

Chicago Tribune



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Enzo's set to close in March

Restaurant among last links to Chicago Heights' old downtown

By Paul Eisenberg
Daily Southtown

Bill Vitale has been grabbing Italian beef and sausage combo sandwiches from Enzo's in Chicago Heights since the 1960s, though not quite as often these days now that he's living in Park Forest.

"If I'm out running errands," he said Thursday while awaiting his order at the takeout shop on Chicago Road at Hickory Street, "this will be dinner tonight."

The neighborhood has changed quite a bit since he first started frequenting Enzo's, he said, pointing to where a Phillips Body Shop once took care of customers nearby.

Just across Chicago Road, the landscape has been altered drastically since Enzo Tribo purchased the old EZ Snack diner, moved it a block west and renamed it for himself.

Enzo's, which has been serving up Italian beefs since 1946 and later absorbed another business that had relocated from downtown Chicago Heights to become Enzo's & Carmelcorn, has outlasted just about all of its former neighbors.

But one of the last vestiges of what had been the city's thriving central business district will soon be gone, according to Enzo Tribo's grandson, Kyle Hallberg, who has owned the restaurant since 2011. He plans to close the restaurant in March.

"I posted our plans to shut it down and there was a huge response of comments, shares, likes, that kind of stuff," he said. "Lots of people have voiced their disappointment, but they're not the ones who have to bear the financial brunt of this thing."

Enzo's was a holdout from the steel town boom times of Chicago Heights. When the city's population reached 40,000 in 1970, its factories were churning out industrial goods and the downtown was a regional hub of commerce, attracting shoppers and diners from all around to Halsted and Illinois streets.

Anchored by hotels, department stores such as JCPenney's, the massive Lincoln-Dixie movie palace, and restaurants and cafes, downtown Chicago Heights was doing brisk business.

But dark clouds were on the horizon. Rust Belt pressures hadn't spared the city's factories, and the retail experiment begun in 1949 at the nearby

Turn to Enzo's, Page 2

Rules approved for registry of some gun owners

Illinois lawmakers approved guidelines covering how state police will maintain and enforce a registry of gun owners who possess high-powered firearms that are now banned. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Next phase of Trump lawsuit begins in New York

Donald Trump shook his head in disgust as the judge in his New York defamation trial told prospective jurors that another jury had already decided that the former president sexually abused columnist E. Jean Carroll in the 1990s. **Nation & World**



Daniel O'Connor, the "Great Lake Jumper," does a backward flip into the frigid waters of Lake Michigan at Montrose Beach in Chicago on Tuesday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

As temperature plummets, hardy pair go for a plunge

With wind chill as low as minus 26 degrees, 2 keep up lake dive routine

By Rebecca Johnson and Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Dangerously cold conditions continued throughout the Chicago area Tuesday morning, with the wind chill reaching as low as minus 26 degrees, but it didn't deter two Chicago men from their routine of jumping into

Lake Michigan.

Dan O'Connor wouldn't let subzero temperatures end his more than 1,200-day jump streak. He started the daily ritual during the COVID-19 pandemic as a stress reliever, and he has no plans to stop anytime soon.

"I found a lot of positivity, and it's an endorphin rush," the 56-year-old said. "In the cold, you

really get this rush. It's a shocking act, and your body realizes that 'Hey, I gotta protect this vessel I'm in.'"

The National Weather Service predicts that the bitterly cold temperatures will continue through Wednesday morning. A wind chill warning in portions of central, north central and northeast Illinois remains in effect until 9 a.m. Wednesday. The lowest wind chills will be at night and during the morning.

As the sun rose over the city's skyline Tuesday, O'Connor and his

friend Glenn Rischke scouted out the best spot to jump in the water at Montrose Harbor. It's important not to hit ice, they said, to prevent painful cuts.

The men stripped down to swim trunks, discarding their bulky winter jackets — O'Connor's adorned with his nickname "Great Lake Jumper" in rainbow colors. O'Connor went first, getting a running start before flipping into the water, and Rischke followed.

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Lincoln Park greenway shows challenge of getting neighborhood buy-in for bike lanes



Pedestrians cross the bicycle path of the Dickens Greenway where it's closed to vehicle traffic on a block that enters Lincoln Park on Jan. 7. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

'Literally the most contentious community issue'

By Sarah Freishtat | Chicago Tribune

In the heart of Lincoln Park, a new installation has drawn the fury of some neighborhood residents.

At issue is a stretch of Dickens Avenue where a series of bike lanes, lower speed limits, and slightly more than 200 feet of road closed to cars have formed a cycling "greenway." The \$1 million project, which also includes new crosswalks, speed bumps and curb bump-outs, has been in the works for years. Advocates and city officials say it will

make the road more comfortable for all users, including cyclists traveling to Oz Park, the Lincoln Park Zoo and the lakefront.

But for some residents of the North Side neighborhood, the greenway has for years represented a threat. They fear the risk cyclists whizzing by might pose to students and pedestrians on a shared path near Lincoln Park High School, and say the street closure

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US targets Houthi anti-ship missiles

Deal slated to send aid to Palestinians, hostages in Gaza

By Jon Gambrell and Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The U.S. launched a new strike against the Yemen-based Houthis on Tuesday, hitting anti-ship missiles in the third assault on the Iranian-backed group in recent days, the U.S. military said.

The strike came as the Houthis claimed responsibility for a missile attack against the Malta-flagged bulk carrier Zografia, also on Tuesday, in the Red Sea. The ship was hit, but no one was injured. The vessel had been heading north to the Suez Canal when it was attacked, the Greek Shipping and Island Policy Ministry said.

According to a U.S. Central Command statement, the overnight strike destroyed four Houthi ballistic missiles that were prepared to launch and presented an imminent threat to merchant and U.S. Navy ships in the region. The Houthi attack on the Zografia occurred later Tuesday and involved an anti-ship ballistic missile, the statement said, adding that the ship contin-

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