

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

2 in Guard shot near White House

Soldiers in critical condition, suspect in custody as Trump orders 500 more troops to Washington

By **Alanna Durkin Richer and Gary Fields**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two West Virginia National Guard members who deployed to the nation’s capital were shot Wednesday just blocks from the White House in a brazen act of violence that the mayor described as a targeted attack.

FBI Director Kash Patel and Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said they were hospitalized in critical condition. The rare shooting of National Guard members comes as the presence of the troops in the nation’s capital and other cities around the country has been a flashpoint issue for months, fueling court fights and a broader public policy debate about the Trump administration’s

use of the military to combat what officials cast as an out-of-control crime problem. Jeffrey Carroll, an executive assistant D.C. police chief, said investigators had no information on a motive. He said the assailant “came around the corner” and immediately started firing at the troops, citing video reviewed by investigators. “This was a targeted shooting,” Bowser said. Two law enforcement officials

Turn to Guard, Page 11

Police officers secure the crime scene with tape after two members of the National Guard were allegedly shot Wednesday just blocks from the White House. Police said they detained a suspect. **DREW ANGERER/GETTY-APF**



Naperville husband, wife love to talk turkey

COD pros among those manning the Butterball hotline

By **Carolyn Stein**
Naperville Sun

Michael Maddox has a simple job: Save turkeys and relationships, one phone call at a time. Or at least, that’s what he and his wife Susan like to jokingly tell each other. The pair are among more than 50 people who spend their time during the holiday season answering questions about everything from thawing to brining to spatchcocking turkeys. They are joined by a team of culinary and food science experts at the Naperville-based Butterball Turkey Talk-Line, a hotline designed to help people make the best turkey possible for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Launched in 1981, Butterball’s hotline was started as a way to help make the task of preparing the Thanksgiving bird a little less intimidating. In its first year, Butterball only had just six experts answering the phone — and received more than 11,000 phone calls. The calls have been rolling in ever since, with thousands of people seeking help from across the U.S. and Canada for advice on how to make the best turkey for the holiday season. “Butterball does a holiday annual report every year,” Maddox said. “We learned from our report that 5% of the hosts share that they would rather stand in line at the DMV to get the Real ID than to host Thanksgiving.” Maddox, an assistant professor in the College of DuPage’s

Turn to Hotline, Page 2

‘BARELY GIVE THEM WHAT THEY NEED’

By **Rebecca Johnson**
Chicago Tribune

When Jodie Yanek received the rest of her long-awaited SNAP benefits for the month — and after buying some food to tide her over — she started thinking about how she could put together a small Thanksgiving dinner for her and her boyfriend with a \$60 budget. The 47-year-old compared turkey and ham prices at a nearby South Deering grocery store. She dreamed of mashed potatoes and green bean casserole and ended up buying a pie. “I was ecstatic,” Yanek said of getting the benefits. “I cried tears of joy. It was very scary the prospect of losing it.” Yanek, like countless others across Illinois, say they’ve dealt with confusion and uncertainty heading into the holiday because of the

Chicago-area families on SNAP celebrate with pared down Thanksgivings amid financial uncertainty

Jodie Yanek checks her receipt after shopping for Thanksgiving dinner at a grocery store Monday. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

federal back-and-forth on funding for food stamps. Some of the Illinoisans the Tribune spoke to were still questioning whether they’ll be able to put any food on the table let alone turkey and stuffing. Many have relied on local food pantries for help. As the longest government shutdown in history lumbered on, nearly 2 million people across the state — and more than 40 million nationwide — were cut off from food stamps at the beginning of November, leaving many scrambling. The Illinois Department of Human Services said full November benefits should have been delivered to recipients by Nov. 20, just a week before Thanksgiving. The department also said in a statement that the lapse

Turn to SNAP, Page 4

Readers share their thanks

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, our readers wrote to us to share what they’re grateful for. From “night angels” to new life, what the holiday means to Chicagoans. **Page 10**

What’s open and closed

Most big retailers are gearing up for Black Friday holiday sales. Take a closer look at their hours, along with the Thanksgiving travel forecast. **Business, Page 2**

Grateful for good sports year

From the Bears’ resurgence to the Cubs’ playoff run, there are plenty of reasons for Chicagoland sports fans to be thankful, writes Paul Sullivan. **Chicago Sports**



Floyd Stafford is petitioning to get an old felony conviction sealed. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Bill to speed sealing of convictions awaits Pritzker’s signature

By **Jeremy Gorner**
Chicago Tribune

Long-sought legislation that would accelerate the sealing of many criminal convictions from employers now sits on Gov. JB Pritzker’s desk, positioning Illinois to join roughly a dozen states that have adopted similar policies to help people pursue better jobs. Advocates estimate as many as 1.7 million Illinoisans with past court cases stand to benefit from the so-called Clean Slate legisla-

tion, which the Democratic-led legislature pushed through the General Assembly in the final days of last month’s fall session. The bill builds on Illinois’ existing system, which permits many records to be sealed but can take months or even a few years to do so. The legislation shifting to a more automatic process would represent another significant change to the state’s criminal justice system since a recent wave of historic laws passed, including the elimination of cash bail, new sentencing rules for people incarcerated at a young age and a pathway for people in prison with serious medical issues to seek release. While many cases — such as murder, armed robbery, carjacking, residential burglary, sex offenses against minors, DUIs and reckless driving — will not be eligible for the automatic sealing, a few Republican lawmakers raised concerns about whether the legislation would actually promote rehabilitation, and they

Turn to Bill, Page 6

“It’s just not enough to depend on the grace of others to overlook certain things that I’ve done. It’s more about, ‘Listen, I served my time.’ In my case, that was well over 15 years ago.”

— *Floyd Stafford*

