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'I thought it was a crock of (expletive)'

'Broadview Six' grand jury transcripts released showing alleged misconduct by prosecutors

By Jason Meisner, Madeline Buckley and Caroline Kubzansky
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

After failing to secure an indictment from a grand jury in the "Broadview Six" case last October, federal prosecutors tried again a week later but ran into immediate pushback from some members of

the panel, according to transcripts of the extraordinary proceedings made public Tuesday.

One grand juror pressed prosecutors on whether they could keep coming back for "unlimited tries" even when charges had been rejected, and asked if there was any new evidence that would be presented in the second session. "Okay. I'm feeling the skepti-

cism already," veteran Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheri Mecklenburg said, according to the transcript of the Oct. 16 proceedings. "Are you going to be able to listen with an open mind? Tell me the truth."

The grand juror said no — and then added something even more startling.

"I heard this case like last week and I thought it was a crock of (expletive) then and I still think it is," the grand juror said, according to the transcript.

"Okay. Thank you for your opin-

ion for everybody," Mecklenburg replied. "I kind of had that impression from last week, but thank you. ... If you feel that you can't be (impartial), then excuse yourself."

Mecklenburg then proceeded to have the foreperson count the remaining members of the panel to make sure they had 16, which constitutes a quorum for voting purposes, according to the transcript. The session continued with testimony from witnesses, though no indictment was returned that day, either.

A week later, on Oct. 23, U.S. Attorney Andrew Boutros went before the same grand jury, introduced himself as the U.S. attorney, and told the panel they had an important "constitutional" function to play in the judicial system, according to a transcript provided in an unusual report released by Boutros last week.

Boutros also said "setting aside your emotions, setting aside your personal views, beliefs and biases"

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Rory Flynn and wife Amy, from Boston, photograph their kids Riley, 11, from left, Tegan, 8, and Nora, 4, outside Soldier Field ahead of the friendly between the United States and Germany on Saturday. **JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

'AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT'

Meet the Chicago-area athletes and artist whose talent will be on display during the World Cup



United States goalkeeper Chris Brady, center, walks onto the pitch ahead of a friendly against Germany at Soldier Field on Saturday. This exhibition served as the send-off match ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

INSIDE: Immigrant advocates call for more welcoming visa policies for the World Cup after members of Iraqi team were denied entry at O'Hare. **Chicagoland, Page A6**
■ Housing the homeless a goal of the World Cup. **Nation & World, Page B4**

By Allison Kiehl
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

On Friday, Chris Brady will step onto his biggest field yet. Brady, 22, will likely make his World Cup debut as a goalkeeper for the United States men's national team.

The Naperville native got his start playing soccer as a kid for a local park league, then trained pre-professionally at the Chicago Fire FC's academy program, where he now plays for the club's top team. Brady says he wears the city's crest with pride.

"I'm super appreciative to be able to represent my hometown, my family, my people and my club," Brady said.

Brady is one of just 26 men to represent the U.S. in the 2026 World Cup. Even more rare, he is one of three Chicagoans participating in the world-class soccer tournament. Former Fire player Brian Gutiérrez and artist Brian Herrera will bring a bit of Chicagoland to Mexico's national team.

"This is rare air that we are talking about here and it's an amazing achieve-

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US strikes Iran after helicopter crash

Two aviators rescued; official says the aircraft collided with a drone

By Jon Gambrell, Darlene Superville and Konstantin Toropin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. military said Tuesday it launched strikes against Iran following the crash of an Army Apache helicopter off the coast of Oman that President Donald Trump blamed on the Islamic Republic.

In a statement posted to social media, U.S. Central Command said the strikes would be "a proportional response to unjustified Iranian aggression." It came after Trump vowed that the U.S. would respond.

Iranian state media reported that explosions were heard on an Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Apache helicopter that crashed went down after colliding with an Iranian drone, according to a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

It wasn't clear whether the collision was intentional, and offi-

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Cook County property tax bills late again

By A.D. Quig
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Property tax bills will be roughly two months late this year, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said Tuesday, confirming the county's long-running tax debacle will continue to stress homeowners and the public agencies like schools and libraries that rely on the money.

In an attempt to head off further uproar from various local government leaders, Preckwinkle announced Tuesday she is again setting aside \$300 million to loan to local governments to help them balance their budgets and pay their employees. Unlike past years, she's broadened eligibility rules for her bridge loan program to make sure more districts can qualify.

"This bridge fund gives schools, libraries, parks, fire districts and

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