

THE ART OF
'BEING'

How does an actor electrify a moment of stillness? Watch Colman Domingo. **A+E**

BRIAN CASSELLA/
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A lakeside respite

Dove's Nest retreat provides a free opportunity for rest, relaxation and connection for patients with life-threatening illnesses and their families. **Life+Travel**

Rental market on fire

As Chicago's summer rental market heats up, those in the city need to make \$88,000 to afford the typical listing. **Real Estate**

Addison's Alexa Knierim medaled in the 2022 Winter Games. It's taken more than 900 days for her to be recognized as an Olympic champion.



WORTH ITS WAIT IN GOLD

By Stacy St. Clair
Chicago Tribune

PARIS — It has been 902 days since Addison native Alexa Knierim and her teammates medaled in the team figure skating event at the Beijing Winter Olympics.

In that time, she has won a world championship in pairs skating, gone on tour, retired from competition, moved back to the Chicago suburbs and started a coaching career.

And yet she still hasn't received her medal.

As the Paris Summer Games began Friday with a historic opening ceremony along the Seine River, a head-

2024 OLYMPICS

Three-quarters of the U.S. athletes in Paris honed their skills playing college sports, which places the Olympics into the equation as the NCAA sets priorities when it starts paying athletes. Plus, Canada is facing more fallout in a drone-spying scandal. **Chicago Sports**

Above: Former Olympic figure skater Alexa Knierim stands at the Northbrook Sports Center on July 17, where she teaches young skaters. **BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE**

line-grabbing controversy from the previous Olympics was finally resolved.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected an appeal Thursday involving the disqualification of Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva, who tested positive for a banned substance at a national competition shortly before the 2022 Beijing Olympics. Her doping violation became public after Russia was declared the winner of the team figure skating event, beating the United States and Japan for the top podium spot.

The ruling means the U.S. squad — which includes Knierim and her partner Brandon Frazier — will be awarded

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Actions of firm raise questions of ethics

Agency aided Johnson's organization in addition to lobbying City Hall

By Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

A consulting firm has helped Mayor Brandon Johnson's political organization with fundraising while also lobbying his City Hall office, sparking questions from ethics experts on whether reforms are needed to prevent companies from pursuing both endeavors at the same time.

Mercury Public Affairs, a New York City-based political strategy firm, has been lobbying Johnson since July 2023 on economic and labor causes, according to a Tribune examination of city lobbyist registration records. But starting this year, the company's consulting division also worked for Johnson's political fund, state campaign finance records show.

Wearing both hats, though uncommon, is not a violation of state or city ethics codes. But it is a dynamic that good government watchdogs said raises concerns about the appearance of a conflict of interest for a firm seeking to influence the mayor's office while also working to raise money for him.

State campaign finance records show Johnson's political campaign spent \$25,000 in May on "Fundraising Consulting" by Mercury Public Affairs, a national firm that consults on government, nonprofit and business issues.

While Zach Koutsky, Mercury's Chicago-based lobbyist seeking action from Johnson's office, mainly works in progressive politics, the firm is also co-chaired by Susie Wiles, a top adviser to the 2024 campaign of former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee for president.

Johnson campaign spokesperson Jake Lewis declined comment

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INSIDE



STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE

Making Williams the face of the franchise

Before the draft, the Bears concluded the QB is an intelligent, passionate leader. Now, coaches are working to maximize his potential. **Chicago Sports**

Israeli airstrikes hit school in Gaza

Dozens of displaced Palestinians were killed Saturday as negotiators prepared to meet international mediators about a proposed cease-fire. **Nation & World**

Illinois Fertility Fraud Act has first legal test



ERIN CULVER VISITS WITH HER MOTHER, PAULA DUVALL, AT HER RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN, HOME ON WEDNESDAY. A COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE GENETIC TEST IN 2022 HELPED DUVALL LEARN HER GYNCOLOGIST WAS ERIN'S BIOLOGICAL FATHER. **CRAIG LASSIG/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Suit shows challenge in proving claims, crafting legislation

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

The young wife sought fertility treatment from a gynecologist in downstate Illinois in 1973 in the hope of conceiving via intrauterine insemination.

Her husband had a vasectomy prior to their marriage in 1971. But the couple longed to have a child together.

Patient Paula Duvall recalled that Dr. Bradley D. Adams of Christie Clinic in Champaign agreed to perform the procedure, adding that he would use fresh sperm samples from an anonymous University of Illinois medical student whose physical features resembled those of her husband.

After the fourth artificial

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