



Champaign Unit 4 School District
502 W. Windsor St.
Champaign, IL 61820
Contact: John Lyday, 217-531-0254

News Release

DATE: June 25, 2020

Unit 4 Board of Education unanimously approves resolution declaring racism is a public health crisis

Resolution states the Board's commitment to establishing, supporting and sustaining a culture of anti-racism districtwide

The resolution was approved on a 7 to 0 vote at a Special Board of Education meeting held on June 24, 2020. All seven Board members voted in favor of adopting the resolution.

Board President Amy Armstrong thanked Board members for their swift and unanimous work in adopting the resolution. "Collectively this whole board has such incredible strengths and we are united in our shared commitment to serve our students," said Armstrong. "I learn so much from each of you and I appreciate your hard work and commitment as Board members. Special thanks to Board members Dr. Gianina Baker, Bruce Brown, Elizabeth Sotiropoulos, and Heather Vazquez for their leadership on this important resolution."

Board Vice President Dr. Gianina Baker said "The Board recognizes that this is an urgent matter and needs to happen now. I hope this is a start in building trust especially with our black community and within ourselves, our teachers, our colleagues, and our staff."

Video of the Board meeting, including the many public comments that were made before the Board acted on the resolution, can be viewed at <https://www.champaignschools.org/board/BoardVideos>.

The full text of the resolution can be viewed at https://www.champaignschools.org/board/AntiRacism_Resolution.



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News Release

DATE: Feb. 20, 2020

Champaign Unit 4 School District has released its 2019 Annual Report in a hybrid print and electronic format

“An Annual Report has been a District tradition for many years. In the past, a print copy of the report was mailed to every household in the District. In today’s electronic world, many people prefer to receive information via smartphones, tablets and PCs,” said Board of Education President Amy Armstrong. “Accordingly, we transitioned this report to a hybrid print/electronic means of production and delivery.”

Print copies of the report are available to anyone who requests one. In addition, the District is placing print copies in high-traffic public locations like libraries and community centers. To request a print copy of the report, contact the Unit 4 Communications Department by phone (217-531-0255) or email at comms@u4sd.org.

“The electronic report has several advantages over the printed edition. The electronic version contains numerous links that allow readers to learn more about a particular story that interests them, said Superintendent Dr. Susan Zola. “Also, the cost of producing the electronic report is a fraction of the cost of printing and mailing a printed copy to all households.”

The annual report has three feature sections:

- The opening section addresses enrollment growth in Unit 4 and some of the District’s current initiatives including the strategic planning process that will be completed by late spring 2020, and the redesign of the District’s website that will go live in July of 2020.
- The “Building for the Future” section highlights the renovation and new construction projects that were approved by Unit 4 voters in 2016. These improvements will modernize our facilities and provide improved learning opportunities for our students.
- The “Education Equity Excellence” section features examples of the District’s strong commitment to academic achievement for all students. This includes fostering a culture of high expectations for all students, focusing efforts to close the achievement gap, and supporting efforts to address disparities in student discipline.

Along with the English version, the report is also available in Spanish and French.



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News Release

DATE: April 15, 2019

Unit 4's Building Projects website gets user-friendly refresh

Champaign Unit 4 School District has debuted a significant update to the Building Projects website (<https://referendumprojects.champaignschools.org>) that provides information about ongoing construction projects underway in Unit 4.

“The Building Projects website was always intended to be a one-stop-shop for news and updates about the construction program but we frequently heard concerns that it was difficult to navigate,” said Board of Education President Chris Kloeppel. “The website has been enhanced with a streamlined navigation system, a user-friendly homepage and a special section for road closures and service disruptions. We believe these changes will allow people to find the information they are looking for quickly and easily.”

As with the previous version of the site, visitors can submit a question and sign up to receive construction updates by email. There are also photos, design plans, project schedules and an enhanced archive and calendar. Presentations made at Board of Education meetings are posted with slides used at the meeting and a link to a TV replay of the meeting so viewers can see the presentation and Board discussion.

Unit 4 Superintendent Dr. Susan Zola noted that the refresh of the Building Projects website is the first step in improving Unit 4's overall web presence. “The structure and appearance of the district's website has remained much the same for many years. It is time for a complete update and we are working to redesign and rebuild the entire website,” said Dr. Zola. “This will be a complex project that could take a year or so to complete but we are committed to making our entire website easier to navigate and more user-friendly.”



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 13, 2016

MORTON COMMUNITY BANK OPENS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA LENDING CENTER

VETERAN CENTRAL ILLINOIS BANKER HIRED TO LEAD THE OFFICE

Veteran Central Illinois banker Leon Hinton has joined Morton Community Bank as Market President for Champaign-Urbana. Hinton will be based at the Lending Center the Bank has opened at 301 N. Neil Street, Suite 105, in downtown Champaign.

