

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



‘VERY THANKFUL’

South Side parish helps feed 1,000 families for holiday

By Rebecca Johnson | Chicago Tribune

Phillis Williams and her shih tzu-poodle mix Cammie zigzagged through tables of winter clothing and Thanksgiving meal fixings Wednesday morning at St. Moses the Black Parish. She filled her bags with sweaters, as well as chicken and sweet potatoes — food she said she’d use for a holiday dinner.

Williams, 51, recently moved from her hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana, to Chicago for better medical care for lupus and heart problems, and said she’s getting back on her feet and finding housing. The pantry has helped her meet other people in the community, she said, and “not be stressed” about food. Her puppy also loves interacting with new friendly faces, she added.

“I’m very thankful that I was able to come out and get food and get a little clothing. They’re so friendly and nice,” she said. “It feels like I’m doing something positive.”

Williams was one of about 1,000 families who received winter coats and Thanksgiving food, including turkey, Tuesday and Wednesday at the parish’s food pantry, located in

Above: Dagmar Gray, left, and Percy Johnson, 78, hug on Wednesday at St. Moses the Black Parish in Chicago.

ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

the Grand Crossing neighborhood. A few Archdiocese of Chicago parishes — along with other faith communities — are hosting Thanksgiving events this week to help feed those in need in Cook and Lake counties.

Last week, the Council of

Turn to Thankful, Page 5

MICHAEL MADIGAN TRIAL

Recordings detail Solis’ push for seat

Direct examination of ex-alderman, a key prosecution witness, concludes

By Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau
Chicago Tribune

Six years ago, Chicago Ald. Daniel Solis sat in House Speaker Michael Madigan’s office to break the news that he would not be seeking reelection to the City Council.

But don’t worry, Solis told Madigan, he still had a few months left in office, and there were major new real estate developments going up in his ward, and that would mean plenty of tax-appeal business for the speaker’s private law firm.

“There’s a couple more in the South Loop, and there’s some in the, in the West Loop. So, I figure I can still help you a lot,” Solis said in the Nov. 23, 2018, conversation, which was secretly recorded as part of Solis’ cooperation with the FBI. “I’m committed for that.”

Madigan replied enthusiastically, “OK, thank you,” before moving almost immediately to something Solis had been wanting.

“Do, do you want to go forward now on one of those state appointments?” Madigan asked. Prosecutors allege that the



Solis



Madigan

pivotal conversation, played Wednesday for the jury in Madigan’s corruption trial, is proof of a corrupt quid-pro-quo scheme where Solis introduced the powerful Democratic speaker to developers in his ward in exchange for Madigan’s help securing him a six-figure state board appointment.

The speaker appeared relaxed and jolly during the meeting, which took place three weeks after the 2018 general election in which Madigan’s bitter rival, Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, had been vanquished by Democrat JB Pritzker. In the background in Madigan’s office was a life-size punching bag printed with Rauner’s face.

Before getting down to business, the two exchanged some reaction to the election,

Turn to Trial, Page 12

ANALYSIS

Battered Hezbollah now diminished

Ally of Iran isolated inside Lebanon after costly fight, ceasefire

By Ben Hubbard
The New York Times

BEIRUT — For years, Hezbollah told the Lebanese that it alone could defend them from Israel. It boasted of powerful weapons and hardened commandos who would unleash deadly “surprises” if war broke out. And it assured its followers that a regional alliance of militias supported by Iran would jump in to support it in battle.

Those myths have now been shattered.

After more than 13 months of war, Hezbollah entered a ceasefire with Israel on Wednesday that it will struggle to convince anyone, other than its most fervent loyalists, is not in fact a defeat. The 60-day truce, which is supposed to lay the ground-

work for a more lasting ceasefire, comes after three months of withering Israeli attacks that have thrown the organization into disarray.

Deep intelligence infiltration enabled Israel to assassinate many senior leaders, including Hezbollah’s secretary-general of 32 years, Hassan Nasrallah. Israel bombarded the group’s most loyal communities, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee and blowing up dozens of villages, ensuring that many people have no homes to immediately return to.

And Hezbollah’s fateful decision to consult no one before firing rockets at Israel, setting off a conflict that grew into Lebanon’s most deadly war in decades, has left it isolated in the country and in the wider Middle East, with Lebanon facing an exorbitant bill for reconstruction.

Many of Hezbollah’s oppo-

Turn to Hezbollah, Page 8



EILEEN T. MESLAR/TRIBUNE

Laying foundation for sustained success

Adjusting on the fly to new coaching, Bears quarterback Caleb Williams is back on the upswing.
Brad Biggs in Chicago Sports

Threats reported by Trump’s picks

The FBI is investigating after aides say some Cabinet nominees were targeted by bomb threats and “swatting attacks.” **Nation & World**

Survey eager to show urban benefits of beavers

Often misunderstood, rodents create habitats for other species

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

As the boat zipped down the Chicago River on a nippy November morning, Sammie Clark stood up and pointed at a creature swimming in the water, its brown fur slick and its head bobbing just above the surface. It kept close to the edge, a sheet metal wall where the riverbank used to be.

“That’s either a muskrat or a beaver,” she said. “I’ve yet to see a beaver with my own eyes on the river.”

Clark grabbed a pair of binoc-

ulars and, delighted, realized her luck had turned.

“It’s a beaver! It is!” she yelled.

Every night for the last few weeks, the wildlife biologist has checked the live feeds of trail cameras she’s installed along stretches of the river’s two branches hoping to spot the largest living rodent in North America, weighing anywhere from 25 to 90 pounds.

“I wonder where that little guy was heading,” said Stephen Meyer, who was driving the boat, as he revved the engine and watched the beaver make its way north from across Ping Tom Memorial Park in Chinatown. Beavers are mostly active

Turn to Beavers, Page 8



A felled tree and beaver chew marks along the South Branch of the Chicago River are seen Nov. 20. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

