

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

"I don't know why we're pretending like you're coming here for us when you're coming here for the people that you want to eventually live here. We don't need a Starbucks."

— Elizabeth Crisostomo



Arevalo's Exports employee Margarita Bravo watches passersby outside the shop on 26th Street in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago on Tuesday. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

A tall order amid displacement fears

Getting Little Village neighbors to embrace new Starbucks not an easy sell

By Laura Rodríguez Presa
Chicago Tribune

To many, Little Village is not what it used to be.

So much so that a Starbucks will be opening up in one of the new storefronts that replaced small businesses in the Little Village Plaza, the shopping center adjacent to the neighborhood's iconic arch, a symbol of the Mexican community in Chicago.

Years of pleas from residents and community activists that space in the plaza remain home to small businesses were mostly in vain.

Now, they said, the high-profile site seems poised to become the most visible

sign yet of the upcoming displacement of locals, mostly Mexican immigrants. The arrival of Starbucks in any neighborhood in cities across the country has long been a sign of accelerating gentrification, many said.

"That means that working-class families that have been here for decades will eventually not be able to afford to live here," said Kristin Juarez.

The floor-to-ceiling Mexican flag that adorned the wall of the Little Village Discount Mall has been replaced by industrial-like single-colored walls and a national chain store.

At a community meeting last week, store leaders of the Starbucks that is set to open at the end of September were met with

discontent and concern by many residents. A few others, however, praised the move, saying it could add economic value to the neighborhood and they view it a sign of progress.

The new store is part of the corporation's Community Stores focus program, which launched in 2015 and aims to provide economic opportunity through local hiring, partnering with local artists and working with diverse contractors and subcontractors.

"We are incredibly proud to open a Starbucks Community Store in the Little Village community, and we will continue to work closely with community members

Turn to Little Village, Page 4

19 die in Israeli strike on Gaza camp

Military's inquiry on US activist's death in West Bank released

By Wafaa Shurafa,
Mohammad Jahjouch
and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — An Israeli strike hit a crowded Palestinian tent camp early Tuesday in Gaza, killing at least 19 people and wounding 60, Palestinian officials said. Israel said it targeted senior Hamas militants with precise munitions.

The strike occurred in Muwasi, a sprawl of camps along the coast that Israel designated as a humanitarian zone for hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians to seek shelter from the nearly year-old Israel-Hamas war.

Associated Press video showed three large craters. First responders dug with garden tools and bare hands, using mobile phone flashlights until the sun came up. They pulled body parts from the sand, including what appeared to be a human leg.

"We were told to go to Muwasi, to the safe area ... Look around you and see this safe place," said Iyad Hamed Madi, who had been sheltering there.

"This is for my son," he said, holding up a bag of diapers. "He's 4 months old. Is he a fighter? There's no humanity."

Also Tuesday, the Israeli military said an American activist killed in the West Bank last week was likely shot "indirectly and unintentionally" by its soldiers,

Turn to Strike, Page 9

Johnson's lobbying team hit by exodus

Head of legislative affairs unit resigns ahead of budget push

By Alice Yin
and Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

A major shake-up is underway on Mayor Brandon Johnson's team that works to get the City Council and other elected officials to vote for his agenda, eliciting fresh concern over an exodus of key administration staffers from City Hall before what is sure to be a difficult push to craft and pass the 2025 city budget.

On Monday, Sydney Holman, the deputy mayor of intergovernmental affairs since last November, resigned while two staffers brought on during her tenure left, per sources with knowledge of the situation. The departures followed an internal announcement last week that Johnson intends to install Kennedy Bartley, a progressive community organizer who joined the mayor's office in May, in a high-ranking position that would oversee Holman's role, sources said.

Johnson spokeswoman Erin Connelly declined to comment Tuesday. "We cannot comment on personnel at this time," she said.

Bartley and Holman did not respond to requests for comment.

The sudden exits from the office involved in lobbying aldermen, Springfield and other government partners to back the

Turn to Exodus, Page 5

As shelters close, a CPS migrant family sleeps in a truck to stay close to school

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

The first year of high school is almost always marked by unknown variables: new classes, teachers, relationships and bus routes. But for Reynaldo Perdomo, 14, who has been forced to sleep in a truck after walking thousands of miles from Venezuela to make it to Chicago, his first month is clouded in uncertainty.

Monday night, Reynaldo came home and changed his clothes in a building across the street from the borrowed white Ford-150 where he sleeps with his father. He used wet wipes to clean himself. Later in the night, he climbed into the vehicle with his father and fell asleep, before getting up for school the next day.

Facing pressure to leave the shelter from city officials but

wanting to stay near his son's school, Reynaldo's father Yohan Perdomo, 37, made the decision to sleep in the truck instead of move elsewhere.

"If I had a job, I would rent an apartment and move us there," said Perdomo, who has struggled to find stable work for the past eight months to move them out of a migrant shelter on the Lower West Side.

For almost half a year, the city has enforced its 60-day policy to remove migrants from shelters. That policy was extended for families in March to ease the disruption on school-aged children. This school year, in an effort to condense shelters and save money, city and state officials are continuing to push children out, which worries immigrant and

Turn to Family, Page 2



Reynaldo Perdomo, 14, right, talks with his father, Yohan Perdomo, 37, outside a migrant shelter on the Lower West Side on Monday in Chicago. Reynaldo and his father have been sleeping in the truck outside the shelter while Reynaldo attends school nearby. Recently the city announced it would be closing the shelter by October.

ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Big turnout for student voter registration

More than 200 Chicago teens from six high schools on the South and West sides stood in line to fill out voter registration forms at an engagement event at Leo High School on National Teen Voter Registration Day. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Art Institute set for makeover

The Art Institute announced a transformative \$75 million gift Tuesday to construct a new gallery building and begin an ambitious reshaping of its sprawling campus in the heart of downtown Chicago's lakefront. **Business**

