

# Chicago Tribune

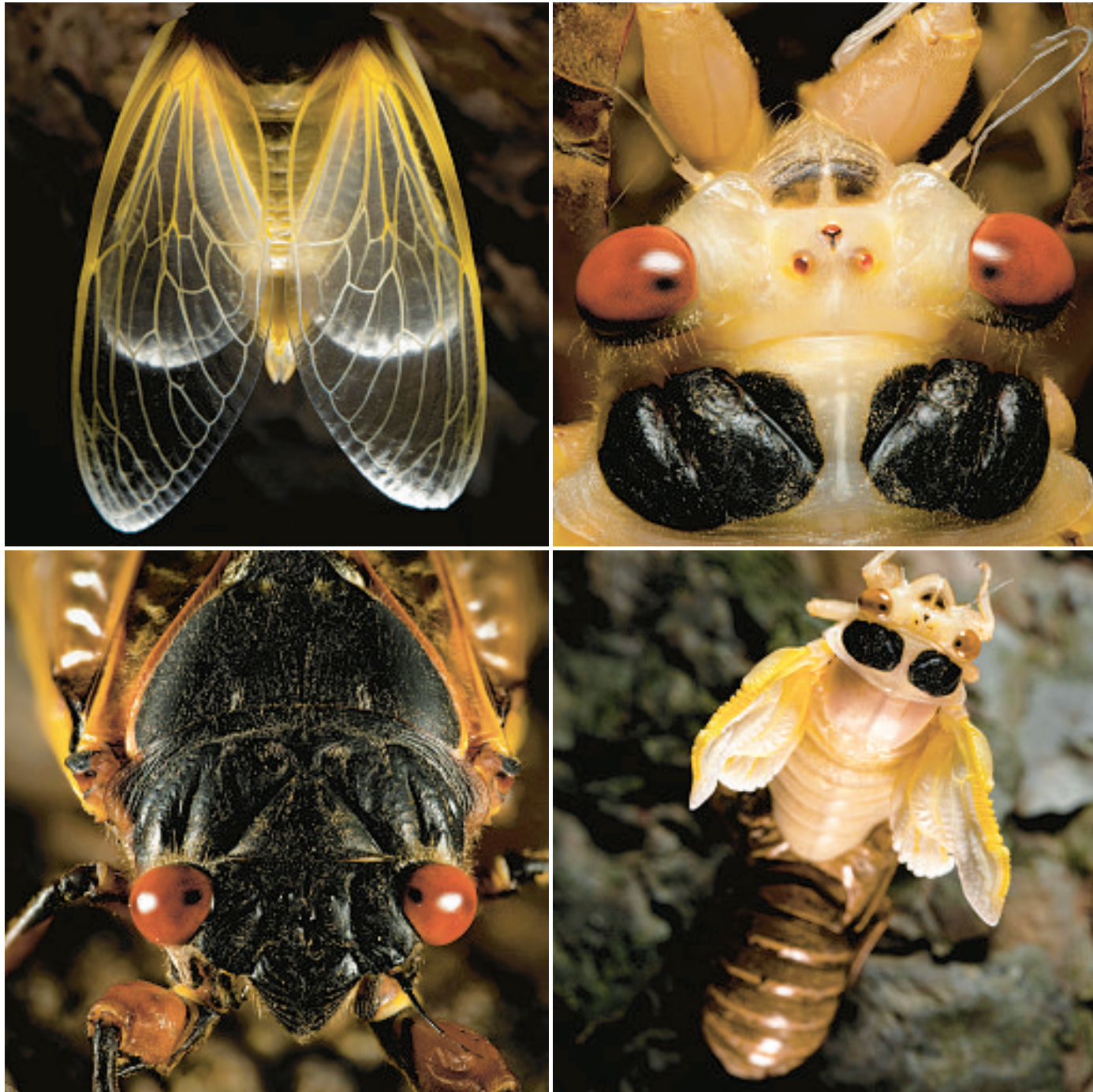


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THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

To hear cicadas sing, enthusiasts travel from near and far



## THE TRILL OF IT ALL

By Adriana Pérez and Rebecca Johnson | Chicago Tribune

During an afternoon stroll around Morton Arboretum, Maria Malayter's Apple Watch buzzed twice with an unusual notification. The screen warned her of a "loud environment" with sound levels reaching 90 decibels as cicadas chorused on the treetops. Exposure to such levels for over 30 minutes can cause permanent hearing damage, hence the watch notification. Yet Malayter, and many others, have visited the arboretum in recent weeks seeking the cicada songs, and a reminder of childhood. "Cicada concert!" she said gleefully. "And it's a loud day, I heard."

