

The groundhog is like most other prophets;  
it delivers its prediction and then disappears.

—Bill Vaughn

# SKYLINE

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NEWS OF THE LOOP, STREETERVILLE, RIVER NORTH, NEAR NORTH, GOLD COAST & OLD TOWN

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## Construction starts at 400 Lake Shore

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN  
*Loop North News*

With construction financing in place, actual construction has started on 400 Lake Shore, starting with the 72-story north tower that will add 1.1 million square feet of residential space and 4.5 acres of public green space to Streeterville.

Following site preparation in December, construction officially began in early January, according to the developer, Related Midwest, which estimates completion of the north tower in “early 2027.”

Though declining to reveal the estimated cost of the project, Related Midwest has confirmed it has \$500 million in financing to build the tower, mostly from



New rendering of the crown of the north tower of 400 Lake Shore, designed by the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

tax-exempt bonds issued by the Illinois Housing Development Authority [IHDA].

The bonds are used to finance the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois.

Though clearly being marketed collectively as a luxury residence, Related Midwest says 127 of the 635 units, or 20 percent, will be “affordable,” as defined by the IHDA. To qualify for the financing and a state tax break, the units must be affordable to residents with household incomes between 30 and 50 percent of the Area Median Income.

The first phase of construction will include DuSable Park, a 3.3-acre public park on the east side of Lake Shore Dr. Designed by Ross Barney Architects, it will be accessed from a 19-to-26-foot-wide walkway passing under Lake Shore Dr., and from a planned extension of the Chicago Riverwalk. Related Midwest is

**CONSTRUCTION** see p. 12



Repair work on the Division Street Bascule Bridge over the North Branch Chicago River began, Jan. 2, and is expected to last until Feb. 9.

## Feb. 15 virtual review of North Side bridge replacements, riverfront projects

Those who are interested in upcoming bridge work of the North Branch of the Chicago River can join North Branch Works 10 a.m. Feb. 15, for a webinar about bridge replacements and development projects in the North Branch.

The 75-minute virtual meeting will provide information and updates on the major public and private sector projects along the North Branch.

The program will provide time for questions and answers. To sign up for the meeting visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8121212121>.

Topics will include the replacement of the bridges on Division St. on Goose Island and the replacement of the Chicago Avenue Bridge and Halsted Viaduct project; the first phase of the Halsted Pointe Development by Onni Group; the replacement of Cortland Street Bridge, and the construction of Bally's Casino, a \$1.74 billion investment in the North Branch at Chicago and Halsted.

As these projects move forward, North Branch hopes to keep neighbors informed so that disruptions are minimized as much as possible.

## Tech CEO killed in corporate event accident, owned last unit at Trump Tower

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN  
*Loop North News*

Sanjay Shah never found the time to move into his penthouse unit on the 89th floor of Trump International Hotel & Tower.

Shortly after purchasing Unit 89A for \$17 million on Dec. 8, 2014, Shah, the CEO of Vistex Inc., a global software company based in Hoffman Estates, said he would spend another \$15 million on the interior and then use the 14,260 square foot space as a second residence. He lived in South Barrington at the time with his wife and two daughters.

According to The Times of India, the 53-year-old was in an iron cage fashioned to look like the gondola of a hot air balloon, with the president of Vistex, Vishwanath Raju Datla, when a wire that was attached to the cage snapped, causing the men to fall 15-20 feet to the concrete stage in front of 700 guests. Datla was in critical condition as of Jan. 20.

When Shah purchased the 89th floor penthouse unit at Trump

Tower, it was at the time the highest private home in the western hemisphere. Property taxes were estimated at \$320,000 per year, homeowner association fees at \$12,000 per month, and one parking space would cost another \$100,000.

Even at \$17 million, it was Chicago's most expensive residential real estate sale ever.

According to Chicago real estate broker Chezi Rafaeli, it was the last of the 486 units that were originally owned by the developer, Donald Trump.

Shah sold the unit on March 7, 2022, for \$20 million — \$10 million less than his asking price but \$3 million more than he paid for it.

Reportedly, Shah did put up walls in the unfinished unit, built two bathrooms, and hosted “a few” events, but never resided there.

Shah was born in Mumbai, India. He founded Vistex in 1999. The company currently has 20 offices worldwide and 2,000 employees.



Sanjay Shah

## Holiday festivities, downtown attractions boosted Loop foot traffic

The Chicago Loop Alliance [CLA] recently released its fourth quarter [Q4] 2023 State of the Loop report on downtown activity, using a variety of data sources.

The report tracks pedestrian activity, shared mobility and transit, hotel occupancy, office workers on-site, arts and culture, retail, and other data points.

Record-breaking attendance at holiday attractions and theater performances; improved hotel activity and an increase in office traffic can be attributed to the in-



LOOP see p. 12

Christmas window.

Photo courtesy Chicago Loop Alliance

## Federal government is trying to kill ‘gig work’

### Independent Contractor Rule: Why we need to pay attention

*The Independent Writers of Chicago [IWOC] last week sent out a notice of a pending regulatory crisis being cooked up in Washington D.C., relating to IWOC's ongoing Fight for Freelancers. IWOC wants small independent businesses, sole operators and gig workers to understand the situation, and is encouraging people to take action in an effort to stop the devastating, job-destroying US Dept. of Labor regulation now set to drop on March 11.*

*Following below is a commentary IWOC is now distributing.*

BY JENNIFER OLIVER  
O'CONNELL

While we've been distracted, the Biden administration is eroding small businesses and snatching away the livelihoods of independent contractors through bureaucratic fiat. The Acting Sec-

retary of Labor, Julie Su, quietly dropped a revised Independent Contractor Rule on Jan. 9, and it's as bad as expected.

California Rep. Kevin Kiley has been at the forefront of this war against independent professionals, and he has rendered the bad news ahead of the upcoming Dept. of Labor [DOL] announcement: That they've announced an Independent Contractor [IC] rule based on California's notorious AB 5 law, and it will put Chicagoans out of work.

Since 2022, there are 57.3 million Americans who consider themselves freelancers, independent contractors, self-employed, gig workers or entrepreneurs.

The legacy media's tendency to lump all of these categories under the “gig” economy simply frames it in people's minds as technology or rideshare; but these are your dental hygienist, your child's

soccer coach, fabricators, farrriers, home health care providers, maids, gardeners, landscapers, even writers and newspaper delivery crew for this newspaper. Over 600 professions have been identified that would be upended or outright eliminated when this DOL IC Rule takes effect.

Kiley talks about the wreckage AB5 left behind in California. Wreckage that, four years later, still has not been fully quantified. Americans can expect the same damage nationwide if this rule is allowed to be implemented.

Chicagoans can expect the same damage.

Two hundred Ph.D. economists reported the law is “doing substantial, and avoidable, harm to the very people who now have the fewest resources and the worst alternatives available to them.”

**GIG WORK** see p. 10



# Moral teaching in the post-nuclear age



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

The Associated Press has reported, “New York prosecutors (on Jan. 19) returned two pieces of art they say were stolen by Nazi’s from a Jewish performer and collector murdered in the Holocaust.”

Did I miss the president of the Art Institute of Chicago [AIC], James Rondeau’s, recapitulation of the Holocaust?

Or the Board of the AIC’s renunciation of Gestapo tactics in the collecting of fine arts?

As Chicagoans are we supposed to sustain membership in the AIC, donate to the AIC and fund raise on behalf of the AIC folk who still flirt with the Nazi artistic past?

Hasn’t anyone at the AIC seen “Woman in Gold?”

Is the City of Chicago supposed to continue letting their name be

used in the shameful collecting of questionable artwork that may be tied to actions of Hitler’s Third Reich?

What’s it gonna take to keep us from learning the bright lessons of a better, more stable history?

How long can we keep kidding ourselves?

When did it become permissible for us to look the other way, absolving ourselves of insincere phoniness just to pick up a couple of landscapes or portraits that may have been sold for the Nazi five-finger discount?

You know, the ones in which we appear to discover some of the remorsefully pathetic moral teachings of our age?

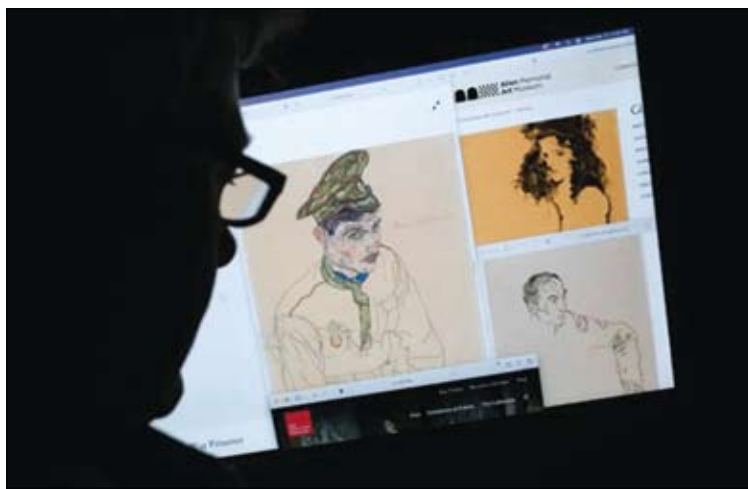
The ones, you’ll recall, in which we act as if we really are paying attention to the challenges to our age. And to faith. And to the abiding presence in our lives of the Creator who strung the stars.

What are they putting in the cappuccino at the AIC?

Several pieces of the youthful Egon Schiele’s art currently in U.S. museums are claimed to be stolen from a Jewish collector and cabaret performer Fritz Grünbaum, during World War II. Mostly smaller works of great value.

Prosecutors hot on the trail say that 10 of Schiele’s paintings reappeared in Switzerland in the 1950s as part of a shady art deal with members of the Nazi regime. This moved the deal of their sales to the New York galleries.

On Jan. 19, one of Grünbaum’s



Schiele’s portraits.

heirs thanked leaders at Oberlin College and the Carnegie Institute for returning the works housed at their institutions. Each a stolen piece of art, saying they “did the right thing.”

Here in Chicago a faulty misreading of cultural guidelines and distorted aesthetics by institutional museum management seems to encourage the petit bourgeoisie museum staff to embrace lunacy and observe the destruction of their own well-meaning search for truth.

Do museum employees, like those at AIC, who in the past have been sharp critics of public concerns over their own internal policies really think they are free of responsible action in such instances?

But I now grow alarmingly fearful at the compass failures to find True North. Are we that directionless? Skidding off the beaten path and toppling over the edge?

