

LONDON CALLS FOR THE BEARS

2024 schedule: A meeting in English capital, 3 prime-time games — and all 6 NFC North matchups in last 8 weeks of season. **Chicago Sports**

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THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Questions remain in '23 Yellow Line crash

NTSB still investigating incident; no official cause determined yet

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

Six months ago, Stephen Helmer set out with his wife, daughter and toddler grandchildren to go sight-seeing downtown, grab lunch and meet a friend.

They never made it. About 10 minutes into their CTA train ride from Skokie, there was a “boom,” he told the Tribune, as their Yellow Line train slammed into a snowplow on the tracks ahead. Then panic, mayhem and screaming.

He and his family were thrown from their seats as riders went flying through the car, he recalled. He struck his head. His wife’s face hit a pole, and his daughter was flung into a panel near the train’s door.

The stroller with his twin grandchildren, at that time almost 2, was thrown up in the air and tipped onto its side. The twins were bruised, but escaped worse harm because they had been strapped securely in the stroller at the insistence of their grandmother, Helmer said.

In the months since the crash, questions have lingered for Helmer.

“We certainly would like to see some answers as to why this happened before we get back on any of these trains,” he said.

Six months after the Nov. 16 crash, which left more than a dozen people injured and closed the Yellow Line for seven weeks, few answers have emerged about what went wrong and how the crash could have been prevented.

The National Transportation Safety Board is still investigating and has yet to officially determine the cause, though the agency has said it is gathering information about the signal and braking

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New houses in a recently constructed suburban development called Avanterra in Oswego are seen Wednesday off Wolf’s Crossing Road in Kendall County. Oswego is among the areas near Chicago that have seen the most population growth in recent years. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Biggest population loss in area? Suburban Cook

Some leaders skeptical of census estimates, which don’t count influx of migrants

By Robert McCoppin,
Jake Sheridan
and Kori Rumore
Chicago Tribune

Though the city of Chicago has lost residents in recent years, the suburbs in Cook County have lost more, while suburbs far from the city are booming, new U.S. census estimates show.

Chicago lost about 82,000 people, or 3% of its population, from April 2020 to July 2023, giving the city a total of 2,664,452 residents, according to the census. But the city’s rate of

population decline has sharply slowed, falling to just 0.3% — or 8,208 people — last year.

Cook County as a whole from 2020-2023 lost 188,000 people, or 3.6%, leaving the current population at slightly more than 5 million residents. Most of the departures occurred outside the city.

Western suburbs like Cicero, Berwyn and Riverside lost about 5%, while south and southwest suburbs, including Summit, Oak Lawn, Dolton, Calumet City, Hazel Crest, Markham, Country Club Hills, Alsip and Palos

Heights, lost 4.5% or more.

Meanwhile, far southwest suburbs including Yorkville, Plainfield and Oswego showed the most growth, with Yorkville growing by more than 3,000, or nearly 15%.

Statewide, Illinois lost an estimated 263,780 in the same three years, or 2%, to 12,549,689.

The losses reflect larger demographic changes in recent times, including a shift in population from the Midwest to the South and West; Black migration from the Chicago area; and a lack of in-migration, demographics

analyst Rob Paral said.

While the 2020 census counted responses from household surveys, the annual estimates between the 10-year counts are based in part on counting births, deaths, and moves in and out, using the number of tax returns and Medicare filings.

The numbers do not reflect the recent influx of 41,000 migrants bused and flown to Chicago since August 2022. Census methodology does not account for migrant arrivals. Immigrants are typically

Turn to Suburbs, Page 5

Guilty plea in Masters \$5.3 million theft case

Arnold Palmer’s 1958 green jacket part of memorabilia scheme

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

More than a decade after golf legend Arnold Palmer’s 1958 Masters green jacket vanished from Augusta National Golf Club, federal investigators had tracked it to an elegant brick home in Chicago’s Lincoln Park neighborhood, where the jacket’s owner was looking to sell.

The price was purportedly \$3.6 million, negotiated by a Houston-based collector who was acting as a middleman, federal court records show. The buyer was a well-known sports memorabilia broker who’d insisted on seeing the jacket in person first — and who also was secretly coop-



Richard Globensky, a former warehouse employee at Augusta National Golf Club, walks out of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse after pleading guilty Wednesday to stealing Arnold Palmer’s green jacket in a \$5.3 million Masters memorabilia scheme. **VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

erating with the FBI, the records show.

“I told you this before, it’s the most money, believe it or not, that I will ever have spent on a single item,” the cooperator told the middleman in a recorded telephone call on March 10, 2022, according to court records. “I’d rather see it with my own eyes.”

Three weeks later, agents were waiting outside the home on West Fullerton Parkway as the

sting played out, swooping in and seizing the jacket once the buyers emerged, the records showed.

Inside the lapel were several signature details confirming its authenticity, including a patch stitched with Palmer’s name, the name of the original tailor, and the date the garment was made: “2-19-58.”

The intriguing details were

Turn to Employee, Page 5

State seeks to salvage murder conviction

Gang-related shooting killed girl, 15; appeals court orders new trial

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

More than a decade after the killing of 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton put a national spotlight on Chicago’s entrenched problem with gun violence, Illinois prosecutors worked to salvage a conviction against the alleged shooter before the state’s highest court in Springfield.

Pendleton, an honors student and majorette who performed at then-President Barack Obama’s second inauguration days before she was killed, was fatally shot in a North Kenwood park where she was spending time with friends after finishing final exams at King College Prep High School on Jan. 29, 2013. The broad daylight gang-related shooting that felled Pendleton, an unintended target, spurred grief and outrage from

City Hall all the way up to the White House, with questions about the teen’s slaying posed to Obama and his communications staff in the following days.

Though Micheail Ward, 30, was convicted of first-degree murder and two counts of aggravated battery following a lengthy jury trial in 2018, an Illinois appeals court last year overturned his convictions and ordered a new trial, finding that Chicago police detectives violated his rights by continuing to question him after he invoked his right to remain silent.

Now, the attorney general’s office is asking the Illinois Supreme Court to reverse the lower court’s ruling. Assistant Attorney General Eric Levin largely argued on Wednesday during oral arguments that there was significant evidence of Ward’s guilt even without his confession to police, meaning a jury would have likely come to

Turn to Conviction, Page 4

Earlier debates for Biden, Trump

The rivals have agreed to two presidential debates — the first on June 27 hosted by CNN and the second on Sept. 10 hosted by ABC. **Nation & World**

Acquittal comes after long saga

Gerald Reed, who has long alleged he was a victim of Chicago police torture, was acquitted Wednesday in a retrial of his double-murder case. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

‘I need a job ASAP’

The rates of young people both out of work and not in school in Chicago are mostly slightly higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic, a new report finds. **Business**

TODAY’S
WEATHER



High 74

Low 60

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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