



# 'Mirror Mirror'



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# Chicago Tribune



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FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Dr. Ted Siegel, right, opens a Northwest Side dental office to patients on a day of free care. Many others, lacking insurance and often stretched financially, are forced to turn to hospital emergency rooms for even routine dental problems.

## Emanuel's rebuilding plan price: \$7 billion

Mayor's public-private rent-to-own proposal still short on the details

BY JOHN BYRNE AND JON HILKEVITCH  
Tribune reporters

Unveiling a plan for "Building a New Chicago," Mayor Rahm Emanuel on Thursday promoted a package of infrastructure initiatives that included very little that was new — except for its \$7 billion price tag and its ambitious framing as a mission comparable to the city's rebuilding after the Great Chicago Fire.

Emanuel told a crowd of labor leaders, aldermen and top aides that his plan would set "the foundations for Chicago to be a leader in the global revolution of ideas and innovation" in the 21st century.

Aldermen said Emanuel's speech at the Chicago-Laborers' Training and Apprenticeship Center on the West Side was aimed at convincing businesses of his commitment to boost the local economy through new work on roads, transit and public buildings, and also to persuade the City Council to pass his plan for a privately funded Infrastructure Trust to finance major projects.

"The Chicago Infrastruc-



ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE

Mayor Rahm Emanuel prepares to announce his \$7 billion public-private infrastructure plan Thursday.

ture Trust provides us with the breakout strategy we need to make the investments we need so we can take control of our destiny," Emanuel said.

The trust's concept of a public-private partnership has raised the suspicions of some Chicagoans who remain upset over the 2008 lease of the city's parking meters, which was one of the most unpopular initiatives of Mayor Richard Daley's later years as mayor.

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## Emergency room visits on the rise — for toothaches

Tough times fuel alarming dental trend

TOOTH EXTRACTION UNDER MEDICAID

**\$57**

At a dentist's office

**\$400**

At an emergency room

**48%**

Emergency room visits for preventable dental problems in 2009 in Illinois

BY BONNIE MILLER RUBIN  
Tribune reporter

Meredith Postlewaite's mouth throbbed constantly, but self-employed and without dental insurance, she had few options.

"I couldn't sleep, couldn't eat. ... I was living on Tylenol and Advil," said the 27-year-old landscaper. But there were times the Markham woman surrendered to the pain, seeking relief at the closest emergency room, at Oak Forest Hospital. "I'd get a prescription, but as soon as the meds wore off, I'd be right back where I started."

Since the economic



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Dentist Cary Goldberg and aide Vonnie Poppell extract a wisdom tooth during a Flossmoor office's free-care day.

downturn, patients such as Postlewaite have had little reason to smile. Some 130 million Americans have no dental insurance, and along with strained finances, there's not much left over for oral care, say advocates.

Moreover, with fewer dentists willing to treat Medicaid patients, including only 10 percent of dentists in Illinois, people are increasingly turning to hospital emergency rooms for routine dental problems at nearly 10 times the cost, according to a recent

report released by the Pew Center on the States.

"It's really penny-wise and pound-foolish," said Shelly Gehshan, director for Pew Children's Dental Campaign, which analyzed federal and hospital data. "States think they're saving money by cutting Medicaid, but they just end up spending more on the expensive side and don't even fix the problem."

Nationwide, the number of dental-related visits to

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## Rivals steer right for Wisconsin primary

Bid to recall GOP governor over labor rift colors contest

BY MICHAEL FINNEGAN  
Tribune Newspapers

FOND DU LAC, Wis. — For Republicans, Wisconsin and its embattled governor have come to symbolize the danger of lurching too far to the right in a presidential battleground state. Now the party's top White House contenders run the risk of making the same stumble as Tuesday's

primary nears.

Rick Santorum has traveled the state railing against Mitt Romney for his health care record as governor of Massachusetts, heaping scorn on the requirement that religious-affiliated institutions cover contraception in their medical plans for employees.

"He put a mandate on Catholic hospitals, under Romneycare, that they had to provide the morning-after pill, which as you know is an abortifacient," Santorum told supporters



at a bowling alley here along Lake Winnebago. "He also provided \$50 abortions — subsidized abortions. And for low-income individuals, free abortions. Under Romneycare — exactly what President (Barack) Obama is doing."

Romney, in turn, has made public funding of contraception a line of attack against Santorum.

"In the Senate, Rick

Santorum voted for Planned Parenthood," an announcer says in the opening line of a Romney ad airing this week in Milwaukee.

The prominence of divisive social issues — rather than a focus on jobs and the economy — in the race for the Republican presidential nomination has delighted Democrats looking ahead to November.

They hope that Republican scuffles over birth control will turn off inde-

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WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE PHOTO

**Morgan Tuck is Ms. Basketball**  
She aims high at Bolingbrook. **Chicago Sports**

**House tackles pension loophole**  
Measure would curtail rising costs. **Chicagoland**

**Apple supplier vows labor fixes**  
Violations found at Chinese factories. **Business**



**The future of snacks**  
Kraft marketing chief Mary Beth West is ready to take on the world with edgier campaigns. **Business**



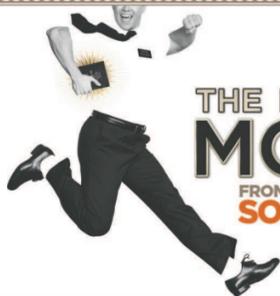
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