

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

'I needed to rebuild for the community': League competition starts again at Villa Park curling facility after March fire nearly left it destroyed



## IT WAS BROOM OR BUST

By Peter Breen | Chicago Tribune

A bit after midnight on March 5, Matt Galas stood in a strip mall parking lot in Villa Park, watching the lighting and appliances store above his beloved curling facility burn.

A police officer came over to the hopeless Galas, who had been staring for about 45 minutes, and told him to go home. The space was about to get destroyed.

"They were about to pump and just douse the place with water," said Galas, one of Windy City Curling's founders. "And as we all know, water does amazing things. Making ice is one of them that we normally have, but it also finds every crack and crevice and finds the lowest spot, which was our space."

On Thursday night, the club's three sheets — the 150-foot-long frozen playing surfaces of the sport — were alive with activity, including stone sliding and broom sweeping, by members of the club's "balanced" league.

This week, for the first time since the fire, club members could participate in league play, beginning with Sunday's brunch league. The club's ice maker had flooded the sheets with water every 12 hours for about two weeks to get them ready. The fridges behind the bar in the lounge were stocked with beer. One middle-aged member said the excitement he felt was like the feeling of going back to college.

Tate Barry, who returned to the club to captain a team in the Thursday night league after playing Tuesday, said she's been curling since the mid-aughts and joined Windy City Curling after moving to Chicago last year. The 32-year-old, who plays two nights a week to meet more

Michael Jakela, above, competes in a club league at Windy City Curling in Villa Park on Thursday. The club's strip mall facility suffered water damage from an overnight fire in March.

CHRIS SWEDA/  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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### ABORTION ACCESS

## Demand for care up after election

Illinois providers reporting spike in calls for pills, birth control and sterilizations

By Angie Leventis Lourgos  
Chicago Tribune

Illinois reproductive health care providers are reporting a spike in calls for abortion pills, long-acting birth control, emergency contraception and sterilization procedures following Donald Trump's election to a second term.

Planned Parenthood of Illinois saw a 15% increase in calls immediately following the Nov. 5 election, with many callers asking about vasectomies and options for long term but reversible contraception, such as intrauterine devices and birth control implants.

"People are frightened," said Cristina Villarreal, chief external affairs officer for Planned Parenthood of Illinois, which has 17 clinics statewide. "We are concerned about a lot of different things with the coming administration and we are doing what we can to prepare for it. But I think the important thing for patients to know right now is that we are open for providing the reproductive and sexual health care that they need ... and we will fight to continue to do that."

Since the election, Carafem's health center in Skokie has seen a "significant rise in client demand," with abortion care appointments nearly doubling in the past week, said Konni Lorenz, external relations and development manager. This month, the abortion provider began offering an advance provision service that allows patients to buy an additional prescription for abortion pills for future use.

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### ANALYSIS

## Trump testing Congress with Cabinet picks

GOP leaders face pressure, reality from president-elect

By Lisa Mascaro  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a resounding election victory, delivering what President-elect Donald Trump and Republicans said is a mandate to govern, an uneasy political question is emerging: Will there be any room for dissent in Congress?

Trump is laying down a gauntlet even before taking office challenging the Senate, in particular, to dare defy him over the nominations of Matt Gaetz, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and other controversial choices for his Cabinet and administration positions.

The promise of unified government, with the Republican Party's sweep of the White House and GOP majorities in the House and Senate, is making way for a more complicated political reality as congressional leaders confront anew what it means to line up with Trump's agenda.

"This is going to be a red alert moment for American democracy," Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said on CNN after Trump tapped Gaetz for attorney general.

Trump is returning to the White House at the height of his political power, having won both the Electoral College

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■ Cabinet pick Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who has a history of embracing conspiracy theories, is taking a direct shot at Big Food, one of the country's most powerful industries — and one whose traditional allies are Republicans. **Nation & World**

## Settlement pending in first of Watts suits

Alleged phony arrests could be staggeringly expensive for city

By Megan Crepeau and Jason Meisner  
Chicago Tribune

A settlement agreement has been reached in the first federal lawsuit alleging phony arrests by ex-Chicago police Sgt. Ronald Watts and his team, a milestone that could have implications for the more than 150 other Watts-related cases.

Ben Baker sued Watts and the city in 2016, alleging Watts and his team pinned bogus cases on him — and in one instance, his partner, Clarissa Glenn — in retaliation for refusing to pay Watts a \$1,000 bribe. Baker spent about 10 years in prison before his conviction was thrown out.

Attorneys for the city reached a deal to settle with Baker and Glenn last month that is pending approval by the City Council, according to court records. The agreed-on payout has not been disclosed, but only payouts above \$100,000 must be approved by aldermen.

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Attorneys for the city of Chicago reached an agreement last month to settle a lawsuit filed by Ben Baker, above, who spent a decade in prison after allegedly being framed by corrupt ex-Chicago police Sgt. Ronald Watts. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2017**

■ City Hall's turbulent budget negotiations turned to Chicago's police force Friday, with aldermen split on cuts or additions to the high-dollar department. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

