

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Dem PAC shifts its cash amid fines

All for Justice faces one of biggest state election board fines — despite transfer

By Rick Pearson and Jeremy Gorner
Chicago Tribune

A political committee that helped expand the Democratic majority on the Illinois Supreme Court and was backed by Illinois Senate President Don Harmon emptied its bank account just

weeks after being notified it faced one of the largest state election fines ever for failing to timely disclose millions of dollars it spent until after last November's election. On Tuesday, the State Board of Elections issued a final order assessing \$99,500 in fines against the All for Justice political action

committee. The action followed a Tribune story earlier this year detailing the PAC's reporting deficiencies as it spent more than \$7.3 million on independent expenditures supporting Democratic Justices Elizabeth Rochford and Mary Kay O'Brien, both of whom won their campaigns and increased the court's Democratic majority to 5-2 from a previous 4-3 advantage. All for Justice was notified Aug. 3 by the state elections board it

would be fined for 35 specific violations of failing to timely disclose to the public its spending on behalf of Rochford and O'Brien in the crucial closing months before the November 2022 election. The PAC was given 30 days to appeal or seek a reduction in the fines, but did not do so. Instead, on Aug. 31, it transferred its remaining cash balance of \$149,516 to another independent expenditure committee, Chicago Independent Alliance, a PAC that has been dormant since

July 2019, six months after it was created. All for Justice and the Chicago Independent Alliance share the same Chicago address as the Andreou & Casson law firm. Documents filed with the state elections board show Luke Casson, a founding partner of the law firm, as chair and treasurer of All for Justice. On his previous LinkedIn profile, which is no longer active, Casson

Turn to Fines, Page 6



Travelers Aid service desk volunteer Jon Ziomek assists people at O'Hare International Airport. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

VOLUNTEERS STAFF INFO DESKS AT O'HARE

Travelers Aid Chicago workers provide directions, tips to travelers

By Christopher Borrelli | Chicago Tribune

The holidays are stressful, but it could be worse. You could work in an airport. In one of the busiest airports in the world. For free. You could work in an airport for free and sit for five hours a day wearing a blue vest and invite strangers — bring me your tired, your hungry, your flight-delayed, your missed connections, your abusive, your entitled, your perpetually turned-around, your extremely frustrated, your actual refugees seeking asylum — to complain to you, to ask countless questions, to ensure their trajectory. For no money. You could do this because you are a good person who wishes to experience the satisfaction of being helpful in an unhelpful environment. You could work at an information desk at O'Hare International Airport.

More than 2 million passengers pass through O'Hare Thanksgiving week alone, a confusing place even if you visit regularly. Not McCormick Place confusing. (Nowhere else in Chicago is *that* confusing.)

Finding help is not quite finding-an-employee-at-Home-Depot difficult. But it often seems easier to find a Nuts on Clark at O'Hare than a person with answers. This is where the saints of the infor-

mation desk come in. They are the 125 volunteers of Travelers Aid Chicago. They have been at O'Hare since it first opened to commercial traffic in 1955, and from what I could tell by spending time with them, you've never given them a second thought. You take them for granted. You barely notice them, but they can tell you the number of Nuts on Clark at O'Hare (four) *and* what to do if you've been stranded at O'Hare without a passport. They'll tell you where to take a service dog that needs to poop and can offer decent directions to the Blue Line. They bill themselves as "the oldest nonsectarian social welfare movement in America," but their constituents are swaggering tech bros and people who have never been to an airport, business owners and military vets, travelers with

Turn to O'Hare, Page 4

Burke trial refocuses on Burger King deal

Entrepreneur testifies about ex-alderman's alleged corruption

By Jason Meisner, Ray Long and Megan Crepeau
Chicago Tribune

The owner of a Burger King in then-Ald. Edward Burke's Southwest Side ward told a federal jury Tuesday he agreed to hire the powerful Democrat's property tax law firm to get the alderman to lift roadblocks to remodeling his restaurant and also sent a political donation to support Burke's candidacy for mayor. The long-awaited testimony of Shoukat Dhanani, CEO of the Texas-based company that owns about 150 Burger Kings in the Chicago area, struck at the heart of the corruption allegations against Burke, who is accused of using his official position to extract private legal business from developers. Through Dhanani's account, as well as in emails and wiretapped calls, prosecutors painted a picture

Turn to Trial, Page 5

Israel Cabinet approves a cease-fire deal

Hamas to free 50 of some 240 hostages being held in Gaza

By Josef Federman and Jack Jeffery
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's Cabinet on Wednesday approved a cease-fire deal with the Hamas militant group that would bring a temporary halt to a devastating war that has stretched on for over six weeks and release dozens of hostages being held in the Gaza Strip in exchange for Palestinians in Israeli prisons. Under the deal, Hamas is to free 50 of the roughly 240 hostages it is holding in the Gaza Strip over a four-day period, the Israeli government said Wednesday. It said it would extend the lull by an additional day for every 10 hostages released. The government said the first hostages to be released would be women and children. Ahead of Wednesday morning's

Turn to War, Page 12

A little patience may be needed for taproom

Guinness Open Gate Brewery in the Fulton Market neighborhood of Chicago pours brilliant beer made with corn but needs some time to settle. **Food & Health**

Chicago sports fans not feeling too thankful

For Chicago's five legacy sports franchises, home cooking in 2023 has left their fans feeling sick to their stomach. **Paul Sullivan in Chicago Sports**



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 46 Low 34

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
176th year No. 326 © Chicago Tribune



Prices good only at all Chicagoland Jewel-Osco stores. OFFERS VALID 11/22/23 - 11/23/23

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND AND THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

TURKEY PRICE GUARANTEE

WE WILL MATCH THE PRICE SEE IN-STORE FOR DETAILS

Jennie-O Frozen Whole Turkeys 10-26 lbs. Limit 1 with \$25 minimum purchase

59¢ lb.

Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillets or Waterfront Bistro 31-40 ct. EZ Peel Raw Shrimp

6.99 lb. Limit 10 lbs.

Broccoli Crowns, Russet Baking Potatoes or Red Onions by the lb. or Celery or Seedless Cucumbers by the each

99¢

ICE MOUNT

BUY-1-GET-1 FREE

Ice Mountain Water 24 pk., 16.9 oz.