



NOW THAT'S ITALIAN

Superstar chef Mario Batali is betting big on his ginormous Italian-themed market in the Near North neighborhood **A+E**

ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Chicago Tribune

Pension fix on the table

Vote on deal to reduce state's \$100 billion debt may come next week, but approval is far from certain

By **RAY LONG**
AND RICK PEARSON
Tribune reporters

Illinois' top lawmakers reached a long-awaited agreement Wednesday on reducing the state's \$100 billion public employee pension debt, then turned

to the difficult task of gathering enough votes to pass it next week. The four leaders of the Senate and House will explain the proposal — estimated by some to save \$160 billion over the next 30 years — to rank-and-file members in anticipation of

potential votes Tuesday in Springfield. Gov. Pat Quinn, who a year ago urged Illinois families to discuss the state's pension debt around their Thanksgiving dinner tables, said the proposal meets his "standard" for stabilizing the state's public worker

pension systems and eliminating the unfunded liability. But he also acknowledged the potential difficulty of getting the votes needed for legislative passage. "We have more work to do," Quinn said in a statement. "I look forward to

working with the leaders and members of the General Assembly over the coming days to get this job done for the people of Illinois." Difficult work may lie ahead in the legislature, where Democrats hold supermajorities in the House and Senate under Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton, both of Chicago. The proposal is expected to face

stiff opposition from unions — a traditional Democratic ally — heading into the 2014 election year. Officials of public employee and teachers unions complained they weren't consulted. Although unfamiliar with the details, they said in a statement that they believed the proposal was "an unfair, unconstitutional scheme that undermines

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PHIL ROSENTHAL

Holiday purists, take look at history

The spread of Black Friday shopping into Thursday is less an assault on our hallowed Thanksgiving Day traditions than a long-standing side dish, like sweet potatoes or cranberry sauce, edging ever closer to the turkey. It's not as though the retail industry is telling the nation it should celebrate a whole week earlier in order to extend the holiday shopping season. That happened in 1939. Merchants that year — in a power play that makes today's jockeying by stores to open sooner look timid — prevailed upon President Franklin Roosevelt to bump Thanksgiving up a week to Nov. 23 from Nov. 30.

Which the president announced in August, giving the nation less than four months to rearrange its holiday plans. Or not. So while it's tempting to imagine Thanksgivings past in the pristine iconography of a Norman Rockwell tableau, the holiday even then was well-established as a curtain-raiser for Christmas shopping. Family dinner may be threatened this year by the ever-bolder encroachment of deep-discount sales onto Thanksgiving Day, not to mention a buffet of TV sports. But history shows that commerce is as entwined with Thanksgiving as pumpkin pie. Today we observe the holiday every year on the fourth Thursday in November.

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"I am here to serve them. I think when they see someone like me down here, it gives them a lift."

— Dr. Patrick Angelo, on providing aid to homeless people



CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Dr. Patrick Angelo carries hamburgers, coffee and a fleece throw to give to homeless people on Chicago's Lower Wacker Drive last week.

Angel of Lower Wacker



Jonas Goitom eats a burger from Angelo, who no longer tries to get street people into shelters or rehab.

Quietly, for a dozen years, doctor has been taking food, other aid to city's subterranean homeless

By **BONNIE MILLER RUBIN** | Tribune reporter

Patrick Angelo stops at the McDonald's on Ontario Street, where his order of 80 hamburgers and 47 coffees is ready and waiting. He pays the tab and then gingerly places the boxes on the back seat of his black

Cadillac before pulling out of the parking lot and heading east. Angelo has followed that routine twice a week for the past dozen years, leaving his northwest suburban home to deliver dinner, blankets and

other creature comforts to the homeless on Chicago's Lower Wacker Drive. While many painfully avoid eye contact with street people, Angelo is the rare person who seeks them out — not as a member of any church group or social service agency but as a private citizen who feels compelled to assist the

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Speed camera catches parked car

City, vendor cite human error, call mistake 'isolated'

By **BILL RUTHHART**
AND ELLEN JEAN HIRST
Tribune reporters

On a Friday night in October, Megan Kasten parked her car for five minutes on Augusta Boulevard near Humboldt Park while she picked up a

friend to go see a movie. A month later, Kasten said, she got a warning notice in the mail for speeding past the Northwest Side park at 37 miles per hour, a violation recorded by one of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's new speed cameras. Certain that she hadn't been speeding, Kasten logged onto the city's website to review the video of her infraction, but the im-

ages didn't show her driving at all. Instead, the video and photos recorded by the camera showed her silver Honda Civic sitting parked while a white, four-door car drove by on the other side of the street. "I was kind of shocked that the camera obviously flashed and it just seemed like it was just picking up all the license plates in the vicinity," said Kasten, 33, a VIP services assistant man-

ager for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. "I was angry that I was getting a warning ... and then I was wondering if all those other cars got a ticket. I thought (the camera) would be advanced enough that it would pick up the car that was actually moving." Emanuel transportation officials and the city's

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'Playmat' does more than catch crumbs



Dinner table conversation tuning you out? Our annual Thanksgiving dinner "playmat" will help you while away the time between bites. Just don't spill the gravy. **Dining**

Football feast for Bears fans

As the Bears prepare for Sunday's game against the Vikings in Minnesota, they will pay particular attention to today's contest between NFC North Division rivals Green Bay and Detroit. **Chicago Sports**