

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Colo. court bars Trump from ballot

14th Amendment used to disqualify presidential hopeful

By Nicholas Riccardi
Associated Press

DENVER — A divided Colorado Supreme Court on Tuesday declared former President Donald Trump ineligible for the White House under the U.S. Constitution's insurrection clause and removed him from the state's presidential primary ballot, setting up

a likely showdown in the nation's highest court to decide whether the front-runner for the GOP nomination can remain in the race. The decision from a court whose justices were all appointed by Democratic governors marks the first time in history that Section 3 of the 14th Amendment has been used to disqualify a presidential candidate.

"A majority of the court holds that Trump is disqualified from holding the office of president under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment," the court wrote in its 4-3 decision. Colorado's highest court overturned a ruling from a district court judge who found that Trump incited an insurrection for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the

Capitol, but said he could not be barred from the ballot because it was unclear that the provision was intended to cover the presidency. The high court stayed its decision until Jan. 4, or until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on the case. Colorado officials say the issue must be settled by Jan. 5, the deadline for the state to print its presidential primary ballots. "We do not reach these conclusions lightly," wrote the court's majority. "We are mindful of the

magnitude and weight of the questions now before us. We are likewise mindful of our solemn duty to apply the law, without fear or favor, and without being swayed by public reaction to the decisions that the law mandates we reach." Trump's attorneys had promised to appeal any disqualification immediately to the nation's highest court, which has the final say about constitutional matters.

Turn to Trump, Page 11



Darien Harris, center, joined by his mother Nakesha, left, and attorney Lauren Myerscough-Mueller, is released from Cook County Jail on Tuesday after prosecutors dropped murder charges stemming from a 2011 fatal shooting at a South Side gas station. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

Wrongly convicted man released from county jail

Prosecutors opt against new trial for man found guilty on blind witness's testimony

By Christy Gutowski
and Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

Two weeks after a Cook County judge overturned his murder conviction, Darien Harris won back his freedom Tuesday after prosecutors said they will not retry him in a fatal shooting at a South Side gas station. Harris was an 18-year-old high school senior with a clean criminal record when prosecutors charged him in an ambush-style

attack that left one man dead and another seriously injured in June 2011. His conviction was based in part on the testimony of an eyewitness who turned out to be legally blind. Now 30, Harris spent the last 12 years behind bars fighting for a new trial. He has long maintained his innocence, saying he was at home watching LeBron James play in the NBA Finals between the Miami Heat and the Dallas Mavericks. Authorities freed him from

Cook County Jail shortly after 6 p.m. on Tuesday. His mother Nakesha, as well as his wife, Jessica, and other relatives and supporters were waiting for him upon his release. Harris pledged to try to help free others in prison whom he said were wrongfully convicted. "Our fight doesn't stop," he told reporters outside the jail. "We're going to continue to fight for others." Hours earlier Nakesha Harris told a Tribune reporter she can't

wait for her son to meet his 5-year-old sister and celebrate the holidays with his family. She also thanked supporters, including the Rev. Corey Brooks and community activist Ja'Mal Green, as well as her son's legal team, prosecutors and God. "I'm so excited right now. I don't even have the words to explain how grateful I am," Nakesha Harris said. "This will be his first Christmas with all his

Turn to Release, Page 7

State 1 of 8 that saw numbers decline

Illinois' population fell by nearly 33,000, new census figures show

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

While the U.S. population returned to a pre-pandemic growth trajectory this year, Illinois was one of eight states to see its numbers decline, a new 2023 census report showed. Illinois lost 32,826 people between July 2022 and July 2023, trailing only New York and California in total population decline. But Illinois maintained its ranking as the sixth most populous state at 12,549,689, according to the annual census update released Tuesday. The Vintage 2023 population estimates show broader trends reflecting pre-pandemic norms, with fewer deaths and an increase in migration spurring growth. The net result was a gain of more than 1.6 million people in the past year, a 0.5% increase that brought the total U.S. population to 334,914,895. The growth rate is still historically low, but has been ticking up annually since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. "Ultimately, fewer deaths paired with rebounding immigration

Turn to Population, Page 6



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chef evokes emotion in Lincoln Square

Christian Hunter led Atelier to a Michelin star just nine months after opening, and he's barely begun to tell his story in food. Food & Health

Estrangement in the family can be hard during holidays

How to manage expectations during Christmas season

By Darcel Rockett
Chicago Tribune

Since the end of 2019 Arlette Martin has not spoken to her daughter, who lives less than a 10-minute drive from her. In that time her only child missed celebrating Martin's 50th birthday and Martin wasn't invited to her daughter's

wedding. "I've never spoken to my daughter, hugged or touched her since New Year's Eve 2019," said Martin, of Peru, Illinois. "My ex-husband's side of the family, she's still in a relationship with them. It's just my side of the family, she's not." Over the years, Martin said, she attempted unsuccessfully to talk with her 29-year-old child through letters, emails and texts and by showing up at her resi-

Turn to Estrangement, Page 6



Leslé Honoré chats with her college friends on a video call at her home Dec. 4. She cut ties with three older half-sisters in 2018 after the death of their father. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 42
Low 33



Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

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