TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES

In wake of Wednesday police pursuit that left a woman dead, Lightfoot plans changes to CPD policy

SAM CHARLES REPORTS, PAGE 4

A woman was killed Wednesday in Lake View when her SUV was struck by a Chicago police car involved in a pursuit.
PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC7

A visit to Illinois’ last COVID-free corner
Scott County hasn’t seen a single case: ‘None of us are wearing masks’

NEAL EARLEY REPORTS, PAGE 7

FAMILY OF WOMAN PULLED FROM CAR BY HER HAIR AND KNELT ON BY CPD OFFICER WANTS CRIMINAL PROBE

MITCH DUDEK REPORTS, PAGE 9
What do protests do? Quite a bit

NEIL STEINBERG

So what do these protests do? Good question. Space is limited, so let's get to it.

Six purposes:
1. Protests provoke the wrong being protested, flushing it into the light. Civil rights demonstrations worked because Southern sheriffs broke out the dogs and firehoses and showed America exactly what these marchers were talking about. Had they broken out trays of pralines instead, we might still have segregated lunch counters. Protests against police brutality wouldn't be half as dramatic if some police didn't, on cue, start being brutal, on camera, blasting peaceful protesters with tear gas. Not many — most showed admirable professionalism and restraint. But it only takes a little spit to spoil the soup.

2. Protests benefit the protesters themselves. Not content to sit at home watching Netflix after — oh, for instance — a police officer is captured on video slowly after — oh, for instance — a police officer is captured on video slowly

4. Protests persuade. Indifferent John Q. Bovine looks up from his silage, sees the masses and moos to his field mate, “That’s a lot of people, Suzy. This must be important. Perhaps something ought be done.” This occurs among governors, mayors, police chiefs and such. Protests rearrange not just their schedules now, canceling vacations, ruining weekends that should be spent at New Buffalo, but later add bullet points to their agendas.

5. Protests are a kind of blackmail. Those in charge promise a few grudging baby steps forward, if only to make the chaos stop.

They can’t ignore the violence that came in the wake of these protests. Protesters insist they’re not connected. But they are. Protests open the gap in ordinary life that looters rush through. The resulting smoke obscures the protests from the sight of Fox News nation, who most need to grasp their message. They instead point gleefully at the violence to rationalize their traditional indifference and contempt. Looting is the brass fireman’s pole conveying them smoothly from initial alarm to the cocoon of victimhood they call home.

6. Protests encourage change. Not force it. Not enact it. But drip some grease into the seized-up gears of history. Just look to the past. Years of massive Vietnam protests did not end the war but nudged America toward calling it quits. The nation had to first see gays marching for AIDS research before it would consider letting them be schoolteachers.

Not that change comes easily. Right now, the focus is on improving the police, though that’s inadequate, like trying to fix a smudge on your cheek by polishing the mirror: What will this reform be? Maybe a new training filmstrip: “Stop Killing People: An Introduction.”

Change is possible. It is the reason women can vote, Jews can check into fancy hotels and black people aren’t dragged into the street and lynched for merely being suspected of a crime. Except that last one is still a work in progress.

In fact, change has been happening rapidly. Bad change. Erosion of every legal protection, social convention, moral standard and American value.

What we want to do is to slow that deterioration and begin some good change. Protest is part of that. Though I wish these marchers were heading en masse to register to vote. Without getting the man cheerleading police violence out of the Oval Office in November, all this is a waste. It won’t even be in the history books because guys like Bill Barr will be writing them.
**CONCEAL OF**

**DISAPPROVAL**

**BY JONATHAN BALLEW**  
Chicago Reporter

After one of the most volatile mass protests in the city’s recent memory sparked by the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd, Chicago police are investigating at least one officer for covering up his badge number and name tag.

Images and video circulating on social media show police officers who appear to have either taped over the name tags on their uniforms and badge star numbers or removed them entirely. In a statement to the The Chicago Reporter Wednesday evening, the Chicago Police Department condemned the practice.

“All Chicago police officers are required to wear their unit assignment designator, nameplate and prescribed star so that they are clearly visible. An internal investigation has been opened into the officer who was photographed without his unit assignment designator, nameplate and with his star number covered. CPD holds its officers to the highest professional standards, and violations of the department’s policy will be addressed,” the department said in a statement.

Concealing those elements of a uniform or failing to correctly identify themselves is specifically prohibited by at least two Chicago police directives.

But the Reporter has obtained images and video that suggest multiple CPD officers may have been engaging in the inappropriate practice of hiding their names or star numbers, which are the unique identifying numbers on an officer’s badge.

Kyle Wilkins, 29, took one photo near DePaul’s campus Sunday about 8 p.m. and posted it to Twitter. The image shows an officer with what appears to be duct tape covering his star number.

“I think he put it on there to cover up his number,” Wilkins said.

Wilkins said once he and some other protesters began complaining, the officer removed the tape from the badge.

“It’s scary,” he said, “Because many officers weren’t even wearing their body cams, and making it harder to identify them is very concerning.”

Ald. Andre Vasquez said Wednesday his office fielded calls about the “shameful” practice all day and he brought it up at City Hall during a meeting of the Committee on Public Safety.

“It says a lot about folks who think they need to tape up their badge,” he said. “What kind of activity does an officer plan on doing that they cover up their badge?”

Vasquez said his office asked the Lightfoot administration about the practice on Tuesday.

“People want to equate us asking questions as if these aren’t serious matters,” he said. “There is a history of inappropriate policing in Chicago. There is a reason why the tension here was different.”

On Monday, video surfaced on social media that showed a Chicago police officer beating a man in Uptown during a demonstration. Ephraim Eaddy, a spokesman for the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, told the Chicago Sun-Times the independent monitor received 82 complaints over the weekend.

On Tuesday, Mayor Lori Lightfoot acknowledged in her State of the City speech that “the process of reform has been too slow and too narrowly focused,” and pledged to institute immediate steps toward reform within the next 90 days including community-centered and de-escalation training, and mental health support for officers.

In a statement to the Reporter, Chicago’s chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police said they “do not make the CPD policy nor make the department orders so we can’t speak for CPD.”

The Reporter asked CPD about the images and video that show multiple officers engaging in the practice, and whether there would be a more comprehensive investigation beyond just one officer.

“All allegations that we are made aware of will be addressed,” they said in a statement.

But CPD did not respond to questions about how many allegations they were aware of.

Lightfoot’s office said she strongly condemned the practice.

“Wearing nameplates in uniform is the most universal form of transparency and accountability when it comes to policing. All Chicago police officers are required to wear and make visible their unit assignment designator, nameplate and prescribed star. Should any officer be found in violation of these policies, we will ensure that they will be held fully accountable,” her office said in a statement.

The Chicago Police Department has been under a federal consent decree since January 2019. An investigation by the Reporter found that between 2011 and 2017, the city paid $313 million to settle claims of police misconduct. The tally for 2018 alone was $113 million, according to the most recent analysis.

This story originally appeared in The Chicago Reporter. Jonathan Ballew is a Chicago-based freelance journalist.
Before a crash involving police killed a woman in Lake View on Wednesday night, Chicago police radio traffic indicates the officers had been told to stop pursuing a fleeing suspect.

Officers were told at least four times to terminate the pursuit, according to the radio traffic. Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Chicago Police Supt. David Brown declined to discuss any specifics of the pursuit during a news conference Thursday.

In light of that crash, Lightfoot said more changes will soon come to CPD’s policy on pursuits.

“I’ve been very concerned about police pursuits since I became mayor,” Lightfoot said. “The frequency of them, that they cause death, they cause injury, property damage, the whole works.”

Though the CPD’s policy on pursuits was updated just 14 months ago, Lightfoot said she ordered another evaluation of the policy last year after she took office.

“We will be making an announcement shortly about what the new policy is and what the training plan is,” the mayor said. “Police pursuits are, obviously, one of the most deadly and dangerous exercises that police officers are engaged in and we want to make sure that, if that is necessary, it’s done in very limited circumstances, under full direction of a supervisor, and done only with marked vehicles with lights and sirens so that when they’re racing through the streets, people know that there’s an emergency that’s happening.”

The pursuit Wednesday night spanned well over 30 miles and began on the Far South Side.

The chase began about 8:15 p.m. near 115th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue when officers noticed a vehicle possibly wanted for several crimes in nearby suburbs. Illinois State Police said the Jeep was wanted in connection with at least one homicide.

The Jeeps eventually led officers to the Northwest Side where, according to police radio traffic, the pursuit was ordered terminated. The Jeep later crashed near Irving Park Road and Keystone Avenue. The driver ran to a nearby gas station and stole an idling Nissan SUV, according to police. He then took off east on Irving Park Road.

While chasing the Nissan with their sirens activated, a marked squad car slammed into a Ford Explorer traveling north on Ashland Avenue, police said. The driver, a 37-year-old woman, was taken to Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where she died.

The Cook County medical examiner’s office identified her as Guadalupe Francisco-Martinez. A GoFundMe page set up in her name said she had six children. “She was such a strong, amazing and funny mother, friend and sister to everyone,” wrote the fundraiser’s organizer, who did not respond to an interview request.

The driver of the stolen Nissan SUV then led police to Bridgeport on the South Side, where he crashed into a pole in the 900 block of West Pershing Road, police said. He tried to run from the scene but was taken into custody nearby. He was taken to the University of Chicago Medical Center in serious condition.

Sustained high-speed pursuits by Chicago police are relatively rare, though they can prove costly for the city.

Chequita Adams was killed in a West Side crash in 2017 related to a police pursuit. Her family sued and was eventually awarded a nearly $5 million settlement.

Two years earlier, police were pursuing a vehicle fleeing a shooting on the South Side when the driver of the fleeing vehicle jumped a curb and ran over 13-month-old Dillian Harris, killing him. The boy’s family filed a lawsuit against the city, involved officers and the driver, Antoine Watkins. The suit is still pending.

The CPD’s directive on pursuits states officers and their supervisors must perform a “balancing test” when deciding to pursue a fleeing vehicle that’s wanted in connection with a serious crime, such as a shooting.

“All [police department] members involved in or supervising a motor vehicle pursuit must be prepared to justify their actions,” the directive states.
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Thousands of people who are arrested, then processed at Cook County Jail and released could be putting the public at risk of being infected with COVID-19, according to research published Thursday.

The peer-reviewed analysis, published online by the journal Health Affairs, shows that COVID-19 case rates were significantly higher in ZIP codes with higher rates of arrest and released jail inmates.

Eric Reinhart, a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University's Department of Anthropology, analyzed records for more than 2,000 inmates released in March that he obtained through an open-records request. He then linked that information with COVID-19 data by ZIP code from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Reinhart concluded for each person arrested, there's a risk of infecting at least two people in the community with COVID-19, a multiplier effect estimate he called conservative.

“Although we cannot infer causality, it is possible that, as arrested individuals are exposed to high-risk spaces for infection in jails and then later released to their communities, the criminal justice system is turning them into potential disease vectors for their families, neighbors and, ultimately, the general public,” the study said.

But Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart’s office strongly disputed the study’s findings and said officials have taken extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of the virus since early outbreaks at the jail.

“This study is a fantasy filled with assumptions bordering on lies,” sheriff’s office spokesman Matthew Walberg said. “The focus is on outdated information and completely ignores the fact that as a result of our interventions, cases at the jail have dropped precipitously over the past month.”

At the end of April, state health officials reported high numbers of African American and Latino residents tested positive for COVID-19, showing a disproportionate number of cases. While African Americans make up 14% of the state’s population, they represented 29% of coronavirus cases.

Cases at the jail peaked at more than 300 around that time.

“It shows that this infection within the jail cannot be contained within the jail’s walls,” Alexa Van Brunt, an attorney with the MacArthur Justice Center who is representing detainees in a class-action lawsuit against Dart, said of the study. “The jail is part of the community, and the failure of the jail to protect detainees puts the community in danger.”

A federal judge in April denied the lawsuit's request for a court order to release or transfer elderly and medically compromised detainees during the outbreak, but approved a series of measures to reduce the spread of the virus, including directing the jail to house most detainees in single cells and conduct widespread coronavirus testing — steps the sheriff’s office says it was already taking.

Sharlyn Grace, executive director of the Chicago Community Bond Fund, a nonprofit that posts bond for people who cannot afford it, called the study a “wake-up call for elected officials” of the public health risks caused by policing and incarceration and said it showed the need to keep the jail’s population reduced into summer.

Reinhart said his findings were “especially relevant” given recent mass arrests across the country. In Chicago and cities across the U.S., thousands of people went to jail over the past week related to protests.

Sheriff’s office records show bookings at the jail jumped after days of citywide unrest from an average of about 100 per day to 170 on Monday to 215 on Tuesday. Slightly less than half of people brought to the jail were released the same day. If a person is not released the same day they are booked, they are tested for the coronavirus that day and again 14 days later. If a detainee tests positive during that window, they are held in isolation, the sheriff’s office said.

“As of [Wednesday], there were 36 detainees positive for COVID-19 at the jail, and 42 jail staff members currently positive,” Walberg said. “More important, virtually all of the new cases in recent weeks have come from newly arrested individuals who tested positive at intake, not from those who were already in custody.”

Reinhart added that he focused his research on Cook County Jail, the largest in the country, because of its high number of coronavirus cases. He said the Chicago jail could be indicative of a larger trend.

“What’s happening here, I have no doubt is happening across the country,” Reinhart said.

Brett Chase’s reporting on the environment and public health is made possible by a grant from The Chicago Community Trust.
The tiny corner of Illinois that the coronavirus forgot

Scott County only one in state without any reported cases of COVID-19

BY NEAL EARLEY, STAFF REPORTER
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WINCHESTER, Ill. — The virus that has raced around the globe and killed more than 100,000 in the U.S. alone has yet to reach one small community in Illinois.

Scott County, with a population of about 4,951, is the only one of Illinois’ 102 counties that has not yet reported a single case of COVID-19.

