



President Obama

Kirk

Mark

BY ERIN HEGARTY AND MIKE RIOPELL mriopell@dailyherald.com ehegarty@dailyherald.com

U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, a Highland Park Republican, said he expects the Senate to move forward with a proposal increasing sanctions on

Iran despite President Barack Obama's threat in Tuesday's State of the Union address to veto it.

Obama said in the speech his administration has "halted the progress of its nuclear program and reduced its stockpile of nuclear material." The president says he will

gress that would impose more stringent penalties on Iran's attempt to increase its nuclear stockpile. New penalties "will all but guarantee that diplomacy fails, alienating America from its allies, making it harder to maintain sanctions, and ensuring that Iran starts

veto anything passed by Con- up its nuclear program again," Obama said.

Kirk is the lead senator on a proposal that would increase sanctions on Iran should talks with the U.S. miss a summer deadline to cut a deal on the country's nuclear future.

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• BOEHNER DEFIES OBAMA: Speaker invites Netanyahu to push for new sanctions.

• CAPTIVE LEADER: Shiite rebels holding Yemen president reach deal to end standoff.

Mistakes lead to youth football sanctions

Buffalo Grove Bills put on probation for incorrect player ages

By DOUG T. GRAHAM dgraham@dailyherald.com

A suburban youth football organization was placed on a two-year probation this week by its governing body after five players on a 6- to 8-year-old team were found to be older than their paperwork stated.

The entire roster of teams in the Buffalo Grove Bills Youth Football organization were sanctioned Tuesday by their parent league, The Chicagoland Youth Football League, or TCYFL.

But Geoff Meyer, the league president and co-founder, said after a thorough multiweek investigation, the league



A little boy with big responsibility



City says no to 62 homes

Des Plaines aldermen reject downtown townhouse plan

By Christopher Placek cplacek@dailyherald.com

Citing parking concerns and a desire for retail, Des Plaines aldermen have unanimously rejected plans for a 62-unit townhouse development near downtown.

Lexington Homes proposed developing three acres at 783-841 Lee St. on a site that includes the Good News Christian Center, a strip mall and the now-vacant Casa Royale Banquets.

The developer sought a zoning change from central business district commercial use to residential. The city's comprehensive plan calls for high-density mixed-use development on the site.

"This is a bad project, shouldn't be built, (and) doesn't belong downtown," 5th Ward Alderman Jim Brookman said at a council meeting Tuesday. "I don't know how it got this far.

"If we approve this, I think we're making a long-term, permanent decision based on short-term concerns over some vacant storefronts and an economic downturn," he said. "Those things are not permanent. This project, if built, is permanent." The proposed development, called Lexington Pointe, would have included four rows of townhouse buildings: one fronting Lee Street, one fronting Center Street, and two rows in between. Prices for the 2- and 3-bedroom homes were estimated to start at \$300,000. A number of aldermen raised concerns that the development would have only 10 surface parking spots. Each home would have had an

found no evidence that the errors were anything more than mistakes.

"One of the things we looked for was, is there any proof or anything that shows us there was intent," Meyers said. "That we could not find." A league investigation found that over the last two years, five players' birth certificates indicated they were 9 years old, but the paperwork provided by the Buffalo Grove Bills to the league said they were 8.

Joey Weber, the president of the Buffalo Grove Bills, said Wednesday that some clerical errors were made by parents registering their children and some were made by the organization, specifically by parent-volunteers submitting paperwork to the league.

Weber, however, said his organization accepts the league's sanctions.

"We made a mistake, we got our punishment and we are fine with that," Weber said Wednesday. "Our internal findings support the TCY-FL's judgment of no deliberate wrongdoing and we have added several remedies for future cross-checking."

League officials acknowledge the mistakes were not deliberate but said having older children on younger teams can compromise player safety and result in injuries.

