

CHICAGO SPORTS

SUPER SUNDAY

Patrick Mahomes to have his supremacy challenged by ultimate upstart: "Mr. Irrelevant" Brock Purdy.



49ers vs. Chiefs  
5:30 p.m. Sunday  
TV: CBS



A+E

CSO on tour

A high point for the Muti-CSO era at La Scala, and Muti awarded the Legion d'Honneur in Rome.

LIFE+TRAVEL

A new purpose

Artists and environmentalists in the Chicago area seek creative ways to keep materials out of landfills.

Aldermen keep their control on zoning

Johnson hasn't acted on Lightfoot order aimed at ward power

By Jake Sheridan  
Chicago Tribune

On her last weekday in office, former Mayor Lori Lightfoot delivered a parting shot to Chicago's City Council: a barrage of 11 executive orders, one of which took aim at the longtime City Council tradition of aldermen having nearly complete control over development in their wards, which she saw as a root of corruption.

Lightfoot demanded recommendations on zoning changes made to the powerful Zoning Committee by the city's lead zoning bureaucrat be shared publicly before hearings, as a way to show residents when aldermen opted not to take the advice.

Nine months into his term, however, Mayor Brandon Johnson and his aldermanic allies have not implemented the changes Lightfoot ordered. Johnson's decision to so far to ignore Lightfoot's executive order highlights his disinterest in taking on "aldermanic prerogative."

The order from the recently defeated, lame duck Lightfoot echoed the anti-corruption rallying cry that won her the office four years prior, and followed several earlier, mostly unsuccessful attempts she made to rein in council members' power during her single term. But that last quack is no longer reverberating at City Hall.

Lightfoot heralded the executive order as part of "essential" the zoning reform to help the public understand how the council aids or impedes development. She lamented her buzzer beater policy's apparent on-the-vine demise in a January appearance on former Cook County Clerk David Orr's

Turn to Mayor, Page 4



Dems flex muscles in doling out goodies

Pork-barrel power play: More than \$150M OK'd for hand-picked local projects

By Dan Petrella, Jeremy Gornor and Ray Long  
Chicago Tribune

Gov. J.B. Pritzker and his fellow Illinois Democrats approved more than \$150 million in the current state budget for local projects hand-picked by their party, a power play over Republicans that is unusual in scope and secrecy even in the history of Springfield's chronic partisan gamesmanship.

In a state known for negotiating local pork-barrel project funds in at least somewhat of a bipartisan fashion, the maneuver illustrated how Democrats enjoying extraordinary House and Senate majorities flexed their dominance and left minority party Republican legislators wanting.

As Pritzker prepares this month to unveil a new budget blueprint, the Tribune delved into how deeply Democrats packed the current fiscal plan with goodies from their lawmakers' wish lists.

They authorized a range of Above: Elite Striders Drill Team Executive Director Sameia Charity directs members during practice in the group's new space at 306 10th St. on Thursday in Waukegan. The newly purchased building will be renovated through funds secured from capital projects by state Rep. Rita Mayfield. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

spending for items such as a pickleball court in far North Shore Winthrop Harbor, a skate park in Chicago and a more comfortable home at the downstate Decatur zoo for two camels, Jack and Finnegan.

In one instance, \$150,000 was set aside by a south suburban Democratic lawmaker for a mentoring program where his son volunteers. Another \$250,000 went to the Rock and Roll Museum in Joliet. And

Turn to Pork, Page 12



Marilieser Gil-Blanco holds his 1-month-old daughter, Ashley, in their home in the Chatham neighborhood of Chicago on Tuesday. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

MIGRANT FAMILY LANDS IN PERIL

He's paralyzed. She just had a C-section. And their immigration papers were tossed.

By Nell Salzman  
Chicago Tribune

Genesis Chacon was pregnant when she essentially carried her husband and toddler across countries to get to Chicago.

Her healthy, able-bodied husband became paralyzed from the chest down due to a rare condition he developed while on their journey to the United States last summer. Now, the 22-year-old mother from Venezuela tends to his every need — even as she recovers from a C-section she had four weeks ago to deliver their daughter.

Instead of recuperating with light activity as strongly recommended by doctors, Chacon is carrying her husband's wheelchair up and down the stairs of their apartment, cleaning his gaping bedsores and changing his underpads — on top of caring for their newborn and 4-year-old daughter.

The city had resettled the family Jan. 28 into a second-floor apartment in Chatham. Isolated inside with all her responsibilities, Chacon learned Tuesday that city officials at the

Turn to Migrants, Page 2

Listening to developers' pitch

Gov. J.B. Pritzker says his office will meet with developers proposing new White Sox stadium. Chicagoland, Page 3

Southern Gaza city on edge

Airstrikes kill dozens in Rafah, a city packed with civilians, ahead of a possible invasion. Nation & World

A beacon of modern architecture

The Aluminaire House, a structure meant to proselytize benefits of modern living, lands in the desert. Real Estate