The mayor of Winchester, the 1,458-population county seat, suspects it’s because so few people move in and out, lowering the risk of anyone bringing the virus in.

The local public health official thinks they might have actually had a few cases early on, but no one was getting tested back then.

Some residents — particularly the younger crowd — think the whole pandemic has been overblown.

“We think it’s more political than anything,” said Dalton Schoenfelder, 20, a laid-off factory worker. “It’s not as bad as people portray it.

Some residents work in nearby Beardstown, which has had 42 reported cases of COVID-19 and one death. A few Scott County residents work at the nearby JBS slaughterhouse in Beardstown, located about 31 miles away in Cass County, which has seen 74 cases of COVID-19, some involving workers at the plant.

Steve Shireman, the health administrator for Scott County, said it’s possible some had the virus early on, as many in the county showed symptoms but could not get tested.

In Winchester, the shops and salons have just begun to slowly open, as in the rest of the state.

The heart of the city is Winchester’s town square, a small grassy park home to a statue of Stephen Douglas, the Illinois Senator who famously debated Abraham Lincoln before squaring off with the future president in the Scott County courthouse over the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854.

The business strip had only just begun to spring back to life a few years before the pandemic.

And many worried it would snap right back where it was, thanks to Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s March 21 stay-at-home order.

Callie Gregory owns Studio 29 Salon and Spa, just off the main square. Like many across the state, she couldn’t get unemployment benefits because of the massive backlog. Now, her salon is open again, and she hopes the worst is behind them.

“We’ve been here eight years, and in that eight years, a lot of small businesses opened,” Gregory said. “And when you shut them down for two months, it’s like, wait a minute, we were just getting our little community going.”

Jeff Pittman, an alderman in Winchester and owner of The Pitt Stop, a restaurant along the square, said he had to lay off two full-time and three part-time waitresses. Now, it’s just him and his son, with the occasional help from his son’s girlfriend, serving take-out on the sidewalk.

Three of his customers — Schoenfelder and two others — are in their early 20s, and all are skeptical of the severity of the pandemic.

“Young and old in the county agree there’s a generational divide on the seriousness of the threat, with older residents worrying, and younger folk scoffing,” Pittman said.

As he waits for his food, Camden Cockerill, 20, explains he was hurt on his job in nearby Jacksonville, his left hand in a cast after a crane operator dropped an I-beam on it and “almost cut my hand in half.”

Cockerill, now living on workers’ compensation, said the hospital wanted to administer a COVID-19 test before treating him in the emergency room.

But Cockerill said his boss jumped in and argued that no one in Scott County was infected with the virus, so they should just admit him right away to take care of his hand, which was basically “falling off.”

Like his boss, Cockerill is convinced Scott County has little to fear from COVID-19.

“My appointment, doctor referral, or insurance is needed at state operate drive-thru sites and testing is available at no cost to the individual,” the department said in a release.

The drive-thru sites are in Aurora, Auburn Gresham in Chicago, Bloomington, Champaign, East St. Louis, Harwood Heights, Peoria, Rockford, Rolling Meadows, South Holland and Waukegan.

Another 116 people have died in Illinois from COVID-19, but the state also saw another decline in the number of daily cases on Thursday, as officials announced 11 drive-thru testing sites would be open to everyone, regardless of whether they are experiencing symptoms.

The state has lost 5,736 people to COVID-19. On Thursday, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 929 new cases out of 22,841 tests results. That’s a 4.07% positivity rate, much lower than what the state saw through most of May.

The seven-day statewide positivity for cases — one of the metrics Pritzker and health officials are using to guide reopening — is 6%. That seven-day figure remaining under 20% for 28 days is one of the requirements for the state to move on to the next phase of reopening.

The 116 deaths suggest COVID-19’s deadly phase is not over. But on a more promising note, the 929 cases is the lowest daily tally for new infections since April 5, when the state saw 899.

The Illinois Public Health Department on Thursday announced its 11 state-run drive thru COVID-19 testing sites would be open to everyone. Previously, the sites were intended for those with symptoms, asymptomatic people who were in contact with COVID-19-infected people and essential workers and first responders.

“No appointment, doctor referral, or insurance is needed at state operated drive-thru and testing is available at no cost to the individual,” the department said in a release.

The drive-thru sites are in Aurora, Auburn Gresham in Chicago, Bloomington, Champaign, East St. Louis, Harwood Heights, Peoria, Rockford, Rolling Meadows, South Holland and Waukegan.
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FAMILY CALLS FOR CRIMINAL PROBE OF COPS IN BRICKYARD MALL INCIDENT

Woman says Chicago police officer dragged her by the hair from vehicle and knelt on her neck

BY MITCH DUDEK, STAFF REPORTER
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The family of Mia Wright called for Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx to open a criminal investigation into the conduct of a police officer who dragged Wright by the hair from a vehicle and knelt on her neck at a West Side mall over the weekend.

“There has to be justice for the family,” family attorney Nenye Uche said Thursday at a news conference held in the parking lot of the Brickyard Mall, a few steps from where the encounter with police took place Sunday afternoon.

Uche also called for the disorderly conduct charge against Wright to be immediately dropped.

Foxx’s office issued a statement Thursday afternoon: “We are aware of the incident that occurred at Brickyard Mall and are currently conducting a thorough, independent review of the matter, including the conduct of the police officers involved. We take law enforcement accountability seriously and have reached out to the family involved through their attorney.”

The family still doesn’t understand why police targeted their car in the first place and is demanding answers.

Wright was in the front passenger seat of her cousin’s car Sunday when police, for no apparent reason, began to smash the windows of the vehicle with batons and order everyone out.

An officer grabbed Wright’s hair, which had been wound into a bun, and yanked her from the car, Wright said.

While Wright was on the ground, the officer knelt on her back and neck. Wright, who got a piece of glass in her eye from the shattered window, was held overnight at a nearby police station, she said.

“All I thought about was what happened to George Floyd and it could have been another situation like that,” Wright said Thursday.

Bystanders captured video of the incident.

Wright and three family members were trying to exit the mall parking lot after realizing the Target they wanted to go to was closed, family said.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot said investigators with the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, which probes allegations of police misconduct, are trying to determine the identities of the officers involved in the incident and the context surrounding the encounter.

At the conclusion of the investigation, COPA will share its findings with Supt. David Brown and make a recommendation on any disciplinary measures it deems appropriate.

“Of course, I have my own personal opinion about it,” Lightfoot said at a separate news conference Thursday. “But I’m not going to share it because I don’t want to influence what COPA’s work is.

“No police department that I know, certainly no reputable one, allows for officers to put their knees on somebody’s neck.”

Brown said he’ll be taking “swift action” as soon as he has COPA’s findings.

Wright and her cousin, Tnika Tate, 39, said police addressed them with words such as “b----” and “savage.”

Tate is the manager of a South Side funeral home where Wright works.

Wright’s mother, Kim Woods, 55, who was also in the car, expressed anger and frustration Thursday.

“I’m rather pissed off at the moment,” said Woods, who works as a secretary to the principal of Dett Elementary School.

“I want her charges dropped, we didn’t do anything,” she said. “I want justice for all three of us. I want justice for the world. I don’t want anyone to have to go through this ever in their life again.

“If you wanted our attention, all you had to do was knock on the window,” she said.

Uche said police should be transparent about what happened.

“They should just say they made a mistake,” said Uche, who plans to file a civil rights lawsuit against the Chicago Police Department on behalf of the family. “Obviously, they thought they were someone else.

“We all saw the video, they didn’t try to run. Why use that kind of force if you’re not trying to provoke fear and chaos,” he said.

There had been looting at the Brickyard Mall on Sunday, Ald. Gilbert Villegas (36th) told the Chicago Sun-Times. There were also nonviolent protests at the mall, he said.

Wright said her family had nothing to do with protests or looting. They wanted to shop for party supplies at Target but never even got out of the car.

In an email, the police department said Wright “was observed by responding officers assembled with 3 or more persons for the purpose of using force or violence to disturb the peace.” No additional details of the incident were provided.

Uche called the explanation by police “utter nonsense.”
‘STOP KILLING US’

Hundreds of men and boys march from St. Sabina to deliver message to public

BY ELVIA MALAGÓN, STAFF REPORTER
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About 200 men and boys were silent Thursday as they stopped traffic and formed three lines in the intersection of 79th Street and Racine Avenue on the South Side.

Soon, they all took a knee, raised fists into the air and reverberated their message through the Gresham neighborhood: “Stop killing us.”

The demonstration organized by St. Sabina church comes 10 days after George Floyd was killed after a white officer pressed a knee into his neck while taking him into custody in Minnesota. Floyd’s death was captured on video, sparking protests in Chicago and other cities across the nation.

The Rev. Michael Pfleger, of the Faith Community of Saint Sabina, said the crowd of African American men and boys wanted to refocus the protests after attention has turned to those who have used the unrest to break into businesses and vandalize property. Pfleger said it was time for the country to listen to the men, warning that what is happening now is only a glimpse of what could happen.

“What started this was decades of black men being killed like animals in America, and nobody did a damn thing about it,” Pfleger said. The demonstration in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood started at St. Sabina, where William Hall led the group in prayer before they walked to the intersection, reminding them that the same God watching over them also watched over people such as Harriet Tubman.

“We thank you for the future to come, because what’s to come is better than what’s been,” Hall said.

Some of the men wore T-shirts from historically black college fraternities while others wore T-shirts stating, “I can’t breathe” — Floyd’s repeated plea during the eight minutes the Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck.

James Ramos, of Humboldt Park, was among those in the crowd. He works for the 21st Ward, but he’s also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, a black fraternity, and joined as part of a call for older members to show support during Thursday’s demonstration.

“I wanted to make sure that this was a call for peace and a demonstration that men of color are not out here looting, committing violent acts, but are unified and are not condoning the fact that there’s violence and destroying of our communities,” Ramos said. “So I’m in support of that.”

Pedestrians on the street cheered on the men. Lisa Shaw, 56, traveled from her home in the south suburbs and raised her fist in the air in support of the group.

“This for my sons and my grandsons,” Shaw said, as she started to tear up.

Trevon Bosley, 21, of the Roseland neighborhood on the Far South Side, was one of three men who during the demonstration read off different types of occupations that African American men hold. Bosley, an anti-violence activist and a Southern Illinois University student studying electrical engineering, said it was meant to point out what role they should have in the country.

“If we continue to be killed and locked up and different things like that, we will not be able to contribute to American society, we won’t be able to better America,” Bosley said.

Prosecutors in Minnesota have upgraded charges against former Officer Derek Chauvin to second-degree murder and filed charges against three other former officers on the scene when Floyd died. But Bosley, who is part of the Sabina’s B.R.A.V.E. Youth Leaders, said there are other police-involved deaths that need to be addressed in Chicago. Beyond police reform, he said, Chicago officials should also address issues such as education.

“We also don’t want the mayor just protecting downtown from looters, we want her to protect the city as a whole, especially the south and west sides,” Bosley said.

Elvia Malagón’s reporting on social justice and income inequality is made possible by a grant from the Chicago Community Trust.
Leo High students help clean up Auburn Gresham

BY ELVIA MALAGÓN, STAFF REPORTER
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Cheerful photos of this year’s graduating class at Leo High School lined a fence at the Auburn Gresham school Thursday as part of its efforts to clean up after some of the unrest in this week’s mostly peaceful protests over George Floyd’s killing.

The private all-boys Catholic school, at 7901 S. Sangamon St., wasn’t damaged or vandalized, but its faculty and predominately African American student body was deployed to help tidy up the neighborhood, in part, to combat the images of those who broke into businesses and destroyed properties.

“It’s so damaging to the image of young African American males,” Leo High School President Dan McGrath said. “We work with young African American males every single day, and we know that they almost start out with two strikes against them because of the justice system.”

Principal Shaka Rawls said officials spent the last week checking in with students and advising them to stay indoors over concerns for their safety. Many of the boys know the participants in the local protests who filled the streets after Derek Chauvin, a white Minneapolis police officer, knelt on Floyd’s neck, leading to the African American man’s death.

“They [students] wanted to know their part and their place in all of this, which was actually the birth child of this event here,” Rawls said. “We needed to do something, they wanted to do something.”

The teenagers swept 79th Street between Halsted Street and Racine Avenue Thursday afternoon. Some of the boys used their brooms to clear out grass and spread mulch out on the sidewalk.

The school later passed out meals to members of the community where several businesses, including a Walgreens, were boarded up.

Tyler Smith said he didn’t go to any of the protests because he didn’t want to catch COVID-19. The 15-year-old, who will be a sophomore in the fall, said he was helping clean up so incoming freshmen could start their high school careers in a fresh environment. He also said he wanted his peers and neighbors to stay safe.

“Check in on your loved ones,” the teenager said. “Live life to your fullest.”

Elvia Malagón’s reporting on social justice and income inequality is made possible by a grant from the Chicago Community Trust.
BY JON SEIDEL, FEDERAL COURTS REPORTER
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A man who allegedly tried to tackle a Chicago police officer after he was caught inside a looted liquor store is the latest to face a federal gun charge after weekend violence.

Federal prosecutors have so far charged at least six people with gun crimes related to the looting and rioting in Chicago. They have also charged a Galesburg man who allegedly traveled first to Minneapolis and then Chicago to loot and riot, and they charged a Pilsen man with arson for setting fire to a Chicago police vehicle.

Man who tried to tackle cop latest to face gun charge after weekend violence

Federal courts reporter Jon Seidel

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By Jon Seidel

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The feds say police called to the liquor store in the 5500 block of West North Avenue around 6 p.m. Sunday because of looting and shooting found Jeremiah J. Scott, 21, inside. Police said the front door was damaged.

Officers told Scott to leave the liquor store, but as he did so, he tried to run away, according to a five-page criminal complaint filed Thursday. Then, when police tried to take him into custody, Scott allegedly tried to tackle an officer to the ground by grabbing both of the officer’s legs.

