## $\star \star \star$ for George Clooney's 'Ides of March'

Michael Phillips' review in A+E

## Chicago a Cribune

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



CHARLES ESHELMAN/WIREIMAGE PHOTO New White Sox manager Robin Ventura rejoined the organization four months ago as an adviser.

## Surprise! It's Ventura

Sox's hiring of former 3rd baseman a shock to most, including him

The idea of Robin Ventura succeeding Ozzie Guillen as White Sox manager came from so far out of left field that even Ventura acknowledged he was surprised when general manager Ken Williams approached him about taking the job. But take it he did.

Ventura, 44, who has no managerial experience, was named the new Sox skipper Thursday, less than four months after starting his duties as a special adviser.

"The passion was there to do it," Ventura said. "I realize I haven't managed, but this is the organization that is going to give me the support to do the job."

Williams said Ventura met the very specific criteria the White

Sox were looking for.

"A passion for the city and the organization, and a drive to win a World Series championship ... leadership, a communicative ability that I think will translate well into working with veterans players as well as our young players," said Williams, who will be patient with the inexperienced Ventura.

"I do not expect him to be Tony La Russa on day one," Williams said. **Chicago Sports**  By the numbers

16 seasons played

**6** Gold Glove awards

**2** All-Star appearances

**18** grand slams, tied for fifth most in major league history



#### HEATHER CHARLES/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Bob and Barb Malizzo, along with daughter Kristina Chavez and her son Adrian, visit their daughter Michelle Ballog's grave at Graceland Cemetery in Valparaiso, Ind. Ballog died after a medical error at UIC Medical Center in Chicago.

# Family lends hand after deadly error

## Obama, activists urge action as divisions mount



ALEX WONG/GETTY PHOTO

Tea party sets its sights on GOP establishment

### By Kathleen Hennessey

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — GOP leaders in Congress may seem to be frequently bending over backward to please the most conservative flank of their party but the gymnastics don't appear to be doing the trick.

Like the vast majority of Americans, tea party activists say they, too, disPresident turns up heat on Congress to pass jobs bill

Ratcheting up the pressure on Republican opponents, President Barack Obama on Thursday threatened Congress with a bitter fight over his \$447 billion jobs program if a vote is not taken. He vowed to bring it to Congress piece by piece, if necessary.

Obama insisted his proposal would give a jolt to the economy. He said he would use his re-election campaign to highlight the GOP's opposition - a gamble, based in part on Obama's knowledge that while his approval ratings have plummeted, Congress is even less popular. Soon afterward, Republican leaders zeroed in on the tax increases that Democrats proposed to pay for the plan, including a surtax on millionaires. "This bill is the same wasteful spending, the same burdensome union giveaways and the same temporary tax policy that has failed the American people the last two years," said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.

### Medical mistake spurs relatives to join hospital panel, not sue

#### **By DEBORAH L. SHELTON** Tribune reporter

Michelle Malizzo Ballog was nervous as hospital staff wheeled her into surgery to replace a temporary stent in her liver. In a procedure two weeks earlier, also at University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago, she had awakened too early from the anesthesia, an unsettling experience.

But this time she didn't

wake up.

Monitoring errors were made while she was under anesthesia, and Ballog, whose youngest daughter had turned 1 the day before, stopped breathing and suffered cardiac arrest on the operating room table. She lapsed into a coma and died nine days later at 39.

Her parents and sister had no idea at first that Ballog's death was caused

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Barb Malizzo holds a favorite photo, showing her daughter Michelle Ballog, herself and husband Bob. The Malizzos and another daughter now work on hospital safety.

"We might be able to save someone's life." – Bob Malizzo approve of how Congress is doing its job. But the reasons they offer are notably different from those heard elsewhere.

In interviews, several leading activists said Republicans were too quick to compromise and too accommodating to Democrats. They don't cite an insufficient effort on job creation, the top concern voiced by most Americans, but an inadequate attempt to rethink the role of government.

They urged lawmakers to be more aggressive and stick to a pattern of brinkmanship that has brought

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Nation & World, Page 14

## Mosque resistance questioned

Uproar ensues as plan switches from church to mosque

#### By MICK SWASKO AND TED GREGORY Tribune reporters

For years, HOPE United Church of Christ advertised on its front lawn plans to build a church on 14 acres it owns just southwest of Naperville, and the minister there says he never heard so much as a peep of displeasure.

But those plans fell through, and now that the church wants to sell the property to another religious group, protests have erupted at the Naperville Planning and Zoning Commission. Handmade signs critical of the deal



CHUCK BERMAN/TRIBUNE PHOTO

A notice-of-public-hearing sign marks the Will County site that the Islamic Center of Naperville wants to buy, annex to Naperville and someday build a mosque on.

have sprouted on utility poles.