“Leon knows the Champaign-Urbana market extremely well,” said Bob Dittmer, Group President and Chief Lending Officer of Morton Community Bank. “He was a Senior Vice President at a regional bank headquartered in the market for almost 17 years and, most recently, served at President and COO at another Central Illinois bank.”

Dittmer noted that while the lending center is new, Morton Community Bank has been doing business in the Champaign-Urbana area for many years. “We already have a substantial business lending portfolio in this market and we see great potential to increase our service in the Champaign-Urbana area. Leon will be assembling a talented team of colleagues to accomplish this goal,” said Dittmer.

“I am truly excited to be able to work with my Champaign-Urbana clients again representing a customer focused, responsive, strong bank,” said Hinton. “Customers prefer working with a bank that employs local people who know the community, are active in it, and can use their community knowledge to make sound lending decisions.”

Morton Community Bank and its Hometown Community Banks’ divisions with 38 locations offer comprehensive banking services for both business and personal clients. For more information, visit www.hometownbanks.com.

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Morton Community Bank, Member FDIC
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 11, 2016

TITANIC EXHIBIT PREVIEWS ON DISPLAY AT MORTON AND EAST PEORIA HOMETOWN COMMUNITY BANKS' LOCATIONS

PREVIEWS FEATURE REPRODUCTIONS OF EXHIBIT ARTIFACTS

'*Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition*' opens in late fall at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Previews of the exhibit are on display now at Morton Community Bank's Main Bank on Jackson Street in Morton and at Fondulac Bank on Clock Tower Drive in East Peoria.

"We are pleased and honored that this exciting exhibit is being presented by Hometown Community Banks," said Jean Ann Honegger, Co-CEO and Group President of Morton Community Bank. "Even though the Titanic sank more than 100 years ago, people are still fascinated with the history of the 'unsinkable ship.' The stories of those who perished and those who survived remain compelling to this day."

"Because the artifacts in the museum exhibit are priceless, the objects in the previews are reproductions," said Bruce Huber, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Morton Community Bank. "The full museum exhibit will consist of actual items salvaged from the wreckage. The museum display will focus on legendary human stories as told through artifacts and extensive room re-creations. Perfume from a maker who was traveling to New York to sell his samples, china etched with the logo of the elite White Star Line—these artifacts and many other authentic objects offer haunting, emotional connections to lives abruptly ended or forever altered."

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 11, 2016

MORTON COMMUNITY BANK COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF HERITAGE BANK OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

FORMER HERITAGE LOCATIONS RE-OPENED TODAY AS HOMETOWN COMMUNITY BANKS' BRANCHES

The previously announced merger between Morton Community Bank and Heritage Bank of Central Illinois was completed successfully over the weekend. The former Heritage Bank locations were closed on Saturday to facilitate the smooth integration of all operations. The locations reopened this morning as additional divisions of Morton Community Bank.

"This day is great for our customers, our employee-owners and our shareholders. Wherever our customers travel, they are not far from one of the 38 Hometown Community Banks' locations in Central and Western Illinois," said Jean Ann Honegger, Co-CEO and Group President of Morton Community Bank. "Customers now have access to convenient locations throughout the greater Peoria market, in Bloomington-Normal, in Macomb and at many other locations where they can conduct transactions as if they were in their hometown."

Jim Mamer, President and Co-CEO of Morton Community Bank, noted that the merger is good for business customers as well as consumers. "Commercial loans are vital to the growth and success of local businesses and economies. Our business customers will benefit from more lenders, additional industry knowledge and higher lending limits for business loans," said Mamer.

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TRIBUNE

Tribune Television Stations Will Air Commercial-Free Special on Oct. 13

“America’s Unsung Heroes” Will Feature Amazing Stories of Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things During Difficult Times

CHICAGO, Tue., Sept. 25, 2001 – On Saturday, Oct. 13, the 23 television stations owned by Tribune Company (NYSE:TRB) will air a commercial-free one-hour prime-time special titled “America’s Unsung Heroes.”

“Since the terrorist attacks on America, the news has been filled with stories of grief and suffering. Amidst the tragedy, there were amazing stories of hope, courage and amazing grace,” said Patrick Mullen, President, Tribune Television. “This inspirational special will tell the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things during these difficult times.”

Veteran newscaster Steve Ramsey, Vice President/News Operations for Tribune Television, and award-winning producer Janet Carol Richardson developed numerous poignant and uplifting stories from the heart of the September 11 tragedy in New York and Washington D.C.

