

Madigan’s henchman gets 2.5 years



Tim Mapes, former chief of staff to House Speaker Michael Madigan, leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on Monday after being sentenced to 2½ years in prison. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Longtime speaker’s former aide Mapes sentenced for lying to federal grand jury

By Jason Meisner and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

During Tim Mapes’ perjury trial last year, an FBI agent memorably testified Mapes’ boss, longtime House Speaker Michael Madigan, ran his political operation with a level of secrecy and a requirement of loyalty akin to an organized crime family.

In sentencing Mapes to 2½ years in prison Monday, a federal judge used another well-worn mafia

term to describe the possible motivation behind Mapes’ actions that led to his conviction for lying to a federal grand jury investigating alleged corruption in the former speaker’s organization.

Omerta.

“It’s the idea that you don’t rat on your friends,” U.S. District Judge John Kness said to Mapes shortly before imposing the sentence. “You knew what you were doing when you went into the grand jury and you lied. I don’t know why you did this. Perhaps this was out of

some sense of loyalty, but if that’s the case, your loyalty was greatly misguided.”

The sentence following a three-hour hearing punctuated a stunning downfall for Mapes, who served for decades as Madigan’s abrasive and sharp-tongued chief of staff, as well as executive director of the Madigan-run Democratic Party of Illinois and clerk of the House, before being abruptly forced to resign in 2018 amid a sexual harassment scandal.

It’s also the latest in a string of legal developments stemming from the federal investigation into

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Trump’s NATO jabs fail to rattle GOP

Once critical, top officials stand by former president

By Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan
The New York Times

After former President Donald Trump suggested he had once threatened to encourage Russia to attack “delinquent” NATO allies, the response among many Republican officials has struck three themes — expressions of support, gaze aversion or even cheerful indifference.

GOP elites have become so practiced at deflecting even Trump’s most outrageous statements that they quickly batted this one away. Trump, the party’s likely presidential nominee, had claimed at a Saturday rally in South Carolina that he once threatened a NATO government to meet its financial commitments — or else he would encourage Russia to “do whatever the hell they want” to that country.

In a phone interview Sunday, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina seemed surprised to even be asked about Trump’s remark.

“Give me a break — I mean, it’s Trump,” Graham said. “All I can say is while Trump was president nobody invaded anybody. I think the point here is to, in his way, to get people to pay.”

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, the Republican Party’s top-ranking official on the Senate Intelligence Committee, struck a matter-of-fact tone as he explained on CNN on Sunday why he was not bothered in the least.

“He told the story about how he used leverage to get people to step up to the plate and become more active in NATO,” Rubio said on “State of the Union,” rationalizing and sanitizing Trump’s comments as just a more colorful version of what other U.S. presidents have done in urging NATO members

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Dr. Zaher Sahloul, the president and co-founder of MedGlobal, treats a patient Monday at Pulmonary Consultants in Chicago Ridge. MedGlobal is an NGO that provides health care in humanitarian crises around the world. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

‘A MORAL IMPERATIVE’

Team of Chicago doctors travels to Gaza for medical relief efforts

By Kate Armanini | Chicago Tribune

The scene before the newcomers was jarring: The dim glow of campfires in the pitch black illuminated a sea of tarp tents and refugees huddled around the flames in the bitter cold. Shadows of rubble and jagged buildings battered by airstrikes cut through the horizon, which was thick with dust and smoke.

“It was literally like a post-apocalyptic movie,” said Palos Park-based pediatrician John Kahler. “Any picture you’ve seen of post-World War II Europe is exactly what this looked like.”

Kahler was part of a team of five doctors volunteering in the Gaza Strip through MedGlobal, an Illinois-based medical relief nonprofit. For 16 days last month, they worked in clinics and hospitals in Rafah, a southern city near the Egyptian border where Israeli forces rescued two hostages in a raid early Monday that killed more than 60 Palestinians, The Associated Press reported.

Monday’s rescue in Rafah briefly lifted

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Family calls for body camera footage

Family members of a man recently shot and killed by Carol Stream police called for the complete release of body camera footage and questioned official information given about the death. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Super Bowl in Chicago? Why not dream big?

While the Tribune’s Paul Sullivan was watching Vegas get its close-up in the run-up to the Super Bowl and during the game, thoughts of a Chicago Super Bowl danced in his head. **Chicago Sports**

Split verdict on tax charges for Collins



Former state legislator Annazette Collins leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on Monday after she was convicted on four of six tax-related charges. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Jury finds ex-legislator guilty on 4 of 6 counts; attorney plans appeal

By Megan Crepeau and Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

Former state legislator Annazette Collins was convicted Monday on four of six tax-related charges, a mixed verdict delivered after more than eight hours of deliberations.

A federal jury convicted her of filing two false tax returns and failing to file one personal tax return and a return for her lobbying firm. She was acquitted of failing to file a corporate return in 2016 and also of filing a false tax

return for herself in 2018.

Collins, 61, sat stoic as the verdict was read. U.S. District Judge Jorge Alonso scheduled her sentencing hearing for June.

After the verdict, Collins left the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse surrounded by a group of relatives and supporters.

Her attorney, Shay Allen, told reporters they did not agree with the verdict and would appeal.

Allen said he believed that the case was “all politically motivated,” but said he could not get into specifics because the case was ongoing.

“I think that there was a reason, I’m sorry to say we know the reason, why these minuscule

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