

# CHICAGOANS OF THE YEAR

The people who stood out in the past year or made a difference in their respective genres.



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2005

**MIKE NUSSBAUM**  
1923-2023

## Oldest working actor, Chicago icon

Mike Nussbaum, a dynamic and steady influence in Chicago theater, died Saturday at age 99. Until his final week, he had been participating in dramatic readings and other projects. **Page 16**

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# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



## Some migrants finding comfort living outdoors

Settlements can offer more cultural familiarity than uncertainty of shelters

By **Laura Rodríguez Presa** | Chicago Tribune

Even after being offered a bed in a city-run shelter multiple times since getting to Chicago from Ecuador in September, Jeancarlos Bosquez refused to take it. Instead, the 25-year-old and his friends, two migrants from Venezuela, got a tent big enough for all three of them, fortified it with wood sticks, wrapped it in a tarp to protect it from the rain and cold, and put carpet on the ground. They also added a microwave and a small fridge, making it their home outside of the Englewood District (7th) police station.

Most mornings they would get up early and make coffee on a small electric stove they connected to an outlet outside the station. And other times, they would cook lunch and dinner on an old grill.

“*Estabamos bien ahí.* We were doing fine there,” Bosquez said on a recent December morning.

“If it wasn’t for the cold, we wouldn’t mind living there all the time,” he said.

But the cold hit, and the city stepped up its efforts to get migrants into shelters, fueled by advocates’ calls for more dignified treatment of migrants. But many migrants like Bosquez, who had created a community outside some of the stations, and even in parks, felt displaced and unheard.

They wanted to stay.

Some migrants have left city shelters despite the cold, returning to police stations or spaces where they know that the tent community infrastructure remains. Many say that conditions inside shelters are dire and dangerous and that they prefer to brave the cold, noting rules that do not provide them a viable way out

**Turn to Migrants, Page 2**

**Above:** Bryan Figueroa cooks steak at a tent encampment in a field next to the Near West District (12th) police station in the Little Italy neighborhood on Dec. 8. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Burke’s epic fall ends era of power

Guilty verdicts stand out in long arc of City Council crooks

By **Ray Long, Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau**  
Chicago Tribune

Generations of Chicagoans accustomed to grimy politics might view former Ald. Ed Burke’s federal racketeering conviction last week as just another case in a long conga line of crooked aldermen.

But Burke was an undisputed Democratic kingpin. He not only set a record for serving 54 years in the City Council, but he departed in May as the last alderman who rose to power in the era of Mayor Richard J. Daley’s vaunted Democratic machine.

And, as such, his downfall will reverberate in City Hall history.



Burke

Days after a federal jury convicted Burke on all but one of the 14 counts against him, friends and foes alike remained stunned that Burke, who once was viewed as untouchable, is now a convicted felon. Found guilty by a jury of using his public position to leverage property tax appeal business for his law firm, Burke, who turns 80 on Friday, is looking at a potentially long term in prison.

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### INSIDE



**BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## A look at Fields’ full body of work

In three seasons, Bears QB Justin Fields hasn’t lived up to his potential. Some starts were wows, some were meh and a few were outright flops. The Tribune ranks them from 1 to 35. **Chicago Sports**

## Striving for health equity in Chicago

A new campaign aims to turn the tide on maternal mortality in Chicago’s Black community.

**Perfect day trip:** Marin Headlands in Calif. a wild frontier near the city.

**Stories in Life+Travel**

### TODAY’S WEATHER

High **56**  
Low **49**



Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 22

\$5.75 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
176th year No. 358  
© Chicago Tribune



## From Evergreen Park to Ariz. Senate candidate

Ruben Gallego rises from ‘hard time’ growing up to seek higher office

By **Rick Pearson**  
Chicago Tribune

As Ruben Gallego retraced the daily walk he made a quarter century ago from the small first-floor Pulaski Road apartment he shared with his mother and three sisters to Evergreen Park Community High School, the memories of a sometimes difficult childhood came back quickly.

There were the taunts and bullying he endured as a kid from one of the first Latino families to move into the community. There was the juggling act of taking his younger siblings to school and back while his mother, Elisa, worked as a secretary, and the odd jobs he held to help the family make ends meet.

And there were the times he recalled “hearing my mom crying just because of the stress that she was dealing with.”

Sleeping on the floor because there was no money for bedding, “I just remember it being the



U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., visits his childhood home on South Pulaski Road in Evergreen Park on Nov. 22. Gallego is running to be the junior senator from Arizona. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

**“I’ve never really fit in anywhere. I think that’s what makes me very comfortable in walking into every room — which is a good thing.”**

— U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, who is running for U.S. Senate in Arizona

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