

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

More truce renewals may prove daunting

Hamas could raise price in future for release of Israelis

By Wafaa Shurafa, Jack Jeffery and Melanie Lidman
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel released another group of Palestinian prisoners Friday, hours after Hamas freed additional Israeli hostages under a last-minute agreement to extend their cease-fire by another day in Gaza. But any further extension renewal, now in its eighth day, could prove more challenging as Hamas is expected to set a higher price for many of the remaining hostages.

Hamas freed six hostages hours after releasing two Israeli women Thursday afternoon. All were handed over to the Red Cross in Gaza after eight weeks in captivity. They were brought to Israel for medical evaluations and to be reunited with their families, the Israeli military said.

A busload of 30 Palestinian prisoners released by Israel was welcomed home in the West Bank city of Ramallah, where dozens of men, some holding green Hamas flags, greeted the prisoners.

During the truce, at least 10 Israelis a day, along with other nationals, have been freed by Hamas in return for Israel's release of at least 30 Palestinian prisoners. Asked why Hamas on Thursday released fewer than 10 hostages, as outlined in the cease-fire agreement, the military's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, noted that 12 Israeli citizens had been released the day before, implying that the overall total had met Israeli demands.

"We insist on getting the maximum possible," Hagari said. "It's been that way every day and also today."

International pressure has mounted for the truce to continue as long as possible after weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground campaign following Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war. Thousands of Palestinians in Gaza have been killed and more than three-quarters of the population of 2.3 million have been uprooted, leading to a humanitarian crisis.

Israel has vowed to resume fighting — with the goal of dismantling Hamas.

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INSIDE: AI deepfakes creating real outrage as altered images of children tug at emotions — and spread online.

■ Hostage of Hamas tells how ordeal worsened.
Stories in Nation & World inside Business, Page 6



Former Chicago Ald. Edward Burke and his wife, Anne Burke, head to the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago for his ongoing trial Thursday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Jurors hear Burke in 'tuna' recording

Judge rejects request for mistrial for former alderman

By Jason Meisner, Megan Crepeau and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

Jurors in ex-Ald. Ed Burke's federal corruption trial on Thursday finally heard, in Burke's own voice, a phrase already infamous in Chicago political history:

"So did we land the, uh, the tuna?"

The "tuna" was tax business from developers of the massive Old Post Office — business that Burke had been chasing

for months. In conversation after wiretapped conversation, Burke made it clear to then-Ald. Daniel Solis, an FBI mole, that he wasn't inclined to pull any strings for the developers until they agreed to be clients of Burke's private law firm, Klafter & Burke.

"I put to (the developer) that we're not very motivated, cause nothing has happened," Solis said in response to Burke's question. "I said, 'Look, I think you've got to help Ed out.'"

Later in the May 2017

phone call, Burke repeated his aquatic analogy again, telling Solis there would be something in it for him if Burke's firm did get the business.

"If we land the tuna, there certainly will be a day of accounting," he said. "You can count on that."

Prosecutors have said Burke illegally offered to pay Solis a consulting fee in exchange for his help getting business from New York-based developers 601W, which was heading up

Turn to Trial, Page 6

Crash inquiry is vexing riders

Yellow Line commuters say trips on shuttle buses are too lengthy

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

Ombre West usually takes the Yellow Line as part of her commute to Oakton Community College in Skokie. But the train line has been shut down since a crash on the tracks sent nearly two dozen people to hospitals, leaving West and other commuters to rely on replacement shuttle buses or alternate ways of getting around.

West, 20, estimated the shuttles have added an hour to her trip from her home in Evanston to school in the neighboring suburb.

More than two weeks after the mid-November crash on the tracks, the three-stop line that runs from Rogers Park to Skokie, also known as the Skokie Swift, remains closed as federal regulators investigate CTA equipment design and outside conditions, and the CTA reviews operations on the line.

The closure has frustrated commutes for riders trying to get to their homes, work and school, who instead must rely on the free shuttle buses the CTA is running to replace train service, or find other transportation. And it has left questions for riders and those who were injured about why the train failed to stop before slamming into a snowplow on the tracks, and whether the crash could have been prevented.

On Nov. 16, a Yellow Line train approaching the Howard station, near the border of Chicago and Evanston, rear-ended a "snow-fighter" track-plowing train that was on the tracks for scheduled training. Twenty-three people

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INSIDE



JEREMY DANIEL

Promising "The Wiz" strays off the road

The 1975 Broadway musical is back in Chicago with a whole new production. The show has its moments, with some work ahead.

■ Bradley Cooper wields the baton as Leonard Bernstein in the movie "Maestro," but Carey Mulligan conducts the film. **Theater and movie reviews in A+E**

Michigan QB a potential top talent

NFL evaluators praise J.J. McCarthy's "unbelievable mind." Would the Bears target the Wolverines quarterback and local product if he decides to enter the 2024 draft? **Chicago Sports**

Lawsuit settlement draws group's ire

Anti-abuse activists lodged a Vatican complaint on Thursday in response to a \$2 million lawsuit settled by a New Lenox Catholic school and the Augustinian religious order. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Columbia College strike enters 2nd month

Faculty union claims walkout is longest in higher-ed history

By Zareen Syed
Chicago Tribune

Gwenn-Ael Lynn, adjunct professor of art history and visual culture at Columbia College Chicago, was bundled up outside 1104 S. Wabash Ave. on Tuesday, holding a large sign with "students, not profit" written in bold letters, while another nonstriking faculty member was teaching his class.

Lynn, a member of the Columbia College Faculty Union, or CFAC, is one of 584 adjunct professors who have been on the picket lines since Oct. 30, protesting the administration's decision to eliminate hundreds of already-enrolled classes weeks before the semester began while



Columbia College Faculty Union members picket Thursday in front of the school's media production center. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

