

THE MAG MILE: ELECTRIC AVENUE?

Alderman's proposal for jumbo screens on tony thoroughfare has retailers intrigued, preservationist wary



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

CONSUMER WATCH

Tiny particles: Big potential or big threat?

Nanotech fuels innovation in products — and calls for caution

By JULIE DEARDORFF
Tribune reporter

Zinc oxide would be the perfect sunscreen ingredient if the resulting product didn't look quite so silly. Thick, white and pasty, it once was seen mostly on lifeguards, surfers and others who needed serious sun protection.

But when the sunscreens are made with nanoparticles, the tiniest substances that humans can engineer, they turn clear — which makes them more user-friendly.

Improved sunscreens are just one of the many innovative uses of nanotechnology, which involves drastically shrinking and fundamentally changing the structure of chemical compounds. But products made with nanomaterials also raise largely unanswered safety questions — such as whether the particles that make them effective can be absorbed into the bloodstream and are toxic to living cells.

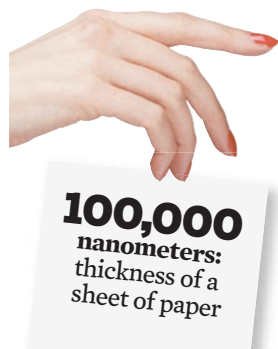
Less than two decades old, the nanotech industry is booming. Nanoparticles — measured in billionths of a meter — are already found in thousands of consumer products, including cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, anti-microbial infant toys, sports equipment, food packaging and elec-

WHAT'S A NANO?

The prefix "nano" means one-billionth, so one nanometer is one billionth of a meter. There are about 25.4 million nanometers in an inch.

HOW SMALL IS THAT?

1 nanometer: Amount your fingernail grows in a second



WHAT ARE THE USES?

Nanotechnology has a range of uses including:

- Cosmetics
- Pharmaceuticals
- Toys
- Clothing
- Sports equipment
- Food packaging
- Electronics

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Not much is known about what happens to nanomaterials when they enter a body of water or soil. Scientists and government agencies are working on how and what to test.

SOURCE: United States National Nanotechnology Initiative, Tribune reporting

Please turn to Page 7

TRIBUNE

TRIBUNE UPDATE PLAYING WITH FIRE

Bipartisan support for flame retardant reform

Three Republicans joined 23 other senators seeking tough restrictions on toxic flame retardants. Citing a Tribune investigation, which exposed a deceptive campaign by the tobacco and chemical industries to push flame retardants, lawmakers called for an update of the federal chemical safety law. **Nation & World, Page 12**

Unapologetic All-Stars

Bryan LaHair and Adam Dunn may not have the flashiest stats, but they have the respect of their peers. **Chicago Sports**

Catering to altered tastes

The July 27 closing of RIA in the Waldorf Astoria Chicago will continue a trend across the U.S. of luxury hotels fine-tuning their fine dining. **Business**



'Disney's Beauty and the Beast'

★★★★½
Chris Jones' review in A+E

Families sue, fearing less state aid means medically fragile children can't stay home



ALEX GARCIA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Sydney Peterson, 5, shows off her ballet skills in her Lisle home. She is on a ventilator, and the skilled at-home nursing care she needs is costly.

Tough cuts for ailing kids

By DEBORAH L. SHELTON
Tribune reporter

Corey Peterson and her husband, Frank, have tried to do everything in their power to keep their family together under one roof, despite their daughter's rare medical condition.

Five-year-old Sydney has congenital central hypoventilation syndrome and needs a ventilator to help her breathe. She also depends on a cardiac pacemaker. To keep her at home, rather than in a hospital or other facility, her parents have learned to operate her ventilator, change her tracheotomy tube, give her fluids through a feeding tube in her abdomen and read equipment that monitors her oxygen saturation and carbon dioxide output, among other tasks.

But the Petersons still rely on expensive nursing care, and they

are worried that all their efforts won't be enough in the face of state budget cuts.

The Lisle family is among a group of Illinois parents who filed a class-action lawsuit Monday to stop changes to a state program that funds in-home nursing care for 1,050 medically fragile and technology-dependent children.

In their lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court, the Petersons and other parents accuse the state Department of Healthcare and Family Services of trying to implement changes that would force technology-dependent children out of their homes and into institutional care.

