

Chicago Tribune



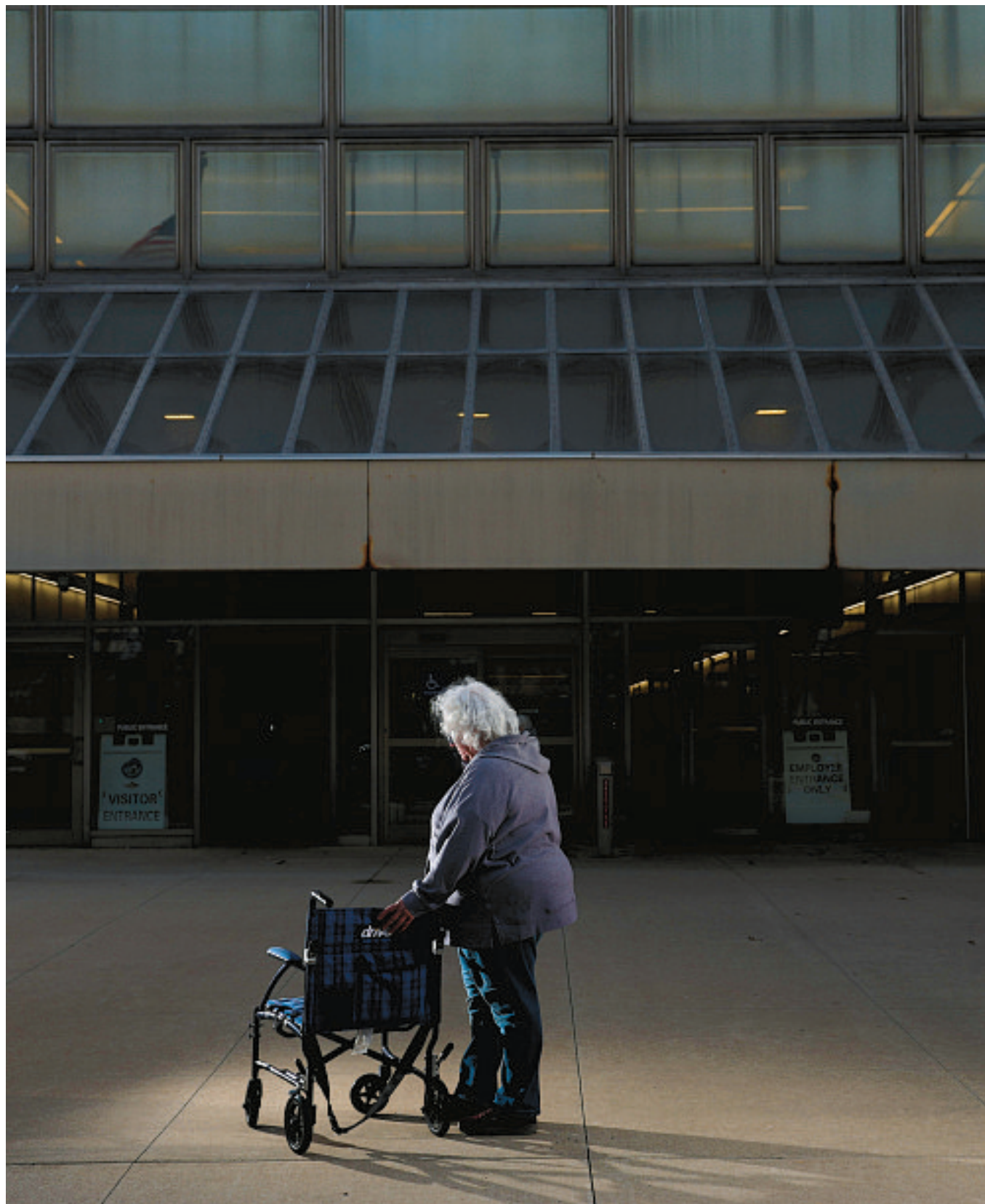
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

MEDICAL MISCONDUCT PART 1 OF 4

“If they just would have believed me, this wouldn’t have happened to another woman.”



