

“007 Science: Inventing the World of James Bond” is a new exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry all about the gadgets and technology we first saw in Bond films. The Tribune took a tour with props experts from the movies.



EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO SPORTS
BEARS TRADE
JUSTIN FIELDS

The Bears answered one of the biggest questions of the NFL offseason, sending their quarterback to the Steelers for a conditional 2025 sixth-round pick. The deal paves the way to take a QB at the top of the draft.

The rise of Coby White: Family helped Bulls guard find his joy on the court on his way to contending for NBA Most Improved Player honor.

WINNER OF THE 2022 PULITZER PRIZE FOR LOCAL REPORTING

Final

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

2 kids have been out of school for months as family's quarrel with the district highlights the pitfalls of a state special education system stressed on many fronts

By Jonathan Bullington | Chicago Tribune

Kiana Kelly had three minutes to summarize the last 17 months. The confusion and frustration. The relentless schedule of meetings with special education teachers and tours of therapeutic day schools scattered throughout the Chicago area. The state education board hearings. Department of Children and Family Services probes. A federal restraining order against her 13-year-old son.

Seventeen months of feeling unheard and unwanted, of questions and looks from her children about why they can't go to school.

Kelly stopped, unable to finish reading the notes she scrawled on paper to read during public comment at February's North Shore School District 112 board meeting.

Tears trickled down her cheeks. "I got overwhelmed," Kelly, 46, said later. "To sit in front of these people and my kids are still not in school ... I almost lost it, because it hurts."

For over a year, two of Kelly's four children have been caught in the middle of a bitter special education dispute between their parents and the Highland Park/Highwood school district. Hezekiah, 13, has autism and is nonverbal, and has been out of school since June 2023. And with few exceptions, his sister Ke'Asia, 8, also evaluated as having autism, has been without a school since October 2022.

North Shore leaders say the children's behavioral needs require the relatively rare step of seeking specialized instruction outside of district schools. But, they say the siblings' parents have repeatedly rejected the district's exhaustive efforts to meet its legal requirement and place Hezekiah and Ke'Asia, at the district's expense, in one of the few private therapeutic day schools with space or ability to accept them.

"Any time a child under my care hurts, I hurt. Any time a parent under

Turn to Family, Page 12

Above: Jakayla Kelly, center, hugs her sister, Ke'Asia, as their brother Hezekiah eats chips on the couch in their apartment in Highland Park on Jan. 17. For more than a year, Hezekiah, 13, who has autism and is nonverbal, and his sister Ke'Asia, 8, also evaluated as having autism, have been caught in the middle of a bitter special education dispute between their parents and the Highland Park/Highwood school district. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ELECTION 2024

Progressive candidates, causes top Dem ballot

Primary results could provide gauge of movement's strength

By Rick Pearson and A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

With the presidential nominations of Democratic incumbent Joe Biden and Republican challenger Donald Trump already assured, the focus of Tuesday's primary election in Illinois moves to down-ballot contests that could represent a defining moment in the steady advance of the Chicago area's progressive movement.

Slotted across the ballot are races and issues that will provide an indication of where the movement stands nearly a year after its most significant gain, the election of Brandon Johnson as Chicago's mayor, and after one of its most prominent leaders, criminal justice reform-seeking Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, announced she would not seek reelection.

Though neither is on the ballot, Johnson's early unsteady tenure at City Hall and the aftermath of Foxx's embattled time as top prosecutor provide the backdrop for a

Turn to Election, Page 11

INSIDE



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

Matters of the heart

One year after her transplant, Shaunté Brewer is educating her students about healthy lifestyles — and much more. **Life + Travel**

Pressuring Israel

Experts say Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's rebuke of Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu isn't norm-breaking. **Nation & World**

Migrants buying cars, but lack of licenses a problem

Asylum-seekers need a ride to make new lives

By Nell Salzman and Joe Mahr
Chicago Tribune

Behind a West Loop migrant shelter, dozens of cars sit without license plates.

Several of their owners stand nearby, acknowledging they lack licenses to drive them.

But they increasingly have been driving, according to a Tribune analysis of police data that suggests sharp rises in arrests among migrants for breaking traffic laws. The analysis found dozens are now

being detained in Chicago each week for driving- or vehicle-related infractions, roughly at five times the rate from last summer.

"Start where you are. Do what you can. Use what you have," said Jose Fernandez, 30, from Trujillo, Venezuela.

It's difficult to know for sure how many migrants are charged or ticketed because police don't keep precise data on when they arrest asylum-seekers. But what is often

Turn to Cars, Page 2

Right: Joan Rivas, 39, from Venezuela, walks by a man working on a Lexus outside a migrant shelter. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