Corey Peterson said the family would no longer be eligible for in-home care under new income requirements and could not afford to pay for skilled nursing care in their home,

Please turn to Page 9

"There's no way we're going to have her live in the hospital."

— Corey Peterson, about her daughter Sydney



JOSHUA LOTT/REUTERS PHOTO

4 men sought in slaying of border agent

Federal prosecutors unsealed a grand jury indictment Monday accusing four more people in the shooting death of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. Terry was killed in a December 2010 firefight between U.S. agents and bandits. The new defendants, all described as Mexican na-

tionals, allegedly left behind two weapons that were traced back to Fast and Furious, a secret gun-tracking operation by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. A fifth suspect in the shooting is already in custody. **Nation & World, Page 10**

Tax-cut tussle takes shape

Obama's call to help all but richest gives him, GOP lots to feud over

By CHRISTI PARSONS AND LISA MASCARO
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — By calling on Republicans to approve a one-year extension of tax cuts for families earning less than \$250,000 a year, President Barack Obama on Monday emphasized a key distinction between the two parties and sought to create a mandate for a tax plan after the election.

Neither White House officials nor congressional leaders expect a tax bill to pass before November. Presidential candidate Mitt Romney and fellow Republicans want to extend existing cuts for all taxpayers, regardless of income. Obama says the country can't afford the cost; the price tag for the upper-income tax cuts is about \$800 billion over 10 years.

White House aides said Monday that if Obama is re-elected, he would veto to any move to extend all the upper-income tax cuts.

The tax cuts first passed during the George W. Bush administration expire Dec. 31 along with the payroll tax cut approved under Obama. If all those cuts go away, a family with an income of about \$70,000 would face a tax increase of about \$3,000. Higher-income families would feel a much bigger bite.

Those tax increases, along with automatic spending cuts set to take effect at the same time, would halve the federal deficit overnight. But many economists say the sudden impact also would throw the U.S. back into recession.

Congress probably won't let that happen; lawmakers won't want to inflict that much pain on so many voters and risk lasting damage to the economy at the same time. So some tax cuts likely will be extended. Which ones will depend on who wins in November.

Over the next four months, both parties hope to frame the issue to their gain, with much

Please turn to Page 12



Obama

Campaign fundraising

Mitt Romney and the Republicans out-raised President Barack Obama and the Democrats by \$35 million in June. **Page 12**



Quinn to unveil \$1.6B in transport projects

BY JON HILKEVITCH
Tribune reporter

Almost 100 arterial street resurfacing projects in Chicago, 15 initiatives to speed the flow of freight and passenger trains through bottlenecks in northeastern Illinois and safety enhancements for pedestrians and bicyclists are included in \$1.6 billion worth of transportation improvements set to begin this summer, the governor's office is expected to announce Tuesday.

At a roadway-railroad crossing where vehicles are frequently blocked by trains in Bellwood, Gov. Pat Quinn is scheduled to sign legislation expanding bonding authority to enable the state to move forward on vital road, rail and public transit programs across Illinois, officials said. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is scheduled to attend the signing into law of the next phase of the Illinois Jobs Now capital improvement plan, officials said.

The legislation, passed by the General Assembly in May, allows the state to borrow the \$1.6 billion for the projects, which are expected to create almost 20,000 jobs statewide, the governor's office said. The borrowing power was part of the \$31 billion capital construction program from 2009 and required new approval from the Legislature.

Projects designated for the city of Chicago in this latest funding round total \$93.8 million, Quinn's office said. It increases the total amount of federal and state support for Chicago transportation projects to more than \$6 billion since fiscal 2008.

Some 96 arterial street resurfacing projects in the north, south and central areas of Chicago total \$55 million, according to state and city documents.

Other major projects in the city that can now be put out for bid include the estimated \$22.5 million overhaul of the Wells Street Bridge over the Chicago River, almost \$3 million in engineering for a 35th Street bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Lake Shore Drive and vaulted sidewalks and accessible ramps on portions of Michigan Avenue and State Street.

In Bellwood, under the CREATE program to update rail infrastructure, an overpass separating trains and vehicles will be built at 25th Avenue. It will replace the at-grade crossing of 25th Avenue near the Proviso Freight Yard. About 64 freight trains and 59 Metra trains pass through the area on weekdays, along with 21,000 vehicles, including 38 Pace buses, officials said.