The officers arrested Scott for disorderly conduct, according to the complaint. When searching Scott, police said they found a black semi-automatic handgun with an extended magazine kept near Scott’s groin. The feds say the gun had been stolen on June 11, 2019.

Scott was convicted in 2018 of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon in Cook County and sentenced to two years of probation, according to the complaint. He is now charged in federal court with illegal possession of a firearm.

RAPPER’S RAGE

Mensa calls for ‘end to police brutality,’ saying that if officers charged in George Floyd killing were bad apples, it’s time to ‘cut down the tree’

Chicago rapper Vic Mensa speaks Thursday about the death of George Floyd, which sparked protests around the country.

Screen Image

Rapper Vic Mensa joined Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle at a Thursday news conference focused on encouraging people to help repair small businesses that were looted or vandalized, but the singer and activist said that if people really want to clean up the community, “don’t wait until it burns down.”

The Chicago rapper said the “real looting” is the schools closed on the South and West Sides, while a new police academy is being planned and the black bodies “stolen by police officers in our city and across our nation.”

Mensa and Preckwinkle spoke at the East 47th Street headquarters of Mensa’s SaveMoneySaveLife Foundation, which promises to use art and entertainment “to foster sustainable change.”

Mensa called for an “end to police brutality,” saying that if officers charged in George Floyd killing in Minneapolis were bad apples, it’s time to “cut down the tree.”

Preckwinkle spoke of the neighborhoods and businesses that were ransacked over the past few days as some used peaceful protests following Floyd’s death in Minneapolis by police as a cover to loot businesses.

Preckwinkle encouraged people to help “repair the devastation we’re facing” and acknowledged that many feel “frustrated, traumatized and exhausted” by the coronavirus pandemic, the high rates of unemployment and the toll of racism.

“Along with these protests we must return to rebuilding our communities that have been devastated by looting and destruction,” Preckwinkle said. “We must protect our family-owned, minority-owned businesses who are still cleaning up broken glass and decimated shelves.”

Preckwinkle said thousands of residents have already stepped up to help with neighborhood cleanup, and she encouraged everyone “to continue forward in the spirit of community.”

Mensa focused on what sparked the protests in the first place, not the looting that also occurred.

“The real looting is the looting of the body of George Floyd, the looting of the body of Laquan McDonald, the looting of the body of Rekia Boyd,” Mensa said, referring to two Chicagoans whose killings at the hands of police made headlines. Mensa also named Breonna Taylor, killed by police in Louisville earlier this year, and Ronald “Ronnie man” Johnson, killed in Chicago in 2014.

“What I will march for is an end to police brutality. What I will march for is defunding police. This is not a situation of bad apples … only so many bad apples, and you must have a rotten tree, at which point we need to cut the tree down and replant it.”

Mensa and Preckwinkle were joined by Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry, Chicago Board of Elections Commissioner Jonathan Swain, who owns Kimbark Beverage Shoppe in Hyde Park, and other small business owners.

Swain said the business has been in his family since the 1970s. He said last week, a group of people in cars “broke our doors, ran our store and ransacked our business.”

Swain said he doesn’t condone burglary or looting but knows that the unrest seen in recent days was brought on by “generation upon generation of racial injustice and economic injustice.”

Those injustices also make it harder for black businesses to recover, Swain said.

“When it comes to rebuilding our businesses in our community, or our homes, our families do not have the wealth to rebuild and don’t have the wealth to provide collateral for bank loans,” Swain said. “So we are in a more desperate challenge. So what I would encourage folks to do as we move forward — let’s channel our energies in the right direction toward protests and civil disobedience, let’s make sure that we are investing in our businesses. Let’s keep the spotlight on the real cause of our frustration, not how we communicate it.”

TOP NEWS

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EPA action on ethylene oxide
doesn’t affect 2 suburban plants

BY BRETT CHASE, STAFF REPORTER
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After determining that cancer risks are “unacceptable,” the federal government has taken
an initial step to reduce the release of the gas
ethylene oxide into the air, but the new require-
ments to protect the public don’t apply to a pair
of plants in the northern suburbs that are at the
center of health concerns by residents.

Neither Medline Industries in Waukegan,
which uses the gas to sterilize medical equip-
ment, nor Vantage Specialty Chemicals in
Gurnee, which uses ethylene oxide to pro-
duce chemicals, are directly affected. A new
federal rule announced this week is aimed
at monitoring and safeguarding equipment,
storage tanks and vents at plants to prevent
leaks and the release of the carcinogenic gas
into the air, according to the U.S. Environ-
mental Protection Agency.

Disappointed that neither Lake County fa-
cility is facing more stringent regulation, a lo-
cal community group called the rule “useless.”

The EPA action “is nothing but a pointless
sham,” said Barb Hernandez of Gurnee, who
belongs to Stop EtO in Lake County. EtO is a
shortened reference to ethylene oxide.

Sterilization operations like Medline’s plant
weren’t being considered for the new rule,
which has been the subject of review for more
than a year. However, tougher guidelines for
such facilities are being considered, the EPA
said. The now-shuttered Sterigenics plant in
Willowbrook was also a sterilizing operation.

Vantage, which uses ethylene oxide to pro-
duce chemicals, belongs to a class of manu-
facturers that was most recently being scru-
tinized by the EPA for the new safety rule,
but an agency spokeswoman said that Gurn-
ee facility didn’t emit enough of the gas to be
considered a “major source” of air pollution.

Lake County residents had hoped the EPA
would require strict air monitoring around
the boundaries of the Gurnee plant to make
sure that the cancer-causing gas doesn’t
spread through the community.

The EPA is expected to consider new
rules for sterilization plants such as Med-
line’s, though the timetable for a final action
is unclear. In a statement, the agency said it
expects to issue a proposal later this year.

“Addressing emissions of the ethylene ox-
ide remains a major priority for the agency,”
the statement said.

Rep. Brad Schneider, D-Ill., echoed con-
cerns voiced by Hernandez.

“Our communities need the EPA to issue the
rule regulating sterilizers and to begin air moni-
toring to ensure the safety of the air we breathe
— anything less is yet another half-measure
from the Trump administration that con-
tinues to drag its feet addressing this threat,”
Schneider said in a statement to the Sun-Times.

In a joint statement this week, Illinois Sen-
ators Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin,
both Democrats, also blasted Trump’s EPA
for its handling of the issue: “EPA’s final rule
still fails to protect public health and will still
leave too many communities, especially com-
nunities of color, vulnerable to air pollution
that creates intolerably high cancer risk.”

The Sterigenics Willowbrook sterilization
site was shut down temporarily by the state of
Illinois in February 2019 because of concerns
about the release of the cancer-causing gas.

Last fall, the company said it will not reopen
the operation. The fallout began after a Chicago
Tribune article in August 2018 reported that
people living near the plant were in an area with
some of the highest cancer risks in the U.S. In
December, the Tribune reported that a federa-
ly funded study also showed high rates of can-
cer in Waukegan near the Medline plant.

In January, Medline halted sterilizations
to complete $10 million in upgrades so it can
meet standards under a new Illinois law. Op-
erations resumed in March.

Medline spokesman Jesse Greenberg said
the recent plant upgrades at the Waukegan
facility are designed to capture virtually all
ethylene oxide releases. “The safety of the
community and our employees will continue
to be our top priority,” he said.

Vantage officials declined requests for an
interview.

“Vantage complies with all state and fed-
eral rules and permits and will continue to do
so,” Vantage spokesman Dennis Culloton said.

The EPA’s new rules regarding ethylene
oxide will require tougher rules for seven Il-
ninois plants, all outside the Chicago area.

Brett Chase’s reporting on the environment
and public health is made possible by a grant from
The Chicago Community Trust.
TOP NEWS

Staff trimmed at Lincoln Park Zoo

BY STEFANO ESPOSITO, STAFF REPORTER
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Lincoln Park Zoo has become the latest of the city's cultural institutions to trim its staff, blaming coronavirus-related financial difficulties.

The zoo has cut 18 employees, about 7% of its staff, a zoo spokeswoman said.

"Today is a difficult day for the Lincoln Park Zoo family. Having to say goodbye to staff with a reduction in force is always a last resort. The financial burden of the COVID-19 pandemic has become too large to carry our current salary investment," zoo spokeswoman Jillian Braun said in a statement.

Cost-saving measures already in place weren’t enough, Braun said.

"Lincoln Park Zoo is expecting a budget shortfall of $2.5 [million] to $5 million, minimally, this fiscal year," she said. “The zoo is hopeful we will see a significant influx of earned revenue with a safe reopening. “However, we do not know what the future will bring and will not be able to recoup the funds lost during the closure. We hope to reopen the zoo and share the joys of wildlife again as soon as possible.”

Registration for Chicago Park Dist. summer camp begins Monday

BY STEFANO ESPOSITO, STAFF REPORTER
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Every summer, the city's parks echo with the shrieks and giggles of kids enjoying soccer, swimming, tennis and countless other fun activities.

Registration is set to begin Monday, June 11, for the Chicago Park District’s Day Camp abbreviated program. Don’t expect your kid to have quite the same experience as in years past. For one, there’s no swimming or field trips — and kids will be expected to bring and wear masks every day.

Camp organizers say children should expect smaller group sizes, social distancing and if they have any possible symptoms of the coronavirus, they will be isolated and a parent will be called to take them home.

Day camp runs from July 6 through Aug. 14 at 148 parks across the city.

For more information and start times, go to https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/programs-memberships/day-camp
Subpoena draws ex-Rep. Acevedo into feds’ political corruption probe

BY JON SEIDEL, TIM NOVAK AND MARK BROWN
Staff Reporters

Former state Rep. Edward “Eddie” Acevedo has been drawn into the ongoing federal public corruption investigation that has gone quiet but not dormant amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Days after Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued his stay-at-home order, federal prosecutors subpoenaed the Illinois secretary of state’s lobbyist division for all records related to Acevedo, as well as Michael and Alexander Acevedo and the Acevedos’ lobbying company, Apex Strategy LLC, records show.

The Chicago Sun-Times obtained a copy of the subpoena through a Freedom of Information Act request. The Acevedos have not been accused of wrongdoing. Edward Acevedo told the Sun-Times he had “no clue” what prompted the subpoena. Michael and Alexander could not immediately be reached for comment Thursday.

“I have no idea what that's about,” Edward Acevedo said.

Secretary of state records list Michael Acevedo as Apex’s manager, and Edward and Alexander Acevedo as previously registered lobbyists. Alexander Acevedo ran in 2016 to replace Edward, his father, in the Legislature but lost. He then ran in 2019 to replace Danny Solis as alderman of Chicago’s 25th Ward in yet another losing bid after Solis was revealed by the Sun-Times to be cooperating with federal investigators in their investigation of Chicago political corruption.

Michael Acevedo is also a son of Edward Acevedo, according to sources.

The grand jury number on the Acevedo subpoena matches that in the case against Ald. Edward M. Burke (14th). The subpoena asked for the records to be submitted by April 15. Though Burke has a status hearing scheduled next week, it’s unclear if it will go forward. Judges at the Dirksen Federal Courthouse are just starting to play catch-up after the coronavirus put most proceedings on hold there for months.

For a year now, Burke has faced racketeering charges in a stunning indictment filed in May 2019. It accused him of using his position on the City Council to steer legal business to his private firm and quoted him allegedly using such colorful phrases as “the cash register has not rung yet” and “did we land . . . the tuna?”

Edward Acevedo said Thursday he had “nothing to do” with Burke, Solis or former state Sen. Martin Sandoval, who has already pleaded guilty to corruption charges in a separate case.

After the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March, federal prosecutors initially reported trouble convening grand juries. However, grand jury indictments began to appear again in early May following a nearly two-month hiatus.

Edward Acevedo, 56, had been a Correctional officer with the Cook County sheriff’s office when he was hired by the Chicago Police Department in June 1995. Acevedo later won election to the Illinois House of Representatives, representing several South Side neighborhoods, including parts of the 11th Ward, the political power base of the Daley family.

Acevedo also worked as a lobbyist for Aurora Venegas, the owner of Azteca Supply Co., who went to federal prison for defrauding the city of Chicago and the village of Orland Park on government contracts.

Acevedo and state Sen. Tony Munoz, another former Chicago police officer, got the Legislature to pass a bill to sweeten their pensions by giving them extra credits toward their police pension for every day they served in the Legislature.

The feds revealed their ongoing public corruption investigations in November 2018 when they famously raided Burke’s City Hall and ward offices. Since then, several politicians have found themselves in the feds’ crosshairs. In addition to Burke, prosecutors have charged former state Rep. Luis Arroyo with paying a bribe to an unnamed state senator. A source has identified that senator as Terry Link, though Link has denied it.

State Sen. Thomas Cullerton is also charged with embezzlement and was expected to go to trial next month, though Chicago’s chief federal judge has said there will be no criminal jury trials until August because of the coronavirus.

Sandoval pleaded guilty in January, admitting in a plea agreement that he took more than $250,000 “in bribes as part of criminal activity that involved more than five participants.” Sandoval also agreed to cooperate with prosecutors.

Mayor condemns vigilantism after Bridgeport patrol

BY TOM SCHUBA, STAFF REPORTER
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Mayor Lori Lightfoot on Thursday denounced vigilantism after a group of men armed with baseball bats, pipes and other weapons seemingly patrolled Bridgeport a night earlier.

Reports of the vigilante posse, made up mostly of white men, come amid civil unrest. As the city continues to experience a wave of looting and vandalism, some residents have banded together and taken to the streets to protect their neighborhoods.

On Thursday, Lightfoot told reporters that it’s “absolutely not appropriate for people to take up arms, bats, pipes, whatever in patrolling neighborhoods.”

“We’ve seen that end with tragic results across the country and we’re not about to allow that to happen here in Chicago,” said Lightfoot, encouraging residents to call 911 for help.

