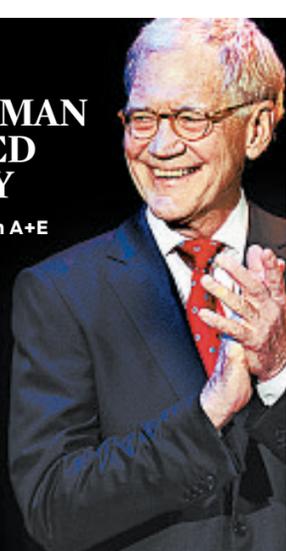


## HOW LETTERMAN CHANGED COMEDY

Steve Johnson in A+E

EVAN AGOSTINI/AP



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Getting AP credit may get easier

Illinois again seeks to normalize criteria in testing program

BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN  
Chicago Tribune

After spending an entire morning last week taking Advanced Placement exams in hopes of earning college credit while still in high school, a group of northwest suburban students offered their own assessment:

The tests weren't too hard, but some colleges are too strict about giving credit for them.

A proposed change to state law that has advanced in Springfield could expand high school students' access to college credit through AP testing, but could also have a financial effect on state colleges and universities in Illinois, which could lose out on tuition revenue.

The AP testing program awards students whose knowledge has surpassed the high school level, and it can save them time and money in college because they don't have to pay to take the equivalent courses.

But college standards for granting credit for AP tests vary widely. The tests are scored on a 5-point scale, but while some colleges and universities will award credit for scores as low as 2, others require the top score of 5 in certain subjects, according to the College Board, which administers the program. At some schools, the standards vary by subject, while the University of Illinois has different thresholds for different campuses.

To standardize the crite-

Turn to **AP tests**, Page 6

Mount Greenwood resident Emily Beazley's long struggle with cancer was shared on Facebook, and so was her death at 12



GARY MIDDENDORF/FOR THE DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Ed Beazley holds daughter Emily at a street dedication in Mount Greenwood last month. She died Monday.

## Social media can help families cope, mourn

BY BONNIE MILLER RUBIN  
Chicago Tribune

For some parents, news of a child's life-threatening illness means first, you cry, then you turn to social media.

The public death of Emily Beazley, the 12-year-old girl from Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood who courageously fought cancer, has cast a spotlight on pediatric cancer — and also what it means to cope and grieve in the digital age.

"What's important is to realize there are no 'shoulds' in how you do this," said Ellen Rosendale, director of family services at Lurie Children's Hospital.

"Our parents all cope differ-

### Inside

Emily Beazley's battle inspired support in Mount Greenwood.  
**Chicagoland**, Page 11

Ailing girl showed tremendous heart.  
**John Kass**, Page 2

ently, and you never know how you're going to be until your child is facing a serious medical crisis," she said.

When Emily died Monday night, the news was shared on Facebook — as were most of the ups and downs of her illness over the last four years. Such candor earned Emily near-celebrity status — along with designation as an

honorary police officer, a street naming and a phone call from singer Taylor Swift, among other tributes.

Such openness is a relatively recent phenomenon and can be therapeutic, experts say. "With many of these diseases, parents are inspired by their child and they want to share," Rosendale said. "They often find meaning ... and (using social media) is a way of publicly telling a very powerful story."

In the 10 years that she has been working at Lurie, Rosendale has seen differences in how people navigate this stressful time. The rise of Facebook, Twitter and sites

Turn to **Emily Beazley**, Page 11

## City puts off bid to borrow \$383M

Credit downgrade delays mayor's plan to restructure debt

BY HEATHER GILLERS AND HAL DARDICK  
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has decided to delay borrowing \$383 million to restructure debt — a move that buys him time to try to get a better interest rate after last week's double downgrade of the city's credit to junk status.

Late last month, Emanuel announced the city would convert about \$900 million worth of variable-rate debt to fixed-rate debt.

The goal was to avoid massive payments to banks that could demand their money back as the city's credit deteriorates.

City officials said they previously considered converting two of four variable-rate bonds Tuesday — but now could wait several weeks while they rethink the deals in an effort to lower borrowing costs "to protect taxpayers" in the wake of last week's downgrade. Preliminary documents filed this month show the city had planned to convert variable-rate bonds in amounts of \$182 million and \$201 million.

It is not uncommon for borrowers to reschedule such deals to take advantage of periods when investors are willing to accept lower interest rates. But municipal analysts said they were not surprised the city would want additional time after last week's downgrade, which is likely to increase

Turn to **Borrow**, Page 7



FOTOLIA

## Faulty air bags trigger largest auto recall in U.S. history

**33.8 MILLION** Air bag manufacturer Takata Corp. has agreed to declare nearly 34 million of its inflator mechanisms defective, doubling the number of vehicles recalled in the U.S. so far. Ten automakers, including Honda and Toyota, have already recalled 17 million vehicles in the U.S. **Business**

## Gay conversion therapy is closer to Illinois ban

Bill bars attempts to change minors' sexual orientation

BY JESSIE HELLMANN  
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — Following a series of big wins during the past decade that culminated in the approval of same-sex marriage in Illinois, the new cause for gay rights supporters at the Capitol is banning conversion therapy on minors — a controversial practice aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation from gay to straight.

The effort gained momentum Tuesday as the Illinois House approved

the measure 68-43 after the bill failed in the chamber last year. The bill now goes to the Senate, which tends to be more liberal.

Under the proposal, mental health providers would be barred from engaging in treatment aimed at changing the sexual orientation of minors. Psychologists, therapists, psychiatrists, social workers and counselors caught doing so could be deemed as engaging in unprofessional conduct by state regulators and face disciplinary action ranging from monetary fines, probation, or temporary or permanent license revocation.

Turn to **Therapy**, Page 8

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