Many who have risen to advanced authority within museum circles act as if they are not bound to the same moral codes, standards and legislation as the rest of us. Power can be hypnotic. It certainly creates hubris.

Perhaps you recall the scene in the Helen Mirren film in which Luftwaffe Field Marshal Hermann Goering’s wife, Emmy, a zophtic chubette in full-bodied elegance, is at the opera wearing the golden neck-wrap in which the portrait by the great Gustav Klimt is painted. Stolen of course from we know where.

The film’s story of the rescue of art stolen by the Nazis in Vienna during WWII is heart-wrenching. Carting off pilfered art treasures stolen from wealthy Jews. Its larger story is the tale of a swastika-theft of the priceless Klimt portraits, including that of Adele Block-Bauer. And the conspiracy of Austrian museums to hide the truth from the public for half a century. Until family member Maria Altman challenged the moral compass of Austrian justice and freed millions of dollars in art treasures from prestigious Austrian museums.

A stunning literature arises depicting the inhuman terror of the Holocaust. The wholesale slaughter of human beings and the perishing of human virtue and justice? The proof we have lost all innocence. The proof Edith Wharton maybe right.

Just ask the Manhattan District

Attorney Alvin Bragg, who’s been trying his stolen Nazi art case and pulling his hair out at the reluctance of the AIC, of all places, to co-operate with the courts and release the questionable stolen loot from the era of the Third Reich.

We are told in the proper settlement of the case, only the AIC is a



Alvin Bragg

holdout to the moral dilemma wrought by the case.

Works from the AIC have been flim-flammed outside the court’s control.

The D.A.’s involvement moved the cases from civil court to criminal court. Bragg issued warrants to out-of-state museums claiming to own the works.

The AIC’s Russian War Prisoner (1916) being one of them.

Grünbaum’s heirs are attempting to recover these through a series of ongoing civil lawsuits. Plaintiffs in the cases are David Fraenkel and Timothy Reif, both co-trustees of Grünbaum’s estate, and Milos Vavra.

The descendants say that the Nazis forced Grünbaum into signing an unlawful power of attorney in 1938, while he was detained at Germany’s Dachau concentration camp. Before dying there.

Shame is the legacy with which the AIC seeks to beckon the unquestioning public about the ways and shenanigans of behind the scenes art curating. It no longer seeks to raise the public’s IQ or their appetites for collecting morally uplifting works. Or shifting the historic commentary of the AIC’s French Impressionist collection to a higher sense of sacredness, guide-lining the contours of modern art.

A New York judge had already ruled in 2018 that two other works by Schiele had to be turned over to Grünbaum’s heirs under the Holocaust Expropriated Recovery Act, passed by Congress.

Truth. Reason. Probity. These are the tangential substances of wider intellect and soul. And the internal ability to converse in reasoned conversation. Someone tell President Rondeau.

Post-nuclear morality will have it no other way. A lovely shade of mushroom.

**BUST:** The real estate crash takes another, as a foreclosure lawsuit has been filed in Cook County Court on the Sonder’s River North Hotel, a short-term rental hotel at 613 N. Wells St. Seems that California-based firm Hawkins Way Capital owes \$5.2 million on a loan that matured

last December. Not the first, won’t be the last. How the mighty have fallen.

**CLOSURE:** What? Just heard that Marchesa on Rush is closing... why? Superb vittles, elegant decor, sophisticated staff and the right Chicago crowd for staying afloat... what does that tell you... Marchesa’s owner **Kathryn Sullivan Alvera** was so wise and gifted... thanks dear... sad finale for **Nikki Friar**.

**MAPLE AND ASH:** Sounds like they’ve stopped throwing pots and pans in the kitchen at Maple & Ash Steakhouse. Peace lightening strikes the ‘What If Syndicate’ partners **Jim Lasky** and **David Pisor** along with chef **Danny Grant**. They will retain ownership of Maple & Ash, as well as Monarch and Kessaku brands. Let’s eat. I’m starved. Etta, River North, 700 N. Clark, owned by syndicate partner Pisor, has just announced that it is closing after three years.

**NO NEW BALLPARK:** Our friend **Maja Ramirez** is up in arms over over White Sox ownership seeking another new stadium near our many lovely museums, and nearly inescapable nightlife in the South Loop, asking who decided to envelop Comiskey Park with parking lots? “I resent their assumption that as a taxpayer I should be grateful enough to help foot the bill for this giant boondoggle — excuse me, pipe dream. If the Sox so envy the Cubs and other teams who have real neighborhoods close by, within walking distance of their obsession, let them figure out a way to gussy up their current spot instead!”

**I SCREAM:** For ice cream. Put on your PJs and grab a spoon, the best day of the year is here: Ice Cream For Breakfast Day, 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 3,

**MORAL** see p. 8

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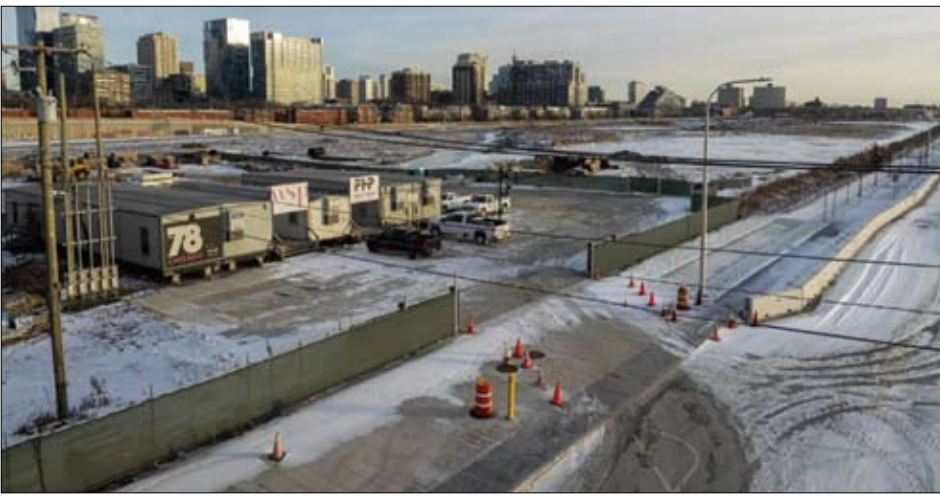
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"The 78," [left] is a 62-acre nearly vacant mega-development site on the Chicago River in the South Loop. If the proposed riverfront Bally's Casino site at Chicago Ave. and Halsted St. fails to work out [right], one option would be to relocate the project to the South Loop, on the site of The 78.

# Bally's Casino, is there something fishy by the river?



The Home Front  
by Don DeBat

Professional gamblers are laughing at Bally's inept roll of the dice to launch its casino in Chicago.

The latest torpedo sending the \$1.7-billion Bally's River West casino proposal down the drain is a deep tunnel water pipe that recently has been "discovered" under the site of a 500-room high-rise hotel planned at Chicago Ave. and Halsted St.

"Bally's also is playing its cards badly at the temporary Medina Temple casino in River North," Mr. Zak, a veteran professional gambling consultant, told The Home Front.

Despite opening up the Medina Temple location to 24/7, picking up the private parking tab for tens of thousands of gamers and bussing hundreds of Chinese and Asian gamblers to the temporary casino, the \$8.5 million revenue stream there over the past few months has pumped only \$3.1 million into the City of Chicago tax coffers.

That's almost \$10 million short of what former Mayor Lori Lightfoot's administration projected and earmarked to fund the city's police and firefighter pensions.

In addition to the casino's 3,400 slot machines and 173 gaming tables, Bally's plan also includes a hotel, an entertainment complex, a food hall, four bars, an outdoor park and an amenity terrace.

Financial experts say casino revenue theoretically is a great source to use for city pensions because it exports the tax burden—at least a portion of the tax revenue

generated from casino operations would come from individuals who do not live in the city. However, if casino revenues fall short, the city may need to increase existing real estate taxes or find an alternative revenue source.

In 2022, Bally's predicted the casino would pump \$200 million annually into city pension coffers. However, Bally's is not contractually required by the city to actually deliver that amount.

"Bally's Corp. is not faring well," said David Greising, president of the Better Government Assn. "The company lowered its earnings and announced layoffs after losing money in the quarter ending in Nov. 2023. This has caused some speculation that Bally's might downsize its plans for Chicago."

Bally's already has reduced its overall project cost to \$1.3 billion from \$1.7 billion. The proposed Bally casino would replace the former Chicago Tribune printing plant on 30 acres at 777 W. Chicago Ave. in the River West neighborhood.

This bustling intersection is boxed in by the Chicago River, vehicular bridges and Metra railroad tracks—not an ideal site for a mega development. Traffic congestion on Chicago Ave. west of Halsted also includes a steady flow of trucks from a cement plant on Goose Island.

Recently, city bus boosters and bike enthusiasts also are up in arms about the Chicago Dept. of Transportation's plans for widening Chicago Ave. at Halsted St. near the proposed casino site. The CTA's No. 66 Chicago route is one of the city's busiest bus lines. The gambling facility is expected to further add to the traffic volume in the area.

Despite a fast-tracked 2022 approval of the Bally's casino proposal by the City Council, there is continued hand-wringing about Mayor Lightfoot's largely secretive

selection process, lack of review, quick passage of the deal, and the moral pitfalls of gambling itself.

Bally's upfront \$40 million cash gift helped overcome some of those concerns over morality in City Haul.

In 2022, Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] said Lightfoot's attempt to rush the casino deal through the City Council raised the specter of Mayor Richard M. Daley's infamous parking-meter deal, which also was rammed through with little transparency and even less debate.

Recently, Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] has expressed doubts about the expected 2026 opening date for the permanent casino. "The target date for construction of the new permanent casino seems optimistic at best," he said.

However, experts say the choice of the Bally's site at the nearly impassable corner of Chicago Ave. and Halsted St. is likely the worst possible location for a successful, money-making casino to bail the city out

of its pension debacle.

"Bally's bought the deal with [that] \$40-million upfront bribe," observed Mr. Zak. "The Chicago-and-Halsted site is the most horrendous place they could put it."

Mr. Zak, nicknamed "Dog Daddy" because of his great love for canines, resides in Old Town only a few blocks away from Bally's River West proposed site.

However, Mr. Zak regularly commutes to the Hard Rock Casino in Gary, IN, to gamble. "The Hard Rock casino makes \$1-million a day in profit," said Mr. Zak, who is friendly with casino management because of his status as a big-stakes player.

Former Mayor Lightfoot spun her roulette wheel while trying to choose between five proposals for the launch of a giant Chicago enterprise casino. The proposals came after lawmakers in Springfield changed the casino tax structure and passed a pile of chips to the gaming industry.