“I absolutely support neighbors being vigilant as to what’s going on in their neighborhoods and in their blocks,” she added. “But taking up arms, that leads to chaos, and we’re not supporting vigilantism in the city of Chicago under any circumstances.”

Despite the mayor’s assurances, some Bridgeport residents reported that police officers on the scene failed to intervene and even chatted with some members of the group of dozens, many of whom were seen allegedly menacing people in the area.

Megan Merrill, a volunteer for Greater Bridgeport Mutual Aid who lives in the neighborhood, said she saw someone in the group attempt to stick something in the bicycle wheel of an Asian man at 31st Street and Princeton Avenue. “The whole reason that the cops are supposedly present and cracking down is to prevent violence and to prevent property damage,” Merrill said. “And they witnessed one of the guys trying to attack a person of color ... on a bicycle and they did nothing.”

A group of men congregate at 31st Street and Princeton Avenue on Wednesday night. PROVIDED
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A RENEWED PUSH FOR REPARATIONS

Council taking up topic as killing of George Floyd — and anger it has triggered — reopens nation’s racial wounds

BY FRAN SPIELMAN,
CITY HALL REPORTER
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With a renewed sense of urgency, Chicago aldermen on Thursday held what once would have seemed like a politically volatile debate about granting some form of reparations to descendants of African-American slaves.

The death of George Floyd at the hands of now-former Minneapolis police officers — and the anger, rioting and violence it continues to trigger — has turned a political hot potato into an open wound and a pressing need.

African Americans have borne the brunt of coronavirus cases and deaths, exacerbating a nine-year gap in life expectancy between black and white Chicagoans.

Long-neglected South and West Side neighborhoods were also ravaged by looters and arsonists after the downtown area was sealed off on Saturday night. That has deprived some inner-city neighborhoods of the groceries and pharmacies they tried so long and hard to attract.

“Downtown is gonna be fine next week. It’s gonna look like no one has ever been down there [to wreak havoc]. Our neighborhoods? I don’t know how soon we come out of this,” said Ald. Roderick Sawyer (6th), the City Council’s reparations champion.

Against that backdrop, the Sawyer-chaired City Council Committee on Human Relations met Thursday to consider his resolution calling for the creation of a “Chicago Citizens of African Descent Reparations Commission.”

No vote was taken, but only because public notice of the meeting wasn’t posted in time. The committee will meet to vote at 3 p.m. Friday.

The 16-member commission would be charged with holding hearings and developing a plan to “ensure equity, equality and parity for citizens of African descent in Chicago who are mired in poverty.” It would remain in place for 20 years to monitor and ensure compliance.

Members would include: Mayor Lori Lightfoot or her designated representative; five members of the City Council; and 10 members from the public, with at least eight of those from the “eligible impacted community.”

An earlier version had the teeth of an ordinance and called for a series of commitments from cash-strapped city agencies, including free rides on the CTA, free tuition at City Colleges and a bigger share of city contracts. That was scrapped because, as Sawyer put it, “It was over the top.”

Thursday’s debate was part history lesson, part emotional catharsis.

Researcher Cecile Johnson laid the groundwork by discussing the “tale of two cities.”

With charts and graphs, Johnson laid bare Chicago’s long and documented history of racial segregation and inequity — in housing, education, employment, health care and criminal justice.

She talked about the five “elements of genocide,” which include higher rates of infant mortality and suicide, exposure to environmental toxins, substandard access to food and health care and the fact that 50% of the children in foster care are black.

“Blacks in Chicago are experiencing all sides. Not just one element,” she said.

Johnson said Chicago needs “more than a conversation” about reparations. The city needs an “investment in the black community” because “a great harm has been done to us” by policies “put into place by our elected officials.”

“As we see from some of these things that have happened in recent days, there is such a despair. … The youth are crying out,” she said.

Ald. Andre Vasquez (40th) said he doesn’t need the “data points” because “we’re living through it. … We’re watching exactly what continues to occur and has occurred for generations because of clear racist policy, racist culture.”

Ald. Walter Burnett (27th) said it’s “a shame that we’re talking about reparations related to what happened years ago when we were in slavery” when African Americans in Chicago are “still suffering the same consequences” today.

“I’m hoping that, with what’s going on right now with all of these protests, and the unfortunate death of my brother, that people will wake up, look at themselves in the mirror and say, ‘When that African American comes in to get a job, did I just turn him down just because he’s African American? Or did I just go to the white guy because I feel comfortable with him?’ Or do I look at all of these people as though they’re criminals?”

Sawyer said he has no idea precisely what form reparations will take in Chicago, only that the debate about “finding ways to put black people on a level playing field” must begin.

“If we don’t start having the conversation, nothing’s going to happen. People will put a George Floyd sign up in the window and think that’s all they need to do. And they’ll go on about their lives thinking everything is OK,” Sawyer said.

“We didn’t get here overnight. I’m sure we’re not gonna get out of it overnight. But, if we don’t start talking about it, the pressure will keep building. Like a teapot, that pressure has to escape some kind of way.”
Black Lives Matter protesters march in Garfield Ridge

BY MITCHELL ARMENTROUT, STAFF REPORTER
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Black Lives Matter activists brought their message for police reform Thursday to the heart of a Southwest Side neighborhood that’s home to thousands of Chicago police officers.

About 300 protesters rallied outside Kennedy High School, 6325 W. 56th St., before marching peacefully through Garfield Ridge, once home to Jason Van Dyke, the ex-officer now behind bars for killing Laquan McDonald.

A bastion of “white flight” dating back to the Civil Rights Movement, the neighborhood is now mostly white and Latino — and a key place to try to change attitudes in the wake of the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd, activists said.

“This neighborhood isn’t a place to be scared of,” marcher and Garfield Ridge resident Crystal Gonzalez said. “Black people and all people of color shouldn’t feel like, ‘Oh, that’s a part of town I can’t come by.’ This turnout is important because it shows this isn’t that type of neighborhood, and maybe we can take a small step in the right direction of more peace, more friendliness.”

Organizer Dave Ruiz called Floyd’s death “the straw that broke my back.”

“It just added to the frustration I was feeling about the fact that reforms were failing, our police departments were failing, and that voices like mine weren’t being heard,” Ruiz said. “And that our community especially didn’t have representation on the matter. That’s why we’re here.”

Edward Pledger came from Kenwood to take part. “To see again that people are willing to step up, to say something — it’s a great thing.”

The chanting crowd, mostly kept on the sidewalk by about 30 officers riding alongside on bicycles, marched for about three miles, drawing curious looks from some residents — and cheers and car honks from others.

“The community was cheering us, was very supportive and very respectful, in general,” organizer Nikola Stamenkovic Diez said.

Mary Shilney joined residents from nearby Clearing who stood along 55th Street handing out cold water bottles to marchers at the tail end of the trek on a hot spring afternoon.

“Black lives do matter. I would love to hear them say ‘all lives matter.’ But they’re peaceful, and that’s what’s important,” Shilney said.

Recording video of the march as it passed her home, Leticia Lopez said her neighbors “are good people.

“There are people who can be bad in any color or race. But we can always do better,” Lopez said.

A handful of older white men held American flags as they looked on from across Archer Avenue, a busy commercial strip in the neighborhood. One who said he’s from Garfield Ridge called it “stupid to watch this ignorance,” cursed at a reporter and declined to share his name.

Beyond a few profanities, the demonstration was purely peaceful — and effective, according to organizer Stamenkovic Diez.

“I think it’s going to create productive dialogue, that’s going to hopefully, pragmatically, change the future,” he said.

Another rally is scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday at Union Park.

Navy Pier set for ‘cautious,’ phased reopening without Centennial Wheel

BY STEFANO ESPOSITO, STAFF REPORTER
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Navy Pier is set to “cautiously” reopen Wednesday but without the Centennial Wheel and with “social distancing ambassadors” reminding visitors to be safe.

“Following Navy Pier’s longest closure in recent history, we, along with the rest of Chicago, are anxious to reopen our spaces and safely welcome guests back to the pier over the next few months as we work collectively to restore our local economy,” Marilyn Gardner, Navy Pier president and CEO, said in a statement.

“We recognize that our new reality is now accompanied by new standards, and as the people’s pier, we are committed to doing everything in our power to ensure the health, safety and comfort of all who visit the pier. Our goal is to provide guests with a safe space to reconnect with Chicago through our free public programs, on-site local dining, retail and attractions, and our beloved vistas and vast green space.”

The pier is one of a number of popular Chicago-area attractions set to reopen in a limited fashion in the coming days, including the Chicago Botanic Garden and The Morton Aboretum.

Among those areas at the pier to reopen to the public Wednesday: the parking garages, outdoor restaurant spaces, the north and south docks, Polk Bros Park, Peoples Energy Welcome Pavilion and Pier Park, pier officials said.

Staff are expected to frequently disinfect high-touch areas of the pier and about 75 hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed for public use. The social distancing ambassadors will roam the pier to “cordially remind guests to practice physical distancing.”

“Gathering of large groups of 10 or more people are strictly prohibited,” according to a pier statement. “Guests in violation of this practice will be subject to removal from the premises.”

The Chicago Children’s Museum and the Chicago Shakespeare Theater will remain closed during the first phase of the reopening, officials said.

Navy Pier has been closed since March 16.

The Chicago Botanic Garden is set to open its doors June 9, with the opening of a 2.3-mile perimeter walk, a loop of the garden. Visitors, including members, are required to preregister for a specific date and time. The Morton Aboretum reopened to members June 1.
Leaders urge avoiding ‘Oppression Olympics’

Before friction between black and brown communities in Chicago gets more out of hand, African American and Hispanic elected officials gathered on the West Side on Thursday to plead for unity in the wake of the brutal death of George Floyd.

Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, D-Maywood, said there was no point for either group “to stand here and fight each other for crumbs — for crumbs. None of us win if we are too busy competing in the Oppression Olympics instead of focusing on getting our fair share.”

Lightford plus other black and brown city, state and congressional leaders — all Democrats — gathered outside the aptly named Healing Temple Church of God in Christ, 4941 W. Chicago Ave., on a hot day to turn down the heat.

They came together as protests continue in Chicago and other cities because Floyd, an African American, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pinned him down with his knee for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

Looters, exploiting peaceful demonstrations, ransacked stores around the city and in some suburbs, destroying the lives and livelihoods of small-business owners who may not have the resources to reopen, especially if they were drained of cash because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

Once again, we’re at a place we’ve been: organizing after a horrible death of an African American involving a white police officer who chose to use excessive force when there were alternative ways to respond. The officers on the scene who watched while Floyd died have also been charged. All four have been fired.

This comes while we are stretched as never before, trying to cope with the COVID-19 calamity — shining a light on white privilege while exposing black and brown disparities in terms of infections, deaths and economic impact.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported Thursday that some gang members were among the residents guarding local businesses, leading to racial profiling and incidents in Pilsen, Little Village and some other communities, raising racial tensions. The headline on Marlen Garcia’s Sun-Times col-

umn said, “African Americans, Latinos must unite in fight against racism.”

On Thursday, they tried, led by U.S. Reps. Danny Davis, who is black, and Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, who represents the only Hispanic congressional district in Illinois.

“We know that friction has been developing between black and Latino citizens, residents and street organizations,” Davis said.

“We plead with our young people. We understand your pain and frustration. But we plead with you, with every fiber of our being, let’s not violate each other. Let’s not fight, but let’s unite,” Davis said.

Garcia said, “We need to study our history and appreciate over 400 years of slavery, Jim Crow and institutional white supremacy and institutions in America.

“We are at a crossroads. And we must find common ground. Let me be clear; our path forward must be centered from, and with, our unity.” This unity “is essential if we are to progress, as a nation and as a community here in Chicago and in Illinois.

“No single piece of legislation can bring back the countless innocent lives lost or erase the legacy of racism, but we must demand concrete reform to end police brutality and dismantle a racist criminal justice system; and we will, we must make sure that cops fired for violent offenses can never be rehired anywhere,” Garcia said.

Davis and Garcia are looking for millions of dollars of “new” government money to help black and brown neighborhoods, struggling already because of the pandemic.

The office of Ald. Emma Mitts (37th) is down the street from the Healing Temple.

“We are intertwined with each other throughout the city of Chicago. Black and brown are living side by side,” she said.

There is no reason to fight over crumbs. Said Mitts, “We don’t need no division right now.”
GOV: SCHOOLS CAN REOPEN FOR SUMMER CLASSES WITH RESTRICTIONS

BY TOM SCHUBA, STAFF REPORTER
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Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed an executive order Thursday allowing Illinois schools to reopen this summer with enhanced safety precautions to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Ultimately though, local school districts will determine whether to resume in-person learning.

Chicago Public Schools previously announced that classes would continue to be held virtually this summer. Students who don’t complete all their work during remote learning this spring will be told to register for summer school to make up, officials have said.

A district spokesperson didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment on whether that plan could change in light of Pritzker’s order.

Over the summer, all schools must follow the Phase 3 requirements of Pritzker’s Restore Illinois plan, which went into effect May 29. All grade levels, from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade, can resume classes under the plan, which prohibits private and public schools from having more than 10 people in any single space.

All students, staff members and visitors over the age of 2 will have to wear masks, and social distancing and personal hygiene policies must be established. In addition, temperature and symptom checks will be required, and school buildings must be cleaned and sanitized regularly.

In a statement, state Education Supt. Carmen Ayala said she’s “excited and encouraged” to see Illinois take the next step toward fully reopening.

“This progress is due in no small part to the dedication of students, teachers, and their families to staying home, social distancing, and wearing face coverings when in public,” Ayala said. “I am immensely grateful for these efforts and the sacrifices that school communities have made.

As part of Pritzker’s order, schools can reopen for summer classes once the current school year ends and can continue to provide food and other non-educational services.

Mayor urged to give restaurants a lifeline

BY FRAN SPIELMAN, CITY HALL REPORTER
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Mayor Lori Lightfoot was urged Thursday to throw a financial lifeline to Chicago restaurants fighting for survival after the one-two punch of rioting and the stay-at-home shutdown.

