

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



## Trump jurors chosen, seated

With 12 finally selected for the panel, proceedings race toward weeks of testimony

By Michael R. Sisak, Jennifer Peltz and Eric Tucker  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A jury of 12 people was seated Thursday in former President Donald Trump's history-making hush money trial, propelling the proceedings closer to opening statements and the start of weeks of dramatic testimony.

The court quickly turned to selecting alternate jurors.

The jury includes a sales professional, a software engineer, a security engineer, an English teacher, a speech therapist, multiple lawyers, an investment banker and a retired wealth manager.

The first-ever criminal trial of a former American president will unfold in the middle of this year's race for the White House, ensuring that the legal troubles of the presumptive Republican nominee will be a dominant issue in the contest against Democratic incumbent Joe Biden.

The trial will almost certainly feature unflattering testimony about the Trump's personal life before he became president, with allegations that he falsified business records to suppress stories in the final days of the 2016 election about his sexual relationships.

The jury selection process appeared wobbly earlier in the day when two jurors were dismissed, one after expressing doubt about her ability to be fair

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## I ... doobie?

WEED WEDDING THE LATEST SIGN OF SPREAD OF CANNABIS EVENTS AMID A NEW WORLD OF LEGALIZATION AND SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE

By Robert McCoppin | Chicago Tribune

**A**t a recent wedding reception in Chicago, guests gathered to toast the newlyweds at the bar. Glasses were lined up in front of them, but no alcohol was poured. Instead, marijuana vapor was pumped into the upside-down glasses, which were then lifted and inhaled in unison.

"A lot of people were surprised," bride Aja Heinlein said. "They didn't even know that was something they could do."

In the new world of cannabis, consumption at private events such as weddings, holiday parties and corporate events is becoming more common. The state law that legalized recreational use of marijuana for adults 21 and over, starting in 2020, prohibits public consumption and specifically allows it only at licensed cannabis stores or tobacco stores, if the local government allows it.

Chicago police previously said that the ban applies to parks, restaurants, bars and front porches, or anywhere one can be seen by the public.

But event sponsors consider invitation-only and ticketed events for adults to be private and are holding such events regularly in the city and elsewhere.

The wedding between Heinlein and groom Josh Christianson was held at Salvage One in Chicago, which

sells architectural artifacts and holds events as well.

High-Minded Events of Chicago offers budtenders to host cannabis bars, but doesn't supply the product. Only licensed retailers may legally sell it. So the wedding couple bought the weed themselves from a local dispensary and let their hired budtender hand it out to guests in the form of

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**Above:** Josh Christianson and his bride, Aja Heinlein, smoke a joint during their wedding reception on Sunday at Salvage One in Chicago. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

### Going green

A look at celebrations planned in Chicago and around the state to mark 420 — the unofficial cannabis holiday that's less taboo than ever. **Business**

**"I want to keep letting white America know about the social construction of their wealth, but I also want to remind Black people what we went through and what we did to fight."**

— Chris Jenkins, a former Washington Post reporter and producer for "Shame of Chicago, Shame of the Nation"

## Filmmakers exposing the city's 'shame'

WTTW series shows how segregation was built into foundation of real estate

By Darcel Rockett  
Chicago Tribune

Filmmaker and native Chicagoan Bruce Orenstein guesses that 98%, maybe even 99%, of city residents don't know the full history of segregation in Chicago.

"Maybe they'll know a little bit," he said. "But universally, I think it's eye-opening to most people ... the roots of race and the scaffolding of segregation that got built decade after decade."

In 2021, Orenstein gave us a glimpse of his four-part documentary series, "Shame of Chicago, Shame of the Nation," with the first episode, "The Color Tax: The Origins of the Modern-Day Racial Wealth Gap."

The piece centers on homes that were sold to Black families through installment contracts — for much more than white buyers would pay — and how and why contract-sellers were allowed to do it, plus



The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. discusses fair housing with Gilbert Balin on Nov. 3, 1966, at his real estate office. **JACK MULCAHY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

what happened when Black families organized to fight back through the Contract Buyers League.

Now, the full project is complete and airing on WTTW-Ch. 11 on Thursdays through May 9. And if the "shame," in the first episode raises your blood pressure, Orenstein — creator, writer, director and producer of the work — is hoping the rest

of the series kick-starts a call to action from everyone.

"It's a series about the history of housing segregation ... 120 years of racial segregation ... it raises issues of reparations, how to repair and heal," Orenstein said. "There's no easy answers as to how to solve the issue."

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## Bill would ban most forever chemical uses within decade

By Michael Hawthorne  
Chicago Tribune

Despite widespread understanding of the health and environmental damages caused by forever chemicals, manufacturers continue to win federal approval to synthesize new versions of the toxic compounds with little, if any, government oversight.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin wants to begin shutting off the tap by outlawing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, unless they are used in medical devices or other essential products.

Legislation introduced Thursday by the Illinois Democrat would give manufacturers a decade to phase out most uses of PFAS and eliminate air and water pollution that for now is largely released from factories without limits.

The bill also would attempt to prevent corporations from seeking protection under bankruptcy laws to avoid lawsuits seeking compensation for health damages.

"PFAS surround us," Durbin said. "They are in the pots and pans we cook with, in our drinking water supply, in the air we breathe. We must act to ensure that harm brought on by these forever chemicals is mitigated."

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### CHICAGO SPORTS Back to South Beach



The Bulls are back in Miami tonight for another win-or-go-home game against the Heat. This time, though, the defending Eastern Conference champs will be without star Jimmy Butler.

