sale to conclude no earlier than 12:00 p.m.

1047 Dorothy Williams  
1117 Kyle Nunn  
1092 Kyle Nunn  
1120 Kyle Nunn  
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2023 Kyle Nunn  
2039 Kyle Nunn

**Notice of Public Sale**

This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder. The winning bidder must pay by cash at the time he/she is declared the winning bidder. Certain terms and conditions apply; see the Manager for additional details.

**Notice of Public Sale**

East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312)644-2000, is opening lockers: 4528X and 6630X (Heith Thorndill), 2809X (Jayshawn Howell), 4524X (Elbert Hatley) and 2808F (Anita V. Stephens), for public sale on December 30, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Cash only.

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— John Steinbeck

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# Night of the Raptors Dec. 5

A free family-oriented Owl Prowl will be held at North Park Village 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 in North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski.

Many of Chicago's migratory birds have left to avoid the winter cold, but December is still a fine time for birding because many of our local owls are still very active. Owls are considered raptors and are night hunters. Raptors have acute hearing and vision, which is estimated to be eight to 10 times that of humans.

This time of year many owls begin their courtship and mating rituals, and that means a whole lot of hooting, making them easier to spot. Owls can be found in many places in Chicago, including forest preserves, back alleys, and city parks. Lincoln Park is a great place for bird watching, where two great horned owls have recently been spotted.

Chicagoland sports a wide range of owls including Great Horned Owls, Short-eared Owls, Saw-whet Owls, Screech Owls, Barred Owls, and if you are lucky, the rare Snowy Owl.

Offered in partnership with the Chicago Park District, walk leader Edward Warden will host a free guided walk through the preserve in search of owls. No reservation is required.

Beginning birders of all ages welcome. The total trip walk distance is approximately one-mile walking. Trails are combination of crushed gravel and mulch.

Walkers will want to dress for the cold

weather with multiple layers as temperatures can drop rapidly after sunset and owling is frigid business. Flashlights are permitted but not required.

The word "raptor" is based on Latin words referring to seizing or plundering, and in birds focuses on the grasping, raptorial feet as a defining characteristic. While owls are not related to hawks or falcons, they're usually considered to be raptors anyway because they have such clearly predatory lifestyles.

Those who plan to go will meet inside the North Park Village Nature Center. Free parking is available in the parking lot. The village is accessible by public transit via the #53 and #84 CTA buses.

## PLUMBING from p. 1

six-story complex that has been DANK's headquarters since 1967.

Despite having closed bathrooms during an especially busy time of year when the cultural center has been hosting Christmas parties and concerts, the appeal contains language which may provide a hint of the problem.

"All donations, unless otherwise specified by the donor, will be used at the discretion of the DANK Haus to support our organization and our mission. If you would like to make a donation earmarked for a specific project or purpose, please contact our team at donations@dankhaus.com," according to the written statement from DANK officials.

Has funding that was meant to help with the construction project been diverted to other purposes? Over the last two weeks this newspaper has made numerous attempts to contact officials at the non-profit organization but has not received any response.

Originally the home of a private social club, the 77,000 square-foot DANK Haus building was designed by Paul Gerhardt, whose architectural commissions include the Chicago Public School's Lane Tech and von Steuben high schools.

## TEAM from p. 1

a way to lose.

But not this senior class, as freshmen this group was focused. They intended to win. Despite having a 4-6 record last year, they were in games last season even if they lost at the end. It was not going to be that way this year.

"In the last couple years, we have been close. There was nothing that could stop these guys," said Rams head coach Mike Passarella.

"They were determined. You saw it out there the whole year. We had three losses but we should have won two. These guys have battled through a lot. They fought through a lot. They wanted to be champions. They said this was their goal and here we are right now," said Passarella.

Friday's state championship game was a lopsided affair. The Rams controlled the game from the start offensively and defensively. The Rams held a 20-0 lead at

the start of the second quarter. DePaul's defense completely throttled the Braves.

The Rams showed dominance in the playoffs in all three phases: offense, defense and special teams. The DePaul Prep defense showed early that the division one players on the Braves squad, Brayden Trimble and JC Anderson, would not be a factor.

The DePaul Prep offense was led by senior quarterback Fernando "Jujú" Rodriguez. Ordinarily, Rodriguez throws for touchdowns. Early in the first quarter, after Mt. Zion managed only a three-yard punt. On the very next play, with Mt. Zion and everyone in the stadium looking for the Rams to throw deep for a quick strike touchdown, Rodriguez ran straight up the middle of the field for a 29-yard touchdown giving the Rams a 13-0 lead.

The Rams' balanced attack is usually equal measures running and passing. That has been their key to success this year. But Friday, it was the run game that carried the

Rams.

Senior running back and three-year starter Nick Martinez had 100-yards rushing on 19 carries for a 5.3 yard per carry average and three touchdowns. Ram's senior running back and defensive back Nicholas Hathcoat had 91-yards rushing on only four carries for a whopping 22.8 yards per carry and one touchdown. Rodriguez himself added 47 yards on 7 carries.

It wasn't all running. Rodriguez was 5 for 12 passing for 64 yards and one touchdown to wide receiver Braden Peevy.

While the Rams have rebounded from years of losing seasons to win a state championship, DePaul Prep had the winning tradition of Gordon Tech football to show it's possible. The students and players know about Gordon's history. Former DePaul Prep head coach Bill Jeske was a member of the 1980 Gordon state championship team and frequently attends the football games. His son Emmit just recently played football at DePaul. Bill's

son Liam is a teacher in the school.

After last weekend's victory over Coal City, Bill Jeske said, "Even though the name [of the school] has changed, the Rams' traditions continue. I spent last night with my friends [from the 1980 championship team]. I said this team is just like us. They are a team of destiny."

Bill is right. This year's DePaul Prep Rams are indeed a team of destiny.

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