A ‘doozy’ of a career nears final forecast

Not just a weatherman, Tom Skilling became a broadcasting institution

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

For many Chicago viewers, retiring WGN-TV meteorologist Tom Skilling has long been an eternally sunny on-air presence, whose detailed forecasts and genuine enthusiasm somehow made upper-air patterns interesting.



The cult of Skilling runs so deep, just about everybody does an overly-cheerful impression of Chicago’s longest-tenured weathercaster.

What they may miss, however, goes on behind the scenes, where Skilling is far more complex than his caricature: a diligent, almost obsessive meteorologist who spends 15 hours a day glued to computer screens, analyzing reams of data in an endless quest to accurately predict the Windy City’s capricious weather.

“You’ve been humbled enough by Mother Nature to know that you’re not going to get every one

Turn to Skilling, Page 14

Sometimes strength, resilience are a burden

University official’s death shines light on Black women’s struggles

By Darcel Rockett
Chicago Tribune

When Lincoln University administrator Antoinette “Bonnie” Candia-Bailey took her own life last month, the news broke the internet, a family friend said in a eulogy during homegoing services in Joliet.

People had a lot to say about the death of the 49-year-old Chicago native who was the Missouri school’s vice president of student affairs. She was a conduit, a convenor and, most passionately, an advocate, said her friends, family and colleagues.

The abundance of national headlines, social media posts, essays, tributes and videoconferences that ensued created a torrent of emotion, ultimately shining a light on the struggles Black women bear not just in the workplace but specifically as administrators and

Turn to Struggles, Page 2

INSIDE



CHICAGO TRIBUNE 1999

Activist soul of Pilsen

Artist Carlos Cortez had a plan to keep his works affordable, even after his death. **A+E**

Embracing fluid role

Ayo Dosunmu is tapping into new parts of his game in his third Bulls season. **Chicago Sports**

PATIENTS ALLEGE ABUSE; PROVIDERS STAY ON THE JOB

Story by Lisa Schencker and Emily Hoerner | Photographs by Stacey Wescott | Chicago Tribune

Editor’s note: This story includes descriptions of sexual abuse and assault.

When a woman came to the Illinois Bone & Joint Institute complaining of hip and groin pain, X-ray technician Karol Ruszczyk put his hand between her legs, touching her vaginal area over her clothes.

At Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview, nurse David Giurgiu had a heavily medicated, 76-year-old patient perform oral sex on him from her hospital bed.

At Chicago’s Jackson Park Hospital and Medical Center, a patient reported that worker Titus Snelling had rolled her wheelchair into an elevator and, when they were alone, began kissing her up and down her neck.

All three of the victims complained to the hospitals and health care systems that employed the workers. All three of those systems allowed the employees to continue working. And all three workers were later charged with abusing additional patients.

Over the course of a yearlong investigation, the Tribune found that well-known Illinois health systems have allowed workers accused of abusing patients to

At top: “Susan” stands with her late mother’s wheelchair on Feb. 5 at the Skokie Courthouse, where her mother testified about being sexually assaulted by a nurse at Glenbrook Hospital.

NEXT IN THIS SERIES
Coming Feb. 25: Flaws in state oversight

providers without meaningful oversight, other laws lack teeth, and one law that would help document and track adverse events at hospitals has yet to be implemented 16 years later.

Illinois law does require hospitals to report allegations of patient abuse to state health officials, but those that fail to do so face few consequences, even in cases where the health care worker went on to face abuse allega-

Turn to Abuse, Page 10

keep providing care.

The failures to respond adequately to abuse allegations had devastating consequences for the victims, who felt betrayed by medical systems they had trusted with their health and safety.

While some medical systems in other states have reckoned publicly with their failures, Illinois health care providers have quietly settled lawsuits, entered into confidentiality agreements with patients and often refused to acknowledge wrongdoing.

Efforts by state government to hold providers accountable have fallen short, largely leaving hospital systems to decide on their own how to balance patient safety with their reputations and financial interests. Loopholes in state laws leave many