The mating calls, which in unison can reach decibels comparable to a jet engine or lawnmower, are perhaps one of the insects' most recognizable features. For some, it's overwhelming, and annoying.

But others find the din from this spring's historic emergence to be a soothing lullaby, an offbeat jam session or a scientific peculiarity worth traveling to hear firsthand. From downstate Illinois to Lake County, enthusiasts, artists and researchers have spread out far and wide to immerse themselves in the intense and diverse songs of cicadas.

The Northern Illinois Brood emerges every 17 years, and the Great Southern Brood comes

Four photos show adult cicadas molting from their nymphal shells on a tree along the North Branch of the Chicago River in Skokie on May 30. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

out every 13 years. In central Illinois, both broods have emerged adjacent to one another for the first time since 1803, presenting a unique opportunity to compare their tunes.

Malayter had been hoping to hear them closer to home in her Aurora backyard. But the city cut down her trees as part of a strategic removal program to curb the spread of emerald ash borers, an invasive and destructive beetle species.

"I was wondering if I'd see any (cicadas), and there were none," she said. So she grabbed a friend and headed east. "I started driving, and

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## Death sparks calls for justice

Family mourns boy fatally shot in chest on Near West Side

By Caroline Kubzansky  
Chicago Tribune

Dozens of people gathered Wednesday on the Near West Side to remember and mourn 7-year-old Jai'Mani Amir Rivera, who was fatally shot inside the gates of the apartment complex where he had been going to visit a friend.

The loss of the child drew attention this week in a city just beginning another summer and grappling with the violence the season usually brings.

People towing red, blue and silver balloons, some with pictures of Spider-Man, slowly joined a crowd in the 2300 block of Jackson Boulevard in the scorching heat. Others hoisted signs and pictures of the child into the air as the crowd called "Justice for Jai'Mani" and let the balloons fly.

Though activists had made the media aware of the vigil earlier in the day, grieving family members asked for their privacy. Some attendees shouted at reporters to leave. One organizer said the family had "not disagreed" with the move to put out a press release.

The family vowed that they would seek justice for Jai'Mani, who was shot in the chest shortly after 3 p.m. Tuesday as he walked out of his apartment to visit a next-door neighbor.

Jai'Mani's aunt Vanessa Rivera eventually made a statement, remembering her nephew as an outgoing kid who had been looking forward to starting football.

"We didn't lose a gang member on the streets, we lost a 7-year-old kid," Rivera said. "The person that took my

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## State GOP chair steps down amid infighting

By Rick Pearson  
Chicago Tribune

Embattled state GOP Chairman Don Tracy resigned Wednesday, ending his more than three-year run and furthering a chaotic period of leadership for a political organization bordering on irrelevancy just weeks before Republicans gather in nearby Milwaukee to renominate former President Donald Trump at their national convention.

Tracy's resignation comes just two days after Illinois Republican leaders deposed Mark Shaw of Lake Forest as the state GOP's vice chair over controversies stemming from his unsuccessful effort at last month's state convention to leverage his party position and role as a paid Trump adviser into the post of Republican National Committeeman from Illinois.

In his resignation letter, Tracy said his decision was in part because he spent more time dealing with infighting among fellow Republicans than fighting Democrats.

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## Willie Mays loved Wrigley. On Tuesday, it loved him back.



Paul Sullivan

A gorgeous sunset served as a backdrop to the Wrigley Field video board Tuesday night during the announcement of the death of baseball icon Willie Mays.

It was the sixth inning of a game between the Chicago Cubs and San Francisco Giants, and thanks to modern technology, many in the crowd of 36,297 already were aware the Hall of Famer had died that day at age 93, having read the news on their smartphones.

Giants manager Bob Melvin learned about it before the first pitch but did not inform his players, so starter Logan Webb heard the news when he was going out to pitch in the bottom of the sixth inning. Cubs public address announcer Jeremiah Paprocki made the statement as an image of Mays was shown on the board.

"It was kind of hard (to pitch) at first," Webb said. "I took my hat off and I was kind of looking at the scoreboard and just thinking about him. I kind of looked at (plate umpire Todd Tichenor) and I was like, 'I think you need to stop the (pitch) clock' because I had to take a moment to think about it, be prideful for the jersey I was wearing and the hat I was

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Sluggers Willie Mays of the San Francisco Giants, left, and Ernie Banks of the Chicago Cubs chat before a game at Wrigley Field in 1965. **UPI**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 88 Low 67

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
177th year No. 172 © Chicago Tribune