CASINO see p. 4

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# Former Lake View businessman Sasaki dead at 87

John Sasaki, 87, former World War II U.S. political prisoner, and later the owner of Barry Regent Cleaners in Lake View, died on Jan. 9.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Becky (nee Alstott) and survived by his three daughters, Emily Sasaki (Richard Attack), Ellen Sasaki McGarry (Dan McGarry) and Meggie Sasaki-Resendiz (Russ Resendiz) and by his four grandchildren, Gavin Attack, Mallory Attack, Addyson McGarry and Parker McGarry.

He was born in Los Angeles, CA, on April 16, 1936. As a result of World War II, he and his family were unfairly incarcerated in camps for people of Japanese ancestry. First, he was at Heart Mountain in Wyoming, next at Topaz in Utah.

The Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor launched a rash of fear about national security, especially on the West Coast. In Feb. 1942, just two months later, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 that resulted in the internment of Japanese Americans. The order authorized the Secretary of War and military commanders to evacuate all persons deemed a threat from the West Coast to internment camps, that the government called "relocation centers," further inland.

Because of the perception of "public danger," all Japanese Americans within varied distances from the Pacific Coast were targeted. Unless they were able to dispose of or make arrangements for care of their property within a few days, their homes, farms,

businesses, and most of their private belongings were lost forever.

After the war, and imprisonment, the Sasaki family re-located to Chicago. It became his most-loved city and was where he lived out the rest of his life. He was the valedictorian of Lake View High School and also attended the Univ. of Chicago.

He was very proud to have served his country in the U.S. Army and was also very dedicated to his family business. He owned and operated Barry-Regent Cleaners, 3000 N. Broadway,

which was established in 1950 by his mother, Asako "Mona" Sasaki.



John Sasaki

John was an avid fisherman, reader, sports fan and an active member of the Lakeview East Community.

A Memorial gathering was held on Sunday, Jan. 28, at Lakeview Funeral Home, 1458 W. Belmont Ave. Interment at Montrose Cemetery to be held privately at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to The Japanese American Service Committee ([www.jasc-chicago.org/donate](http://www.jasc-chicago.org/donate)).

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## Chicago Day of Remembrance will be Feb. 17-18

Signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 led to the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII. Every year, the Japanese American community in Chicago comes together

to commemorate E.O. 9066 as a reminder of the fragility of civil liberties in times of crisis and the importance of protecting the rights and freedoms of all.

This year, Day of Remembrance 2024 will include three events focused on intergenerational impact. All events are free and open to the public.

- Saturday, Feb., 17, 2:30 p.m., Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark St.: "Intergenerational Conversations: Ripples of the Past"; a workshop on intergenerational conversations for the Nikkei community. Advanced registration required : <https://bit.ly/dor2024intergenconvo>
- Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m.,

Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St.: "Japanese American Incarceration; Healing Histories Across Generations"; this Day of Remembrance main event will feature a conversation between Midwest based keynote speakers Jami Nakamura Lin, author of "The Night Parade: A Speculative Memoir," and Dr. Donna Nagata, researcher of intergenerational impact from Japanese American incarceration. Advanced registration is required: <https://7615a.blackbaudhosting.com/7615a/Day-of-Remembrance-18-Feb2024>

- Sunday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m. at the Chicago History Museum: An interactive children's program, "Healing Through Generations"

will occur at the same time as the main event offering interactive stations to learn and connect with incarceration history. This drop-in event program is for preschool through 6th graders and their caregivers. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 7th grade and up can attend individually. Advanced registration is not required.

Advanced registration is required for the workshop and main event. Registration and more information can be found on the DOR website: <https://chicagodor.wordpress.com>.

For more information call Rebecca Ozaki at [rebecca@jaclchicago.org](mailto:rebecca@jaclchicago.org) or call 773-728-7171.

## CASINO from p. 3

Mr. Zak—and this writer—agree that the best logical start-up casino site was Lakeside Center—the original McCormick Place East—for what could have been an instant "pop-up" downtown casino that likely would have instantly raised millions in gaming tax dollars for the city.

Construction experts say Lakeside Center originally was designed and wired decades ago for a future casino, and there is plenty of nearby parking. During the pandemic in 2020, some \$15-million in renovation upgrades were added into Lakeside Center to convert it to an emergency hospital for up to 2,500 COVID-19 patients.

Despite the fact the pop-up hospital was never used in the pandemic, FEMA paid for the work, and the Army Corps of Engineers supervised construction, so these funds really were a gift from Uncle Sam.

The seldom-used, 50-year-old Lakeside Center has 583,000 square feet of exhibit space. It is located near 2,900 hotel rooms, designed for high-traffic events, and would help draw thousands of eager conventioner gamblers.

There is also a 10,000 seat arena already there for live concerts and sporting events.

However, to make Lakeside Center work—as a commonsense, temporary casino—a two-year lease would have had to be drafted between Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, managers of McCormick Place,



Bally's has already reduced its overall casino project construction cost to \$1.3 billion from \$1.7 billion.

and Chicago-based Rush Street Gaming. The company is headed by Chicago real estate developer Neil Bluhm, who owns four casinos, including Rivers Casino Des Plaines, the top-grossing venue in Illinois.

Mr. Zak and many aldermen, including Ald. Hopkins, also believe another perfect site for construction of the new, permanent casino is "The 78," a 62-acre nearly vacant mega-development site on the Chicago River in the South Loop. Rush Street Gaming previously had worked with master developer Related Midwest on its proposed new-construction casino called "Rivers 78 Gaming" on the site of The 78.

And go figure, now by coincidence the White Sox want to play at The 78.

"Going forward, any urban planner with vision can see that the site of The 78 is by far the best choice for location of the new casino for future decades," Mr. Zak said.

"With the proposal for a new White Sox baseball park also built on vacant land at The 78, a dual casino-stadium plan could be a big revenue winner. The city of Chicago should pull out of the Bally's deal," Mr. Zak said.

Even if they have to give back the \$40 million.

Along with the casino, why not add a domed stadium for both the White Sox and the Chicago Bears and turn The 78 into a Chicago mega sports, gaming and entertainment district?

Now, the chips are in the hands of Mayor Brandon Johnson. With his 21% approval rating, and his somewhat frequent panic attacks, he should be ready to wheel and deal. Let's just hope he doesn't get rolled.

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).



# CHA drops 8-ball on deadly opioid overdose response

## Opioid overdose death toll far surpasses gun-related murders

**Fentanyl testing kits, Narcan available at all city libraries**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOB ZULEY

With Cook County on pace to match the 2022 record for opioid overdose deaths, the Chicago Dept. of Public Health [CDPH] and the Chicago Public Library [CPL] have collaborated in providing Narcan nasal spray and fentanyl testing kits free-of-charge to the public at CPL branches with no questions asked.

Narcan is the brand name of the medication naloxone, which reverses an opioid overdose. Fentanyl is a very powerful opioid that can quickly cause overdose. Much of the heroin, cocaine, and other illicit substances now likely contains fentanyl, according to the CDPH.

The CDPH additionally offers these harm reduction initiatives at its offices, STI clinics, and mental health centers.

The goal of this program is to prevent fatal opioid overdoses such as those of Lindsay Daly, 70, of 5821 N. Broadway, David L. Edwards, 53, of Albany Park, and Royce Daugherty, 38, of Rogers Park.

The three were found dead on Sept. 29, 2023, in Daly's 12th floor unit in the Judge Fisher Apartments, a 195-unit Chicago Housing Authority [CHA] senior citizen building located at 5821 N. Broadway in Edgewater. Edwards and Daugherty were visiting.

The three deaths were each attributed earlier this month by the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office [MEO] to a fatal cocaine-fentanyl overdose. The three succumbed to different cocaine-fentanyl mixtures suggesting different sources of



(L-R) Fentanyl is now one of Chicago's most deadly killers. Drug testing kits are meant to expose the presence of fentanyl in legal and illegal drugs, and are now becoming readily available throughout the city. Narcan (naloxone) is used to stop an overdose from becoming a death. Three people recently died from a fentanyl overdose at the Judge Fisher Apartments, a 195-unit Chicago Housing Authority senior citizen building located at 5821 N. Broadway.

***Despite the fact that more people are dying in Chicago now from drug overdoses than gun violence, Angel Rubi Navarijo added that no one had previously asked about opioid overdose mitigation efforts at the CHA site.***

the illicit substance.

Matt Aguilar, CHA Manager of Communications, was asked how many overdose deaths occur in CHA housing sites and how his agency makes opioid overdose mitigation efforts known to CHA building tenants.

While Aguilar didn't know the number of opioid overdose deaths, he did say, "CHA utilizes the expertise of approved health partners (Advocate Medical Group, Jackson Park Hospital, Prevention Partnership, and the SHARE Network/Univ. of

Chicago) that provide regular information on substance misuse and overdose prevention at our buildings."

The statement concluded, "Although CHA does not have Narcan or test strips in its buildings, we will look into this possibility."

Despite the CHA's professional band of medical advisors, no one has implemented an opioid overdose awareness and mitigation plan that is already used extensively elsewhere by city agencies.

Angel Rubi Navarijo, Director of Neigh-

### How does it work?

Naloxone quickly reverses an overdose by blocking the effects of opioids. It can restore normal breathing within 2 to 3 minutes in a person whose breath has slowed, or even stopped, as a result of opioid overdose.

More than one dose of naloxone may be required when stronger opioids like fentanyl are involved.

Naloxone won't harm someone if they're overdosing on drugs other than opioids, so it's always best to use it if you think someone is overdosing.

If you give someone naloxone, stay with them until emergency help arrives or for at least four hours to make sure their breathing returns to normal.

It should be noted that naloxone is not guaranteed to save a person's life, as fentanyl is a very strong drug.

In British Columbia, Canada, where overdose deaths are soaring as drug laws become more lax, social scientists have found that broadening access to Narcan led to more opioid-related emergency room visits. No measurable reduction in opioid deaths has been seen in the Canadian province. Users may possibly be using more potent doses, being aware that naloxone is available.

borhood Services for Ald. Leni Mana-Hoppenworth [48th] stated that their office has informed the CHA and the Judge Fisher building that they can "... send resources to the building about detox services and

**OVERDOSE** see p. 10

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# Police Beat...

## Venezuelan migrant arrested three times in three months

Franklin Travieso Zerpa, a 31-year-old Venezuelan migrant living at the Standard Club shelter in the Loop, has managed to do something few native Chicagoans have done: get arrested three times in three months.

