

# Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Jood Damo, 2, high-fives Sheri Maali, left, while sitting on the shoulders of Motaz Azaiza after the duo reunited for the first time in almost a year in Willow Springs on Monday. **VINCENT ALBAN/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Palestinian boy reunited with photojournalist

Viral post put in motion child's evacuation, treatment in US amid war in Gaza

**By Zareen Syed**  
Chicago Tribune

At just 2½ years old, Jood Damo has experienced more tragedy than some do in a lifetime.

Amid the ongoing horrors of the Israel-Hamas war, Jood was wounded Dec. 26 when an Israeli tank targeted his family's home in the village of Nuseirat in Gaza. Jood's mother shielded him with her body and was killed in the attack, according to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

That same day, Motaz Azaiza,

a now well-known Gazan photojournalist, came across Jood lying on the floor of a hospital, blood seeping through the gauze wrapped around his leg and IV lines transferring blood back into his tiny body.

Azaiza snapped a picture and took a video.

Not only did Azaiza's Instagram post reach millions, it also caught the attention of PCRF, which put the wheels in motion to help evacuate Jood from Gaza for treatment in the U.S.

In the most unlikely of reunions Monday night in a

Willow Springs home, members of the nonprofit gathered to bring Jood and Azaiza together again, in circumstances unimaginable when the viral photo was taken.

"When I saw him at the hospital, I thought he may lose his leg," Azaiza told the Tribune Monday night. "Now he's doing well, playing like a child. ... I'm happy for him, I'm happy he's safe and in a better life and I'm happy that just a picture on social media did something so big. ... But I wish I could help more kids (in Gaza) because so many, so many need help."

Azaiza came bearing two large gifts, which Jood ripped into as his newfound family of PCRF volunteers and organizers watched while wiping away tears.

"Wow!" Jood exclaimed, spotting a basketball set.

"Who taught him the word 'wow'?" Azaiza asked with a laugh.

Jood has gotten close with PCRF's local chapter while staying in the Chicago-area home of UFC welterweight champion

*Turn to Boy, Page 2*

## US warns Israel to ease Gaza crisis

Biden team links humanitarian aid to weapons funds

**By Tara Copp, Matthew Lee and Lolita C. Baldor**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration has warned Israel that it must increase the amount of humanitarian aid it is allowing into Gaza within the next 30 days or it could risk losing access to U.S. weapons funding.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned their Israeli counterparts in a letter dated Sunday that the changes must occur. The letter, which restates U.S. policy toward humanitarian aid and arms transfers, was sent amid deteriorating conditions in northern Gaza and an Israeli airstrike on a hospital tent site in central Gaza that killed at least four people and burned others.

A similar letter that Blinken sent to Israeli officials in April led to more humanitarian assistance getting to the Palestinian territory, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Tuesday. But that has not lasted.

"In fact, it's fallen by over 50% from where it was at its peak," Miller said at a briefing. "So the secretary, along with Secretary Austin, thought it was appropriate to make clear to the government of Israel that there are changes that they need to make again, to see that the level of assistance making it into Gaza comes back up from the very, very low levels that it is at today."

Meanwhile, the Biden administration believes it has won assurances from Israel that it will not hit Iranian nuclear or oil sites as it looks to strike back following

*Turn to Israel, Page 13*

### ELECTION 2024

## IVF coverage among questions for Illinois voters

Residents will have a chance to weigh in on three referendums

**By Olivia Olander**  
Chicago Tribune

Illinois residents heading to the polls in November to register their choices for president and a host of lower offices will also have the option to weigh in directly on three policy issues.

Voters will be asked if millionaires should help fund property tax relief, whether insurance should cover in vitro fertilization and if there should be civil penalties for candidates who interfere with election workers.

"All three of the issues that we're talking about have been at the forefront of political discourse and discussion," said Democratic state Rep. Jay Hoffman of Swansea, who sponsored the legislation to get the advisory questions on the ballot.

The results of the three referendums are nonbinding and do not carry the power of law.

But, in addition to potentially driving election turnout, they could show district-by-district support for specific policies and, if passed overwhelmingly, provide more firepower behind policies promoted by the General Assembly's Democratic supermajority. A 2014 ballot question on minimum wage, for example, preceded 2019 legislation that ramped up the rate and will bring it to \$15 an hour at the start of next year.

"We're really testing what the voters believe, and whether or not they believe that the legislature and the governor should address issues that are contained in the advisory referendum," Hoffman said.

Democratic lawmakers quickly passed a mini election omnibus bill this spring that included the three questions, precluding the possibility of any petition-driven issues appearing on the ballot because state law allows only three statewide referendums.

"These are questions that were

*Turn to Election, Page 5*



Former President Donald Trump speaks with Bloomberg editor-in-chief John Micklethwait during an appearance Tuesday with the Economic Club of Chicago. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Trump defends his plan to impose tariffs

Dismisses fears it will lead to inflation during appearance in Chicago

**By Rick Pearson**  
Chicago Tribune

Former President Donald Trump used an appearance before the Economic Club of Chicago on Tuesday to deliver a strong defense for using tariffs on foreign imports to grow jobs and the economy, dismissing criticism it could lead to consumer

price increases and a resurgence of inflation if he is elected.

The Republican presidential nominee also warned that the country is on the verge of World War III because of conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and questioned the intelligence of Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential contender, to solve economic and foreign issues.

Trump's unusual visit to a nonbattleground state with three weeks left in the campaign lacked any mention of his long-stand-

ing criticisms of Chicago and violence. He offered the more than 500 people in attendance, largely major business executives supportive of his campaign, a backhanded compliment by noting that he appeared before the Detroit Economic Club last week and, "I think you people are probably even wealthier. OK?"

The former president also veered wildly from questions posed to him by John Micklethwait, the editor-in-chief

*Turn to Trump, Page 5*

