

‘A lot of history for such a small place’

A National Museum of Mexican Art exhibit looks at the history of Mariachi Potosino and José Cruz Alba, a group that for more than 60 years played throughout Chicago and beyond.



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Improving inclusion in cancer studies

A breast cancer test may make bad chemotherapy recommendations for Black women, a UIC study shows. A new consortium is focused on diversity in patient trials.

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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



A haven for IVF

Illinois poised to become safe place for out-of-state patients amid conservative backlash

By Angie Leventis Lourgos | Chicago Tribune

During their five-year struggle with infertility, Bre and Chris Yingling went through several rounds of in vitro fertilization, the most recent attempt ending in stillbirth over the summer after a 38-week pregnancy. The expectant parents recalled cradling the lifeless body of the daughter they had longed for, as they wept and told her they would always love her.

“She was our baby,” Chris Yingling said. “And we lost her.”

Despite their recent heartbreak, the couple from Palmyra, Missouri — just a few miles from the Illinois border — hope to try to have a child again later this year. Yet they face an added layer of worry and stress this time around, due to the looming fear that IVF could be at risk in their conservative state, which by law defines life as beginning at conception and has banned abortion in nearly all circumstances.

A recent Alabama Supreme Court ruling that frozen embryos are considered children and can be covered under a wrongful death statute temporarily halted IVF treatments in Alabama last



“People who live in other states who want to have children using IVF, come to Illinois,” Gov. J.B. Pritzker said. “We’re protecting your rights in so many ways, but specifically regarding IVF.”

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

month, sending shockwaves around the country, particularly in other Republican-led states like Missouri.

The Yinglings say if assisted reproductive technology is threatened in their home state, their backup plan is to head east for fertility care in Illinois, which has strong reproductive rights provisions, including protections for IVF.

“We’re kind of scared for what’s going to happen,” 29-year-old Chris Yingling said. “Normally it takes the first chip to fall before they all start falling. It definitely feels like the legislature in

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At top: Rachel and Kevin Trenkamp watch as their sons, Zachary, 2, and Benjamin, 5, play at their home in Aurora on March 14. The couple conceived through advanced IVF procedures and technology after several years of unsuccessful attempts and are concerned proposed legislation in Rachel’s home state of Iowa could make IVF procedures unlawful. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

ELECTION 2024

Will Biden be greeted with hug or shrug?

Primary results hint at softness of support for president — and Trump

By Rick Pearson
Chicago Tribune

Chicago will play host to President Joe Biden’s renomination for president at the Democratic National Convention in August, but the voting in Tuesday’s presidential primary indicates the city’s welcome may be less than wholehearted.

With mail-in ballots still being counted, results from the Chicago Board of Elections show that of the more than 300,000 Democratic ballots cast in the city, nearly 1 in 4 party voters — more than 73,000 — opted not to vote for president or cast a ballot for one of Biden’s three nominal challengers.

At the same time, the Republican primary election indicated a softness in support for former President Donald Trump in the suburbs, a key swing area that has gradually turned more Democratic.

Reflective of a low-enthusiasm election, nearly 15% of Democratic voters in Chicago chose to not cast a vote for president, according to unofficial results from Chicago election officials. In addition, more than 10% of city Democratic voters who filled out a ballot for president opted for someone other than Biden, the results showed. Combined, that meant more than 24% of Chicago Democrats either didn’t vote for president or didn’t vote for the current president.

The number of voters who didn’t cast a presidential vote likely included an unknown number who wrote in “Gaza” as part of an organized protest against Biden’s actions toward the Israel-Hamas war. Write-in votes are not legally counted in the city.

The unofficial outcome of the Democratic presidential vote in Chicago shows Biden received 89.6%, compared with 4% apiece for Minnesota U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips and activist Marianne

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INSIDE: Harris narrows gap with O’Neill Burke for state’s attorney as more mail-in ballots are added to the count. **Chicagoland, Page 2**

INSIDE



Langborg



Dainja

What makes March Madness so special

Unsung teams and unexpected heroes — such as Ryan Langborg and Dainja — are what the NCAA tourney is all about. **Sports**

Russia arrests 4 in Moscow attack

Kyiv denies any involvement in Friday’s assault on the Crocus City Hall music venue that killed at least 133 people. **Nation & World**

Juice-loan case has ties to the Chicago Outfit

Chaotic federal proceedings ultimately ended in mistrial

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

The first objection in the recent extortion trial of Addison businessman Gene “Gino” Cassano came about five seconds into opening statements, when a prosecutor mentioned the term “juice loan.”

Three days later, the proceedings abruptly ended in a mistrial after an FBI agent testified he was assigned to investigate “organized crime,” a term the judge had explicitly barred to avoid prejudicing the jury.

By the time the agent uttered those words, though, the underworld flavor of the madcap case was hardly a well-kept secret.

For days, the jury had listened to testimony about high-interest loans, a brutal assault over one alleged debt, bookies, illegal sports gambling, and off-the-books gaming machines that populate Italian-American social clubs across the Chicago area.

While the charges against Cassano and his associate, Gioacchino “Jack” Galione, make no mention of the mob, records reviewed by the Tribune since the trial ended March 8 show the underlying investigation specifically targeted the dwindling upper-echelon members of the Chicago Outfit.

The FBI had been authorized to wiretap phones as far back as 2016 as it attempted to build racketeering cases involving the Outfit’s notorious Elmwood Park and Grand Avenue street crews, a

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Gene “Gino” Cassano leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago on March 5. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