Ald. Ray Lopez (15th), the mayor’s most outspoken City Council critic, wants the city to grant a free, 60-day sidewalk café permit to “any restaurant or bar” meeting the city’s requirements for a sidewalk café.

“The alderman said he was joined by the Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council and 25 “family-owned restaurants and bars” in Brighton Park, Back of the Yards and Little Village.

“We need to be bold in our efforts in helping our local businesses in every neighborhood in Chicago,” Lopez was quoted as saying in a press release.

“We have the tools now to allow, within the context of the law, the ability to issue legitimate permits. Lightfoot has the emergency authority to defer fee collections.”

Illinois Restaurant Association President Sam Toia said the request from Lopez doesn’t go nearly far enough.

Toia wants the city to waive its 0.5% restaurant tax for the rest of the year and grant free sidewalk café permits good for six months. The sidewalk café permit waiver alone could save restaurants $500 to “a few thousand” dollars for a restaurant with “a lot of sidewalk space” in the Central Business District.

“The restaurant community here in the city of Chicago has been hemorrhaging. There are 7,500 restaurants here in Chicago. Half of ’em are not even open right now. The other half that are open are doing curb-side pick-up, delivery and carry-out — and [are] doing 20-to-30 percent of the business they were doing a year ago,” Toia said.

“No restaurants model out there could support itself going 10, 11 weeks with no sales or only 20 to 30 percent of the sales they were doing the previous years.”

This week, Chicago restaurants were authorized to open for outdoor dining.

Some took advantage of it. Others didn’t, some because they were vandalized and looted, others because they were afraid that ongoing demonstrations protesting the death of George Floyd might turn violent.

Lightfoot has urged Gov. J.B. Pritzker to allow Chicago restaurants to have at least some indoor dining in June.

The mayor has also agreed to close six of Chicago’s most popular restaurant corridors to traffic to give restaurants more space and revenue from outdoor dining.

But the plan has not taken effect in those corridors, which are in Chatham, Lake View, Little Village, the Gold Coast, the Near West Side and the West Loop. Local chambers of commerce are still working with the city and local restaurants to secure permits and establish operating hours that may differ from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Toia said he still hopes at least some of the street dining districts could be opened this weekend, particularly in the Rush Street area, to take advantage of weekend weather expected to be beautiful.
We can do this, Chicago — a safe and cautious reopening

Chicago is tentatively back in business, and we’re happy for that, though we keep looking over our shoulder for another surge of the coronavirus. We’re ready for a reemergence, even as the city reels from the violence that accompanied several days of otherwise law-abiding demonstrations after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Reopening Chicago and Illinois was always going to be difficult and dicey, requiring caution and adherence to strict rules. Now, given the destruction caused by looters, it will be tougher. Scores of businesses, especially on the South and West sides, were heavily damaged and won’t reopen for quite some time, if ever.

And yet, the city this week reached Phase 3 of its coronavirus reopening plan, a sort of theatrical opening night. Let’s do our best to make sure the reviews are good.

We look forward to restaurant dining again, in the open air. What a staple of a Chicago summer.

We look forward to getting a trim at the hairdresser or barbershop. Some of us are tired of looking like sheepdogs.

We look forward to stopping at a neighborhood store to buy sandals. And we look forward to walking in those sandals to the library, to Navy Pier, to neighborhood parks.

We look forward to all the small pleasures that make big-city life so great.

“I’m going all out today, liquor and caffeine,” Caryn Garaygay, who was sipping both a mimosa and a latte at an Andersonville breakfast spot, told us Wednesday. “We’ve been waiting for this for a long, long time.”

Doing our part

The trick will be to follow the rules.

Chicago’s reopening must continue to be carried out cautiously, guided by the public health experts. Let’s keep it up with wearing masks and maintaining social distance.

Actually, let’s get better at that. We’ve been too cavalier.

And as Chicago reopens, let’s take extra care not to leave a single neighborhood behind.

It’s heartbreaking now to see the still-shuttered restaurants, busted-out storefronts and ransacked businesses caused by looters who apparently never tried to build something themselves. It is especially heartbreaking that so much of that damage was done in African American and Latino communities that already had been hardest hit by COVID-19.

Yet it was the business and restaurant owners on the South and West Side, in neighborhoods like Bronzeville, Chatham and Austin, who urged Mayor Lori Lightfoot this week not to delay. Get on with the reopening, they said.

Chicago will not be cowed. For businesses that were hit, City Hall has vowed to work directly with insurance companies to clear away red tape and speed up the processing of claims. That must be a top concern.

The restaurant association, which says half of the city’s 7,500 eateries remain shut down, has proposed that the city waive the fees for sidewalk cafe permits for six months and waive the 0.50% restaurant tax for a year. The city should strongly consider those or other options, to get this essential industry solidly back on its feet.

Another priority must be a continued police presence at pharmacies in neighborhoods hard hit by violence. No one, especially a senior citizen, should be unable to get a prescription filled because somebody trashed the local Walgreens.

City Hall also has vowed to set up a relief fund for devastated businesses, but the city’s budget woes will limit what it can do. Private philanthropy, corporations and others with big pockets can show their commitment to rebuilding by digging deep to donate.

And what can you do?

If you have the means, you might consider contributing to one of several fundraising efforts to help businesses hit by the looters, such as the one set up by the nonprofit My Block, My Hood, My City.

And support your local businesses, obviously and always.

Chicago will still have to make it through hard times. Unemployment will remain Depression-era high. The coronavirus could roar back, which some experts warn is a sure thing. City finances, already troubled, have been devastated.

Yet, as we tell ourselves, we’re the city that works. We can do this.
There’s no rule saying you can’t take more precautions than suggested

BY RYAN MALOSH

With social distancing guidelines and mandates mostly lifted, people have begun to head back to beaches, parks and restaurants in many parts of the United States. But you may ask: What’s so different now compared to the situation back when social distancing began in March and April? Coronavirus still lurs.

Are we really safe?

Orders to stay at home were broad and strict. The goals were twofold: to minimize infections and mortality — to “flatten the curve” — and to give health systems the best possible chance not to be overrun. In many places, the numbers of deaths and cases have indeed been coming down in recent weeks.

The restrictions also bought public officials time to build up state and local capacity ability to test and contact trace. Contact tracing is a labor-intensive art and science that involves talking to people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and identifying people who they have interacted with recently, then talking to their contacts and convincing them of the importance of staying home, self-monitoring for symptoms, and getting tested.

Some recent evidence suggests the most important job for contact tracing is to identify super-spreading events, so we health experts can learn more about them and prevent them in the future. A super-spreading event is when one gathering or event is identified as the origin of a large number of new infections.

I am a public health scholar and also a leukemia survivor who had a bone marrow transplant — a complicated medical procedure that severely weakens one’s immune system. I think my experience can offer some lessons for our current situation. I remember how much harder it was to make decisions about what types of risk were acceptable without the strict guidelines.

Baby, baby, baby steps

When I was first released from the University of Michigan hospital after my transplant, the doctors kept me on a very short leash. Infection was the biggest concern. So I had twice-weekly visits. I couldn’t take Tylenol because it could mask a fever. I wasn’t allowed to pick up dog poop or eat raw vegetables because of the risk of bacterial and fungal infections.

As I got further away from the time of my transplant, my immune system started to rebuild, and the leash got a little longer. My medical visits started to spread out. The doctors would tell me if it was OK to try swimming in a private pool, but not in a lake or river because of the risk of bacteria in the water.

And as I took these baby steps, the doctors watched for signs of infection.

I wasn’t safe from infection. But I was safer.

Are we really safe now?

Your safety likely depends on where you live — and what you mean by safe.

At the beginning of June, many places in the U.S. are seeing a decline in the number of new cases each day. Others are seeing increases.

Your local state and county health departments may have dashboards that show testing and case numbers. These resources are very helpful in determining whether or not it is safer to go out than it was six weeks ago. I look for two things to assess safety:

◆ An upward trend in testing, and ideally an increasing rate of testing (the curve of number of tests per day is getting steeper).

◆ A low and decreasing number of positives.

A good way to look at this in just one number is the percent of tests that are positive. Is it going up (that’s bad), or down (that’s good).

The testing capacity that public health agencies have built up over the past few months will be essential to identify new hot spots early at an early stage and help contain outbreaks before they become widespread.

But safer doesn’t mean there is no risk. If there are any cases in your county or city, then being around people can increase your risk. And remember, there is still no vaccine to prevent the spread of coronavirus, and there are no drugs that have been proven effective as treatments. While it is still circulating there is always a risk for resurgence or a “second wave.”

Your safety also depends on your personal medical history, and on those of your close contacts. Are you around people with underlying conditions? If so, your threshold for what’s safe might be different.

Remember, there is no rule saying you can’t take more precautions than suggested. Wear a mask. Keep your distance. Work from home if you are able. And limit interactions with others.

Ryan Malosh is an assistant research scientist at the University of Michigan. This article originally was published on The Conversation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another view of that wild night in Naperville

Your breathtakingly cavalier attitude toward the crowd in downtown Naperville disappoints. In the context of what’s been going on in the streets of America, I don’t understand how you arrive, in your recent editorial, at such a lenient attitude.

Admirably, the Naperville police showed great restraint. But the leaders of the city and your board don’t seem to anticipate the trouble brewing when a crowd illegally disrupts traffic — thereby inconveniencing thousands of non-participating innocent bystander motorists — and proceeds to disrupt the common way at an intersection.

Can’t you just imagine the rising heat of anger, frustration and anxiety, all building to a toxic head? This is a recipe for the explosive violence to come.

I take your point that protest needs to be uncomfortably thought-provoking and has its place. But not in the middle of town, where everyone who doesn’t share the views of the protesters is angered or inconvenienced for equally fair reasons.

Why do I need to listen to a foul-mouthed bullhorn when all I want to do is get on with my own life? The protesters don’t influence my progressive thinking on their object of complaint.

Rather than having police standing against a mob waiting for the firecracker; the beer bottle, the bricks and the epithets to be tossed into their peacefully restrained ranks, why not check and localize the crowd into any number of large, public spaces where they can chant, sing, gesture and flash to the media and their fellow man all they want?

Cities and towns have every right to require protests be controlled, legal and safe. A liberal policy on permits to assemble and parades comes to mind, for starters. In the meantime, your editorial stance ignores the potential for mob violence against the police and city, and seems mind-numbingly blind to the potential for looting and rioting.

Complex issues, I know. Thank you for hearing another opinion and for writing so intelligently and consistently all these years.

Dennis Allen, Wilmette

Send letters to letters@suntimes.com.
Both President Donald Trump and candidate Joe Biden visited churches on Monday — though “visit” is a poor descriptor of what Trump did. Consistent with his life pattern, he didn’t actually enter a church. Rather, he positioned his body in front of St. John’s Episcopal and held a Bible aloft, like a trophy, for the cameras.

Though in the physical vicinity of a place of worship, Trump betrayed no trace of piety. Asked his thoughts as he brandished the book of worship, Trump betrayed no trace of piety. Instead of preening in front of St. John’s, Trump could have requested that the church be opened. He could have invited black pastors, mayors, members of Congress and others to a worship service.

A little humility would go a long way toward pacifying the terrible cycle we’re in. In fact, the president’s fear of seeming weak is proving an accelerant to the chaos. This president responded to the worst racist crime of this century, the deliberate strangulation of George Floyd, with a few pro forma statements of concern. This was followed by furious threats of “thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers” to crush “lawlessness.”

On his call with governors, Trump expressed no outrage over Floyd, but he did thunder that the governors risked “looking like fools.” He practically invited his supporters to confront the protesters in Lafayette Square: “Tonight, I understand, is MAGA NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE???”

Worst of all, the president tweeted a 1960’s racist taunt from a Miami police chief: “When the looting starts, the shooting starts.”

Across the nation, some law enforcement officers are demonstrating grace in the midst of this mayhem. Police in Santa Cruz, California, took a knee with protesters. In North Dakota, officers held hands with marchers. In New York City, police applauded protesters. And in Flint, Michigan, the county sheriff and his men joined the demonstration.

This reflects the widespread awareness that what happened to George Floyd was an atrocity and also that rioters exploiting the situation do not vitiate the horror of what was done. It is not weakness to recognize the need for reform in how police treat black suspects. It is simple justice.

Of course, no civilized society can tolerate widespread rioting and looting. But rioters and marauders are opportunists. Without the cover of genuine protesters thronging the streets, their lawlessness would stand naked.

What would defuse the situation so that protesters could disband in good conscience? They need respect. They need to believe that reform is coming. Vast majorities of Americans are on their side. And yet, the message they are getting from the White House is one of contempt.

Nor is it a matter only of the wrong words. Peaceful demonstrators in Lafayette Park were attacked on the president’s behalf. National guard and other units used rubber bullets, flash-bang grenades and mounted police to drive them from the park.

Biden actually entered a church on Monday, the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Wilmington, Delaware. It wasn’t a prayer service but a meeting with faith leaders. Biden listened for over an hour.

When it was his turn to speak, Biden asked for a moment of prayer. He quoted Kierkegaard to the effect that, “Faith sees best in the dark,” adding, “and it’s been pretty dark.” He promised to take the problem of police brutality seriously and mentioned that it is not limited to white officers. When the time came for a photo op, Biden chose to drop to one knee.

It wasn't spectacular. It wasn't Biden “owning” anybody. It was just quiet decency. It was what used to be normal — and can be again.

Mona Charen is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.
After son’s suicide, despairing father considers it too

Dear Abby: My wife and I lost our son to suicide a few years ago. We have never gotten over it. I have recovered somewhat and would like to resume having intimate relations, but she’s not that far along. I no longer feel there’s any reason to continue on this earth. There is no point to my being here. I think about suicide daily. I have been told that if I were going to do this and hurt my family as my son did, I would’ve already done it.

