

# A SEASON OF GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Under Theo Epstein, the Cubs' roster has been completely overhauled. Everything is magnified now that the Cubs are considered to be on the doorstep of destiny. *First in a series by Paul Sullivan Chicago Sports*

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

**TRIBUNE WATCHDOG UPDATE**

## Troubled DCFS outlines major overhaul

ACLU, court sought reform after Tribune series on abysmal care of juvenile wards

BY DUAA ELDEIB  
Chicago Tribune

In an ambitious effort to repair Illinois' beleaguered child welfare system, state officials have laid out a wide-ranging reform plan that includes extensive worker retraining, expanded access to mental

health services and a substantial reduction in the number of juvenile wards in residential treatment centers.

The plan by the state Department of Children and Family Services comes at the behest of a federal judge and a court-appointed panel of experts

who concluded that an urgent, sweeping transformation of the embattled agency is necessary — an effort the state's lingering budget stalemate could undermine, even with a court order protecting the agency's funding.

"DCFS is committed to taking immediate action to correct systemic deficiencies and to strive for the safety, permanence and well-being of children in

care," DCFS officials wrote in the plan submitted in federal court.

"It's a major lift," said DCFS Director George Sheldon, who agreed the agency needs an overhaul.

U.S. District Judge Jorge Alonso is currently reviewing the plan, which aims to improve accountability and the lives of the children the agency is charged with protecting. Revamping a failed residential monitoring sys-

tem also stands as a major component.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, which monitors DCFS as the result of a long-standing consent decree, sought the court's assistance after the Tribune's 2014 "Harsh Treatment" series. The investigation revealed that hundreds of juvenile wards were reportedly abused, assaulted and raped each year at the taxpayer-funded resi-

dential centers. Thousands ran away and some were lured into prostitution as a means to survive.

Just last week, Shaquan Allen, a 16-year-old state ward, died at the private Allendale Association residential center in Lake Villa, and an employee accused of placing the teen in a "chokehold" was charged Saturday with manslaughter in Al-

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*"Simply euthanizing animals because we cannot find homes for them . . . or because we just don't have the resources is not an option and should not be an option."* — Ald. Raymond Lopez



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

PAWS Chicago employees and volunteers gather during a "fun walk" Saturday in Chicago. Each Saturday, a group walks the adoption-ready shelter dogs as a way to help socialize the animals with one another.

## City's no-kill shelter goal faces challenges

Aldermen approve nonbinding resolution to implement policy, but change could be difficult given Chicago's budget crisis

BY WILLIAM LEE  
Chicago Tribune

Animal welfare groups are cheering a push at City Hall to make shelters across Chicago no-kill zones, but experts say that any move to make that policy could be cost-prohibitive at the lone city-run shelter.

Weeks after the Chicago City Council approved a nonbinding resolution calling for the city

shelter to implement no-kill policies, a vigorous discussion has unfolded about overhauling Chicago's entire Animal Care and Control operation. The goal would be to save 90 percent of animals taken in by the city; by national standards a pet shelter is considered no-kill if no more than 10 percent of the population is euthanized or dies of natural causes.

Last year, the city saved about

64 percent of dogs and cats.

But to implement a no-kill policy — steering the vast majority of healthy strays and lost animals toward adoption, with euthanasia as a last resort for severely ill or dangerous animals — would require tight coordination between the city and local rescue groups. The resolution calls on all shelters to follow suit if they haven't already.

Together, workers at the city pound and other state-licensed shelters and rescue groups would work in tandem to aggressively monitor animal intake and trans-

Turn to No-kill, Page 5

## Wisconsin may throw wrench in Trump's plans

Cruz gains strength ahead of Tuesday's Republican primary

Working to recover his edge after a difficult week, Republican candidate Donald Trump reached out to voters Sunday in a sprint to Wisconsin's presidential primary on Tuesday.

The billionaire businessman, who is trailing rival Ted Cruz in state polling, faces the prospect that a loss there will heighten doubts he can lock down enough delegates to avoid a nomination fight at the party convention in Cleveland.