The two-year probation means that if Buffalo Grove violates league rules again during that time, they can be hit with even tougher sanctions, up to and including

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Chase Ewoldt, 5, of Wheaton was recently chosen to be one of five national ambassadors for the St. Baldrick's Foundation. He was diagnosed with a rare brain and spinal cancer at age of 2.

Wheaton 5-year-old chosen to show child cancer difficulties

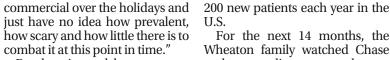
By JESSICA CILELLA jcilella@dailyherald.com

A few years ago, Bob and Ellie Ewoldt were much like the rest of us, in that they didn't know much about childhood cancer.

"I'm ashamed to say we were definitely part of that," Ellie says. "We would weep over a St. Jude's

Longtime **Daily Herald** sports writer and columnist Mike Spellman, who covered golf, horse racing, baseball, football and, most recently, the Blackhawks, died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack.

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But then, it struck home. In July 2012, their third child, Chase, was diagnosed with a rare, aggressive brain and spinal cancer at age 2 - a disease experts say is found in only about 100 to

For the next 14 months, the Wheaton family watched Chase endure grueling cancer therapy every two to three weeks. He was hospitalized more often than not. His chances for survival were

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How O'Hare took back the title of busiest U.S. airport

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Mike Spellman • 1964-2015

Versatile writer lit up the press box

BY JAKE GRIFFIN

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Anyone who ever met him has a Mike Spellman story.

There are the Christmas cards with his face expertly Photoshopped onto an Irish dancer's body. There was the time he stood up for a fellow reporter who was being chastised for "interrupting" another reporter's conversation with

Scottie Pippen. There's also the time he thought he was having a lengthy conversation with a stranger only to discover the stranger was talking on a Bluetooth device to someone else. And so on.

Using his affable, irreverent and gleefully self-deprecating wit, Spellman was able to disarm the biggest of the sports world's big cheeses as well as any irate

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In Sports

• Mike Imrem: All of us blessed to know him have a big hole in our hearts.

• Barry Rozner: We've been cheated of a friend who gave us a lot, professionally and personally.

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\$100 to a family that gives			
despite their own troubles			
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Cancer: 5-year-old 'the one who keeps it light'

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estimated at about 20 percent.

"Many of the awful, awful drugs Chase had were adult drugs that they're experimenting with in pediatric doses," Ellie said. "There are quite a few pediatric cancer treatments where the side effects border on barbaric because there are not advances in this area."

Luckily, the only two treatments known to cure Chase's cancer worked. In August 2013, there was no evidence of the disease.

"That was just a huge relief," Bob said.

Now, as they try to find their new normal, the family of six is working to educate others about pediatric cancer and the need for more research.

This month, they were presented with the perfect opportunity to do just that. Chase was named one of five ambassadors nationwide for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a group best known for getting volunteers to shave their heads as part of the serious business of raising funds to focus strictly on research for cures for childhood cancer.

"Our goal is to be able to share Chase's story and encourage where we can, and then step in kind of wherever they need us to," Ellie said. "That was in my heart all along - even before St. Baldrick's — to use our story to encourage other people."

'Love for life'

One in five children diagnosed with cancer in the U.S.

will not survive. Additionally. more than 80 percent of survivors will suffer from severe or life-threatening conditions from the cancer treatment.

For instance, Chase developed sores down his throat and into his stomach from the treatments, which prevented him from eating solid foods for about 16 months.

Doctors also say Chase's spine will never fully develop due to the radiation treatments, and that will give him the appearance of having abnormally long arms and legs.

"To a certain extent we'll never know what damage the tumor caused, what damage treatment caused, and radiation came at a neurological price as well," Ellie said. "We found we were often in these situations where treatment might kill him, but the cancer surely will."

On one of the roughest days, Ellie recalls walking from the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago to Lake Michigan and taking a moment to read from the book of Psalms.

