

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Judge Scott McAfee, seen Feb. 12 in Atlanta, quashed six counts, including three against Donald Trump. **ALYSSA POINTER/POOL**

Judge drops 3 counts in Trump indictment

Former president still faces 10 charges in Georgia election case

By Kate Brumback and Alanna Durkin Richer
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The judge overseeing the Georgia 2020 election interference case Wednesday dismissed some of the charges against former President Donald Trump and others, but the rest of the sweeping racketeering indictment remains intact.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee quashed six counts in the indictment, including three against Trump, the presumptive 2024 Republican presidential nominee. But the judge left in place other counts — including 10 facing Trump — and said prosecutors could seek a new indictment to try to reinstate the ones he dismissed.

The ruling is a blow for Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who already is facing an effort to have her removed from the prosecution over her romantic relationship with a colleague. It's the first time charges in any of Trump's four criminal cases have been dismissed, with the judge saying prosecutors failed to provide enough detail about the alleged crime.

Turn to Trump, Page 5

INSIDE



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

White Sox trade Cease to Padres

The right-hander, one of the most sought-after pitchers on the trade market, ends a five-year run on the South Side. **Chicago Sports**

Ill. top court won't block tax referendum

The Illinois Supreme Court rejects effort to block the Bring Chicago Home real estate transfer tax referendum. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Mayor: Migrant shelter evictions will proceed

Johnson says some exemptions will be granted as city sorts out housing issues

By Alice Yin, Jake Sheridan and Jeremy Gorner
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson said Wednesday the city will move ahead with evicting an unknown number of migrants from city shelters for the first time, rejecting the latest outcry from a group of aldermen opposed to the

policy. Johnson told reporters at an unrelated West Side event that some of the thousands of migrant shelter residents who were issued 60-day notices to vacate by Saturday will receive “exemptions.” However, others without those privileges will be forced to leave and restart the process for seeking temporary shelter.

“I don't know if it's a substantial number, but again, they can return to the loading zone,” the mayor said when asked about how many migrants must leave the shelters. “That's one place, or they can decide to move on. You know, they don't necessarily have to remain within the structure that we're providing.”

It was unclear how many migrants previously required to exit a shelter will qualify for city-issued exemptions allowing them to instead stay. Johnson's administration previously esti-

mated as many as 5,600 could be removed, but exceptions will be made for those in the process of securing housing or out-migrating, as well as people with extenuating health circumstances, including pregnancy, he added.

Earlier this winter, the policy was delayed because of extreme weather conditions. And over the past week, an ongoing measles outbreak at a migrant shelter has placed that Lower West Side facility on a 21-day lockdown and

Turn to Evictions, Page 6



Venezuelan migrant Rengi Jesus Faltime, 33, restocks soda cans while selling the drinks and candy outside a migrant shelter on North Elston Avenue across the street from the Salt Shed concert venue on Feb. 29. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

SEEKING WORK, MIGRANTS TURN TO STREET VENDING

Selling arepas and candy bars on CTA trains, newcomers become latest additions to city

By Sarah Freishtat and Kate Armanini | Chicago Tribune

On a chilly late winter evening, the smell of cooked meat washed over the traffic backed up outside the Salt Shed music venue.

The smell came from the folding tables and stools set up across the street, where several vendors were selling arepas, empanadas and pastelitos out of multicolored coolers. Benches and a shopping cart were packed with snacks and cans of Sprite and Fanta. Cigarettes were also available for sale, and the smell of smoke mixed with that of the Venezuelan street food.

This is where Edwin Bravo was selling tequeños, outside the migrant shelter he's staying in. Venezuelans more established in the city bring him the precooked food, and in return take a cut of the money, he said.

But he expected to have enough customers to make a profit. The food at the shelter is terrible, he said, and he figured plenty of residents would take him up on his two-for-\$5 special.

And as dinnertime neared, the stub of a side street wedged between the music venue and Metra tracks filled with migrants hanging out and looking for a familiar meal from Bravo and the other vendors. The sounds of setup for the Jason Isbell concert at the Salt Shed mixed with the Spanish music playing on the street corner as the crowd grew.

“The day I get a (work) permit, I'll leave this place,” Bravo said in Spanish. “I'll rent a home.”

Turn to Vendors, Page 4

“I think all new beginnings are difficult. No one comes to a new country with everything. Everything is a process, and you have to adapt and fight.”

— Ruven Vartida, 29, who was a mechanic in Venezuela, began selling food after just days in the U.S.

ELECTION 2024 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Rep. García faces primary battle

Ald. Raymond Lopez challenges incumbent Dem US representative

By Olivia Stevens
Chicago Tribune

Created amid controversy more than 30 years ago to help Illinois elect a Latino representative to Congress, Illinois' 4th Congressional District was once best-known for being drawn in the shape of earmuffs in order to encompass several Hispanic Chicago neighborhoods and some suburbs.

Another truth has emerged during that time. Incumbency has translated into power. Ever since it was redrawn for the 1992 elections, the congressional district has had only two representatives in Congress — Luis Gutierrez and Jesus “Chuy” García, who was all-but-anointed Gutierrez's successor.

But for the first time since García took office in 2019, the progressive Chicago Democrat is facing a challenge in the party's primary. And that opposition is coming from three-term Chicago Ald. Raymond Lopez, 15th.

The contest not only underscores political differences as Lopez is more conservative than García and the attention-grabbing alderman nicknamed “Showpez” has appeared frequently on Fox News criticizing Chicago's more liberal policies and mayors. It's also a contrast in personalities as the 45-year-old Lopez's sometimes-chaotic energy infuses his upstart campaign against the more staid García, 67, who in making a bid for a fourth term in Congress has kept a tight campaign sched-

Turn to Primary, Page 6



U.S. Rep. Jesús “Chuy” García, left, is being challenged by Chicago Ald. Raymond Lopez, 15th. **BRIAN CASSELLA AND TRENT SPRAGUE/TRIBUNE**