His local legal troubles began on Oct. 30, 2023, after TJ Maxx employees allegedly saw him take a suitcase from a display, stuff it with items, and head for the door, according to a CPD arrest report. Charged with misdemeanor retail theft, he was released from the station a short time later.



Franklin Travieso Zerpa

Then, on Dec. 21, Standard Club employees summoned police to the shelter after they allegedly saw a "large amount" of marijuana in his bag when he went through a security checkpoint. The staff gave police a box containing 76 hand-rolled cigarettes "suspected to be marijuana" that they seized from him, another CPD report said.

Zerpa allegedly told the officer that he had the 76 joints for "personal use" but conceded that he also sold them for \$3 each, according to the report. He was charged with felony manufacture-delivery of cannabis.

With those cases still pending, Zerpa was arrested again Jan. 23 at Macy's, 111 N. State. A store security guard told police they saw Zerpa take a suitcase from a display, stuff it with \$380 worth of clothing, and walk out the door, a third CPD report said.

He will be detained until he sees the two judges handling his other cases.

## A whole lot of killing to do

"New neighbor" Daniel Antonio Mendez-Moreno has been kicked out of several migrant shelters in the city due to unruly behavior, staff members at his most recent residence, the Wadsworth Elementary School shelter, told police.

They asked police to come to the shelter on Jan. 16 after a "highly intoxicated" Mendez-Moreno pushed an employee in the chest, a CPD report said.

As the officers tried to arrest Mendez-Moreno, the 28-year-old struck one cop in the nose, kicked a sergeant, and tried to spit on another sergeant, the report continued.

Once outside, he allegedly told the officers, "I'm going to kill you all and then kill your kids," the report said.

He went on to kick another cop in the chest and, at the station, spat in another officer's face after kicking him, according to the report.

He is charged with four felony counts of aggravated battery of a peace officer and one count of misdemeanor battery. Judge Susana Ortiz released him on electronic monitoring.

## That's me!

Chicago's transit officers stopped Louis Blanco Navarro, 27, at the State-Van Buren Brown Line CTA station because they saw him smoking around 3:50 p.m. on Jan. 9.

When the cops asked for his ID, Navarro handed over a fake U.S. Permanent Resident card and a fake Social Security card, the officers claimed.

"That is my identification," Navarro allegedly told the police. "That's me."

When confronted with the fact that the cards were counterfeit, he admitted that he knew they were fake, adding that he bought them to get work, the officers said.

He is charged with felony possession of fraudulent identification.

## Lakeview liquor store burglarized for fourth time in a month, days after trio allegedly walked out with armloads of booze



(L-R) Thomas Collins, Chantel Jones, and Richard Suddoth III.

It's been a rough month for Galleria Liquors, the upscale spirits shop with locations in Old Town and Lakeview.

Both locations were burglarized overnight. It's the fourth time the Lakeview shop, 3409 N. Southport, has been broken into since New Year's Eve. Burglars have now busted into the Old Town location, 1559 N. Wells, three times since Christmas.

Over the weekend, a shoplifting crew raided the Southport store, hauling away a supply of Casamigos tequila and Svedka vodka. Chicago cops arrested three people in that case, the only arrests made in connection with any of the crimes.

All of the burglaries have gone down the same way: a group of men wearing hoodies break the store's front glass and load liquor into a vehicle. The vehicle is usually stolen, too.

On Jan. 25, the burglars were seen leaving the Old Town location around 4:50 a.m. in a maroon SUV, according to police. The same group is suspected of hitting the Lakeview shop and a Sephora directly next door around 3:23 a.m. Also burglarized overnight were Liquor Expo, 2154 N. Halsted, and a high-end sneaker store in the 100 block of N. Peoria.

CPD reports indicate Galleria Liquors' total loss, including cash and merchandise, is well into the five figures.

On Jan. 21, three people walked into Galleria Liquors' store on Southport. Police say one of them threatened an employee as the group hauled away bottles of Casamigos tequila and Svedka vodka worth \$269.

After the theft, the trio went to the Southport Brown Line CTA station, jumped the turnstile, switched to the Red Line at Belmont, and headed into the Loop.

Chicago police transit officers stopped the train at Roosevelt and arrested three people who matched the thieves' descriptions: Chantel Jones, 23; Richard Suddoth II, 19; and Thomas Collins, 22.

They were each charged with misdemeanor retail theft and theft of services and subsequently released by Judge Ankur Srivastava.

Jones has no other background. The other two guys can't say the same.

In fact, we wrote about Collins in Feb. 2020, when prosecutors charged him with committing two robberies on the CTA Red Line in the Loop. He eventually pleaded guilty in exchange for a pair of concurrent four-year sentences, according to court records.

Prosecutors at the time said he threatened to shoot a 14-year-old boy if the kid did not hand over his valuables while riding a Red Line train near the Roosevelt Red Line CTA station around on Jan. 8, 2020. Two days later, Collins allegedly displayed the handle of a handgun as he robbed a 16-year-old boy on a Red Line CTA train at State-Lake, police said.

He's been arrested several times over the past year. He is on pretrial release for a felony shoplifting charge he picked up after allegedly trying to

steal clothing from a Foot Locker in Country Club Hills on Oct. 12, 2023.

According to court records, just two days before the Foot Locker incident, prosecutors dropped another shoplifting case he faced for allegedly stealing clothing worth \$189 from a Marshall's in Rogers Park.

And eight days after the Foot Locker arrest, he got arrested in the South Loop for allegedly punching a Jewel-Osco security guard in the nose. Prosecutors dropped the case on Nov. 28.

Suddoth has been charged with misdemeanor retail theft from Macy's, 111 N. State, twice since November. The first case was dropped on Nov. 28, 2023. A month later, he got arrested again as he tried to walk out with cologne gift sets worth \$590, according to the allegations.

## Rash of North Side business burglaries

Chicago police are warning North Side business owners of burglaries in the early morning hours, where windows and doors are broken and offenders enter liquor stores and retail stores. Offenders then take cash, liquor, skin care products, clothing and electronic devices.

Incidents include one on the 3400 block of N. Southport on Jan. 6, 2024 @ 3:20 a.m.; 2700 block of N. Clark on Jan. 6, 3:50a.m.; 3700 block of N. Southport on Jan. 6, 4:10 a.m.; 3100 block of N. Lincoln on Jan. 6, 4:30 a.m.; 1700 block of W. Wilson on Jan. 7, 5:47 a.m.; 2100 block of W. Chicago on Jan. 7, 6:41 a.m.; 3400 block of N. Southport on Jan. 8, 4:48 a.m.; 100 block of N. Peoria on Jan. 8, 5 a.m.; 2100 block of N. Halsted on Jan. 25, 1:35 a.m.; 100 block of N. Peoria on Jan. 25, 2:56 a.m.; 3400 block of N. Southport on Jan. 25, 3:26a.m.; 3400 block of N. Southport on Jan. 25, 3:26a.m. and 1500 block of N. Wells on Jan. 25, 4:40 a.m.

Anyone with information on any of these crimes is asked to contact the Bureau of Detectives - Area 3 at 312-744-8263 and refer to Pattern # P24-3-003(A), and Alert#P24-3-003(A).

## Armed men rob seven during crime spree

Armed robbers pulled off an overnight robbery spree Jan. 29, targeting at least seven victims from the South Loop to Lakeview. The holdups bear some similarities to an overnight robbery spree reported last week.

The holdups began at 2:24 a.m. in the 500 block of W. Diversey. Chicago police said four armed men exited a black sedan. They pistol-whipped a 35-year-old man and forced him to lie on the ground at gunpoint.

The group took his wallet and phone and also robbed a 31-year-old woman who was with him, according to CPD.

Then, around 2:40 a.m., two women were robbed as they walked outside Joe's on Weed in the 900 block of W. Weed. Police said an armed man got out of a black sedan occupied by two accomplices. He took the victims' purses, phones, and other items, then returned to the vehicle and fled.

Another robbery was reported outside Homewood Suites, 59 E. 11th St. in the South Loop, around 3:15 a.m. Police said four men got out of a black sedan, hit a 55-year-old man in the face with a pistol, and took his wallet and backpack at gunpoint.

An officer said that the crew kept his cash but returned to the scene to dump his wallet and bookbag in the street.

Yet another robbery was reported a short time later in the 3800 block of N. Elston. Again, four men exited a black sedan with guns. It was unclear if the Elston robbery was linked to the earlier three cases.

And around 4:15 a.m., still another mugging occurred near Lawrence and Long in Jefferson Park. At least three men hit a woman in the head with a gun and took her purse and phone, according to initial information. A vehicle suspected of being used in the



Bank security footage, Mohamed Worku (inset), and his gloves, hat and face mask.

## Man robbed bank three days after being acquitted of bank robbery

Federal officials say a Chicago man robbed a Lincoln Park bank on Jan. 22, just three days after a jury found him not guilty of robbing a different bank.

Mohamed Worku, 31, was charged in Dec. 2021 with robbing a West Side Fifth Third Bank. At the time, federal prosecutors said he placed a demand note with words to the effect of "give me the money" on a plexiglass partition at a teller station.

Fearing he had a weapon in his backpack, the bank worker handed over about \$595, according to the original federal complaint. When Chicago cops arrested him 27 minutes later, he was dressed like the bank robber and was carrying a robbery note that read "Give me the money Please Thank you" and \$492 in cash, officials alleged.

On Jan. 19, though, a federal jury found Worku not guilty of bank robbery, and U.S. District Judge John Kness set him free.

Federal prosecutors now say Worku robbed a different bank less than 72 hours after the jury returned its verdict.

Around 1:59 p.m. Jan. 22, a man passed a note to a teller at Citibank, 2001 N. Halsted, in Lincoln Park.

"Please Give me the money I'll pay it back soon banker's Give to me in

Lakeview, South Loop, and Goose Island robberies was spotted in the area at the time of the holdup.

A dark-colored Infiniti, recently stolen from Brighton Park, may have been used in the first three robberies. The victims described the robbers as Black males wearing black clothing and masks.

Similar robberies were reported in some of the same areas on Jan. 24.

## Man gets eight years for shooting his girlfriend on Lake Shore Dr.

A South Holland man was sentenced to an eight-year prison term on Jan. 26 after pleading guilty to shooting his girlfriend during an argument on Lake Shore Dr. in the Gold Coast.



Eric Betton

Eric Betton, 37, pleaded guilty to aggravated battery by discharging a firearm in exchange for the sentence from Judge Arthur Willis, according to court records.

Prosecutors dropped multiple counts of attempted murder, domestic battery, and firearms-related offenses in the plea deal.