Meanwhile, the senator from Texas appears to be outmaneuvering Trump in battles among party insid-

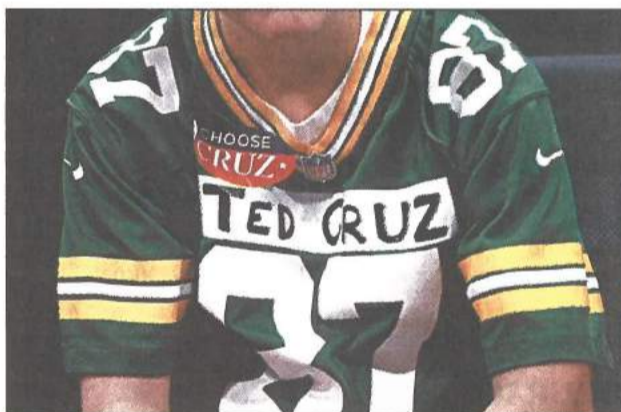
ers for delegate loyalty.

If Trump falls short on the first ballot at the convention, many delegates will be free to ignore their states' popular votes and support another candidate.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said Sunday that the party would respect "the vote of the voters and the delegates," which left open the chance of Trump winning the popular vote nationwide but losing the nomination if GOP insiders give it to someone else.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton faces a tight race in Wisconsin against Sen. Bernie Sanders in their primary, also on Tuesday.

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PAUL SANCYA/AP

Noah Ryan, 13, dons a Packers jersey during a rally Sunday for Republican candidate Ted Cruz in Green Bay, Wis.

## New twist in saga of mob, rare violin

Chaplain's lawyers pose break-in theory

BY JASON MEISNER  
Chicago Tribune

For five years, an enduring mystery has surrounded the story of a prison chaplain who conspired with a convicted hit man for the Chicago Outfit to recover a supposedly rare 18th-century Stradivarius violin said to be hidden in the mobster's vacation home.

The violin, once purportedly owned by entertainer Liberace, was likely worth millions of dollars if authentic, but it has never been found.

The FBI came up empty-handed during at least two searches of mobster Frank Calabrese Sr.'s Wisconsin lake house after the feared killer was charged in 2005 in the landmark Operation Family Secrets investigation.

His son, Frank Calabrese Jr., told the Tribune he'd heard his dad talk of a

precious violin given as collateral for a juice loan decades ago, but he had never seen it himself. The only trace of it was paperwork uncovered in a 2010 raid of Calabrese's Oak Brook home that referred to a violin with a "Stradivari" label.

Now, in a court filing asking a federal judge to sentence the chaplain, Eugene Klein, to probation later this month, attorneys for the mild-mannered Roman Catholic priest have offered an intriguing new theory. The violin — if it existed at all — could very well have been stolen during a burglary at the Wisconsin home in 2004, they said, years before Klein plotted to find the hidden instrument for Calabrese.

To bolster the claim, Klein's attorneys made public for the first time a decade-old report by police in Williams Bay, Wis., that documents a break-in at the residence that had all the

Turn to Chaplain, Page 4

### Islamic State dealt another setback

Under the cover of Russian airstrikes, Syrian troops and their allies captured another town controlled by the Islamic State in central Syria. **Nation & World, Page 10**

### Go behind the scenes as 'Idol' wraps

Ahead of the Fox singing competition show's final bow, follow along as producers create one of the last weeks of "American Idol" at their studios in Los Angeles. **A+E**



Tom Skilling's forecast High 39 Low 25

Chicago Weather Center: Complete forecast on back page of A+E section

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# Council OKs no-kill resolution

No-kill, from Page 1

fers, all while maintaining a ceaseless marketing campaign designed to find homes for lost and homeless pets, according to animal welfare advocates.

Such a change would likely require an infusion of cash, according to the area's largest no-kill organization, beyond the Animal Care and Control's most recent \$5.59 million budget appropriation, a tall order for a city in the grips of a public school budget shortfall and a looming public pension crisis.

The city has already drastically lowered its number of euthanized animals since 2006, and its Animal Care and Control office "is about \$10 million short for a city of our size," said Paula Fasseas, founder of PAWS Chicago, which celebrated passage of the resolution written by Southwest Side Ald. Raymond Lopez and powerful finance committee chair Ed Burke.

"I think doubling their budget may be ideal," Fasseas said. "In two to three years, Chicago can be a no-kill city, and having the aldermen behind us on this is amazing."