Mullen noted that the special is another example of Tribune’s commitment to the communities it serves. Earlier this month, Tribune Company and the McCormick Tribune Foundation announced that they have established a nationwide Disaster Relief Fund that will assist emergency service agencies helping the victims of Sept. 11’s tragic events. The McCormick Tribune Foundation will contribute \$2.5 million in matching funds to the effort.

Tribune is one of the country's premier media companies, operating businesses in broadcasting, publishing and on the Internet. It reaches more than 80 percent of U.S. households, and is the only media company with television stations, newspapers and Web sites in the nation's top three markets.

Tribune Broadcasting owns and operates 23 major market television stations, including national superstation WGN-TV, and reaches more than 80 percent of U.S. television households. The company has interests in The WB Television Network (25%) and TV Food Network (29%). Tribune also owns and operates four radio stations, including WGN-AM in Chicago and three stations in Denver. Tribune Entertainment develops and distributes first-run television programming for the Tribune station group and for national syndication. In addition, the company owns the Chicago Cubs baseball team.

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TRIBUNE TO CREATE FIRST ALL-DIGITAL STUDIO IN UNITED STATES
Tribune Studios formed on historic Hollywood/KTLA location

LOS ANGELES/CHICAGO, February 21, 2001 – Tribune Company (NYSE: TRB) will thoroughly renovate and modernize one of Hollywood’s most historic locations, the 10-acre KTLA studio lot, located at 5800 Sunset Boulevard, making it the first all-digital studio lot in the United States. The formation of Tribune Studios recognizes the exploding demand for state-of-the-art digital production facilities from the Hollywood creative community.

The project will convert six sound stages, totaling more than 70,000 square feet, to full digital capabilities. All stages will feature Sony digital cameras, recording facilities and control rooms. Tribune Studios, scheduled to be online in second quarter 2001, will provide full, cutting-edge pre-production and production services for the creation of film, television and new media content.

Dick Askin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Tribune Entertainment, will supervise the initiative, with Tribune Entertainment assuming oversight and management of Tribune Studios.

“Dick’s stewardship of Tribune Entertainment has resulted in significant growth of the company over the last several years. It is an integral component of Tribune Broadcasting’s success, and he and his team are the ideal people to lead this initiative,” said Dennis FitzSimons, Tribune Executive Vice President.

As part of the renovation, Tribune Entertainment will fully remodel “Tara,” the landmark 60,000 square foot white colonial building on Sunset Blvd that was built in 1923 to serve as headquarters to Jack and Sam Warner’s Warner Bros. Pictures. Once completed, the building will become the corporate headquarters of Tribune Entertainment and provide extensive production office space for Tribune Studios tenants and projects being produced on the lot.

“This lot dates back to the infancy of the entertainment industry when Warner Bros. called it home. The lot has witnessed many pioneering developments in production,” Askin said. “This renovation will upgrade the entire lot to house state-of-the-art digital facilities for the production of film and television.”

The initiative will also provide extensive landscape upgrades and attractive signage on the lot’s buildings bordering North Bronson Avenue, North Van Ness Avenue and Sunset Boulevard. The signage will promote Tribune Entertainment programs as well as other projects housed at

(more...)

Tribune Studios. Future enhancements to Tribune Studios will include the construction of several new buildings, including a parking structure to house increased vehicle traffic.

George NeJame, Tribune Entertainment's newly named vice president of production and operations, will serve as the primary liaison with the production community on behalf of Tribune Studios.

TRIBUNE (NYSE:TRB) is one of the country's premier media companies, operating businesses in broadcasting, publishing and on the Internet. It reaches nearly 80 percent of U.S. households on a daily basis, and is the only media company with television stations, newspapers and Web sites in the nation's top three markets. Tribune's annual revenues total \$6 billion and the company employs more than 24,000 people nationwide.

Tribune Broadcasting owns and operates 22 major market television stations, including national superstation WGN. Tribune reaches about 80 percent of U.S. television households, including cable and satellite coverage, and owns minority interests in The WB Television Network and the TV Food Network. Tribune also owns and operates four radio stations, including three stations in Denver and WGN-AM in Chicago. In addition, the company owns the Chicago Cubs baseball team.

Tribune Entertainment Company, a subsidiary of Tribune Broadcasting Company, is involved in the production and distribution of an extensive slate of programming, including the weekly action/adventure hours "Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda," starring Kevin Sorbo, "Gene Roddenberry's Earth: Final Conflict," "BeastMaster;" the weekly "Soul Train" series, as well as numerous telefilms and television specials. Currently, Tribune Entertainment is set to launch its new weekly action hour "Mutant X" and reality relationship strip "Talk or Walk" in fall 2001.