Chicago cops initially responded to a "suspicious person" call in the 1300 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. early on Aug. 19, 2022. When they arrived, a 36-year-old woman walked up to their squad car and asked for a ride to a bar in the West Loop, according to CPD records.

"Sorry. We're on a job," an officer replied, according to the report. The woman decided to offer a little more information: She had been riding south on Lake Shore Dr. in her friend's car when her friend "was shot in the

advance," the note read, according to a federal complaint filed Jan. 23.

The teller handed the robber \$2,068. Wearing a surgical mask, neon green gloves, and a neon green winter cap, the bandit headed out the door.

Less than an hour later, Chicago cops spotted Worku near Lincoln and Armitage, matching the robber's description. The complaint said he had a green hat and gloves sticking out of his coat pockets and a blue surgical mask in his pants pocket.

And, according to the feds, he was carrying federal prison paperwork and "approximately" \$1,848.22 in cash.

Investigators found surveillance video of a man matching the bank robber's description, still wearing the neon green hat and gloves, buying clothing and a backpack at a nearby Target store.

After making the purchase, he changed into the new clothes, ditched some of his old clothes, and headed out the door—although he kept the green hat and gloves, the complaint said.

Prosecutors have again charged Worku with bank robbery. This time, they added a charge of bank theft, too.

face by her baby daddy," the report said.

The woman told officers the man initially slapped the victim, then pulled over in the 1300 block of N. Lake Shore Dr., pulled a gun from under the driver's seat, and shot the victim, officers reported.

She told police she bailed out of the Range Rover after the shot was fired. A 911 caller who saw the woman jump a fence reported her behavior as suspicious, prompting the police response.

Betton allegedly drove his girlfriend to the Loop after the shooting, where they encountered police officers and requested assistance near Roosevelt Rd. and Michigan Ave. Following that, he drove her to Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Officers stopped Betton as he dropped the woman off at the hospital, according to the CPD report. The woman who bailed out of the car identified Betton as the shooter, and cops found a handgun inside the Range Rover, the report said.

Betton's parole date has not been set because he is not yet in Illinois Dept. of Corrections custody.

## Cops eye link between Boystown armed robbery, River West carjacking

An armed carjacking in River West on Jan. 26 may have links to an armed robbery in Boystown earlier in the day, a Chicago Police Dept. source said.

The first robbery occurred around 3:50 a.m. along the Halsted St. nightlife district in Lakeview. A CPD spokesperson said a man, whose age was unknown, was in the



# Man becomes first person charged with cheating at Chicago's new casino

BY CWBCHICAGO

A Little Village man has become the first person to be criminally charged with cheating at the new Bally's Casino in River North.

Isaias Garcia-Martinez, 51, is accused of placing a \$25 chip on a 200-to-1 side bet at a baccarat table after the cards were dealt and the outcome of the hand was known. He walked away with a \$5,000 payout before casino security realized what happened, according to an Illinois Gaming Board agent's report.

Garcia-Martinez allegedly pulled the "past post" scam at a baccarat table on the casino's third floor shortly after midnight on Jan. 21. Baccarat is a card game in which dealers deal two hands, and the players bet on which hand they think will be closer to 9.

At one point, a round ended in a tie with

both hands having three 7s. The odds of that happening are about 1 in 400.

After the round ended and everyone knew the outcome, Garcia-Martinez cupped a \$25 chip in his hand and slyly placed it on a side bet that pays 200-to-1 if a round ends with both hands having triple 7s, prosecutors said.

According to a gaming agent's report, the casino supervisor asked a surveillance officer to review footage of the table's play to ensure that the bet was legit. The surveillance operator didn't notice the "past



Isaias Garcia-Martinez

post" until they were typing up a "verification report" about an hour later, the agent wrote.

By that time, Garcia-Martinez was long gone. Prosecutors said he walked away from the table after the dealer completed his \$5,000 payout. He handed the \$5,000 to another man and proceeded to cash in his original \$25 chip, according to the agent. The second man cashed out Garcia-Martinez's \$5,000 plus another \$1,200 in chips.

Garcia-Martinez and the other man returned to the baccarat tables around 3:30 a.m. Jan. 23. Surveillance officers notified gaming board agents, and they arrested Garcia-Martinez, according to his arrest report.

Judge Ankur Srivastava released him from custody during an initial appearance hearing on Jan. 24.

## First Installment property tax bills now in the mail

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas has mailed nearly 1.8 million Tax Year 2023 First Installment property tax bills. Payments are due March 1.

The First Installment is 55% of the previous year's total tax. Exemptions that can reduce a property owner's taxes are applied to the Second Installment bill.

Since Pappas posted the bills on [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) in mid-December, more than 11,000 property owners have visited the website to pay their property taxes.

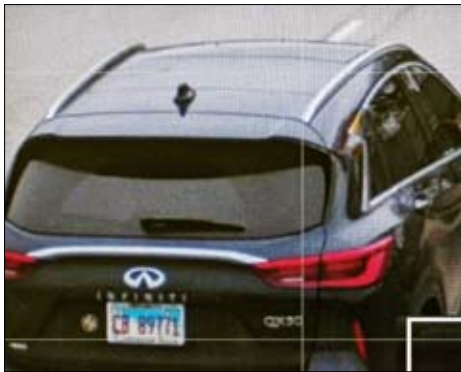
"More people use our website each year to pay their property tax bills online," Pappas said. "People like the convenience of paying online and not having to come downtown to pay in person or writing a check and paying for postage."

To make a payment online, visit [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com), select the blue box labeled "Pay Online for Free," and enter your address or 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN).

A picture of your property should appear so you'll know you're paying the correct bill. There is no fee to pay online from your bank account. The Treasurer's Office accepts partial payments but First Installment taxes must be paid by March 1 to avoid a late charge of 0.75 percent per month, as mandated by Illinois law.

You can also use [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) to search \$93 million in available refunds.

# Cops search for SUV used in double-murder outside Loop school as possible 'nexus' to Prada burglary, cop shooting



Police are now on the lookout for this dark blue 2022 Infiniti QX50 that was used by a hit man crew in the Loop on Jan. 26.

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago cops are on the hunt for the gunmen who killed two students outside Innovations High School in the Loop on Jan. 26. And, we have learned, investigators have determined that there is an odd "nexus" between the murders and the raid on the Chicago Prada store that left a cop and a suspect shot in the Gold Coast.

Cops across the city are on the lookout for a dark blue 2022 Infiniti QX50 that was used by the murderers on Friday afternoon,

according to a CPD bulletin. There's a stolen license plate on the vehicle.

A law enforcement source confirmed that license plate reader data shows the Infiniti has recently traveled with or near another vehicle that police believe was involved in the Prada smash-and-grab on Jan. 8.

Whether there is a connection between the cases—or if the cars being near each other was a coincidence—is not yet known.

Monterio Williams, 17, and Robert Boston, 16, were shot and killed around 12:25 p.m. Jan. 26 as they exited onto the first block of N. Wabash with a handful of other Innovation students, officials said. The Infiniti and a sedan stopped in the middle of Wabash, and a group of people emerged from the vehicles, police said. At least two of them opened fire on the students.

A high-ranking Chicago Police Dept. official told the Chicago Tribune that the shooting appeared to be an "ambush," the paper reported.


Earlier this month, a smash-and-grab burglary crew rammed a stolen SUV into the Prada Store, 30 E. Oak, and hauled away armloads of high-end merchandise. The entire crew fled in cars, except for one man. He apparently got left behind and tried to escape on foot.

Chicago cops responding to the burglary call spotted him carrying a gun in the first block of E. Walton and ordered him to drop the weapon, police said. Instead, he

engaged the officers in a shootout, according to CPD.

A 55-year-old Chicago police officer suffered a gunshot wound to the leg. The other man, identified by officials as De-shawn Lucas, 33, was critically injured by police gunfire.

He is charged with a host of felonies, including two counts of attempted murder.



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### Letter to the Editor

#### No shouting!

Your article about the Fern Hill online meeting in the Jan. 10 edition claims that "jeering and cajoling ... are signatures of real free-speech community meetings."

Having participated in many in-person and online community meetings, I find the shouting matches that often occur in-person to be unproductive. In-person meetings often favor the loudest voices in the room, and strong opponents or proponents of a plan use their jeering and cajoling to bully other people into silence.

Online meetings let everyone have their say without being shouted down, and they provide a transparent record of opinions

that can be accessed by everyone after the fact. They ensure that feedback can be collected fairly and freely, and ensure that public officials will consider all opinions, not just those who are willing to endure shouts of angry neighbors to share their view.

Ultimately, the goal of community meetings should be to gather everyone's viewpoints in a respectful manner, something that online meetings facilitate more effectively than confrontational in-person encounters.

Alec Schwengler  
Ravenswood

Have something on your mind about your community?  
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**MORAL** from p. 2

at Jeni's Scoop Shops, 3657 N. Clark and 900 W. Armitage. I'll have the Banana French Toast ice cream (and its corresponding L'affogato, the Banoffee). And a French Toast Buttercrisp waffle cone to go.

**BEARD AWARD:** Jason Hammel's Lula Cafe in Logan Square has been nominated as a semi-finalist for the James Beard Award for Outstanding Hospitality. Bravo.

**GOOD MEN:** Goodman Theatre's Board announces the retirement of CEO and Executive Director **Roche Schulfer** at the end of the current season—his 50th year at the Goodman. At the same time, the Board has named current COO **John Collins** as the Goodman's new Executive Director starting this September.

**CSO:** The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is going south of the border with **Cody Fry** joining the orchestra, conducted by **Steven Reineke** on May 13, at Symphony Center. Following sold-out shows throughout the country, Fry is bringing his one-of-a-kind show that features the intimacy of the piano combined with the strength of the full orchestra. The Nashville-based singer-songwriter-composer-producer has written music for everything from national ad campaigns, video games, apps, fashion events, short films, to scoring works for A-list corporate brands.

**FAREWELL:** Provisions Uptown, 4812 N. Broadway, closes its doors for good today. A sweet spot by The Green Mill to pick up lovely wines, brews and entertaining accoutrement. They will be missed. Between the pandemic and the work on the Lawrence "L" stop, it got too hard. But Rogers Park Provisions, 6928 N. Glenwood Ave., will remain open, so make a point to visit them.

**DETOUR:** The city says that repair work on the Division St. Bascule Bridge over the North Branch Chicago River is expected to finish up on Feb. 9, making our pre-show lunch trips to Rush St. quicker during Chicago Theatre Week, Feb. 8 - 18. If you can find a ticket (good luck, it's sold out), go to An American In Paris in Concert, at Symphony Center. The 1951 MGM musical starring **Gene Kelly** as an American ex-GI who falls for a Parisian woman played by **Leslie Caron**. It will be on the big screen while the CSO performs the score live. Featuring the songs of **George** and **Ira Gershwin**, the movie culminates in an iconic ballet sequence, choreographed by Kelly himself. Paris never felt so magnificent.

