

Chicago Tribune



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

Ex-aide issues Trump warning

Chief of staff under former president says GOP nominee praises Hitler, fits definition of fascist

By Dan Merica
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kamala Harris said Wednesday that recently reported comments Donald Trump made to his

longest-serving chief of staff offer a window into who the former president “really is” and the kind of commander in chief he would be. In interviews with The New York Times and The Atlantic published Tuesday, John Kelly

warned that the Republican nominee meets the definition of a fascist and that while in office he suggested that Nazi leader Adolf Hitler “did some good things.” Harris repeated her increasingly dire warnings about Trump’s mental fitness and his intentions for the presidency. “This is a window into who Donald Trump really is, from the

people who know him best, from the people who have worked with him side by side in the Oval Office and in the Situation Room,” Harris told reporters outside the vice president’s residence in Washington. The comments from Kelly, the retired Marine general who worked for Trump in the White House from 2017 to 2019, build

on past warnings from former top Trump officials as the election enters its final two weeks. Kelly has long been critical of Trump and previously accused him of calling veterans killed in combat “suckers” and “losers.” His new warnings emerged as Trump seeks a second term vowing to

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Stepping into Springfield power vacuum left by Madigan resignation, Local 150 aims to promote clean energy and protect jobs, efforts that often end up at odds



Jeremiah Jamrosz, Local 150 of the International Union of Operating Engineers member and third-year student in the Apprenticeship and Skill Improvement Program, sits in a compactor at the William E. Dugan Training Center in Wilmington on Sept. 20. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Laboring their points

By John Lippert
Chicago Tribune

When environmental groups asked the Illinois Pollution Control Board to impose a California-style mandate for electric cars and trucks, the primary legal pushback didn’t come from traditional foes such as ExxonMobil. It came from within the inner sanctum of the Illinois Democratic Party. In a counterstrike, Local 150 of the International Union of Operating Engineers filed a motion in August to dismiss the electric vehicle petition. Environmentalists should make their case in the legislature instead, the union said. The pollution board, meanwhile, scheduled public hearings for December. Mandating electric vehicles too soon, according to Local 150

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Marc Poulos, left, and James Sweeney, of Local 150, are shown at their training center in Wilmington on Oct. 3. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

MICHAEL MADIGAN TRIAL

Feds start laying out bribery evidence

ComEd VP: Utility in dire straits before courting the speaker

By Jason Meisner,
Megan Crepeau
and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

A ComEd vice president testified Wednesday in the corruption trial of former House Speaker Michael Madigan that the utility giant was in severe financial straits leading up to its all-out effort to gain support in Springfield for two major pieces of legislation that brought the company from the brink of bankruptcy. The company’s financial condition was “dire” before lawmakers managed to get key bills passed in 2011 and 2016, Scott Vogt, currently ComEd’s vice president of strategy and energy policy, told jurors. And Madigan was crucial to getting those bills through the House, both in committees and for a full vote, he said. “He controlled to a large degree what bills were going to make it to the floor, make it to committee,” Vogt said. Vogt’s testimony marks the beginning of the prosecution’s evidence related to an alleged ComEd bribery scheme, the largest and most complicated part of the charges against Madigan. The allegations are nearly identical to those in the “ComEd Four” bribery case, which went to trial last year and resulted in sweeping guilty verdicts against former ComEd executives and lobbyists, including Madigan’s co-defendant, Michael McClain. So far, prosecutors have rolled out the same early witnesses as in the ComEd Four case, including former state legislators Carol Sente and Scott Drury, who gave the jury an overview of the machinations of Springfield and the power that Madigan had over

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Looking to take a bite out of Apple

Google set to open its first Chicago-area store at Oakbrook Center for tech-savvy, Luddites alike

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

The Thompson Center isn’t the only slice of Chicago real estate where Google is staking new ground. The tech giant is opening its first bricks-and-mortar Google Store in the Midwest and its fifth overall next week at Oakbrook Center, offering shoppers a chance to test drive everything from new AI-en-

hanced Pixel phones to tablets and Fitbit trackers. It may be an opportunity for Google, still a relatively small smartphone player, to take a bite out of Apple, whose ubiquitous stores have helped secure its spot as the dominant market leader in the U.S. “We don’t see ourselves as trying to directly compete with Apple Stores,” said Mike Camacho, the Chicago-based head of

stores for Google. “I think what we are doing, though, is adopting a model where we introduce the technology in a physical space. Obviously, I think it’s hard to deny the similarities.” While Google is the leading search engine in the world, its Android-powered devices lag far behind rival Apple in the smartphone business. Apple’s iPhone accounts for more than half of all smartphone sales in the U.S., while Google’s share of the market is less than 5%, according to data from

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Shoppers walk by the soon-to-open Google Store in Oak Brook on Wednesday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