My wife and I have been cast into a hell that’s impossible to bear. There is no way to describe the pain, anger and sorrow we feel. I want to die because I feel the world would be a better place without my sorrowful self taking up resources. I have sought help ever since we lost my son, and have been taking all kinds of medication that I no longer want to take. Is there a way out other than my option?

I have several conversations with her about it, but nothing changes. I don’t want her to leave, but I’m afraid her attitude toward parenting and discipline will cause some real problems in my home. Please help.

Disciplined in Virginia

Dear Disciplined: Continue the conversation with your mother. Explain that although she may think you are too strict with your older child, you are that child’s mother; and this is the way you want the child raised. Then tell her that if enforcing the rules is too much for her, she may have to find other living arrangements. Talk to your child, as well. Make sure he/she understands that the rules come from his/her parents and no one else.

I am troubled by your statement that your mother sometimes acts like a child. I wish you had mentioned why she’s living with you. If you suspect there’s a possibility she might be experiencing the onset of dementia, INSIST that she be evaluated by a physician and a neurologist to ensure that she’s well.

Dear Abby: I have two children. One is 6, and the other is an infant. My 6-year-old is kind but mischievous at times. I am a firm believer that children need loving parents, but also parents who discipline when it’s needed.

My mother recently came to live with me and my husband. She helps out a lot, but she is causing some confusion in our home. She doesn’t discipline my 6-year-old when needed. In fact, she often acts like a child herself when she should be acting like an adult. This issue causes my 6-year-old to sometimes be disrespectful.

When my husband and I hear the smart-mouth talk, we address it, but there’s only so much we can do when my mother won’t take an adult role. I have had several conversations with her about it, but nothing turns.

I THINK ABOUT SUICIDE DAILY. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT IF I WERE GOING TO DO THIS AND HURT MY FAMILY AS MY SON DID, I WOULD’VE ALREADY DONE IT.

Dear Beyond Depressed: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. I cannot imagine the hell you and your wife are going through.

Because you can’t get the thought of suicide out of your mind, it is very important that you receive more help than I can give you in a letter. Your doctor should be put on notice about your issue with your medications.

Also, a group that might be helpful for you and your family is the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. If you contact them, they can refer you to a local support group for people who are surviving a loved one’s suicide. The website is afspp.org. If, however, you feel you have reached a point where harming yourself is imminent, I urge you to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-8255. Please don’t give up.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

HOROSCOPES: JUNE 5, 2020

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions until 11 p.m. Chicago time. The full moon in Sagittarius peaks at 2:12 p.m.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Actor Mark Wahlberg (1971) shares your birthday. You live life to the fullest. You are excitable with leadership qualities. This year you will see that service to others, especially within your family, is important. This is why you must take care of yourself so that you are a strong resource for yourself and others. Look around you and invest in the relationships that you value. Hang out with quality people.

Aries (March 21-April 19): How can you improve what you do (including your job) or enrich your life by learning something new? Can you talk to someone or travel somewhere? Today it’s possible to expand your world and improve it if you reach out. Ideas?

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Take a realistic look at your assets, your debt and your earning power because when it comes to money, information is power. (If anyone can survive a financial crunch, it’s you because you can practically mint money in your own backyard!)

Gemini (May 21-June 20): The only full moon that is opposite your sign all year is happening. This is the best day of the year to think about how you can improve your closest relationships and friendships. You love an adoring peanut gallery. Therefore, don’t you have to be lovable?

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You are tenacious, and most of you have an excellent memory. Today’s full moon is your chance to think about your efficiency and how you can work smarter so that you are happier with the results you get for your efforts.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You are a creative playful sign (and also serious). Today’s full moon is your chance to value your creative talents, and especially your style dealing with kids and younger people. Ideas?

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Despite the fact that the sun is at the top of your chart, today’s full moon will trigger you to think about home, family, parents and how you want things to be in your personal life. When things flow smoothly at home, the rest follows.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are the most social sign in the zodiac, which is why this is a significant full moon day. It’s the only full moon all year that takes place in your house of communications. Think about how important others are to you and what you can do to let them know this.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Every full moon is an opposition of the sun and the moon. For your sign, this vibrates across both your money houses! Zing! This is a good day to think about your assets, your earnings, your debt, your net worth and what your financial scene really is. Be in the know.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Today the only full moon in your sign all year is taking place. Naturally, it opposes the sun in your house of partnerships, which is why this might be the best day of the year to think about how you get along with those who are closest to you. What can you do to improve these relationships?

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Today’s full moon is taking place in a hidden part of your chart, which encourages you to be introspective and think about what really matters. For example, what do you believe in? Do you embrace a religion? Are you spiritually inclined? Where do you get your guidelines?

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You value friendships, perhaps more than all the other signs. Today the only full moon that takes place in your house of friendships is happening! This is a wake-up call for you to take a moment and appreciate your friends. Simple as that.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Today is the only day all year that the full moon is at the top of your chart. This is why you feel pulled between the demands of home and family vs. the demands of your career or your external world. A tricky balancing act, indeed.
SUDOKU
Each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9. A very easy puzzle will appear on Monday and the puzzles get harder throughout the week.
Go to www.suntimes.com/sudoku to try our interactive Sudoku puzzle. Pick from four daily puzzles to fit your skill level.

KENKEN
Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using one of four mathematic functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

SPEED BUMP

MARMADUKE

DENNIS THE MENACE

“I hope you don’t mind. I’m babysitting the kids, and Wendi’s my backup for Marmaduke.”

“If you think givin’ me a bath is tough... you oughta try givin’ one to hot dog!”

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES
### Movies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Resident Evil: Retribution</td>
<td>(TV14) (HD)</td>
<td>SYFY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>The Triumph of the Eggplant</td>
<td>(TVPG)</td>
<td>TBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Cops</td>
<td>(TV14) (HD)</td>
<td>ABC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>FOX</td>
<td>Star Trek</td>
<td>(TV14)</td>
<td>FREEFORM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>The Tonight Show</td>
<td>(TV14)</td>
<td>CBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>The Midship Who</td>
<td>(TV14)</td>
<td>NBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Live PD: Wind-Up</td>
<td>(TV14)</td>
<td>ABC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 PM</td>
<td>FOX</td>
<td>The Week at the Greenbrier Lodge</td>
<td>(TV14)</td>
<td>FOX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>MacGyver</td>
<td>(TV14)</td>
<td>CBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 PM</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Entertainment Tonight</td>
<td>(TV14)</td>
<td>NBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 PM</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>The Game</td>
<td>(TV14)</td>
<td>ABC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Sports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Network</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Chicago Bears vs. Dallas Cowboys</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>CBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>New England Patriots vs. Buffalo Bills</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>NBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Los Angeles Lakers vs. Denver Nuggets</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>ABC</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>FOX</td>
<td>Houston Rockets vs. Golden State Warriors</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>FOX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>The Boston Bruins vs. New York Rangers</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>CBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>New York Islanders vs. Philadelphia Flyers</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>NBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Philadelphia Flyers vs. New Jersey Devils</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>ABC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 PM</td>
<td>FOX</td>
<td>Los Angeles Kings vs. San Jose Sharks</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>FOX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Los Angeles Clippers vs. Utah Jazz</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>CBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 PM</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>New York Knicks vs. Washington Wizards</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>NBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 PM</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Miami Heat vs. Orlando Magic</td>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>ABC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Weather

- **Suntimes.com**: Activate your e-paper – a daily replica of our print product. Set up your account now at suntimes.com/activate, or contact our customer service team if you have questions.
CHERYL SCOTT'S RISE-AND-SHINE FORECAST

Friday morning: Partly cloudy, patchy fog possible. Temperatures in the 60s.

Catch the latest forecast on ABC7 weeknights at 4, 5, 6 and 10 p.m.

REGIONAL OUTLOOK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TODAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly sunny, isolated storms</td>
<td>Sunny, very nice</td>
<td>Sunny and cooler by the lake</td>
<td>Sunny and warmer</td>
<td>Sunny, hot with rain late</td>
<td>Windy with showers and storms</td>
<td>Sunny and warm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATIONAL OUTLOOK

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

U.S. EXTREMES

Year record .................................................. 50.86 (2008)
June record .................................................. 10.58 (1892)
Daily record .................................................. 2.28 (2002)
June total (normal) ........................................... 0.21 (0.49)
Year-to-date (normal) ........................................ 20.58 (13.65)
Daily record .................................................. 2.28 (2002)
June records ................................................. 10.58 (1892)
Year record .................................................. 50.86 (2008)

Daily question

You hold: ♠ A974 ♥ 954 ♦ A76 ♣ 10 7 3. The dealer, at your left, opens one club. Your partner doubles, you respond one spade and he bids two hearts. What do you say?

Answer: If partner had an average hand or a better hand (an opening bid or somewhat more), he would have overcalled one heart at his first turn. When he doubles before mentioning his suit, he promises at least 17 points. If you trust him, you have a clear-cut raise to four hearts.

South dealer N-S vulnerable

DAILY BRIDGE CLUB

BY FRANK STEWART

Cy the Cynic told me he had placed an order with Amazon: for a chicken and an egg. Then he just stared at me... until I finally caught on.

"I’ll let you know," Cy said.

In a penny game, Cy was declarer at 3NT, and West led the queen of hearts. Cy won, unblocked his A-K-Q of clubs and next led a spade to dummy’s queen. When East produced the ace and returned a heart, Cy was sunk. He had only eight tricks: three spades, two hearts and three clubs. When he led a diamond, East won and led his last heart, and West took three hearts for down one.

“I couldn’t reach dummy by leading a diamond at the fifth trick either,” the Cynic grumbled.

How would you play 3NT? Which suit should come first, spades or diamonds?

At Trick Five, Cy leads the king of diamonds or spades. East must play low, else dummy’s queen is an entry to the clubs. Then Cy leads a spade to dummy’s queen. East can win and return a heart, but Cy has three spades, two hearts, a diamond and three clubs.

South dealer N-S vulnerable

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FRANK & ERNEST

BIOLAB

NO, THIS IS A GOOD THING.
ANTIBODIES ARE NOT BULLIES
GOING OUT AND LOOKING TO PICK A FIGHT.

...the pain of being parted.

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Bid Notice

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Competitive Bid – Professional Services

NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION AND ADDENDUM TO FOLLOW

Notice is hereby given that the bid opening date Rotofore advertised for Contract B20RG04641, for Construction of Advertising Services on Chicago Transit Authority’s Outdoor Sign Structures, was modified. The bid opening is now scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020. This change in bid opening date is subject to approval of the Chicago Transit Authority’s Board of Directors. This amendment is necessary to ensure that in relation to this contract, the procurement will be subject to regulations contained in the Procedures for Providing Financial Assistance from the Public Water Supply Loan Program and the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276A through 276a-5) as defined by the United States Department of Labor, and the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act 30 ILCS 570. This procurement is subject to the “Use of American Iron and Steel” requirements as contained in Section 436 of H.R. 3547, The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. This procurement is also subject to the loan recipient’s policy regarding the increased use of disadvantaged business enterprises (MBE and WBE). The loan recipient’s policy for affirmative efforts prior to bid opening are included in the contract documents. Bidders are also required to comply with the President’s Executive Order No. 11246, as amended.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The City’s system will not accept electronic bids after the due date and time. Bidders must register for a log-in account to submit an electronic bid. Please allow up to three business days for creation of your log-in account. Paper bids will not be accepted. All bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following:

Any late Bids received after announced date and time, for the opening of Bids, will not be accepted.

Competitive Bid – Construction

BID NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR WRITTEN COMMENT

In accordance with the requirements of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act and 77 Illinois Adm. Code Part 1130, Notice is given of a Public Hearing on the modernization and the expansion of the medical surgical and intensive care beds at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, 251 East Huron Street, Chicago. The project cost is $77,957,385.

The Public Hearing is being conducted by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board pursuant to the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act. The Hearing is open to the public with opportunity to present relevant verbal and written comments on the proposed project.

The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 15, 2020, beginning at 9:30AM and concluding at 1:30PM at George W. Duine Cook County Office Building, 69 West Washington Street, 22nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois.

No later than Wednesday, June 10th at 5PM, information detailing how to access the public hearing virtually and/or via conference will be posted on the HFSRB website at www.hfsrb.illinois.gov. Any questions, please leave a voice message at 312-590-6511. In accordance with public health guidelines anyone entering and remaining in the George W. Duine Cook County Office Building will be required to wear a face covering at all times and adhere to social distancing standards.

For additional information call (217) 782-3516 (TTY # 800-547-0466 for hearing impaired only).

NOTICE: THE MEETING WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER #5 AND PERTINENT STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS UPON NOTIFICATION OF ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE. PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SHOULD CONTACT COURTNEY AVERY BY TELEPHONE AT (217) 782-3516 (TTY # 800-547-0466 FOR HEARING IMPAIRED ONLY) OR BY LETTER NO LATER THAN TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING DATE.

6/4, 6/5, 6/6/2020 #1108768

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6/4, 6/5, 6/6/2020 #1108826

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NATION/WORLD

FLOYD MOURNED

BY AARON MORRISON AND MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Hollywood celebrities, musicians and political leaders gathered in front of the golden casket of George Floyd at a fiery memorial Thursday for the man whose death at the hands of police sparked global protests, with a civil rights leader declaring it is time for black people to demand, “Get your knee off our necks!”

The service — the first in a series of memorials set for three cities over six days — unfolded at a sanctuary at North Central University as a judge a few blocks away set bail at $750,000 each for the three fired Minneapolis police officers charged with aiding and abetting murder in Floyd’s death.

“George Floyd’s story has been the story of black folks. Because ever since 401 years ago, the reason we could never be who we wanted and dreamed to be is you kept your knee on our neck,” the Rev. Al Sharpton said in a fierce eulogy. “It’s time for us to stand up in George’s name and say, ‘Get your knee off our necks!’”

Floyd, a 46-year-old out-of-work bouncer, died May 25 after a white police officer knelt on his neck for several minutes. Chauvin has been charged with murder.

