

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

MICHAEL MADIGAN TRIAL

Quid pro quo question looms large

Focus will be on three taboo words as proceedings get underway this week for former House speaker

By Jason Meisner, Megan Crepeau and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

Chicago Ald. Daniel Solis was a year into his stunning turn as an FBI mole when he allegedly called up the most powerful politician in Illinois and floated three

little words that are virtually taboo in the state's political lexicon. Quid pro quo. With the feds listening in, Solis told then-House Speaker Michael Madigan, their prime investigative target, that the developers of a West Loop apartment tower understood that in order to get

approvals done in City Hall they had to hire Madigan's private law firm to do their property tax appeals, according to federal prosecutors. "I think they understand they've got some issues that they still have to deal with me in terms of zoning," Solis, then the head of the City Council's Zoning Committee, told Madigan on the June 23, 2017, call, according to prosecutors. "And I think they understand how this

works, you know, the quid pro quo, the quid pro quo." Madigan allegedly responded, "OK." The recording cuts to the heart of one of the key issues in Madigan's highly anticipated racketeering trial, which gets underway this week at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse: Did Madigan know ahead of time that private benefits for himself or his friends were being exchanged for official acts?

Solis is expected to testify that Madigan's "OK" was the speaker's way of telling him that he "understood and agreed" that the fix was in, according to prosecutors. "This call is devastating evidence that Madigan intended to personally benefit himself by causing Solis to leverage his official position to in turn cause (the developers) to give Madigan business," prosecu-

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ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

A year later, conflict divides City Council

Aldermen still see heightened tensions over events in Gaza

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson was always going to face challenges uniting aldermen in his first term: A billion-dollar budget gap. Push-back against plans for sweeping change. Sharp racial divisions as old as the city itself. But he could have never expected this. One year after Hamas's Oct. 7 attack, that day and the Israeli invasion of Gaza that followed continue to be major points of contention in the Chicago City Council. And as the issue crops up in new ways again and again, the council's leading pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian aldermen alike see it fueling heightened tensions within the body.

"I think there is definitely a deep divide," said the council's lone Jewish member, Ald. Debra Silverstein, 50th. Silverstein introduced the council's first response to the Oct. 7 attack just days after it occurred. She proposed a resolution condemning Hamas that passed in a protest-filled special meeting where Johnson cleared out all public spectators to halt noisy disruptions. But the early effort to react to the violence over 6,000 miles away was hardly the council's last. Ald. Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez, 33rd, was the only "no" vote on Silverstein's resolution, criticizing it for failing to also center suffering Palestinians. In December, as thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators took to downtown streets to protest Israel's war efforts, Rodriguez-Sanchez pushed her own resolution

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BEARS 36, PANTHERS 10



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Breakout performance

Bears quarterback Caleb Williams, left, and center Coleman Shelton celebrate after Williams threw a touchdown pass to wide receiver DJ Moore late in the second quarter of the Bears' victory against the Panthers at Soldier Field on Sunday. **Chicago Sports**

Israel strikes mosque in Gaza, kills at least 19

Widening Mideast conflict risks further US aid, involvement

By Wafaa Shurafa and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — An Israeli strike early on a mosque in the Gaza Strip killed at least 19 people, Palestinian officials said, as Israel intensified its bombardment of northern Gaza and southern Lebanon in a widening war with Iran-allied militant groups across the region. New strikes began in the Beirut suburbs late Sunday, AP video showed, and Hezbollah claimed an attack on Haifa, Israel.

Israel also has been battling Hamas since the group's Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel and has opened a new front in Lebanon against Hezbollah, which has traded fire with Israel along the border since the war in Gaza began. Israel has vowed to strike Iran itself after Tehran launched a ballistic missile attack last week on Israel, and Iran's state media said some flights would be halted overnight until 6 a.m. Monday, citing "operational restrictions." Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire across the Lebanon border almost daily since the day after Hamas' cross-border attack, which killed 1,200 Israelis and took 250 others hostage.

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Randy Burt, 76, begins a run of 4 miles just after sunrise in his Antioch neighborhood on Friday. He is one of three people who have run the Chicago Marathon every year since its inception in 1977.

STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

3 men continuing streak of running every Chicago Marathon since 1977

Now in their 70s, area natives are preparing for yet another race

By Karina Atkins
Chicago Tribune

Randy Burt ate pepperoni pizza and drank red wine for dinner on Sept. 24, 1977. The next morning, he put on his old high school gym uniform and went to the starting line of the first Chicago Marathon. "I made it past 10 miles feeling pretty good about myself, and then, by around mile 21, that pepperoni pizza started to say hello to me,"

recalled Burt, now 76. "I got stomach cramps and saw the top of my shoes because I was bent over." It may have been a rookie mistake, but he was hooked. Now 45 Chicago Marathons later, Burt is training for his 46th race. The Antioch resident will join more than 50,000 runners expected to make the 26.2-mile trek through the city on Sunday for the city's 46th marathon, now called the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. (There was no race during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.) The first wave of participants will start pounding the pavement

at 7:30 a.m. About 77,000 gallons of water and 36,000 gallons of Gatorade will be on hand to help athletes make it to the finish line. Burt is among just two other runners in this year's race who can say they've run every Chicago Marathon since it began. George Mueller, 76, of the Streeterville neighborhood, and Henry Kozlowski, 74, of Wilmette, also were among the 4,200 runners in the city's inaugural race through Chicago streets in 1977. "George Mueller, Randy Burt and Henry Kozlowski are a shining

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Vigil calls for stop to gun violence

The ninth annual Vigil Against Violence was held Sunday at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Disaster official blasts claims

U.S. government's top disaster relief official says false claims about Helene response are damaging. **Nation & World**

Dance Crash goes back to basics

Chicago company's "Rubbernecks" production strips back the flashiness of its more recent presentations. **Arts & Living**