The Tribune reported last summer that local officials spent more than \$1 million on consultants, cars and rent but still failed over 12 years to finalize plans for a proposed tunnel under the tracks.

Tribune reporter Joseph Ryan contributed.

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ALEX GARCIA/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Sydney Peterson, 5, plays with mom Corey, who is part of a class-action lawsuit filed Monday against the state to halt cuts in care for ill children.

Families sue over state cuts

Continued from Page 1

which they estimated could cost as much as \$200,000 a year.

"We're devastated," she said. "With our current income — both my husband and I work full time — we don't qualify. We're worried right now because there's no way we're going to have her live in the hospital."

State officials say few families would be affected by the income requirements and that they are working on ways to help families cope with the changes.

The program restructuring and the outcry from parents opposing it highlight the difficult, even gut-wrenching, decisions being made by a financially strapped state as officials look for ways to save money.

Mike Claffey, a spokesman for the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, said the agency had no comment on the lawsuit.

But he said officials already had been working on a plan to raise about \$5.5 million to help fund the state's medically fragile and technology-dependent waiver program. The money would allow them to increase the income cap from 500 percent to 800 percent of the federal poverty level.

"We think this would help a lot of these families," Claffey said.

State officials have said that while families need to pick up a bigger share of the costs, only a small fraction — about 5 percent — would no longer qualify for the in-home care because of the new income requirements.

Officials said the program restructuring was needed to help close the state's budget holes and reflects their desire to create "a single, seamless system of care and oversight." The changes were part of Medicaid legislation passed by the General Assembly in May and later signed by Gov. Pat Quinn.

Currently, two groups of children born with a range of medical conditions requiring technology to survive receive in-home skilled nursing services — about 500 Medicaid recipients and about 550 others who meet the criteria



Sydney has a medically fragile condition that requires costly at-home nursing care. At a hospital, that care would be more expensive.

for an institutional level of care under a special waiver program.

The total cost of services for both groups of children is \$187 million, which is paid for by Medicaid, a joint federal-state program.

Illinois started its program for medically fragile and technology-dependent children in 1985 to allow eligible children to remain in their homes rather than be placed into an institutional setting.

One of the incentives at the time was that it was less expensive to treat children at home than in a hospital, said Cindy Budek, a pediatric nurse practitioner at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, which coordinates care for about 80 children who require a ventilator at home.

"What's changed is that care in general is much more costly, so even home care can be expensive," said Budek, who for three decades has been working with children who must use a ventilator.

Skilled nursing service provided in the home costs an average of about \$11,000 to about \$16,000 monthly, compared to about \$55,000 monthly in a hospital, according to the lawsuit.

Starting Sept. 1, parents' income will be considered in determining financial eligibility for the waiver

program. It cannot exceed 500 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$115,250 for a family of four. The program previously did not have an income cap.

Co-payments will be established for private-duty nursing for all families at or above 150 percent of the federal poverty limit. The maximum co-payments will be set at the level allowed by federal law, which is expected to be 5 percent of gross family income, according to state documents.

Parents also raised concerns in their lawsuit about what they described as plans to spend less on care by mandating that all medically fragile children receive a nursing-facility level of care as opposed to the current hospital level of care; they said that would reduce in-home funding by about 50 percent. Some parents said they would not be able to keep their children at home at that reduced level of funding. No one at the Department of Healthcare and Family Services was available to answer questions about that aspect of the program, but a question-and-answer sheet prepared for parents says the change to a nursing-facility level of care will not affect eligibility for the program and available services under the restructured waiver program "will be assessed indi-

vidually, based on medical need."

In many cases, private insurance covers some cost for children who receive care at home under the waiver, but often insurance does not cover skilled nursing care.

Myra Young, of Chicago, said her family would qualify under the new income cap but cannot afford the proposed co-payments.

Her daughter Letty has a rare muscle disorder called congenital fiber type disproportion, a non-progressive condition that affects her skeletal muscles only. Letty is ventilator-dependent and tubed. She can't walk and is 100 percent dependent.

"We want to take care of our children," Young said. "We are doing the right thing, the responsible thing, but we're going to be penalized."

In addition to looking for additional money for the waiver program, Claffey said the agency is working on transition plans for families whose children no longer will qualify for services.