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TRIBUNE

TRIBUNE BROADCASTING NAMES BETTY ELLEN BERLAMINO VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER OF WPIX-TV, NEW YORK

CHICAGO, Fri., Dec. 8, 2000 – Betty Ellen Berlamino, vice president/station manager for WPIX-TV (WB11), New York, has been named vice president/general manager of the station. The appointment, effective immediately, was announced today by Michael Eigner, Tribune Television president.

“Betty Ellen is a natural leader with more than 12 years of major market broadcast experience,” said Eigner. “She brings a strong sales background, team approach and a proven ability to energize others to her new role as general manager.”

Berlamino served as vice president/station manager for WPIX-TV since February 1998. In that role, she oversaw the station’s sales, creative services, community affairs, local production, research, operations and Internet development departments. She also coordinated sales-related projects with the Tribune Television station group.

Berlamino was general sales manager for WPIX from 1994 to 1998 and local sales manager for Tribune’s KTLA-TV (WB5), Los Angeles, from 1988 to 1994. Prior to joining Tribune, she was an account executive for KCOP-TV (UPN13), Los Angeles, from 1980 to 1988. Berlamino, 41, holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Syracuse University in New York.

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More information on Tribune is available on the Internet at www.tribune.com. Earnings and other news releases also can be accessed by calling 1-800-757-1694.

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TRIBUNE

TRIBUNE BROADCASTING NAMES MICHAEL C. LABONIA VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER OF NEW ORLEANS STATIONS

CHICAGO, Mon., Feb. 28, 2000 – Michael C. LaBonia, vice president/general manager for WGNO-TV (ABC26), New Orleans, has added responsibility as general manager of WNOL-TV (WB38), New Orleans. The appointment was announced today by Peter S. Walker, group vice president/Tribune Television.

WNOL became part of the Tribune Television station group when Tribune Company recently acquired the remaining interest in Qwest Broadcasting.

LaBonia will be responsible for overseeing the operations at both stations, including the development and implementation of creative cross-programming and promotional initiatives.

“In his 13 years at WGNO, Mike has demonstrated leadership and in-depth knowledge of the New Orleans community that will help us strengthen programming on both stations in ways that benefit viewers and advertisers,” Walker said. “Mike has played a key role in overseeing the launch and increased viewership of WGNO’s local news programming, and as a sales executive, he played an important part in boosting revenue at the station. His track record at WGNO makes him an excellent choice to maximize operating efficiencies and revenues and to deepen our coverage in the market.”

LaBonia, 34, was named vice president/general manager of WGNO in 1999, after serving as acting general manager since 1998. Before that, he was general sales manager from 1993 to 1998. He joined WGNO in 1987, holding various sales positions at the station, until being named national sales manager in 1992. LaBonia holds a bachelor’s degree in communications from Loyola University of New Orleans.

Kathi Lester, WNOL’s current general manager, will remain at the station through the transition. “Kathi did an excellent job managing WGNO,” Walker said. “Under her leadership, the station became one of the nation’s top WB affiliates, and we look forward to having her continued guidance.”

Tribune (NYSE: TRB) is a leading media company with operations in television and radio broadcasting, publishing, education and interactive ventures. It is an industry leader in venture partnerships with new-media companies. In 2000, for the third straight year, Tribune ranked No. 1 among its industry peers in *Fortune* magazine’s list of most-admired companies in America.

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TRIBUNE

TRIBUNE COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF QWEST TELEVISION STATIONS IN ATLANTA AND NEW ORLEANS

CHICAGO, Mon., Feb. 7, 2000 – Tribune Company has completed its previously announced agreement to acquire the remaining interest in Qwest Broadcasting. As a result, Tribune now owns and operates WATL-TV (WB36), Atlanta, and WNOL-TV (WB38), New Orleans.

“Adding WATL means Tribune now owns television stations in 10 of the top 12 markets,” Dennis FitzSimons, Tribune Broadcasting president, said. “WNOL joins WGNO (ABC26) as Tribune’s second station in New Orleans. Owning two stations in the market will enable us to strengthen programming on both stations, serve the New Orleans community better and maximize operating efficiencies and revenues.”

In addition to owning two stations in New Orleans, Tribune has two stations in Seattle. The company recently reassumed ownership of KTWB-TV (WB22), which had been placed in a trust when Tribune acquired KCPQ-TV (FOX13). Seattle is the nation’s No. 12 market, Atlanta is No. 10 and New Orleans is No. 41.

Tribune now owns and operates 22 television stations, 15 affiliated with The WB, six affiliated with Fox and one affiliated with ABC.

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