

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



A great horned owl stands in a tree in Lincoln Park. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Owl harassment ‘not hyperbole’

Drone chases highlight dangers, stressors on birds

By **Adriana Pérez**
Chicago Tribune

On her way home from work on a recent wintry night, Kathy Keane ran into a group of people quietly watching a pair of great horned owls perched on a tree in Lincoln Park.

“I started hearing the ‘hoot, hoot,’ and then the other would call back ‘hoot, hoot,’” she told the Tribune. “And it was just so beautiful.”

Excited about the sighting, she made sure to walk by the same spot the next day with her husband, Patrick Keane.

The bird was still on the tree, but then a drone flew toward the owl and scared it away. The Keanes decided to approach the two people piloting the aircraft.

“I’m like, ‘Do you realize you scared the owl with that thing?’” Patrick Keane recalled. “And he got — I’m not exaggerating here — he got a

big smile on his face and said, ‘Yeah, we did.’ And he’s like, ‘We scared the other one earlier in the evening.’”

As native great horned owls court and nest in Chicago, and expectations ramp up for rare winter sightings of snowy owls from the Arctic, encounters like this underscore the importance of viewing and photographing these birds safely, experts say.

“The problem of harassing wildlife and specifically owls is not a new one,” said Edward Warden, president of the Chicago Ornithological Society. “There’s something incredibly compelling about them as birds. ... People (get) excited to see them when they’re in our midst, whether you call yourself a birder or not, it’s kind of a very universal thing.”

Generally, curious humans disturbing owls

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Sox eyeing move to the South Loop?

Talks underway about building baseball stadium at Roosevelt Road, Clark Street

By **LaMond Pope, Brian J. Rogal and Robert McCoppin**
Chicago Tribune

When the Chicago White Sox unveiled a sparkling new stadium on 35th Street in 1991, owner Jerry Reinsdorf declared he was “awestruck” at its beauty and predicted it wouldn’t “take a back seat” to any stadium in Major League Baseball for years to come.

But since that April day after the Sox had shuttered the original Comiskey Park across the street, the South Siders’ current home stadium has been a consistent source of criticism, tension and angst, with fans clamoring for a change even as major improvements have been made.

This week, a new twist developed in that long-running saga when it was revealed that Reinsdorf and the White Sox were in discussions about building a baseball-only Sox stadium about

3 miles to the northeast at Roosevelt Road and Clark Street as part of a massive development at a property in the South Loop called “The 78.”

Ald. Pat Dowell, whose 3rd Ward includes The 78, confirmed Related Midwest, the developer that owns the parcel, wants to discuss a White Sox relocation to that site.

“I will meet soon with the developers of The 78 to discuss the possibility of a stadium being built for the Chicago White Sox,” Dowell said in a statement Thursday afternoon.

Ald. Nicole Lee, who represents the area that includes Guaranteed Rate Field, where the team plays now, said she will also meet with Related Midwest and the Sox on the proposal.

“The White Sox have proudly called Chicago and Bridgeport home for over a century,” Lee said. “As a lifelong fan and now

Turn to Stadium, Page 4

Feds want a year in prison for city cop

Officer entered US Capitol on Jan. 6, texted: ‘It was epic’

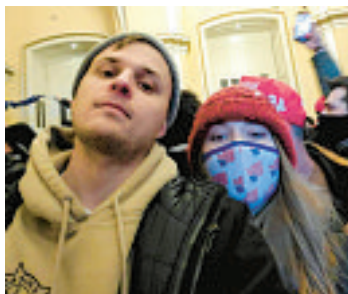
By **Jason Meisner**
Chicago Tribune

The more than 40 Illinoisans charged with participating in the riot at the U.S. Capitol three years ago have seemingly come from all walks of life: a real estate broker, a tech company executive, an HVAC technician, a retired firefighter, a Brazilian citizen here on a work visa.

And one Chicago police officer.

Next week, Chicago police Officer Karol Chwiesiuk will face sentencing along with his sister on misdemeanor charges of breaching the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and walking around the building while the mob trashed the Senate chambers and fought with Capitol police.

Unlike most Jan. 6 defendants found guilty of nonviolent misdemeanors, however, prosecutors are asking for relatively stiff terms of a year behind bars for



A photo from the FBI shows Karol Chwiesiuk, a Chicago police officer, left, and his sister, Agnieszka Chwiesiuk, of Chicago, when they illegally entered the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. **FBI**

Chwiesiuk and eight months in prison for his sister, Agnieszka.

That’s because the Chwiesiuks not only chose to take the case to trial instead of striking a plea deal, but prosecutors said Karol Chwiesiuk lied repeatedly on the witness stand in a self-serving attempt to escape blame, falsely telling the jury he had no idea what was going on at the Capitol and didn’t see evidence of a

Turn to Officer, Page 2

Report details failures in Uvalde shooting response

DOJ concludes police waited too long to confront gunman

By **Eric Tucker, Acacia Coronado and Jake Bleiberg**
Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas — Police officials who responded to the deadly Uvalde, Texas, elementary school shooting waited far too long to confront the gunman, acted with “no urgency” in establishing a command post and communicated inaccurate information to grieving families, according to a Justice Department report released Thursday that identifies “cascading failures” in law enforcement’s handling of the massacre.

The Justice Department report, the most comprehensive federal accounting of the maligned police response to the May 24, 2022, shooting at Robb Elementary School, catalogs a sweeping array of training, communication, leadership and technology problems that federal officials say contributed to the crisis lasting far longer than necessary. All the while, the report says, terrified students inside the classrooms called 911 and agonized parents begged officers to go in.

“Had law enforcement agencies followed generally accepted practices in active-shooter situations and gone right after the shooter and stopped him, lives would have been saved

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EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Donor families reconnect

Tracey and Tony Gonzalez listen virtually to Tony’s kidney donor and the recipient of Tracey’s kidney at Advocate Christ Outpatient Pavilion in Oak Lawn on Thursday. Gonzalez received Joely Sanders’ kidney in October after his wife, Tracey, donated one of her kidneys to Sanders’ brother, Frank Pompa. The two pairs met virtually for the first time at Advocate Christ Medical Center and expressed their shock at the similarities between the two men’s stories. **Chicagoland, Page 5**

US again strikes sites in Yemen

U.S. forces on Thursday conducted a fifth strike against Iranian-backed Houthi rebel military sites in Yemen, as President Joe Biden acknowledged the bombardment had yet to stop the militia’s attacks on vessels in the Red Sea. **Nation & World**

‘Origin’ a vibrant and edifying film

From the unfilmable bestseller “Caste,” Ava DuVernay finds the only possible movie. **Michael Phillips’ review in A+E**

■ Apple’s British cop drama “Criminal Record” tackles racism within police ranks. **Nina Metz’s review in A+E**

