

LAKE COUNTY
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Pair of unusual board races settled

Two Lake County primaries involved court, last-minute decisions, political ‘shenanigans’ accusations

By Joseph States

More than a week out from the primary, the dust seems to have settled for two Lake County Board primaries, with District 14 incumbent Esiah Campos and Republican District 17 nominee Joe Salvi heading to face their November challengers.

The two races were the most unusual of the Lake County board

election cycle, involving court orders, last-minute decisions, and accusations of political “shenanigans.”

While some minor questions still remain for the District 16 race, Campos has been sent to the general election with about 1,300 votes according to unofficial results. For reference, that’s almost the same as the total votes cast in the 2022 District 16 primary, which had

then-newcomer Campos receiving just over 700 votes.

The race saw on-again off-again challenger Juan Beto Ruiz ultimately removed from the ballot due to a missing maternal surname on his nomination petitions.

With his opponent removed from the ballot, Campos is the de facto winner, but he also claimed a numerical win on his social media, saying projections indicated about

2,130 votes total in the district, meaning he received about 58% of the votes.

But in the same post, Campos acknowledged “tensions” that the race had generated and the criticisms he faced during the campaign, pledging to grow and serve the community better.

He alluded to Operation Midway Blitz, the federal immigration campaign targeting Chicago that

swept up surrounding communities including in Lake County, and said it was important to present a “united front,” to the challenges the community faces.

“Now more than ever, we cannot allow ourselves to be divided. These are real challenges facing our community, and they require unity, not division. We are stronger together,” Campos said.

The count of votes cast for Ruiz

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Playing a guessing game are, from left, Emma Johnson, Leo Cortez and John Bolonos during the Waukegan Park District’s Spring Break Adventures program Tuesday. STEVE SADIN/PHOTOS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

Waukegan Park District rolling into Spring Break Adventures



A pair of youngsters use small skateboards to start an obstacle course at the Waukegan Park District’s Spring Break Adventures program Tuesday.

Seasonal program offering field trips, creative crafts and indoor obstacle courses

By Steve Sadin
FOR THE NEWS-SUN

Big smiles broke out on the faces of three participants in the Waukegan Park District’s Spring Break Adventures program Tuesday when they learned the location of their Wednesday field trip.

Emma Johnson, a third grader at the Andrew Cooke Magnet Elementary School in Waukegan, was sitting with two friends—Leo Cortez and John Bolonos—taking a break from competing on an obstacle course. They were talking about what they liked about the weeklong program.

“We take a lot of field trips,” Emma said. “We go to interesting places,” she added, referring to the journey to Round 1 Bowling & Arcade in Gurnee Monday and Bella’s Bouncies Tuesday.

Unaware of where they were going the next day, Emma, Leo — another Cooke third grader — and John — a fifth-grade student at St. Anastasia School — had little reaction to Wednesday’s sojourn to the Long Grove Confectionery.

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Faithful to rally at ‘No Kings’ marches

Many say their faith compels them to join rallies against Trump

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When Archdeacon Michael Choquette joins fellow demonstrators at the upcoming “No Kings” protest in Grant Park this weekend, he intends to wear a clerical collar to send a message that “Christ is in the world.”

“And as a church, we should be out there too,” said Choquette of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. “I see it as standing in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who find themselves living in fear and living in uncertainty.”

A diverse array of religious leaders and clergy from across the Chicago area plan to take part in the return of “No Kings” protests — what has become an iconic collection of marches and demonstrations against the Trump administration held locally as well as around the globe.

They say their faith compels them to do so.

“As United Methodists, we believe that our faithful witness is fundamentally public,” said the Rev. Abby Holcombe of Urban Village Church-West and River Forest United Methodist Church. “We advocate for compassion, justice and peace.”

The pastor, who plans to attend a “No Kings” event in west suburban Oak Park, added that the federal government “terrorizes our neighbors, has committed violent acts in other countries and has repeatedly demonstrated a way of ruling that is antithetical to the kingdom of God.”

“I expect there will be tons of United Methodists at the ‘No Kings’ protest,” she added.

The main Chicago “No Kings” event at Grant Park is set to kick off at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Organizers say it will feature music, a rally and a march.

“As the atrocities from the Trump regime have grown, so has our resistance in Chicago and across the country,” the event website states. “Help us show the nation and the world that Chicago is united in

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Gov. JB Pritzker answers questions after a recent roundtable at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Governor needs to shake up DCFS



Charles Selle

With income tax day less than a month away, we might consider withholding that part of our bills that fund the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Time for a tax protest aimed squarely at DCFS.

That’s because those who oversee, operate and work for the state agency don’t seem to be doing their jobs. Even after receiving

more than \$2.4 billion in taxpayer funding during fiscal year 2025, according to state budget figures.

Some may remember back in the bad old days of the 1960s and ‘70s, tax resisters rose up to protest the Vietnam War. The protesters, as a matter of conscience, refused to pay any federal income tax or withhold what they considered a percentage of their tax bill which funded the war.

Doing the same would send a message to Gov. JB Pritzker that DCFS needs to be held accountable for their inaction, most recently the investigation into the abuse and eventually Feb. 6 death of 8-year-old Markell Pierce of

Round Lake Beach. Joseph States’ front-page News-Sun report last week detailed alleged mishandling of the youngster’s brutal history over a four-year period.

Of course, if we don’t pay a portion of our state income tax by April 15, we will face the same consequences as did tax resisters during the Vietnam War: Bricking of bank accounts, wage garnishments, brusque visits from Internal Revenue Service agents, and, possibly, jail time.

And after all that, Pritzker may not even get the point as he’s busy campaigning for the 2028 Demo-

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