"For those who are losing eligibility, we are working with the Division of Specialized Care for Children, which is part of the University of Illinois, to see what level of care they need and what options they have to get alternative care," he said.

Budek said that, as it is, most families struggle to find private-duty nurses and receive no more than 16 to 18 hours per day of nursing support. The proposed cuts could be devastating, she said.

"My heart really breaks for (these families)," Budek said. "I feel that we're working really hard to develop a program that supports the care of these medically complex children in the home. I strongly believe that the best place for these kids is with their families."

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City native quits as American Orthodox Church leader

BY MANYA A. BRACHEAR
Tribune reporter

The Chicago native elected to the helm of the Orthodox Church in America resigned over the weekend, saying in a letter that he has "neither the personality nor the temperament" to lead the church.

Metropolitan Jonah submitted his resignation during a conference call Saturday with other bishops of the church. In his letter of resignation, he said he was leaving the post in response to the unanimous request of the bishops.

"I had come to the realization long ago that I have neither the personality nor the temperament for the position of primate, a position I never sought nor desired," he wrote in the letter.

The letter was written Friday in his Washington home and witnessed by the Orthodox Church in America's chancellor, according to a statement from the church. On Monday, the church announced that Detroit Archbishop Nathaniel would serve as the interim replacement.

Elected in late 2008 to lead one of several branches of Orthodox Christianity in the United States,

Metropolitan Jonah had been a bishop for 12 days when he became primate. Parishioners looked to him for reforms after his predecessor retired amid allegations that millions of church dollars were used to cover personal expenses.

"People were looking for that new wind of leadership that he seemed to embody," said the Rev. John Adamcio, rector at Holy Trinity Cathedral, the seat of the Chicago Diocese. "He was under an awful lot of pressure to right the ship and keep the church on course."

Metropolitan Jonah didn't just try to correct the course. He also tried to shift the direction of the Orthodox Church in America, part of a constellation of churches separate from the Roman Catholic Church since the 11th century.

He insisted on amplifying the church's voice in the public square, moving the church's headquarters from Syosset, N.Y., to Washington and speaking up against abortion rights. In 2009 he led a handful of Orthodox clergy to sign the Manhattan Declaration, a pledge to disobey laws that could force religious institutions to participate in abortions or bless



STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE PHOTO 2009

Metropolitan Jonah "was under an awful lot of pressure to right the ship and keep the church on course," a Chicago rector said.

same-sex couples.

The Rev. Mark Arey, director of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, said Metropolitan Jonah's approach was not typical of Orthodox Christianity. "Orthodoxy is not in favor of abortion, but we don't campaign in the same way you see evangelical groups," Arey said.

But the Rev. Johannes Jacobse,

president of the American Orthodox Institute, agreed with the primate's foray into politics.

"He saw what needed to be said, and he wasn't afraid to say it," said Jacobse, an Antiochian Orthodox priest. "That kind of independence is threatening to a church that has operated by the same rules and assumptions for a long time."

When Russia became a communist and atheist nation in the early 20th century, Russian Orthodox faithful in the U.S. organized a self-governing church in communion with and independent of the patriarch of Constantinople. That church was renamed the Orthodox Church in America in 1970.

"What we are witnessing now in my opinion is the result of the disconnectedness of the Orthodox Church in America from the rest of the Orthodox world," Arey said. "Its internal politics have almost become cannibalistic in my opinion."

Mark Stokoe, former editor of the website for Orthodox Christians for Accountability and a former member of the church's Metropolitan Council, said tension has been brewing for four

years because of Metropolitan Jonah's failure to follow procedures.

Born James Paffhausen, Metropolitan Jonah was baptized at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church in Chicago.

He discovered the Orthodox strand of Christianity during college at the University of California at San Diego. A book about mystical theology affirmed his concerns about the ordination of women in the Episcopal Church in 1978 and led him to convert that same year.

"A church should be stable. There shouldn't be that kind of turmoil," Metropolitan Jonah said during an interview with the Tribune in July 2009. "Intuitively, I had to become Orthodox."

While working in Russia as a doctoral candidate, he fell in love with the monastic tradition.

In his letter to bishops over the weekend, Metropolitan Jonah "begged forgiveness for however I have offended you, and for whatever difficulties have arisen from my own inadequacies and mistakes in judgment."

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