

**LIFE+TRAVEL**

## Reclaiming what was taken

Steven Rogers wrote a famous letter to his white friends in 2021. Now he's reclaimed a property in Evanston where Black families had been pushed out.

**The singer's Senegal:** Baaba Maal, the artist known as the "voice of Wakanda," guides us through his five favorite places in Dakar.



## LIGHT IT UP

Top 10 holiday displays, from Navy Pier to Morton Arboretum. **A+E**

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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



## Stepping up for migrant children with disabilities

Lakeview mother helping families get kids enrolled in schools, services

By Nell Salzman | Chicago Tribune

Keinyamar Avila, a tiny 7-year-old with microcephaly who has never been separated from her mother, curled up in the arms of a woman she'd recently met.

Her mother, Yamile Perez, glanced over at her daughter to make sure all was well as she attended a virtual meeting with Chicago Public Schools officials who were evaluating Keinyamar's needs. It is not easy to let someone else hold your child, especially if your child requires special medical care.

No one knows this better than the person cradling the girl, Mary Otts-Rubenstein, a Lakeview resident who has her own child with disabilities. Otts-Rubenstein has taken it upon herself to help over a dozen migrant families

Mary Otts-Rubenstein, center, holds Keinyamar Avila, 7, while Keinyamar's mother Yamile Perez talks with Chicago Public School's staff during a virtual individualized education plan testing session in Otts-Rubenstein's home on Nov. 4. Keinyamar, who has microcephaly, is staying at the Inn of Chicago with other migrant families. Sitting at left are Juan Pablo Salcedo, 12, and his mother, Yasmira Salcedy, 36. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

with medically complex kids enroll in CPS.

The children range in age from 7 to 13. Some are in wheelchairs and have conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy and Down syndrome. Few have ever been enrolled in school before; all survived journeys crossing jungles and rivers to reach the United States.

Otts-Rubenstein has been leading volunteer efforts for these children for over two months, stepping in where city officials have failed to identify and provide acceptable solutions for disabled migrants. She got involved after another volunteer who is helping migrants called her, knowing her expertise.

Any family with a child who has disabilities faces unique challenges. But what has been so

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## Burke trial carves out its place in city lore

Old-school Dem's clout is brought to light in fed racketeering case

By Ray Long, Megan Crepeau and Jason Meisner  
Chicago Tribune

The federal racketeering case against Ed Burke is pure Chicago. At its core, the Burke trial, which just wrapped its third week, is about a series of alleged shake-downs by the longest-serving alderman in City Council history — a potential highlight reel for the sordid legacy of City Hall.

The former 14th Ward alderman is not accused of taking bribe money in an envelope, in a brown paper bag or slapped directly into an outstretched hand.



That cold cash approach may have been a little too ordinary for Burke, an old-school Democrat whose extraordinary clout is as much on trial as he is for the 14 charges he faces. It's a case expected to stretch well past the fifth anniversary of the Nov. 29, 2018, FBI raid of the alderman's City Hall offices.

Even Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Chapman suggested in opening statements that Burke's style was less greasy palm and a bit more "sophisticated."

Burke himself may have inadvertently labeled the alleged take from his political style as "the tuna," as in, "So did we land the, uh, the tuna?" A secret FBI recording caught that phrase in one of the alleged shakedowns, and it is fast becoming part of Chicago's political lexicon.

Sure, there was an extra step or two required in each of the

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### INSIDE

#### After delay, 17 more hostages freed

Hamas released 13 Israelis and four foreigners Saturday in the second round of swaps under a cease-fire deal, after the terrorist group initially delayed the exchange. **Nation & World**

#### Monday showdown in Minneapolis

After a late collapse against the Lions a week ago, the Bears look for a potential rebound at U.S. Bank Stadium for a rematch with the Vikings, who beat them 19-13 in Week 6. **Chicago Sports**



Farmer Erich Schott takes a look at the concrete powder that was spread across his soybean field Nov. 10 at Schott Farms in Buckingham, Illinois. The concrete will be tested for efficacy in removing carbon dioxide compared with agricultural lime. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Illinois farm is trial ground to remove CO2 from air

Irish startup firm uses concrete dust to 'enhance' weathering

By Adriana Pérez  
Chicago Tribune

Over the course of millions of years the Earth regularly removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through a natural process called "weathering" when exposure to the elements wears down surface rocks and silicate minerals.

But at the rate humans have been producing and releasing

carbon dioxide into the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution, this process that happens on a geological time scale just isn't fast enough to keep up.

A corn and soybean farm in the village of Buckingham, 60 miles south of Chicago, is providing the testing grounds for an Irish startup attempting to "enhance" weathering, thus shortening the process from millennia to decades.

The Illinois trial, the first of its kind in the United States, is one of many efforts to leverage the

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### TODAY'S WEATHER



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Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 32

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