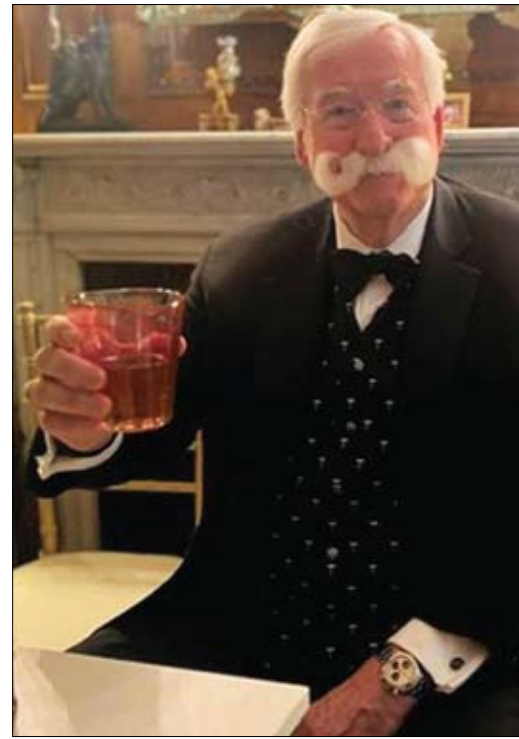
**DANCE:** Dance with the one who brought ya. Lake Shore Park will be hosting an all ages Valentine's Day dance on Friday, Feb.



Irene Michaels



Buddy Guy



Mr. Mike as Mark Twain.

9, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at 808 N. Lake Shore Dr.

**DANISH:** This spring, the Driehaus Museum is hosting the fourth iteration of its contemporary art series A Tale of Today with the first solo U.S. museum exhibition of Copenhagen-based artist **Sif Itona Westerberg**, which will be on view at the mu-



Jason Hammel



Kathy O'Malley Piccone, Kathy Wolter Mondelli, Jennifer Sutton Brieva, Bunny Frum.

seum, 40 E. Erie St., from Feb. 16 to April 14. Westerberg transforms common industrial materials such as aerated concrete into delicate surfaces engraved with the retelling of mythological narratives relevant to the current moment. Westerberg's work offers a deeper understanding of the aesthetics of the Nickerson Mansion and the cultural and social ideals of the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

**WHO'S WHERE:** Delighted to hear that **Bobbi Panter** has officially taken the reins at Service Club, chairing her first official big meeting at the Women's Athletic Club... **Buddy Guy** is sharper than ever filling his establishments stem to stern... Chicago Gig Alliance organizer **Lori Simmons** showing leadership in demanding City Hall take action in response to a rash of recent rideshare driver robberies... **Ali Velshi** at the Saddle & Cycle Club brunch as the guest speak-

er for an author talk... **Kathy O'Malley Picone, Kathy Wolter Mondelli, Jennifer Sutton Brieva** and **Bunny Frum** snug and cozy in a booth at Armitage Ale House looking very Sherlockian... newspaper man, publisher **David Caldwell** is in Barbados, at Surfside Restaurant & Bar loving the Caribbean sun... Every-

grew up just three houses away. We sang in the same choir. Annoyed the same people. Irritated the same nuns. Did errands for our sainted Irish grandparents. And enjoyed every Christmas and holiday together. Causing mayhem in the process. In June of 1962 we boarded a grand Cunard Ocean liner and steamed our way to Eu-

sale. So he was escorted away until tax officials could resolve the problem. They issued a warning now to all travelers through Europe who face new escalating value restrictions on personal items. Check it out.

**MEMORIES:** Memories Of Growing Up In Chicago at Amazon Books for \$40. We played games and sports in the streets, alleys, parks, beaches or "prairies", often each day during the four seasons, walked everywhere, traveled downtown with friends or families, attended religious institutions and either public or parochial schools, often attended colleges and universities, ate at a wide variety.

**CHICAGO POETRY:**  
*Full Wolf Blood Moon  
 boldly moved in the sky  
 Brightly, crisply slowly passing  
 on by  
 Mesmerizingly, hypnotically  
 catching our eyes  
 The trees reach up  
 ever so lovingly  
 Branches stretching  
 towards eternity  
 Since the very beginning  
 when time began  
 Two hundred thirty eight  
 thousand  
 And nine hundred miles away  
 can  
 Seem so very far away 'tis true  
 Yet every day its pull affects  
 all we do  
 Perhaps because it rises  
 in the dark of night  
 Piercing unknown darkness  
 with its light  
 Bringing us comfort  
 instead of dark fear  
 May be why we value it  
 so deeply here  
 The wolf howls in its  
 winter hunger for meat  
 The skies call for change  
 where planets greet  
 The majesty of Mother Nature  
 is truly seen  
 As the moon passes over the sun  
 in between  
 The bright light orb is covered  
 as it shows  
 Light then darkness spreading  
 as it goes  
 The brightness soon reappears  
 Just as our light inside  
 can turn to tears  
 Then our joy can return  
 once more again  
 If we but let the light  
 be our constant friend.*

— Paul Hensen

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one misses **Susie Gohl** in Naples, FL... Chicago Children's Museum President and CEO **Jennifer Farrington** opened Circusville last weekend at Navy Pier, but can she juggle or balance on a tightrope... **Peggy Snorf** winging her way to London's Heathrow from ice-filled O'Hare... **Susie Fortsmann Kealy** with **Tory** and the family for a very laid back winter... Happiest of birthdays to our friend, attorney **Ken Moll**, and many more... Christie's **Steven Zick** at Ping Tom Memorial Park in Pilsen, but don't forget that great walk to Annisquam Lighthouse in Gloucester, MA, on St. Stephen's Day (12/27)... **Sherry Lea Fox** must be in Mexico cuz she's broadcasting "Cervasa Fria" commercials on her social media... **Irene Michaels** off to Los Angeles and the drama and hoopla of her Grammy nomination... **Joe Bergin** hoofing it up and down Lincoln Ave. in Lincoln Park as the local chamber's new Director of Community Development... Cousins **Paul Hickey, Michael Furstin** and **Lynn Hickey Ciuchta** enwrapped in Southern California warmth... **Mr. Mike** looks center stage in his Mark Twain outfit.

**AER LINGUS:** The Irish national airlines, Aer Lingus, has just moved their whole operation at O'Hare to Terminal 3. Those are the popular green jets with the large shamrock.

**HOLLYWOOD:** Rory Gilmore, our little sweetheart from "Gilmore Girls," played by actor **Alexis Bledel**, and actor husband **Vincent Kartheiser**, are divorcing after eight years of marriage. It apparently is going to be a financially costly enterprise. They must be adding in all the advice that Lorelai Gilmore contributes.

**DUTY GOODS:** Everyone heard that former California Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger** was in transit in Germany at Munich Airport recently when he placed the value of a wristwatch he was wearing at around \$20,000. The timepiece far exceeded the value allowed on personal items of value intended for later charitable

RIP: May the road rise to meet you. Our family is mourning the death of our dear cousin, **David J. O'Gorman**. For years he was on LaSalle St. as the Comptroller of the Chicago Board of Options Exchange. But to our O'Gormans he will always be our first pal, first playmate and first cousin. He

tog515@gmail.com



# Family Valentine's Day in the North Side parks

The Chicago Park District is inviting families citywide to celebrate Valentine's Day with fun dances, creative arts and crafts sessions, and more.

In addition to in person events, there are virtual, recorded offerings which include craft tutorials, cooking demonstrations, and yoga sessions. For a full list of in-person and remote celebrations in observance of Valentine's Day, visit [chicagoparkdistrict.com/valentines-day](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com/valentines-day).

"From dances in fieldhouses to crafts in clubrooms, there is no greater expression of love than sharing experiences with neighbors, friends and family," said CEO Rosa Escareño.

Valentine's Day events include:  
 • Valentine Candy Bingo 3 p.m. Feb. 3, Holstein Park, 2200 N.

Oakley Ave., free admission, 12 and under, with an adult present.

• Daddy Daughter Dance, Sheil Park, 3505 N. Southport Ave., Feb. 3 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., \$10 per person, 12 and under, with an adult present for a night of dancing.

• Valentine's Day Dance Feb. 9, Welles Park, 2333 W. Sunnyside Ave., 6 p.m. \$10 admission per Family, 12 and under, with an adult present. Dance features a DJ, dancing, light refreshments, and a photo opportunity.

• Valentine's Day Dance, Lake Shore Park, 808 N. Lake Shore Dr., Feb. 9, 6 p.m. Free admission, all ages.

• Family Sweetheart Dance, Loyola Park, 1230 W. Greenleaf Ave., Feb. 10, 5 p.m., \$10 admission per family, all ages. Capture a

photo at our photo station and enjoy dinner. Event is co-sponsored by Loyola Park Advisory Council. Children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

• Valentine's Celebration, Berger Park, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd., Feb. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ages 3 to 5; 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Ages 6 to 12, \$5 admission, evening of music, dancing, and crafts, where you can create beautiful cards and hearts. Delight in lite refreshments and sweet treats.

• Valentine's Dance, Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 N. Lincoln Park West, Feb. 13, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., free admission, Ages 14 and under, a family friendly event will have dancing, refreshments, and a raffle.



Flyover is a new 48,000 square foot immersive attraction coming to Navy Pier on March 1.

## New immersive attraction 'Flyover' opening March 1 at Navy Pier

Flyover, the immersive 48,000 square foot attraction that transports guests to the planet's most epic places through flying journeys, says they will be open for visitors at Navy Pier on March 1.

The multi-sensory experience, which incorporates leading drone technologies along with impressive aerial shots and first person narratives, will showcase the city of Chicago from perspectives never seen before.

From climbing skyscrapers to diving straight down buildings, skimming sidewalks, swooping into iconic landmarks like the Chicago Theatre, to floating through fireworks and more, this experience will be the first of its kind in Chicago.

"Through this immersive storytelling experience, we wanted to capture the rich diversity of Chicagoans and their vibrant neighborhoods," said Lisa Adams, Executive Producer of Flyover Attractions. "Chicago's flying journey will engage and entertain viewers with a thrilling immersive urban experience that pushes the boundaries of escape."

