



# HUB: Tonight's game isn't a must-win

... but it's close for the Bears, and the offense needs to shine — PREVIEW IN SPORTS



## Caring in action

**Lake Zurich transplant recipient** helps families of critically ill patients — Neighbor

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# More suburbs lean toward 'yes' to pot sales

BY ELENA FERRARIN  
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Discussions about whether to allow recreational marijuana sales in the suburbs have ramped up in the last two weeks, and more suburbs

are leaning in favor after early negativity this summer.

Elburn has voted to allow marijuana sales, and village boards in South Elgin, Pingree Grove and East Dundee plan to do the same after they decide on zoning regulations.

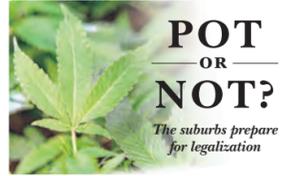
Arlington Heights, Elgin, Buffalo Grove, Lake in the Hills, St. Charles, Bartlett, Lombard, North Aurora, Island Lake and Wauconda have leaned toward "yes" to sales in their discussions so far.

On the other end of the spectrum are Naperville, Long Grove, Grayslake and Lake Zurich, which have voted to ban sales.

Park Ridge, Bloomingdale, Lake Barrington, Libertyville, Wheaton, Sugar Grove and

Lisle leaned toward bans in preliminary discussions. The mayor of Batavia said that if the city council votes "yes," he will issue a veto, although the city council could override it.

See SALES on PAGE 6



MARNI PYKE

THE SUBURBS  
IN TRANSIT

## How to buck the trend of deer crashes

It's autumn, when a buck's thoughts turn from noshing on grass to romantic trysts under the harvest moon.

And that means you, suburban driver, need to slow down and pay attention near wooded areas, especially at dusk and dawn.

During fall mating season, deer "tend to have that one thing on their minds and they're not paying attention to vehicles," Illinois Department of Natural Resources biologist Tim Preuss said.

Think you're charmed? Don't, experts warn.

Statewide, "animal collisions account for 35% of Farmers Insurance comprehensive claims during the fall," Chief Claims Compliance Officer Jim Taylor said.

Across Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, Allstate Insurance handled more than 6,000 claims involving animals, mostly deer, in 2018. Damages typically exceeded \$3,000 for repairs.

The Illinois Department of Transportation recorded 15,004 deer crashes in 2017,

See DEER on PAGE 6



Runners cross the bridge on Illinois Street as they head to the finish line Sunday during the DuPage Medical Group Fox Valley Marathon in St. Charles.

STEVE LUNDY/slundy@dailyherald.com

## Faster than the rain

3,000 Fox Valley Marathon participants enjoy a mostly dry run for Sunday's 10th edition of the event

More inside on Page 4



Trina Decamp, left, of New Lenox cheers on runners during Sunday's marathon. After the race, all runners received medals, above.

PHOTOS BY STEVE LUNDY/slundy@dailyherald.com

## CANCELED MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Promoters say they weren't to blame

BY ERIC PETERSON  
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Toby Keith

The promoters of last month's canceled Freedom & Dignity Music Festival in Schaumburg starring country singer Toby Keith are breaking their silence over the debacle.

Imagn Events President Mike Birt and Vice President Justin Orick say they were falsely characterized as the primary organizer of the concert and wrongly blamed for its cancellation, leading to death threats and the end of their fledgling company.

"I think they thought they could hang it on our neck and walk away," Birt said. "My reputation needs to be restored. I need to work. I got destroyed by this and I didn't do anything wrong."

The promoters say they have documents, emails and text messages proving the Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot Foundation, which they've sued over the failed charity concert, was the sole owner of the Aug. 10 event and made the decision to cancel it just days before, when only about 4,500 tickets had been sold.

About 70% of ticket holders have been refunded through the money Imagn could access, Birt said. The suit against the foundation is the only way to reimburse the remaining 30%, he added.

Dan Gibbons declined to comment through

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## Trump suggests he talked about Biden with Ukraine leader

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# School upgrades 'a long time coming,' Dist. 21 officials say

BY CHRISTOPHER PLACEK  
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It's been almost three weeks since Wheeling Elementary District 21 students returned to classes, and with a little late summer push of heat and humidity, school staff and students have welcomed the air

conditioning that's flowed for the first time in most schools.

School officials also like the assurances of beefed-up security that was installed at all 13 school entrances over the course of 10 weeks this summer.

Those projects, which cost about \$37 million, cover the bulk of \$69 million in capital

projects authorized by voters in through a November 2018 referendum.

As students and teachers settle in for a new academic year — albeit later than normal because of all the construction work — district leaders already are making plans for the next major project once classes let out in June:

outfitting about 30 classrooms across six elementary schools for full-day kindergarten.

"It's been a long time coming," school board President Phil Pritzker said of the projects during a recent ribbon cutting at Hawthorne Early Childhood School in Wheeling. "The stars have aligned financially and physically to

make it a reality."

Air conditioning was turned on for the first time at nine District 21 schools; the three district middle schools and Walt Whitman Elementary already had it. Along with a related update to HVAC systems, workers installed 236 unit ventilators — from which cool air passes through vents

— in classrooms throughout the district.

The security upgrades included renovations to school entrances to create additional checkpoints before a visitor is allowed inside. Before, some schools only had one such checkpoint, where a

See UPGRADES on PAGE 4

**Weather**  
Pleasant and dry  
High of 73.  
See the back of Section 6.



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