This time around the Islamic Center of Naperville wants to buy the land and someday build a mosque there, said HOPE's pastor, the Rev. Timoth Sylvia. In his view, that's the difference. "This display of true had to the

ignorance ... breaks my heart, raises my concern and honestly angers me," Sylvia wrote to congregants and friends earlier

this week. "The Islamic Center of Naperville has had to fight so hard for all that they have, and this next chapter of their story appears as if it may play

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**Forecast:** High 83 Low 62 Weather page, back of A+E section \$1.00 city and suburbs, \$1.25 elsewhere 165th year No. 280 © Chicago Tribune





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## Hospital is more open about errors

#### Continued from Page 1

by preventable medical errors, of which the monitoring problem was only the first. When they found out, they were livid. Bob Malizzo, Ballog's father, remembers angrily asking doctors: "How could this happen?"

To the family's astonishment, hospital officials did not duck their questions, cover up their mistakes or hide behind lawyers. Instead, they shared the tragic details.

As a result, the family made a surprising decision of their own: They chose not to sue and joined the hospital's safety review committee to help the medical center avoid making such errors in the future.

In their role as lay members of the committee, Malizzo, his wife, Barbara, and their daughter Kristina Chavez hear about medical errors and near-misses that occur at UIC and other hospitals, with the goal of helping to figure out how such mistakes can be avoided. They offer a unique perspective that often is lacking in meetings that typically focus on procedures, processes and practices.

Sitting in his living room in Hobart, Ind., next to a pillow memorializing his oldest daughter, Malizzo explained the family's thinking in joining the panel: "We might be able to save someone's life."

Patient safety experts praise the hospital for being transparent about the errors and said the case highlights the important role that patients and families can play in helping to fix a complex, intractable problem.

Patient advocates are pushing for greater involvement on the part of patients and families to reduce medical errors — everything from encouraging them to be assertive in raising concerns with health care professionals to enlisting more consumers to serve on hospital safety



HEATHER CHARLES/TRIBUNE PHOTO

and his daughter were

asked the best way to ap-

proach family members of a

patient who died of a medi-

cal error after being trans-

ferred to another facility.

They suggested that offi-

cials go to the family's

home, where they would be

more comfortable, instead

telling them in the hospital.

the medical center has been

restored and he goes there

regularly for treatment of a

that they are trying their

very best to eliminate medi-

cal errors," he said. "I trust

them to this day with my

Project Patient Care,

praised the medical center

for being open about a

sensitive issue and for taking the lead in finding solu-

Errors are "a stubborn

problem rooted in the way

our health care system is

organized and a (medical)

culture that historically has

been quiet about things that

go wrong," said Hatlie, whose Chicago-based

group seeks to prevent

medical errors and improve

reporting and reducing er-

rors are health profession-

als' fear of litigation and loss

Among the obstacles to

health care quality.

Martin Hatlie, CEO of

'We have seen at UIC

heart condition.

life."

tions.

Malizzo said his trust in

Bob Malizzo and daughter Kristina Chavez attend a patient safety review committee meeting at UIC Medical Center in Chicago. They joined after the death of Michelle Ballog, his daughter and her sister.

#### committees.

"We're really on the edge of something new, giving consumers more power over (important) information, and I think that's a really good thing," said Susan Hinck, policy consultant to the Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance.

The presence of patients on such panels, however, means disclosing inside information that many hospitals don't feel comfortable sharing.

No one knows exactly how many medical errors occur, but a landmark report in 1999 by the Institute of Medicine estimated that as many as 98,000 Americans die as a result of a medical mistake in any given year.

Newer studies published in the journal Health Affairs in April suggest that significant adverse events may occur in as many as 1 in 3 hospital admissions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 100,000 people die annually from health care-acquired infection alone.

Patient safety was highlighted in the Chicago area earlier this year when James Tyree, president of Mesirow Financial and chairman of Sun-Times Media, died at University of Chicago Medical Center as a result of an error that health officials say should never happen.

Tyree, 53, served on the hospital's board of directors, proving that medical errors can happen to anyone.

After Ballog's death in 2008, officials at UIC Medical Center immediately shared their suspicions that fatal errors might have been made. They promised to investigate quickly and report back to her family. As soon as they realized they had done something wrong, they apologized and provided an explanation. And they speedily offered a financial settlement to provide for Ballog's two daughters, who were 1 and 7 at the time.

They also vowed never to repeat the errors.

"As head of patient safety in the hospital, I made it very clear that, at the end of the day, most of this rested on me," said Dr. Tim McDonald, the hospital's chief safety and risk officer for health affairs. "We, the institution, had let them down. Had we done the job we were supposed to do, this would not have happened."

