

WE'RE GOING DUCK WILD

In Oregon's initial Big Ten season, Dillon Gabriel wins Silver Football



Judge denies ex-AT&T boss's bid for acquittal

'Kraven' goes in one eye and out the other

WINNER OF 28 PULITZER PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

President's clemencies set record

Inside: Biden commuted the sentences of two of the area's most notorious fraudsters: former Dixon Comptroller Rita Crundwell, who embezzled nearly \$54 million from the tiny town, and Eric Bloom, the onetime leader of a Northbrook management firm who defrauded investors of more than \$665 million. **Page 5**

Biden commutes about 1,500 terms, pardons 39, vows to review more petitions in coming weeks

By Colleen Long
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the largest single-day act of clemency in modern history, President Joe Biden is commuting the sentences of roughly 1,500 people released

from prison and placed on home confinement during the pandemic and is pardoning 39 Americans convicted of nonviolent crimes.

The commutations announced Thursday are for people who have served out home confinement sentences for at least one year

after they were released. Prisons were uniquely bad for spreading the virus, and some inmates were released in part to stop the spread. At one point, 1 in 5 prisoners had COVID-19, according to The Associated Press.

Biden said he would take more steps in the weeks ahead and would continue to review clemency petitions. The second-largest single-day act of clemency was

by President Barack Obama, with 330, shortly before leaving office in 2017.

"America was built on the promise of possibility and second chances," Biden said in a statement. "As president, I have the great privilege of extending mercy to people who have demonstrated remorse and rehabilitation,

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TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

An emotional memorial

Chicago police officers place the casket of Oak Park police Detective Allan Reddins into a hearse following a funeral service at Apostolic Church of God in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood on Thursday. Reddins, 40, a five-year veteran of the department, died in a shooting on the morning after Thanksgiving while responding to a call of a person armed with a gun who was seen leaving a Chase Bank branch. Jerell Thomas, a 37-year-old Chicago man, has been charged with first-degree murder in the killing. Reddins was the first member of the Oak Park Police Department killed in the line of duty since 1938.

Cook County commercial properties underassessed

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

An unprecedented look at Cook County's valuation of offices, warehouses and big apartments found that in the suburbs the values of those commercial buildings have been set too low, that there is little uniformity in the way they are assessed and that appeals don't boost the accuracy of the process.

That likely means homeowners across the county have paid more in property taxes for years to make up for the commercial shortfall.

The outside study commissioned by County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's office follows years of squabbling

between Assessor Fritz Kaegi and members of the Board of Review, the two bodies that help decide how much the 1.8 million parcels in Cook County are worth and, ultimately, what their owners are asked to pay in taxes.

Many of the problems highlighted in the report, officials said, predate the current officeholders, but are made worse because the two don't share key data or communicate about their methods. The study found that on average, the study found that the three-step assessment process that concludes with the board, commercial properties in the suburbs were assessed lower than their worth.

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INSIDE



TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Frustration for Acero families, staff

Acero charter leadership was silent Wednesday evening as a crowd of parents, teachers and city officials asked them to keep open schools slated for closure. Above, a fourth grade teacher at Acero's Carlos Fuentes Elementary, Vicki Stamatakos, right, is hugged by teacher Subhana Khaja during the meeting. **Chicagoland, Page 4**

Quantum park adds IBM to its tenant list

Tech giant will invest millions in center on former US Steel site

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

The Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, a groundbreaking computer research development planned for the former U.S. Steel site on the city's South Side, has lined up another major tenant.

Backed by a new \$25 million state grant, IBM announced plans Thursday to build the National Quantum Algorithm Center at the long-dormant South Works site, which is being redeveloped as a sprawling commercial hub to advance what has been hailed as the future of computer science.

"Quantum has the potential to open a world of possibilities," Gov. JB Pritzker said at a news conference Thursday. "The work that will take place at the National Quantum Algorithm Center and across the Illinois quantum infrastructure will help us wrestle with the most pressing questions of the day in climate change and national

Turn to Quantum, Page 5

On Saturday, blazing stars for your eyes

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

The Northern Hemisphere will get an additional show of glittering lights this holiday season as a major annual meteor shower peaks during the weekend, bookending a year of magical celestial happenings that included a total solar eclipse and visits from the Northern Lights.

As many as 120 meteors can be seen per hour under perfect viewing conditions every year around mid-December. Named the Geminids after the constellation Gemini, from which they appear to radiate, these bright yellow "shooting stars" can travel up to 22 miles per second — making it one of the slower meteor showers.

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