

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

**UNSEALED THE TYLENOL MURDERS**



James Lewis, 76, walks in August in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Some investigators have renewed their efforts to pin the 1982 Tylenol murders on Lewis, who was convicted of sending an extortion letter to Johnson & Johnson but has repeatedly denied being the killer.

STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Movement in the Tylenol murders

Law enforcement seeks to persuade prosecutors to act on 'chargeable' case

By Christy Gutowski and Stacy St. Clair | Chicago Tribune

As the 40th anniversary of the 1982 Tylenol murders approaches, investigators are working with prosecutors on a now-or-never effort to hold a longtime suspect responsible for the poisonings that killed seven people in the Chicago area, the Tribune has learned.

This summer's meetings mark the latest effort to pin the unsolved killings on James W. Lewis, a former Chicago resident who was convicted years ago of trying to extort \$1 million from Johnson & Johnson amid a worldwide panic that arose after the victims took cyanide-laced capsules.

Investigators traveled to the Boston area this week and interviewed Lewis, multiple sources said. Members of the Illinois State Police, Cook and DuPage state's attorney's offices and suburban law enforcement are involved in the effort. Investigators lack physical evidence directly linking Lewis to the crime but describe their findings as a "chargeable, circumstantial case," according to documents reviewed by the Tribune.

Charges are not thought to be imminent and may not come at all, according to sources. Lewis has long

**COMING SUNDAY**

**The Tylenol Murders, part 1**

The story of a 40-year-old unsolved case begins with a terrifying medical mystery.

denied being the killer.

Tribune reporters learned of the ongoing law enforcement discussions while conducting a nine-month investigation into the murders. Their findings will be detailed in an investigative series and companion podcast that began Thursday.

The first installments recount the chaotic 24-hour period on Sept. 29, 1982, in which seven people ingested Tylenol capsules laced with

Turn to Unsealed, Page 5

**WAR IN UKRAINE**

## Call-up to boost Russia begins

Moscow-controlled regions prepare to vote on annexation

By Hanna Arhrova  
Associated Press

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine — Russia escalated its military and political campaign Thursday to capture Ukrainian territory, rounding up Russian army reservists to fight, preparing votes on annexing occupied areas and launching new deadly attacks.

A day after President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial mobilization to bolster his troops in Ukraine, dramatic scenes of tearful families bidding farewell to men departing from military mobilization centers in Russia appeared on social media.

Video on Twitter from the eastern Siberian city of Neryungri showed men emerging from a stadium. Before boarding buses, the men hugged family members waiting outside, many crying and some covering their mouths with their hands in grief. A man held a child up to the window of one bus for a last look.

In Moscow, women hugged, cried and made the sign of the cross on men at another mobilization point. A 25-year-old who gave only his first name, Dmitry, received a hug from his father, who told him, "be careful" as they parted.

Dmitry told Russian media company Ostorozhno Novosti he did not expect to be called up and shipped out so quickly, especially since he still is a student.

"No one told me anything in the morning. They gave me the draft notice that I should come here at 3 p.m. We waited 1.5 hours, then the enlistment officer came and said that we are leaving now," he said. "I was like, 'Oh great!' I went outside and started calling my parents, brother, all friends of mine to tell that they take me."

Western leaders derided Putin's order as an act of weakness and desperation. More than 1,300 Russians were arrested in antiwar demonstrations Wednesday after he issued it, according to the independent Russian human rights group OVD-Info. Organizers

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## Pritzker calls on senators to resign

Governor seeking to move past latest Democratic scandals

By Dan Petrella  
Chicago Tribune

Seeking to move past the latest scandals embroiling Democratic state lawmakers as he aims for a second term, Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Thursday called for the resignation of two state senators, one charged with bribery and the other facing questions over his treatment of women.

Pritzker's call for longtime Sens. Emil Jones III of Chicago and Michael Hastings of Frankfort to resign came a day after the governor sought to portray political corruption and misconduct by elected officials as a bipartisan problem in Illinois.

But a sweeping federal corruption probe that became public in 2019 has almost exclusively



State Sen. Emil Jones III, left, is charged with bribery over red-light cameras, and state Sen. Michael Hastings is facing questions over his treatment of women. CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

focused on Democrats who control state government, putting Pritzker and other party leaders on the defensive.

"Integrity is essential to public service, and corruption for personal gain and abuse in private or public is unacceptable," Pritzker said in a statement Thursday. "Illinoisans deserve to have elected leaders who are focused on representing them — not on holding office when facing serious and credible charges."

The governor's rebuke and the allegations that prompted it create unwelcome tension among Democrats as they look to maintain their dominance in Springfield, including a 41-18 majority over Republicans in the Illinois Senate, in the fall election. Jones is unopposed on the



Nov. 8 ballot, but Hastings faces GOP challenger Patrick Sheehan of Lockport.

Hastings issued a defiant statement in response to Pritzker, while Senate President Don Harmon, an Oak Park Democrat whose relationship with the governor is at times tense, did not join the governor in calling for the resignations of the two senators, who until recently were on the Senate Democratic leadership team.

Republicans are hoping to use voter outrage over a string of federal charges and convictions against Democratic officials, including the landmark indictment in March of former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan

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## Swimply: Airbnb for backyard pools

125 cities nationwide gave people the chance to say goodbye to summer at a stranger's house

By Christopher Borrelli  
Chicago Tribune

We have grown comfortable with our so-called sharing economy. We forget that Airbnb offers us a stranger's bed for the night (or longer). Uber puts us in a stranger's car. Those are just the ubiquitous ones. Peerspace gets you a stranger's backyard, barn or basketball court for a bridal shower, birthday party or bat mitzvah. Outdoorsy will loan a stranger's RV. Sniffspot caters to dog owners in need of fenced-in lawn for off-the-leash time. JustPark rents your parking space. GetMyBoat is self-explanatory.

Then there's Swimply.

Which feels different. It's not really different. It just feels kind of different. The best way I can explain it — having used the app recently for the first time — is *legitimized pool hopping*. As a kid, my friends and I would climb neighborhood fences and spend an anxious 15 or 20 minutes luxuriating quietly in a stranger's pool, trespassing benignly until a porch light popped on and we scrambled off, like 16-year-old cockroaches. Swimply — which came to Chicago a year ago, and is now offered in 125 cities worldwide — might rent you that same stranger's swimming pool by the

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**TODAY'S WEATHER** High 63 Low 54

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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