"I just remember feeling so weighed down," she said. "I remember praying and asking God if I was going to need to let go of my son and to help me do that if it comes to that." Life is a lot different now.

On a recent afternoon, Chase and his brothers keep talking over each other, trying to get Mom's attention. One minute they're seated at the kitchen table, coloring pictures with crayons. The next moment they're running after each other and shrieking.



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Watch the video: "I'm a survivor," says Chase Ewoldt, 5, of Wheaton with his mom, Ellie, Together they explain his ambassadorship at dailyherald.com/more.

make silly faces at each other, then short bursts of tears over who gets to play with a favorite toy.

It's chaotic, but to Ellie and Bob it's perfect — especially because Chase is right in the middle of it all, keeping up with his brothers and enjoying every minute with them.

"He has this love for life that the cancer didn't change for him," Ellie said.

Need for funding

The Ewoldts' involvement with St. Baldrick's is very personal.

Shortly after Chase was diagnosed with cancer, his pediatric neuro oncologist, Dr. Rishi Lulla, received nearly \$100,000 from the foundation to research pediatric brain tumors.

Blood, urine and spinal fluid samples from Chase's routine tests have been used There's laughter as they in Lulla's study, which is

examining biomarkers in pediatric patients with brain and spinal cord tumors.

Such work, Lulla said, "could not be done without their support. We really rely on organizations like St. Baldrick's and others to help us do this."

According to the St. Baldrick's Foundation, childhood cancer research funding accounts for less than 4 percent of all cancer research funding provided by the federal government.

Last year, the foundation donated more than \$27 million to research. Since its inception in 2005, the foundation has provided \$100 million in childhood cancer research grants.

While many other cancer organizations fund patient support groups, transportation to treatment, places for families to stay during hospital visits and programs to help patients look and

feel better, St. Baldrick's is focused solely on childhood cancer research.

"They're putting money into the hands of doctors," Ellie said. "That directness is of great importance."

Lulla said in the last 20 years there have been "relatively few" drugs designed specifically for pediatric cancer, partly because there is reluctance to develop expensive new drugs that would help only a small percentage of the population.

Still, Lulla said he is optimistic because doctors' understanding of pediatric tumors is increasing, and he hopes as they learn more they'll be able to partner with drug companies more.

'Moment by moment'

St. Baldrick's gets a lot of publicity about its head-shaving events, but the Ewoldts want people to know there are plenty of other ways to raise money.

"I've actually talked with people before who said, 'Oh, I could never be involved in that because I really don't want to shave my head,"" Ellie said. "You don't have to shave your head in order to be involved in this."

Still, the Ewoldts hope to take Chase to some local head-shaving events this year so he can put a face to the cause.

"When people see Chase, can even touch his head and hear his stories, hopefully that will make it very real to them, what they're doing," Ellie said.

"Research can sound very

clinical, and it can just be very out there and appear very cold, but we can put flesh and blood to the research with someone like Chase," she added.

Lulla said Chase was a great fit to be a St. Baldrick's ambassador.

"He's such a charismatic person, it's hard to not be interested in him," Lulla said.

In the last three years, Lulla said he saw Chase through "a lot of ups and a lot of really, really bad downs," but even in the intensive care unit he managed to crack a bit of a smile.

"He actually is the one who keeps it light for everyone," Lulla said.

Despite the good news of August 2013, Chase may not be completely out of the woods. Some of his latest MRI results showed several growths forming slowly in the original tumor bed in his brain.

"We walk into every MRI wondering, 'Is this the moment that we're going to have to restart treatment?' or 'Are there even treatments that can be used?" Ellie said. "There's a large question mark in front of us."

For now, however, the family is living "moment by moment" and thinking about what they can do to advance awareness for childhood cancer research in the next year.

Chase just keeps smiling.

"I'm a survivor," he says from his mom's lap.

Ellie nods in agreement. "He's in great shape," she

said. "We're just blessed in our today, and that's all we have."