

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Iran warns US not to attack two ships

Americans, UK hit Houthis; Israeli has criticism for Biden

By Jon Gambrell,
Lolita C. Baldor
and Tara Copp
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Iran issued a warning Sunday to the U.S. over potentially targeting two cargo ships in the Mideast long suspected of serving as forward operating bases for Iranian commandos. The warning came just after the U.S. and the United Kingdom launched a massive airstrike campaign against Yemen's Houthi rebels.

The statement from Iran on the Behshad and Saviz ships appeared to signal Tehran's growing unease over U.S. strikes in recent days in Iraq, Syria and Yemen targeting militias backed by the Islamic Republic.

Those strikes were in retaliation for the killing of three U.S. soldiers and wounding of dozens of others in Jordan, attacks that stem back to Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, which has escalated tensions across the wider Middle East and raised fears about a regional conflict breaking out.

The U.S. strikes overnight Sunday struck across six provinces of Yemen held by the Houthi rebels, including in Sanaa, the capital. The Houthis gave no assessment of the damage, but the U.S. described hitting underground missile arsenals, launch sites and helicopters used by the rebels.

"These attacks will not discourage Yemeni forces and the nation from maintaining their support for Palestinians in the face of the Zionist occupation and crimes," Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said. "The aggressors' airstrikes will not go unanswered."

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned the Houthis after the strikes that "they will continue to bear further consequences if they do not end their illegal attacks on international shipping and naval vessels." That message was echoed by British Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

Turn to Mideast, Page 11



Before walking his children to school Tuesday, Francisco Hernandez, 31, of Venezuela, stands in the basement where he lives in a home in the Roseland neighborhood shared by several migrant families. Property manager Chris Amatore owns the home. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

Man provides housing to hundreds of migrants

Property owner's solution faces backlash from community members, city officials

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Joselin Mendoza sleeps on the floor of a cold stone basement with her two kids at a house in Roseland. The two-story house has no furniture, and 22 other migrants from Venezuela sleep on mattresses or blankets on the floor. Their clothes and stuffed animals are stacked in neat piles nearby.

The property's owner, Chris Amatore, came by in a truck one day in January and offered her the chance to leave a city-run shelter before she and her family were kicked out.

"What were we supposed to do?" asked Mendoza, who said she hadn't received any government or charitable assistance.

"How are they going to put so many people on the street?"

There are close to 14,000 migrants in 28 shelters around the city, and Chicago is on track to tap out the \$150 million dedicated to migrant response in April.

The city plans to kick out migrants who have been staying at city-run shelters for longer than 60 days starting in March, saying the shelter system was designed as a "temporary" solution for people to live. City officials say their ultimate goal is to help resettle migrants into homes where they can be self-sufficient. But federal funding for resettlement has run out, and migrants who arrived after Nov. 17 have no assistance or options.

Turn to Migrants, Page 6



Joselin Mendoza, 29, from left, Ireanyerlin Hernandez, 8, Yusmary Covis, 1, and Robinson Covis, 25, gather Jan. 29 inside a Chicago home they share with other families from Venezuela.



Anthony Porter hugs his mother in her South Side home after he was released from prison in February 1999 after spending nearly 16 years behind bars and narrowly escaping execution. **HEATHER STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

25 years after Ill. inmate's release, US death penalty debate endures

State went on to ban executions, but issue still affects nation

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

The death row inmate left the Cook County Jail on Feb. 5, 1999, a free man for the first time in

roughly 16 years after narrowly escaping execution by lethal injection.

Anthony Porter had already been fitted for a suit to be worn in his coffin. Convicted and sentenced to death for the fatal shooting of a teenage couple in Washington Park in 1982, the Chicago resident was granted a stay by the Illinois Supreme

Court about 48 hours before he was scheduled to be put to death.

Porter was later granted a pardon based on innocence, a high-profile exoneration that shed light on many problems with the death penalty system and paved the way for Illinois to abolish capital punishment in 2011.

Turn to Executions, Page 4

Controversial cop is in running for judge

Chicago sergeant came under scrutiny in two fatal shootings

By Jeremy Gorner
Chicago Tribune

A Chicago police supervisor who came under scrutiny for fatally shooting two people in a three-year span and was once investigated on allegations that were serious enough for the department to consider a move to fire him is a candidate for Cook County judge in the March 19 Democratic primary election.

Sgt. John Poulos, who is also a licensed attorney, is running for a vacant North Side judicial seat against three opponents: local attorneys Michael Zink and Nickolas Pappas, and Nadine Jean Wichern, chief of the civil appeals division in the Illinois attorney general's office.

At the end of last year, thanks

primarily to loans from his wife, Poulos had about \$500,000 in his campaign coffers, far more than his three challengers combined.

Poulos was cleared of any wrongdoing by police oversight investigators in both fatal shootings, but lawsuits stemming from those shootings cost taxpayers about \$2 million. And after the second shooting, it was revealed that a police internal affairs investigation of Poulos, that included allegations he lied on his CPD job application, had languished for about a decade without resolution.

Poulos, who is a sergeant in CPD's records division and is in the process of being promoted to lieutenant, declined to answer questions on how his actions as a police officer might influence him as a judge. In a statement, he said he is "running to help restore some sense and sensibility to the

Turn to Poulos, Page 2

Rally pushes for greener schools

Dozens of students, teachers and activists gathered outside City Hall to launch the Green New Deal for Chicago Public Schools campaign. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Senators unveil border, aid package

Senators released a highly anticipated \$118 billion package pairing border enforcement policy with wartime aid for Ukraine and Israel. **Nation & World**