The service drew the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sen. Amy Klobuchar and other members of Congress, including Reps. Ilhan Omar, Sheila Jackson Lee and Ayanna Pressley. Among the celebrities were T.I., Ludacris, Tyrese Gibson, Kevin Hart, Tiffany Haddish and Marsai Martin.

“All these people came to see my brother,” Philonise Floyd told the crowd at the memorial in awe as he recounted their childhoods. “That’s amazing to me that he touched so many people’s hearts because he touched our hearts.”

After the Minneapolis event, his body will go to Raeford, North Carolina, near where he was born, for a public viewing and private family service. Next, a public viewing will be held Monday in Houston, where he was raised and lived most of his life. Then a 500-person service will take place Tuesday.

Lower bail sought

At the court hearing Thursday, defense attorneys argued for lower bail. Attorney Earl Gray, representing Thomas Lane, told the court that Chauvin was the senior officer on the scene and that when Floyd died it was only Lane’s fourth day on the job. It was also Officer J. Alexander Kueng’s fourth day as an officer.

Attorneys for Kueng and officer Tou Thao told reporters that they declined to comment on the case for now out of respect for Floyd’s family on the day of his first memorial service.

Testimony: Shooter used slur as Arbery lay dying

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — A state investigator testified Thursday that a white man was heard saying a racist slur as he stood over Ahmaud Arbery’s body, moments after fatally shooting the black man with a pump-action shotgun.

The inflammatory revelation came amid a week of angry nationwide protests over law enforcement biases against black victims that erupted after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

At a hearing to determine whether there was enough evidence to proceed with a murder trial, the lead Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent in the case testified that Travis and Greg McMichael and a third man in another pickup, William “Roddie” Bryan, used their trucks to chase down and box Arbery, who repeatedly reversed directions and ran into a ditch while trying to escape.

Travis McMichael then got out of his truck and confronted Arbery, later telling police he shot him in self-defense after Arbery refused his order to get on the ground, GBI agent Richard Dial said. He said a close examination of the video of the shooting shows the first shot was to Arbery’s chest, the second was to his hand, and the third hit his chest again before he collapsed in the road in a subdivision in the port town of Brunswick.

“Mr. Bryan said that after the shooting took place before police arrival, while Mr. Arbery was on the ground, that he heard Travis McMichael make the statement, ‘f— ing n——as,’” Dial said.

Bryan gave investigators the information roughly a week after the McMichael’s arrest, but there’s no indication he told Glynn County investigators before that, Dial added.

Lee Merritt, an attorney for Arbery’s family, told reporters outside the courthouse that prosecutors had warned the family before the hearing of the coming testimony about the slur.

“Arbery’s mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, called the release of new details in court “very, very heartbreaking.”

“He was afraid,” Cooper-Jones said of her slain son. “Life had placed him in a position where I couldn’t protect him, and he wasn’t able to protect himself.”

At the conclusion of the probable cause hearing Thursday, Magistrate Court Judge Wallace Harrell found that there was enough evidence for the cases against all three defendants to proceed.

“Ahmaud Arbery was chased, hunted down and ultimately executed at the hands of these men,” prosecutor Jesse Evans told the judge. “He was on a run on a public road in a public subdivision. He was defenseless and unarmed.”

Under questioning by Jason Sheffield, an attorney for Travis McMichael, Dial said Travis told police he raised his shotgun at Arbery from roughly 90 feet away and told him to stop and get on the ground.

That’s when Arbery ran around the passenger side of Travis’ truck, and the two men met in front of it.

Dial said Travis told police Arbery “squared up” like he was going to attack.

“There’s a statement that he might have had his hand on his shirt,” Dial said. “Travis McMichael said his adrenaline was pumping and it all happened very quickly.”

He said Travis then fired the first shot into Arbery’s chest.

Sheffield argued that the pursuit began with a legitimate concern about past crimes in the neighborhood that escalated right before the shooting.

Dial testified that Greg McMichael told police that “he didn’t know if Mr. Arbery had stolen anything or not, but he had a gut feeling” that Arbery had committed prior break-ins in the neighborhood.

The investigator testified that police body camera footage showed a Confederate flag sticker on a toolbox in Travis’ truck and that investigators discovered at least two more racial slurs in messages on his phone.

BRIEFS

Navy veteran freed from Iran detention

WASHINGTON — Michael White, a U.S. Navy veteran whose family said his only crime was falling in love, left Iran on Thursday after nearly two years of detention, winning his freedom as part of a deal that spared an American-Iranian physician any more time behind American bars.

White flew from Tehran to Zurich. White’s mother said “the nightmare is over” now that her son was out of Iranian hands. In Atlanta, a federal judge approved a sentencing agreement for Florida dermatologist Matteo Taerri, who had been charged with violating U.S. sanctions on Iran. As White flew to Switzerland, U.S. prosecutors completed the American part of the arrangement by asking a judge to sentence Taerri to time served.

White, of Imperial Beach, California, was detained by Iranian authorities in July 2018 while visiting a woman he had met online and fallen in love with. He was convicted of insulting Iran’s supreme leader and sentenced to a decade in prison.

Las Vegas casinos reopen

LAS VEGAS — The casino coronavirus closure has ended. Hotel-casinos in downtown and suburban Las Vegas were the first to open at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, followed later in the morning by a restart of the Bellagio fountain and several resorts on the Vegas Strip. AP

The Rev. Jesse Jackson (right) and his son Jonathan Jackson pay respects to George Floyd during a memorial service Thursday in Minneapolis. KEREM YUCEL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Vegas casinos reopen

CARS - Las Vegas, Nevada - Solar panels on the roof of the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel. (Las Vegas Review-Journal)
It is with great sadness that the Officers and Members of Local 17 announce the passing of Active Member, Brian Simpson, R#87397. Services will be private.

Thank you,
Thomas McGrath
Local 17 Secretary Treasurer

Iron Workers Local Union #1

Officers and members of Iron Workers Local Union #1 are deeply saddened by the death of Brother A C Melton, age 82, who passed away June 3, 2020. Graveside service Monday 2:00 p.m. Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens, 8178 Cline Ave., Crown Point, IN. Phone (219) 365-9554.

Todd R. Villa
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Flanagan, Thomas E.
The Hon. Thomas Edward Flanagan (Ret.), born May 27, 1936, highly respected Cook County Circuit Court Judge of 36 years, has passed into eternal life on May 31, 2020. His memory is cherished by his wife of 59 years Nancy and his six children; Aileen (Timothy), Elyse (William), Maura, Nannette (Maurizio), Rhea (John), Thomas Jr., fourteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was a proud graduate of Visitation 1950, St. Ignatius graduate 1954, Loyola graduate 1958, and University of Chicago Law School graduate 1962. Services and interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Ignatius High School, 1076 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608 would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to COLONIAL-WOJCIECHOWSKI FUNERAL HOME, Info, 773-774-0366 or colonialfuneral.com.

Malinowska, Stanisława
Stanisława Malinowska (nee Hiszczynska) 91. Beloved wife of the late Zdzislaw; Devoted and cherished mother of Krystyna (Norio) Shioura; Dearest daughter of the late Pawel and Maria (nee Madrzak). Lying-in-State Friday, June 5, 2020, at Holy Trinity Mission Church, 1118 N. Noble St., Chicago, from 10:00 a.m. until time of Mass at 10:30 a.m. Interment will follow at St. Adalbert Cemetery, Niles. Arrangements entrusted to COLONIAL-WOJCIECHOWSKI FUNERAL HOME, Info, 773-774-0366 or colonialfuneral.com.

Zadrozyński, Robert A.
Robert A. Zadrozyński, 91 of Lansing, IL passed away on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. He is survived by his daughters, Susan (Brian) Wilson and Nancy (Ed) Zinke; sons, David (Linda) Zadrozyński, Steve (Debbie) Zadrozyński, Ron (Lynne) Zadrozyński and Rob (Doreen) Zadrozyński; 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wives, Audrey and Virginia.

Visitiation will be on Sunday, June 7, 2020, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 2:30 p.m. at Kish Funeral Home, 10000 Calumet Ave. Munster, IN. A Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm at St. Thomas More Church, 8501 Calumet Ave., Munster, IN. Entombment will be at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, IL. Memorial contributions to a charity of your choice in his memory would be appreciated.

www.kishfuneralhome.net

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The NHL Players’ Association picked up two small but notable victories Thursday with the announcement of the final details for the revised 2020 Stanley Cup playoffs.

A league memo clarified that all series beyond the qualifying round will be standard best-of-seven affairs.

The NHL’s return-to-play announcement May 26 stated that the qualifying round would be a best-of-five and that the conference finals and Stanley Cup Final would be best-of-seven but left the first and second rounds undetermined.

The memo also specified that matchups in each round would be determined by reseeding rather than a preset bracket format.

The top remaining seed will play the lowest remaining seed in each round, regardless of the upsets that occur.

Players had reportedly pushed for both of those details.

Other tiny details, such as tiebreakers for the round-robin tournament between each conference’s top four seeds and the technical home-team rotation at the to-be-determined neutral host arenas, also were announced.

None of the specifics will directly or immediately affect the Blackhawks, who remain locked into a No. 5-vs.-No. 12 qualifying-round matchup against the Oilers.

But if the Hawks get past the talented but inexperienced Oilers — a very real possibility, given the Hawks’ experience and favorable statistical matchups — the newly announced details could come into play.

The reseeding decision would make their next opponent tougher, for starters.

In a bracket format, the fifth seed-12th seed winner would be guaranteed to play the No. 4 seed — in other words, the worst of the four teams (the Blues, Avalanche, Stars and Golden Knights) getting a bye through the qualifying round. But with reseeding, a victorious Hawks team — as the bottom seed in the West — instead would be guaranteed to face the best of those four teams in its next series.

That next series being seven games, instead of five games, also probably works against them.

Statistically, smaller sample sizes create greater variability and a greater likelihood of an upset. So against a superior team, the Hawks would theoretically prefer a shorter series.

They’ll get that wish against the Oilers, but not against their next opponent.

Nothing from the memo drastically changes the outlook for the postseason, though, which was largely determined in the late May announcement and also still entirely depends on the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

The Penguins’ announcement that an unidentified player tested positive for COVID-19 — even though the player wasn’t in Pittsburgh and has since recovered — is a clear reminder that the coronavirus will still dictate the fortunes of the NHL’s plans.

NOTE: The NHL also announced it will begin Phase 2 of its return-to-play plan Monday, meaning players will be able to practice in groups of up to six at team facilities.
Galaxy condemn ‘racist’ posts

Team to meet with ex-Fire player Katai after wife’s comments

LOS ANGELES — The LA Galaxy will meet with new Serbian winger Aleksandar Katai on Thursday to discuss a series of alarming social media posts by his wife.

Tea Katai made the since-deleted posts on her Instagram story this week, the Galaxy confirmed Wednesday night in a statement that called the posts “racist and violent.”

The team said its meeting with Katai, who has appeared in only two games for the Galaxy, will “determine next steps.”

Tea Katai’s posts included a profane call, written in Serbian, to “kill” protesters. Another called protesters “disgusting cattle,” also in Serbian.

“The LA Galaxy strongly condemn the social posts and requested their immediate removal,” the team’s statement read. “The LA Galaxy stands firmly against racism of any kind, including that which suggests violence or seeks to demean the efforts of those in pursuit of racial equality. The LA Galaxy stand with communities of color, and especially the Black community, in the protests and fight against systemic racism, social inequality, bigotry and violence.”

The 29-year-old Katai joined the Galaxy in December after spending his first two MLS seasons with the Fire. He has made nine appearances in his first two MLS seasons with the Fire. He has made nine appearances in his first two MLS seasons with the Fire.

Aleksandar Katai, who disapproved of his wife’s posts on Instagram, had 18 goals in 62 appearances in the last two seasons with the Fire. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

“I understand that it will take time to earn back the support of the people of Los Angeles. I am committed to putting in the necessary work to learn from these mistakes and be a better ally and advocate for equality going forward. I am sorry for the pain these posts have caused the LA Galaxy family and all allies in the fight against racism.”

Katai signed with the Galaxy as a free agent Dec. 31. He had 18 goals in 62 appearances in the last two seasons with the Fire, who acquired him from Alavés in Spain’s La Liga.

Katai got off to an impressive start to his MLS career with 12 league goals in his debut season for the Fire, but his production slumped last year, leading the Fire to decline its team option for 2020.

He spent the first eight years of his pro career in Europe, including 69 games with Serbian powerhouse Red Star Belgrade.

Katai started the first two games of the current MLS season for the Galaxy, who expected him to become a key part of their attack alongside Javier “Chicharito” Hernández and Cristian Pavón.

AUTO RACING

Brickyard 400 won’t have fans

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Motor Speedway will host the IndyCar-NASCAR doubleheader on the July 4 weekend without fans.

Track officials had been optimistic IMS could be the first major sporting venue to have fans back in the stands this summer. Instead, the stands will be empty much like the rest of the tracks since major racing resumed in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

IMS officials announced the decision Thursday after consulting with local and state officials.

“While we certainly worked diligently to run our events with spectators, we reached a point where we needed to make a final decision because the race weekend is less than a month away,” said Mark Miles, who oversees IndyCar Series as president of Penske Entertainment Corp. “Today it’s not possible to be confident that Indianapolis will be at Stage 5 of the state’s reopening plan by the Fourth of July weekend.”

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced a five-stage plan last month to reopen the state with the final phase tentatively scheduled to include a return to sporting venues July 4 — the very day an IndyCar-NASCAR Xfinity Series doubleheader is scheduled to run at the sprawling track. Marion County — home to Indianapolis, the state’s largest city — only recently entered the third stage.

IMS draws upward of 275,000 people for the Indy 500, the world’s largest single-day sporting event that this year was postponed three months to Aug. 23. In recent years, Brickyard weekend attendance for the NASCAR visit has waned. Last year’s estimated crowd of 60,000 was an improvement over 2018. But with approximately 235,000 permanent seats at the speedway, there could be plenty of space for fans to be socially distanced should the restrictions loosen.