Flyover will also feature Chi-

cagoans to help tell the stories behind the people and places that make the city distinctive. Some of the iconic destinations that are highlighted include Navy Pier, North Ave. Beach, Lake Shore Dr., the Chicago Theatre, and the Joffrey Ballet. Among these people include acclaimed musician Corey Wilkes, Walt Whitman from the Soul Children's Choir and Wrigley Field announcer, Jeremiah Paprocki.

Flyover will be shown on an impressive 65-foot spherical screen with flight motion seats engineered to swoop, dip and turn, giving guests the feeling of flight. The attraction will transport 60 guests at a time, with complete sensory immersion using wind, mist and scents, as fliers hang suspended.

The new Chicago experience will mark the fourth Flyover experience for Pursuit, which also includes Flyover attractions in Las Vegas, Reykjavik, Iceland, and Vancouver, Canada.

### GIG WORK from p. 1

Biden campaigned on a promise of imposing a new federal standard "modeled" on California's AB 5. He has now done just that, and has even elevated the architect of AB 5, Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, to carry out this attack on the right to earn a living as ruthlessly as possible.

The IC Rule was recorded in the federal register on Jan. 10, and is scheduled to take effect on March 10. It is 339 pages of essentially the DOL justifying why IC's should not be allowed to exist. The rule acts from the premise that IC's have no right to determine whether they are independent or an employee. It is the DOL's job to do that for us.

The Biden administration has used court precedent to expand on these, creating six overarching factors in a "totality of the circumstances" which will be analyzed to determine, as a matter of economic reality, whether professionals are dependent on the potential employer for work or in business for themselves.

The term "economic reality" appears 345 times within the Rule as one of the means to deny an IC their right to earn money as they choose. It's positively chilling, and if Americans refused to pay attention when California independent professionals raised the alarm on AB5, then they very well need to pay attention now. The IC community, particularly the California professionals who were adversely affected by AB5, once again sounded the alarm and expressed their determination to see this rule divested.

This is part of the DOL's multi-pronged attack on independent professionals and small businesses. The National Labor Relations Board [NLRB] finalized its Joint Employer Status Rule in late October, essentially limiting the earning potential and autonomy of franchisors and franchisees. There has been mounting outrage and lobbying to Congress from the Chambers of Commerce and small business and franchisor associations because the rule is scheduled to take effect even

sooner, on Feb. 26. On Jan. 19, Congress stepped in to block it. The Congressional Review Act [CRA] allows Congress to overturn regulatory overreach, so a resolution was submitted to have the Joint Employer Status Rule rescinded.

### Commentary

The American Hotel & Lodging Assoc. [AHLA] applauded the move. "Today's House vote is a victory for common sense. Neither companies nor their employees want this job-killing regulation, which will destroy the franchise model that supports millions of small business jobs," said AHLA CEO Chip

nesses are owned by women. IWV has been very concerned that the NLRB's joint employer rule would undo the great success women entrepreneurs have enjoyed over the last two decades by effectively shrinking the market and increasing the liability and compliance costs for the firms they run. We commend members of the House for righting an egregious wrong, and we encourage the Senate to follow suit."

Who benefits from these DOL and NLRB Rule changes? The Labor Unions, which poured millions into the 2020 Biden campaign for the presidency and expect a return on their investment. Congress' move brought the ire of the AFL-CIO, the largest labor organization in the nation.

Regulation can only arise from law. Congress is the source of any new law. Any regulation issued by any government agency has to be authorized by a specific statute, voted on, and passed by Congress. It is perhaps belaboring the obvious to point out that federal agencies have pushed the boundaries of their regulatory authority

in recent years, and we can hope that the Supreme Court is about to slam the doors on at least the most egregious of these oversteps.

Let us hope and pray that the courts and Congressional actions to nullify the DOL's overreach will effectively neuter both the IC Rule and the NLRB Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status Rule before they render permanent damage to our nation's independent professionals and the nation's economy. In case it has escaped notice, we are also in an election year. Call your representative in the US House of Representatives and ask them to sign onto Kevin Kiley's CRA against the USDOL's IC regulation. Let your representative, who may very well be up for re-election this year, know that you want to keep your freelance business.

Americans in every state can petition their senators, representatives, and state legislators to speak out against these DOL and NLRB bureaucratic and economic nightmares.

***The legacy media's tendency to lump all of these categories under the "gig" economy simply frames it in people's minds as technology or rideshare; but these are your dental hygienists, your child's soccer coach, fabricators, farriers, home health care providers, maids, gardeners, landscapers, even writers and newspaper delivery crew for this newspaper. Over 600 professions have been identified that would be upended or outright eliminated when this DOL IC Rule takes effect.***

Rogers. "The bipartisan nature of this vote underscores how destructive this misguided Biden Administration rule would be to our fragile economy, and we thank Dr. Foxx, Rep. James, and Speaker Johnson for making this a priority. We urge the Senate to stand up for America's workers and pass this resolution as soon as possible."

The advocacy organization Independent Women's Voice [IWV] wrote a letter in support of H.J. Res. 98 highlighting the harms of the NLRB's final joint employer rule to small businesses and franchises, particularly those owned by women.

Patrice Onwuka, director of the Center for Economic Opportunity at IWV, said "Passing this CRA is great news for America's franchises and small businesses. With regulation after regulation, the Biden administration has been hammering the economic and labor engine of our nation with costly, time-consuming, and growth-limiting regulations. Some 30.6% of franchisee busi-

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# One night only, Chicago premiere of Star Dust celebrates music of David Bowie

The Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Ida B. Wells Dr., is presenting Complexions: Contemporary Ballet, the New York City-based contemporary dance company for a one-night-only performance, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, titled Star Dust: From Bach to Bowie, features the Chicago premiere of Star Dust, the company's act-long tribute to rock icon David Bowie.

Star Dust, much like the company itself, is a celebration of differences and the graceful marriage of aesthetic opposites featuring music that spans from Baroque to contemporary pop.

The first half of the program includes beloved works from the company's repertoire including Chaconne (from Ballad Unto); Choke; Pocket Symphony; Elegy; and Work It Out (from SBFTE).

The second half of the program is Rhoden's Star Dust celebrating the work and legacy of David Bowie and featuring some of the greatest hits from his catalogue of rock classics, including "Young Americans," "Heroes," and "Space Oddity."

Tickets start at \$30 and are available at auditoriumtheatre.com.

Richardson is a pioneer in the transformation of ballet and introduced the first African American principal dancer of American Ballet Theatre. He also received a Tony Award nomination for his role in the original Broadway cast of Fosse.

Master choreographer Rhoden has created over 80 ballets for Complexions as well as numerous prominent dance companies

across the globe. As a dancer, Rhoden has performed with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Les Ballet Jazz De Montreal and as a principal dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He has appeared in numerous television specials, documentaries and commercials and has been a featured performer on PBS Great Performances specials.

"David Bowie, who performed on the Auditorium Theatre stage in 1972, is one of the most iconic voices in the last 50 years of rock and glam music," says Auditorium Theatre CEO Rich Regan. "Complexions is a company that embodies Bowie's traits of going against the grain, artistic innovation, and blending genre."

### Contemporary Ballet Master Class

In addition, the dancers of Complexions will lead a free Master Class for Chicago dancers on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The class will include Nique, Complexions' signature contemporary ballet technique combining classical and contemporary vocabulary into a valuable training method for pre-professional dancers. This class is most suitable for intermediate/advanced dancers (3+ years of ballet training). The master class will also include movement/choreography from Complexions' world-renowned repertoire. The class is free with advanced registration. Registration available at auditoriumtheatre.org.

### OVERDOSE from p. 5

substance abuse help. Even more kits if need be." Despite the fact that more people are dying in Chicago now from drug overdoses than gun violence, he added that no one had previously asked about opioid overdose mitigation efforts at the CHA site.

Natalia Derevyanny, Director of Communications for the OME, stated that while her office didn't isolate deaths by CHA building sites, she concluded that opioid overdose deaths have likely occurred in CHA buildings as they mirror the larger community where opioid overdoses are common.

Because of the frequency of opioid overdose deaths, Derevyanny added that the OME is now building a new public on-line portal for opioid deaths expected to be completed by summer.

Cook County is on pace to match 2022's record of opioid overdose deaths. It has already confirmed 1,540 opioid overdose

deaths for 2023. The vast majority of those deaths (90%) involved fentanyl. The MEO anticipates that more than 400 of its pending cases will be due to opioid toxicity, putting the final number for 2023 near the 2022 total of 2,001 opioid overdose deaths.

According to the CDC, about 83,000 Americans died from an opioid-involved overdose in 2022. The drugs are largely being made in Communist China and then smuggled over America's wide open southern border by Mexican narco terrorist gangs.

By comparison, OME preliminary data shows 729 gun-related homicides occurred in 2023 in Cook County. Of those, 651 were in Chicago.

Of the opioid toxicity deaths to date, approximately 80% are male. African Americans make up 56% of deaths, while whites constitute 27% and Latinos make up for just under 15%.

The age group most impacted is 50-59 year olds accounting for 27% of overdose deaths. The

year's youngest fatal opioid overdose was an 8-month old boy from Chicago while the oldest was a 93-year old woman from Arlington Heights.

A 2022 study from the Univ. of Illinois Chicago revealed that opioid deaths in Cook County have been undercounted by up to 15%. UIC researchers found that overdose deaths most likely to be missed were patients over the age of 50, patients with a diagnosis of malignant cancer, or patients admitted to the hospital for at least four days.

Instructions for using the simple Fentanyl testing strips are bilingual and are included in the kit. Testing requires an amount of the substance equal to the size of half of a grain of rice.

If you are seeking help with substance use, call the SAMHSA National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357). It is a free, confidential, 24/7, 365 day a year treatment referral and information service in English and Spanish.

### POLICE BEAT from p. 6

3400 block of N. Halsted when three men approached him. One of the men struck him in the head with a firearm while the others took his property, according to CPD. The group ran northbound.

The group got away with the man's wallet, phone, Air Pods, and keys, then fled in a small gray SUV, according to an initial report shared with this reporter.

A similar car bearing a license plate that was in the area of the Boystown robbery was used by a group of carjackers in River West on Jan. 26.

At about 3:55 p.m., a 36-year-old man was sitting in his parked Audi Q7 when an older gray SUV pulled up, and two men got out with firearms, police said. They demanded the man's valuables, forced him from his car, and drove it away.

Cops found the hijacked Audi abandoned less than an hour later in the 200 block of S. Bell. They also found the gray SUV in the 100 block of N. Hermitage. But no one is in custody, a

police spokesperson said.

The River West victim described the suspects as Black males in their late teens or early 20s wearing ski masks and black clothing.

A handful of additional robberies were reported early that day in Logan Square and Noble Square.