Within 12 hours of Ballog's cardiac arrest, the medical center changed its procedures to require that an anesthesia specialist be present for the kind of procedure she was undergoing. Ballog's case was among those providing information used to help develop national guidelines on the use of a capnograph, a device used to monitor carbon dioxide concentrations in the blood of a sedated patient.

The medical center also has developed a program to prevent and respond to harm caused by medical errors, with an emphasis on being patient-centered and transparent. Under a federal grant, UIC helps other hospitals set up similar pro-

## Tips for avoiding medical errors

Among steps you can take to minimize the chance of something going wrong: ■ Ask questions, take notes and raise concerns (but do it respectfully).

Seek second opinions if you need additional information.

■ Repeat information back to your health provider to make sure you understood it correctly.

Bring someone with you who can serve as an advocate while you are hospitalized or when you go to medical appointments.
Learn the chain of

command so you know where to direct your unresolved concerns. Ask health providers to

wash their hands before examining you.

■ Keep important details about your health and health care handy, including a list of medications you take.

Find out which health providers will be taking care of you and their level of training.

Consider using checklists available from consumer and patient safety groups.

Hatlie, because speaking up can help correct minor problems before they worsen and cause serious harm.

To health professionals, he says: "Listen to patients when they are expressing concerns, because they probably know something you don't."

Knitasha Washington has seen the problem from both sides — as a health professional and as a daughter whose father died because of a medical error.

Patients have to be assertive and proactive, "asking, probing and doing your own research, whatever that might be," said Washington, president of the Chicago Midwest chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives. "You can't take information as if it's golden; you have to ask questions."

The Malizzos say their work to help eliminate medical errors and promote transparency is a legacy to their daughter's generous and loving spirit. They plan on serving on the hospital's safety committee for the rest of their lives.

"You come to the realiza-



grams.

For their part, Malizzo, his wife or his daughter drive about an hour each way once a month to attend meetings of the hospital safety review committee.

"We don't want our daughter to die in vain," said Malizzo, a former mayor of Hobart who runs a medical staffing company.

In one meeting, Malizzo

of reputation, lack of training in how to communicate with families after harm occurs, worries about losing their jobs, and feelings of guilt, said Hatlie.

On the patient side, barriers include apprehension about angering health providers and feeling too intimidated to ask questions or raise concerns.

But that is exactly what patients need to do, said

tion that there's nothing you can do — it happened," Malizzo said. "They made a mistake. Where do we go from here?"

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## Catholic Charities-Peoria to transfer foster care aid

#### **By MANYA A. BRACHEAR** Tribune reporter

No longer able to provide publicly funded foster care and adoption services unless it complies with Illinois law, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Peoria announced Thursday that it will withdraw from all state contracts and transfer its staff and caseload to a new nonprofit organization with no affiliation to the Roman Catholic Church.

Run by a five-person community board, the Center for Youth and Family Solutions will take on the entire caseload of foster children from Peoria Catholic Charities starting Feb. 1.

Meanwhile, Catholic Charities in the dioceses of Joliet and Springfield, as well as Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois in Belleville, asked a state appellate court to halt the transition of foster care cases to other agencies now under way in those three dioceses and reconsider whether the state's decision to sever foster care contracts with the three agencies violates their religious freedom.

"We are adamant about

going forward," said Glenn Van Cura, executive director of Catholic Charities of Joliet. "We feel that there's no reason to discontinue."

After Illinois recognized civil unions this year, Catholic Charities told the state it would refer aspiring foster parents in civil unions to other agencies, in order to abide by Catholic teaching that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. The state declined to renew its contracts with the agencies, saying that couples in civil unions have to be treated the same as married couples.

Frustrated by the lack of clarity in the law, Catholic Charities in Rockford terminated its foster care services. An independent child welfare agency, Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley, stepped up to take on the 330 children and hire most of the caseworkers and support staff.

The new organization in Peoria, which will have no allegiance to the church, has agreed to serve couples in civil unions, said Mike Drymiller, of Moline, a Catholic financial adviser and one of the founding board members. To give the new organization time to prepare, Illinois' Department of Children and Family Services has agreed to let Catholic Charities supervise the existing cases through Jan. 31.

"We commend Catholic Charities of Peoria for putting children first," said DCFS spokesman Kendall Marlowe. "They have a proud tradition of serving children and families in need, and today's decision means that legacy lives on."

Patricia Gibson, general counsel for the Peoria Diocese, said eventually Catholic Charities of Peoria will rely exclusively on private funding because the agency plans to withdraw from all of its state contracts. Annually, the agency receives up to \$23 million from the state. More than \$15 million of that goes toward foster care and adoption services, and many of them overlap, she said.

"It's certainly something very sad to us," Gibson said. "The main thing everybody wants is stability for the clients we serve."

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