NASCAR’s Brickyard 400 is still set for its original date of July 5 on the historic 2.5-mile oval. NASCAR resumed its season May 17 at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina. IndyCar is set to open the season Saturday at Texas Motor Speedway.
TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Trevathan, Hicks among Bears players concerned about returning amid virus

Bears linebacker Danny Trevathan had poured out his soul Wednesday when someone asked whether it was going to be hard for him to focus on football after the killing of George Floyd, subsequent protests and difficult, emotional national conversations about race.

“I’m more worried about coronavirus than I’m worried about that in football,” he said. “I mean, it still exists in the world — so let’s not forget about coronavirus, bro.

“You know, I might go to camp and somebody might have that — and I might not be able to play no more.”

Like that, Trevathan issued a reminder of the other national crisis: a pandemic for which there is no cure.

Whether because of blind optimism or genuine hope, though, the NFL is inching closer to business as usual. Thursday, the league sent a memo to all 32 teams stating that their coaches were allowed inside their facilities starting Friday, subsequent to local laws. Bears coaches, a source said, still planned to work from home until further notice.

Eventually — most likely in late July for the start of training camp — Bears players will be called back to Halas Hall and expected to practice.

“It’s scary to think that most of my job is physical contact with other players. And so, boy, I don’t know. I don’t know. I want to be safe, and I’m sure they’re going to do their best to make sure we’re in the best possible situation in order to be able to play this game and do it, right? But it’s scary. That’s how I feel.”

Hicks has been vigilant about quarantining. He invented a tequila cocktail called a “quarantini” — but the coronavirus wouldn’t even let him enjoy that. He stopped drinking them, he said, when he read that alcohol consumption in-
Brees apologizes for flag comments

Drew Brees apologized Thursday for comments that were “insensitive and completely missed the mark” when he reiterated his opposition to Colin Kaepernick’s kneeling during the national anthem in 2016, drawing sharp criticism from fellow high-profile athletes and others in the wake of George Floyd’s death.

In an Instagram post Thursday, Brees said he was apologizing to his friends, teammates, New Orleans, the black community, the NFL community and “anyone I hurt with my comments yesterday.”

While the apology was a first step, time will tell how well the 41-year-old Brees can repair relationships as what could be his final NFL season nears.

Saints linebacker Demario Davis, an outspoken advocate for racial justice, suggested during a CNN interview that Saints players would be able to accept Brees’ apology.

“That is a form of true leadership,” Davis said. “That’s taking ownership. What we had hoped the first time was that Drew would elaborate more on racism and the sentiments of the black community. He admitted he missed the mark.

“For him to come out and say ‘I missed the mark, I’ve been insensitive, but what I’m going to start doing is listening and learning from the black community and finding ways that I can help them.’ I think that’s a model for all of America.”

Saints receiver Michael Thomas also said on social media that he accepted Brees’ apology.

However, on FS1’s “Undisputed,” Hall of Fame tight end Shannon Sharpe said that he doesn’t respect Brees anymore and that Brees should “probably retire.”

Shanahan on Kaepernick’s side

Niners coach Kyle Shanahan praised Kaepernick for trying to bring the issue of racism and police brutality to light with his protests during the national anthem in the 2016 season.

“I think the biggest thing that is pretty low.”

Saints quarterback Drew Brees said that he “completely missed the mark” on current issues in the United States and that it “breaks my heart to know the pain I have caused.”

Fromm apologizes for text

Bills rookie quarterback Jake Fromm apologized for using the phrase “elite white people” in a text conversation from more than a year ago and posted on social media Thursday.

In saying he never meant to imply he was an elite white male, which he noted during the text conversation, Fromm added: “There’s no excuse for that word choice and sentiment. While it was poor, my heart is not.”

Coaches OK to return to facilities

Coaches will be allowed to return beginning Friday to NFL team facilities closed because of the coronavirus pandemic as the league continues preparation for training camps and its season.

Previously, only up to 75 people per day could be at the facilities, with coaches and players not seeking treatment for injuries barred.
SPORTS

No group of professional athletes has been more committed to social activism than the WNBA. Players have been outspoken about racial injustices on social media over the last two weeks, but one important voice that had been missing publicly until Thursday night was commissioner Cathy Engelbert.

All 12 teams had released statements or videos condemning racism and police brutality in light of the death of George Floyd. The Lynx turned their words into action Wednesday by entering a multiyear partnership with The Minneapolis Foundation to address systemic inequities.

Meanwhile, Engelbert, who listened and talked to players in private over the last week, didn’t give a public statement until Thursday, when she announced the league would donate proceeds from its “Bigger than ball” merchandise to groups working against racial inequities.

“We will build on this commitment and support WNBA players in the fight against racial inequality,” Engelbert wrote. “Enough is enough.”

Before that, the WNBA, a league that prides itself on being diverse and inclusive, had remained relatively quiet, with the exception of one short and vague statement. The WNBA wrote in a May 29 tweet, “The time for change is now. Enough is enough.” It was accompanied with a graphic that read, “Bigger than ball.”

Some players believe the WNBA’s initial response wasn’t enough.

“I’ve spent a lot of time on Instagram and Twitter just assessing people’s apologies or solidarity posts,” Sky guard Sydney Colson said. “It’s one thing to retweet and agree with other people, but … our league is [more than 70%] black women, and so it should be pretty clear where we stand.”

“You can’t tip-toe around it, like, it’s frustrating,” Sky guard Diamond DeShields said. “It’s beyond frustration, though, you know what I mean? For me to say ‘I’m frustrated’ is me putting it very lightly and nicely.”

DeShields added that she wasn’t “waiting for the league to say anything because … it’s a little too late for that.”

The WNBA has been accused of silencing players who speak out on racial injustice issues in the past.

In 2016, the WNBA disciplined three teams and their players with hefty fines for violating the league’s uniform policy by wearing black T-shirts during pregame warmups in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, though the fines were eventually rescinded after the league received immense backlash.

DeShields thinks there should be a more “open dialogue” between players and league officials.

“Change will start with a conversation,” DeShields said. “There are players who are carrying the burden of social injustices in many different ways, and so to have an opportunity to voice that for once would not only be refreshing but also allow us to begin our work within the league, which [is] a place we all love and hold very dear to our hearts.”

The WNBA held a virtual town hall with players this week, giving players an opportunity to share their thoughts on systemic racism and the Floyd protests.

“I do think that they want us to be heard, they want us to use our platforms,” Colson said. “I think players just want to make sure that while we’re using our platforms that we are fully supported.”

Asked if she felt supported, Colson said, “I have to wait until we have a bigger conversation about what steps we plan to take and what they plan to do if we take those steps.

“But whether I feel supported and stuff or not, I’m going to post what I want to post about black people dying no matter what anybody tells me.”
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For a young, rebuilding team, a nine-month layoff from a competitive NBA game seemingly would be punishment enough.

But there’s a bigger concern for the Bulls now that the NBA Board of Governors approved the 22-team “bubble” restart Thursday, which leaves out eight teams that must try to find their way between now and October.

The Bulls also are officially removed from the Orlando recruiting game.

Think that exclusion won’t be a thing? Think again.

Look at the relationships that players have built the last decade-plus from simply playing on Team USA. In 2008, LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade spent the summer capturing a gold medal and planting the seeds of how they would play together within two years on the Heat.

In the 2016 Olympics, then-Bull Jimmy Butler struck up such a solid friendship with Kyrie Irving that when Irving demanded a trade out of Cleveland in 2017, one of the four places he listed as a destination spot was Minnesota, which just so happened to acquire Butler a month earlier.

Who demands a trade to the Timberwolves?

No, the recruiting game is a thing, and with the 2021 free-agent class arguably one of the most talented in league history, being left outside the “bubble” could be a three-year sentence in solitary confinement.

As has been described by the league, the bubble will allow players to freely come and go from their hotel rooms to play golf, eat at restaurants, etc., as long as they remain on the designated Disney Complex campus.

The players will be able to enjoy a round of golf or a serving of sushi with fellow players, a coach or a front-office executive in public view or in private.

Let’s see the NBA even try to put a lid on the tampering that will take place within the confines of the compound.

“IT is disappointing that we will not return to play for the 2019-20 season, but ultimately this decision is about more than just one team,” Bulls president Michael Reinsdorf said in a statement. “We are supportive of commissioner Adam Silver and the outcome of the vote by the NBA Board of Governors.

“We will now shift our focus to continue to build our team under the new leadership of Arturas Karnisovas and our basketball operations department with a focus on the draft, free agency and off-season development.”

So teams such as the Bulls, Knicks, Cavaliers and Timberwolves are hoping the NBA affords
IRREGULAR SEASON

The 22-team plan includes all teams that were holding playoff spots when the season was stopped, plus all other clubs within six games of a postseason berth. Each team will play eight games to determine playoff seeding.

If the gap between the eighth- and ninth-place teams in either conference is four games or fewer when the regular season ends, those teams will go head-to-head for the No. 8 seed. The team in ninth place would have to go 2-0 in a two-game series to win the berth; otherwise, the No. 8 seed would advance to the postseason.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

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Jim Boylen is unlikely to return next season as the Bulls’ coach.

KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AP

Arturas Karnisovas won’t get a chance to see the Bulls in game action again this season. DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

them some type of mandatory September training camp or a fall league in order to check out their players in a competitive situation and prepare them for the 2020-21 season, which will start in December.

“To be included in the plan to restart the 2019-20 season would have been a positive for our players and their development, but we understand the need to compromise, and we support the decision made today by the NBA Board of Governors,” Karnisovas said. “We are disappointed that our season is over and there won’t be opportunities to see our team or players in game action, but we will be creative in discovering new opportunities to support their growth as we prepare for the next season.”

The Bulls, however, have more immediate concerns now that their season is over.

The new front office of Karnisovas and general manager Marc Eversley has little wiggle room with the roster for one more year, but it still has a major decision to make with coach Jim Boylen and his staff.

Boylen wrapped up the first year of a three-year contract but has two major strikes against him. He can’t escape his 39-84 (.317) record, and he’s one of the lower-paid coaches in the league, so his dismissal doesn’t leave a lot of dead money in its wake.

Boylen’s fate apparently is all but sealed. Karnisovas and Eversley have gotten enough mixed feedback from players and other club personnel on Boylen to make the case for a new coach.

Ownership likes Boylen, but multiple sources have said the Reinsdorfs would stand aside and leave the final say to the new front-office regime.

NOTE: According to reports, the 22 teams will begin training in Orlando starting July 9-11. The window for the rest of the season is July 31 to as late as Oct. 12 if the Finals go the distance. The draft lottery will be Aug. 25, the draft Oct. 15 and the 2020-21 season likely will begin Dec. 1. Free agency might begin Oct. 18, with training camps opening Nov. 10.
It isn’t exactly a milestone, and it’s only halfway to the record, but it’s still meaningful.

Whenever baseball returns, Len Kasper will tie Hall of Famer Harry Caray with 16 seasons as the Cubs’ TV voice. Jack Brickhouse has the most with 34.

I had two thoughts when I noticed that: It felt like Caray was around a lot longer, and it doesn’t feel that long at all for Kasper.

Maybe that says something about them.

Caray was a party in the booth every day with dramatic calls and a personality that often overshadowed the team. Kasper is much more understated, delivering a consistent and steady broadcast.

But his longevity is evidence that his way works, too. There’s no secret sauce beneath what Kasper serves. Though his style was derived from another Hall of Famer, former Tigers announcer Ernie Harwell, Kasper never has tried to be someone he isn’t. He wouldn’t be a Harwell disciple if their demeanors didn’t match.

“I’m me all the time,” said Kasper, 49. “I
**Kasper, Deshaies are going to get the booth**

If baseball returns to Wrigley Field this year, Len Kasper said he and analyst Jim Deshaies will call the action from the TV booth.

Though Kasper said Marquee Sports Network has had only informal discussions about broadcasting without fans present during the coronavirus pandemic, that much is certain.

Nothing has been finalized for road games, but The Score’s Bruce Levine reported that broadcasters will not travel. Kasper said the crew could broadcast off monitors from the MSN studio or possibly the Wrigley Field booth, with the empty ballpark as a backdrop.

“I think the best way to do the best telecast is to be there,” Kasper said. “I understand the health concerns, and ultimately it’s not going to be our decision. And I definitely don’t want to be a burden in terms of a traveling party, which will definitely be limited. In lieu of that, we’ll do everything we can to make it as comfortable and normal as we can.”

Without fans in the stands, networks figure to try different things to enhance their broadcast. But considering the game already will look different fundamentally with players social-distancing, Kasper doesn’t want the production of the broadcast to be radically different from what fans are used to.

“When people say they miss baseball, I think they miss the baseball they know and love,” he said. “They don’t necessarily miss something they’ve never seen before. There’s going to be so many new things that could be potentially jarring to people that I want to make sure that comfort zone still exists.”

Kasper said if there ever was a year to try new ideas, this is it. But he doesn’t want to push it.

“Threading the needle is going to be interesting in trying to keep it all so it’s what we remember and what we love about the sport, especially about the sport on television,” he said.

“You are you and people like it — or, maybe better put, don’t hate it — you can last awhile.”

*Jeff Agrest*

*Cover Photo: Whenever baseball resumes, Len Kasper will tie Harry Caray with 16 seasons as the Cubs’ TV voice.*

**I THINK THE BEST WAY TO DO THE BEST TELECAST IS TO BE THERE. I UNDERSTAND THE HEALTH CONCERNS, AND ULTIMATELY IT’S NOT GOING TO BE OUR DECISION.*

LEN KASPER, Cubs’ TV play-by-play man
BEHIND THE 8 BALL

Bulls one of eight teams knocked out of 22-team restart, ending their season and starting clock on Boylen

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