

SPOOKY SEASON

Your guide to top 30 haunts, shows and parades for Halloween 2024. A+E



CHRIS SWEDA/ TRIBUNE

LIFE+TRAVEL

Pushing forward

Now that girls flag football is an IHSA sport, the work shifts to creating college programs for female athletes.

'A vote is a kind of prayer': Heidi Stevens tells us why voters — even women “like, past 50” — care about abortion rights.

Johnson downplays timeline on budget

Delay could mean difficulties amid city's financial conundrum

By Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson is pushing back the start of the annual city budget process, leaving himself and aldermen in a tight spot: They need to quickly overcome the acrimony among elected officials at City Hall to find a way to close a daunting 2025 deficit that has been barreling down on Chicago for years.

The nearly \$1 billion budget gap that must be balanced before January was no surprise, with Johnson's team outlining a nearly identical figure last fall. But the mayor's announcement last week that he will start the process later than usual and pass the plan in December means the City Council is set to take its latest budget vote since 2009, with little time to spare and many disagreements to mend as the mayor tries to get 26 aldermen to agree with him.

Though Johnson has downplayed the extra two weeks he's taking to unveil his budget proposal, the domino effect of department hearings now concluding the week before Thanksgiving has aggravated aldermen across the political spectrum who worry they'll have less time to propose their own amendments and confer with constituents and experts.

That's a potential predicament for a mayor presiding over an increasingly rebellious council, with 33 members bucking him last month on a ShotSpotter vote and a recent shake-up in his intergovernmental affairs office hobbling aldermanic relations further. If Johnson struggles to get a majority of the council to back his spending package for 2025, recalcitrant aldermen would be empowered to make December demands in exchange for their votes.

Still, the mayor remained sanguine when asked by reporters Wednesday about the new

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OCT. 7 ATTACKS, ONE YEAR LATER



MOURNING VICTIMS, FEARING ESCALATION

Lives across Chicago area scarred amid Israel-Hamas war, Middle East conflict

By Angie Leventis Lourgos and Caroline Kubzansky
Chicago Tribune

The sheer terror of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attacks on Israel stunned the world.

On a major Jewish holiday, Hamas fighters descended on southern Israeli communities via pickup trucks, boats and motorized hang gliders. About 1,200 people were killed — marking the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust — and roughly 250 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war shortly afterward, pledging that Hamas “will pay an unprecedented price.” Israeli airstrikes pummeled Gaza, and the ensuing war ignited a humanitarian crisis that's still mounting: The death toll has topped 40,000, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza.

As the one-year anniversary of the start of the Israel-Hamas war approaches, the pain of the conflict thousands of miles across the globe has touched the Chicago area in so many ways.

Above: People walk past signs for hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who was killed by Hamas in August, at the Nova festival memorial site in Israel on Friday. Over the last few months, the grounds around the park have been turned into a memorial for victims and hostages taken at the music festival, which was attacked by Hamas on the morning of Oct. 7, 2023. ALEXI J. ROSENFELD/GETTY

The north suburban grandmother of a 23-year-old slain American Israeli hostage says she's in disbelief that her grandson is gone.

A Palestinian American attorney in the south suburbs mourns her aunt who was killed in Gaza when an Israeli bomb leveled a nearby home.

A local emergency room doctor who served a medical mission in Gaza recounts the trauma endured by its children as they face malnourishment, illness and the psychological scars of war.

A North Shore rabbi prays for the hostages while helping his synagogue through a recent spike

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MICHAEL MADIGAN TRIAL

The storied ‘Velvet Hammer’ to face a jury



Then-House Speaker Michael Madigan listens to a final question before getting in the elevator after his news conference reacting to Gov. Bruce Rauner's first state budget speech in the Illinois Capitol in Springfield on Feb. 17, 2015. ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

By Ray Long, Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau
Chicago Tribune

It was Jan. 12, 1983, and the newly installed Democratic Speaker Michael J. Madigan stood on the Illinois House podium, surveyed the kingdom he now ruled and picked up the wooden gavel that symbolized his rise to power.

He declared it a “new era” in Springfield.

Unlike others who would slam the gavel to bring the House to order, Madigan often held it by its barrel-shaped head and gently tapped with the handle. He didn't need to smack it.

He was “The Velvet Hammer.”

While making national history by serving 36 of the next 38 years as speaker, Madigan earned the nickname for his persistent but often subtle ways of beating down opponents.

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INSIDE



‘If you feel good, you can play good’

How an offseason dedicated to reworking his body turned Gervon Dexter Sr. into a force for the Bears defense. He enters Week 5 with three sacks. **Chicago Sports**

Aldermen blast mayor over CPS move

At least 40 aldermen, including several allies of Mayor Brandon Johnson, chastise him over Chicago Board of Education resignations. **Chicagoland, Page 3**