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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs presents Carolyn Peckham with the Purple Heart awarded to her father, U.S. Marine Cpl. Delbert Tuttle, at a ceremony in Decatur last month. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

‘I’M JUST SO PROUD OF HIM’

Purple Heart returned to daughter of WWII veteran, a Marine who helped take Saipan

By Christy Gutowski | Chicago Tribune

Wounded in the shoulder and ordered to retire from combat, Pfc. Delbert Tuttle refused to leave his fellow U.S. Marines as his unit invaded the Japanese-held island of Saipan during World War II. The son of a central Illinois farmer stayed to run ammunition to front-line troops, then went back again, still under heavy fire. He was wounded a second time while directing tank fire against the enemy. Tuttle, then 24, showed such extraordinary grit during the bloody battle — one that proved critical to the Allied victory in the Pacific — that it earned him a Silver Star as well as a Purple Heart, which is awarded to those injured or killed in combat.

On a recent fall day, Tuttle’s 71-year-old daughter held her father’s heart-shaped medal for the first time after Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs presented it to her during a poignant Oct. 29 ceremony at the World War II memorial in Decatur, her hometown. Frerichs’ office had preserved the medal in a Springfield vault since October 2018, when a Pekin bank turned it over to the state from an abandoned safe deposit box. Now it was being returned to Tuttle’s next of kin. Weeping tears of pride, Carolyn Peckham said her parents didn’t share many details about the war, including the bravery her late father showed 80 years ago on Saipan.



A wartime photograph of late WWII veteran Delbert Tuttle.

“I guess I’m just so emotional because I never knew any of this and I’m just so proud of him,” she told the Tribune. “I knew about the medals but as far as the stories behind them, the acts of heroism, I had no clue.” The safe deposit box was in the name of Peckham’s brother, Vincent Tuttle, whose whereabouts are unknown. Peckham said she hasn’t heard from him in several years despite her efforts to locate him. She suspects the box belonged to their mother, Lorraine, who died in 2009. The Illinois treasurer is the state’s custodian of unclaimed property, which includes

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Trump’s next term weighs on Ill. Dems

Lawmakers looking at longer to-do list as fall session starts this week

By Jeremy Gornier and Olivia Olander
Chicago Tribune

Democrats who control the Illinois General Assembly return to Springfield this week facing an agenda that now includes considering how to address the implications of President-elect Donald Trump’s return to power. Lawmakers will be looking into whether any of the state’s left-leaning laws in areas including reproductive rights and immigration need to be shored up because of fears the incoming Trump administration might take action to undo the state’s policies. “We’re gathering ... a list of things that we may need to address, maybe not during veto session, but maybe. It can be done in the new year,” Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker said last week. “But suffice to say that we have a lot of work that we’re looking at doing.” While Democrats held on to their supermajorities in both legislative chambers in last week’s election, Trump’s showing in the deeply blue state was surprisingly strong. The former president lost the state by only about 9 percentage points, after falling short by 17 points in each of the previous two elections. House Republican leader Tony McCombie of Savanna said those numbers should give Democrats pause about responding to Trump with new laws. “I don’t know any legislation that would be necessary as a reaction,”

Turn to Legislature, Page 2

Trump on Day 1: Is his list possible?

As leader, he’ll have broad authority but not dictator powers

By Colleen Long and Dan Merica
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has said he wouldn’t be a dictator — “except for Day 1.” According to his own statements, he’s got a lot to do on that first day in the White House. His list includes starting up the mass deportation of migrants, reshaping the federal government by firing potentially thousands of federal employees he believes are secretly working against him, and pardoning people arrested for their role in the riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. When he took office in 2017, he had a long list, too, including immediately renegotiating trade deals, deporting migrants and rooting out government corruption. Those didn’t happen at once. How many executive orders in the first week? “There will be tens of them. I can assure you of that,” Trump’s national press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, told Fox News on Sunday. Late Saturday, The Associated Press called Trump the winner in Arizona after vote updates put the state out of reach for Vice President Kamala Harris.

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‘What falls in my yard stays in my yard’

Chicagoans embracing leaves as part of green gardening practice

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

Fall leaves get a warm welcome from Christie Hunt. The River Forest resident rakes them into her flower beds, where they decay, providing fertilizer and valuable winter habitat for bees, moths, butterflies and fireflies. She also piles leaves around her fig tree, where they provide protection against the cold. And when Hunt uses up her own leaves, she gets creative. “I know this is going to sound a little strange,” she recently told a neighbor. “But I could really use some more leaves. Do you mind if I rake leaves from your yard?” The green gardening practice known as Leave the Leaves isn’t



Leaves cover the grass Thursday in Ela Finch’s backyard in Humboldt Park. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

closely tracked, but a recent poll from the National Wildlife Federation found that 15% of Americans leave their leaves in their yards, and some local leaf-leavers say they’re seeing signs of growing interest on social media. Among the examples: a 2023 “Leave the Leaves” TikTok video by the foraging teacher Alexis

Nikole Nelson got 1.2 million views and 3,400 comments. “I wasn’t seeing this conversation online a couple of years ago,” said Nick Wallace, 24, of Elmwood Park, who has been leaving leaves in his yard for about three years. “This conversation is absolutely skyrocketing and it’s great to see.” Among the goals of formal Leave the Leaves campaigns sponsored by national conservation groups: to provide food and shelter for insects at a time when studies show drastic population declines. “We’re literally throwing away the next generation of pollinators,” said National Wildlife Federation naturalist David Mizejewski. Ela Finch of Chicago’s Humboldt Park neighborhood has been leaving the leaves for four years, in part to support

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Slain officer honored at Mass

At a Catholic church in Mount Greenwood, uniformed Chicago police officers stood among the congregants to remember Officer Enrique Martinez. **Page 5**

Kyiv, Moscow trade drone strikes

A massive drone strike rattled Moscow and its suburbs overnight into Sunday, while a huge nighttime wave of Russian drones targeted Ukraine. **Nation & World**

Bears reflect after loss to Patriots

Coach Matt Eberflus said the team will “look at everything” after the 19-3 loss. The Bears failed to score a touchdown for the eighth straight quarter. **Chicago Sports**

