

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

Harris seeks to shore up key voter bloc

Plan aims to boost economic climate, health of Black men

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris announced a plan to give Black men more economic opportunities and other

chances to thrive as she works to energize a key voting bloc that has Democrats concerned about a lack of enthusiasm.

Harris' plan includes providing forgivable business loans for Black entrepreneurs, creating more apprenticeships and studying sickle cell and other diseases such as diabetes that disproportionately affect African American men.

Harris already has said she

supports legalizing marijuana, and her plan calls for working to ensure that Black men have opportunities to participate as a "national cannabis industry takes shape." She also is calling for better regulating cryptocurrency to protect Black men and others who invest in digital assets.

The vice president's so-called opportunity agenda for Black men is meant to invigorate Afri-

can American males at a moment when there are fears some may sit out the election rather than vote for Harris or her opponent, Republican former President Donald Trump.

The vice president unveiled the plan ahead of a Monday visit to Erie, Pennsylvania, where she was scheduled to visit a Black-owned small business and hold a campaign rally. Her push comes

after former President Barack Obama suggested last week that some Black men "aren't feeling the idea of having a woman as president."

Trump was also in Pennsylvania on Monday, with a speaking engagements scheduled in the Philadelphia area.

The Harris campaign also has

Turn to Campaigns, Page 8

Election incivility can get us down

Research: Looking up at night sky offers wonder, connection

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

They spent hours gathered with strangers on the concrete steps along Lake Michigan, letting their eyes adjust to the darkness. Shortly after 9 p.m., the starry sky lit up with shimmering waves of green and purple. On cue, amazed gasps and cheers rippled through the crowd as they celebrated having caught from the city a magical sight many travelers spend their lives chasing: the Northern Lights.

Last Thursday's aurora display was a sky-gazing event accessible to millions across the country. Some may have missed the show due to timing or light pollution, but upcoming occurrences this week — a radiant comet back in the solar system for the first time in 80,000 years and the brightest, biggest moon of the year — offer similar awe-inspiring opportunities.

Looking up at celestial phenomena such as the Northern Lights can boost feelings of empathy and collective

Turn to Celestial, Page 2

Some still on fringe of growth in dispensaries

Social equity owners get just 12% of state revenues in past year

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

Eighty-two new cannabis stores opened in Illinois in the past fiscal year, marking "explosive growth" in sales outlets for an industry that surpassed \$2 billion in sales, the state reported.

State regulators boasted in the 2024 annual report that "social equity" marijuana business owners, those who come from poor areas or who were most impacted by the war on drugs, now own nearly half of the 220 dispensaries statewide.

But social equity owners say they remain largely on the fringe of the industry, because the state favors previously existing big

Turn to Cannabis, Page 3



Dancing for double holidays

Above: A member of Huehuecoyotl, an Aztec dance group, dances as part of a prayer in motion during an Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at the Field Museum in Chicago on Monday.

Left: Honorio Ivankovich, left, and Gabriella Greco-Scott, of Christine Belpedio's School of Dance, perform in Chicago's Columbus Day Parade on State Street on Monday.

Story in Chicagoland, Page 3

EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE (ABOVE);
TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE (LEFT)

ELECTION 2024

Suburban voters to see wealth of ballot questions

Referendums range from school projects to backyard chickens

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

About two dozen government bodies in Chicago's suburbs will ask voters for more money or other changes in the Nov. 5 election.

The referendums cover a range of issues from \$420 million in school improvements in Naperville and Aurora to whether to allow backyard chickens in Thornton.

Many of the school referendums involve repairs and

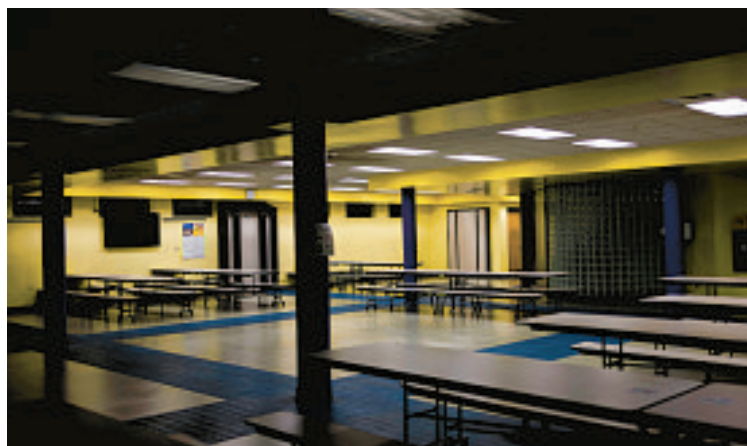
upgrades to older buildings. Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 has three schools that are nearly 100 years old, and others from the 1950s and 1990s.

They need things such as new roofs, heating and air conditioning, electrical wiring, plumbing and classrooms. School officials are asking voters for \$89 million for the work.

Superintendent Ben Collins said the schools are lacking basic requirements for security and functionality.

"We have classroom doors that are not lockdown safe and are falling apart," Collins said, "as well as mechanical systems

Turn to Referendums, Page 4



The cafeteria at Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge is in the basement with only one exit and no fire sprinklers. Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 is asking for \$89 million to update the 96-year-old building.

ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Nobel Prize for U. of C. professor

James A. Robinson was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics with two MIT professors. **Business**

21 killed by Israeli strike in Lebanon

The airstrike hit an apartment building a day after a deadly Hezbollah attack on an Israeli army base. **Nation & World**

An artist still finding her way

Sabrina Carpenter's show at the United Center suggested she's not ready for the arena. **Arts & Living**

TODAY'S
WEATHER



High 52 Low 37

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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