### Uptown man shot by drive-by gunman

A drive-by shooting left a man injured in Uptown on Jan. 24, Chicago police said.

The 42-year-old was in the 4600 block of N. Broadway when someone opened fire on him from a dark-colored Ford Fusion, according to initial information. Bullets struck him in the leg and arm. CPD said he is in good condition at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

Witnesses said the gunman's car headed north on Broadway after the shooting. An officer at the scene said they found 24 shell casings in the street.

The victim has an extensive criminal record, having racked up 49 separate

criminal cases in Cook County since 1997, including 11 felonies. Many of those cases involve allegations of drug dealing on Uptown streets and gun possession. He was convicted of Class X armed habitual criminal in 2022, according to court records.

He is the first person shot in Uptown this year. The neighborhood saw 22 people shot last year, up from 18 in 2022.

### Two hospitalized after fight, stabbing aboard Red Line CTA train in River North

A fight aboard a Red Line CTA train left two men hospitalized with knife wounds on Jan. 22.

Chicago cops responded to calls of a "huge fight" and people stabbed at the Grand Red Line station, 521 N. State, around 10:30 p.m. Witnesses said two people emerged from a train with stab wounds after fighting on the train car. The men were still fighting when police arrived, according to CPD.

A 48-year-old man is in critical condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital with "multiple" lacerations to his back and neck, police said. The other man, 31, is being treated at Rush Hospital for cuts to his hands. CPD said the younger man pulled a knife and stabbed the older man after their "verbal altercation" escalated. It is not clear how the 31-year-old sustained his injuries.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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#### Real Estate For Sale

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#### Real Estate For Sale

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313131 .....  
242424 .....

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC Plaintiff, -v- THOMAS QUINN, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF BEVERLY FISHER, DECEASED, 2424 W. ESTES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DIANE FISHER, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF BEVERLY FISHER Defendants 2022 CH 07336 2424 WEST ESTES AVENUE UNIT 3A 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 June 5, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 26, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 2424 WEST ESTES AVENUE UNIT 3A, CHICAGO, IL 60645 Property Index No. 10-36-207-013-1016 & 10-36-207-013-1044 The real estate is improved with an apartment building. 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

#### Real Estate For Sale

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. 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. 22-092521L\_778634 Attorney Code. 61256 Case Number: 2022 CH 07336 TJS# 43-2548 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 CH 07336 **13235398**

171717 .....

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East Bank Storage located at 730 West Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 312-878-2000, is opening lockers:  
3415G- Georgios, George  
3020E- Gold, Alan  
1060H-Hecyk, Angela  
5495E- Johnson, Reneesha  
7610F- Kujo, Josephine  
3205E- O'Brien, Patricia  
7620X- O'Brien, Patricia  
1120G- Gino and Marty's  
1250F- Gino and Marty's  
1280F- Gino and Marty's  
3250G- Gino and Marty's  
3455A- Phillips, Bernad  
4255F- Rosenfield, Ben  
8180SM- Vaughn, Maya I for public sale.  
This sale is to be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 2:00PM. Cash payments only.

## Notice of Public Sale

THE LOCK UP SELF STORAGE 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 02-20-24 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 #705 Ronald Masters Unit #1409 Laquinta Hampton

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This is one time where television really fails to capture the true excitement of a large squirrel predicting the weather.  
— Phil Connors in Groundhog Day

## Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

### Real Estate For Sale

313131  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION  
US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST Plaintiff,  
-v-  
ZDRAVKA SCHLER-BRASOVAN, FIFTH THIRD BANK, 4711 NORTH WINTHROP CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, KATARINA BRASOVAN Defendants  
2019 CH 02415  
4711 N WINTHROP AVE #2N 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 June 3, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 21, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corpora-

### Real Estate For Sale

tion, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35F, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  
Commonly known as 4711 N WINTHROP AVE #2N, CHICAGO, IL 60640  
Property Index No. 14-17-202-022-1005  
The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse.  
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 en-

### Real Estate For Sale

title 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

### Real Estate For Sale

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. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876  
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Attorney File No. 14-19-01790  
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

### Real Estate For Sale

Attorney Code. 21762  
Case Number: 2019 CH 02415  
TJSC#: 44-78  
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.  
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## CONSTRUCTION from p. 1

contributing \$10 million toward the cost of building the park. Another \$5.4 million will come from the City of Chicago. The park must be finished before Related Midwest can receive a certificate of occupancy from the city for the north tower.

The project will eventually include two towers, the 875-foot-tall north tower and a 765-foot-tall south tower.

First announced in 2018, the project started with taller towers and a hotel. After meeting with Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] and Streeterville Organization of Active Residents, Related Midwest made “significant” changes to the design, according to Reilly, in 2020.

The towers will rise from 34 existing caissons of the Chicago Spire, a failed project introduced to Chicago and the world in 2006 by Irish real estate developer Garrett Kelleher. At 2,000 feet, the twisting design by world-famous Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava would have been the tallest residential building in North America. Work started on only the foundation and substructure, leaving a hole that is 104 feet in diameter and 78 feet deep.

A \$1.21 billion lawsuit filed in Feb. 2018 by Kelleher in U.S. District Court in Chicago against National Asset Management Agency, a publicly-funded banking agency in Ireland, was settled in Oct. 2019. Kelleher claimed his project was derailed in 2013 by the banking agency, which

## LOOP from p. 1

crease in pedestrian activity and office occupancy in Q4.

“Rounding out 2023, Loop activity remains strong, suggesting that investments in downtown events advances activity in other sectors,” Michael Edwards, CEO of CLA, said of the good returns. “While office occupancy shows incremental increases, the sector is buoyed by activity in the Loop office market.

A variety of actions contributed to these return, including “companies utilizing less space, but relocating to the Loop; major refinancing and millions invested in office amenities aimed at attracting workers back to their downtown offices; and the purchase of smaller buildings, at deep discounts, providing compact physical offices, showcases organizations continue to bet on the Loop,” said Edwards.

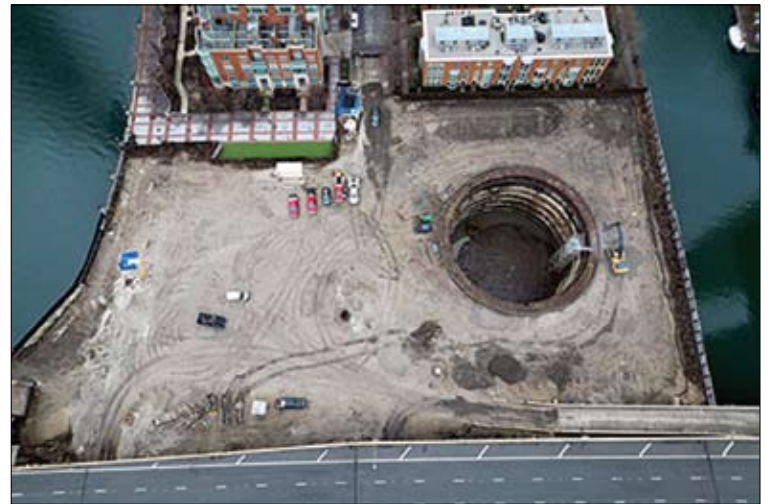
## Pedestrians

In 2023, State St. in the Loop saw over 67 million pedestrian impressions. Q4’s highest level of pedestrian activity came during the week of Nov. 13 with 1.3 million impressions, exceeding the same week in 2019. That week, holiday attractions drew large amounts of people to the Loop, proving that investment in downtown events yields results across various sectors, claims the report.

Overall, total impressions in Q4 2023 exceeded 88% of 2019 levels, showing a 33% increase since 2021.

## Arts and Culture

The arts and theater scene



Drone image captured by Albert Bartkus on Jan. 10 showing Riverview Condominiums at top, Lake Shore Dr. at bottom, and a construction site that includes a mostly-drained substructure at right.



Rendering from 2020 that imagines an overhead view of two residential towers at left and DuSable Park at right.

was suing Kelleher in Ireland over loans unrelated to the Chicago Spire that he had personally guaranteed. The loans were sold for about \$35 million to RMW

Acquisition Company, doing business as The Related Companies, the Chicago office of which is Related Midwest. Related took full control of the site in 2016.

downtown is critical to the Loop’s economic recovery. Offerings like “Hamilton,” “A Christmas Carol”, and Joffrey’s “The Nutcracker” brought 1.4 million attendees to the Loop in Q4, an increase of 40% from Q4 2022, and a 303% increase from Q3 2023.

Robust theater, museum, and other cultural institutions’ attendance contributed \$394 million to the Loop economy, claims CLA.

A record-breaking attendance of 1.3 million visitors at Daley Plaza’s Christkindlmarket and nearly 70,000 skaters at Millennium Park’s McCormick Tribune Ice Rink bolstered neighborhood vibrancy.

**A record-breaking attendance of 1.3 million visitors at Daley Plaza’s Christkindlmarket and nearly 70,000 skaters at Millennium Park’s McCormick Tribune Ice Rink bolstered neighborhood vibrancy.**

## Hotels

Positive trends in 2023’s occupancy continued into Q4, with October’s 77% occupancy rate mirroring levels from the summer. Overall in QR the occupancy rate was 65%. Activity and visitation broke additional records as revenue increased by six percent from the previous quarter to \$301 million, a high for the year according to Choose Chicago.

## Office Occupancy

Office occupancy rates down-

town increased by eight percent last year and continued to be four percent higher than the 10-city national average according to Kastle Systems. The week of Nov. 13, mirroring pedestrian data, saw the highest weekly rate of the quarter and the entire year. Driving occupancy that week was the opening of downtown holiday attractions such as Christkindlmarket, the Chicago Tree Lighting, and downtown ice skating rinks.

## Retail

Holiday retail sales nationwide increased by three percent from 2022 according to MasterCard Spending Pulse, including a two percent increase for in-store purchases and six percent for on-line sales. Major city retail centers, like State St., continue to be top destinations for holiday shopping. Retail spaces on State St. benefited from a 10% pedestrian activity increase in Q4 from 2022, totaling 81% of pre-pandemic levels throughout the retail corridor.

## Transportation

Folks spending time commuting on public transportation may note a significant increase in ridership, particularly during peak periods. This increase is reflected in quarterly office occupancy and pedestrian activity figures.

On a regional basis, Metra reported a steady ridership increase throughout 2023, with Q4 seeing the highest figures post-pandemic at 56% ridership of 2019 levels. Additionally, 24% more Divvy rides ended in the Loop in Q4 2023 than in 2020. (The CTA has not yet released their Q3 or Q4 ridership numbers.)