The no-kill campaign began as a set of programs developed by the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and local animal control in the 1980s and 1990s aimed at assertively seeking adoption for healthy pets rather than euthanizing them due to overpopulation concerns.

In recent years, cities and counties across the country have begun implementing no-kill policies, with Austin, Texas, and Jacksonville, Fla., often cited as having some of the best-run facilities in the nation. But critics like PETA say no-kill fails to



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Last year, Chicago saved about 64 percent of dogs and cats taken in by the city. The no-kill goal is 90 percent.

solve the worse aspects of overpopulation and sets an unrealistic goal of finding homes for every dog and cat. In fact, they criticize no-kill as leading to "warehousing" of animals, who spend much of their lives in cages waiting for an adoption that won't come.

But supporters like Lopez are undeterred.

"There are instances — and, being a dog owner, I can tell you — where euthanasia is the humane option," said Lopez, the owner of seven cocker spaniels and a rescued Chihuahua.

"But simply euthanizing animals because we cannot find homes for them or because we are unfamiliar with their backgrounds or because we just don't have the resources is not an option and should not be an option."

The City Council's health committee has yet to schedule any public hearings, but officials with PAWS expect to meet with Lopez on Monday for a tour of their medical facility and to discuss how no-kill could be implemented in Chicago. It could take at least a year before any formal changes could be made, Lopez says.

If formally approved, no-kill policies would be phased in over time as workers hammer out a system of efficiently evaluat-



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jeffery gets some attention last month at PAWS, a no-kill facility in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. He was adopted March 26.

ing, treating, spaying, neutering and even transferring the animal to a different shelter if need be until each animal finds a home, Fasseas said.

"When we say we're going to go no-kill, we're not going to stop killing tomorrow. That's unrealistic," she said. "That's the goal. ... We're going to be on the path to no-kill. We support that movement. There's no reason why Chicago can't."

To address cost concerns, Lopez floated the idea of merging some of the city Animal Care and Control's

functions with the county's animal care operation, which handles vaccination duties for smaller towns.

"(A total or partial merger) is definitely a possibility that we need to be open to entertaining and having that discussion," Lopez said. "If there is a model of synergy that we can use, I definitely would be open to it — as well as looking at how do we best provide the most amount of efficient animal welfare opportunity throughout all of Chicago-land."

A spokeswoman for the

Cook County Animal and Rabies Control said the office has not spoken with anyone from the city about such a move and pointed out that the county handles pet vaccinations, education and stray control, not sheltering animals.

"We value these collaborations and would review any proposal to streamline operations to better serve residents," said department spokeswoman Becky Schlickerman.

Dr. Jennifer Scarlett, co-president of the San Francisco SPCA, the agency

often credited with creating the no-kill model, also celebrated Chicago's resolution but stressed that "there's a tremendous amount of logistics and work that goes into" the no-kill model, adding that managing animal space is key.

"I only have so many kennel spaces, and I have dogs and cats coming in. And I've got to balance that with them getting out, otherwise you do create a major animal welfare problem by crowding," said Scarlett. "So you have to have a... very smart and thoughtful plan about how you're going to manage their length of stay so you can keep them moving out."

While the city's animal control office focuses on stray control and sheltering, Scarlett's SPCA, a nonprofit that takes in millions of dollars a year in donations, is able to focus on pet adoption. Rather than the traditional system in which people peruse cages of animals, the SPCA has adoption counselors and greeters on staff designed to make the adoption process more like a showroom than a cold dog pound.

"The more partners you have working with a municipal shelter, the more opportunities, the tighter that safety net," she said. "If this shelter is full, I can call this group over here. And having a group that's just dedicated to rehoming, which is what we do, takes a lot of burden off the shelter. I think it's a very strong model for others to look at and see if it will work for them. It takes a village to save an animal."

Scarlett expressed confidence that Chicago, with the right leadership, could create a model no-kill environment, but says it cannot be done cheaply or passively.

"This is the beautiful part of the work. We get to sweat and cry and carry one and get them to a safe place versus watching them linger and have terrible outcomes," Scarlett said. "So it's the right work to do, but it ain't easy."

wlee@tribpub.com  
Twitter @MidNoirCowboy