

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



The decommissioned Bravo House of the quarter unit section of Stateville Correctional Center was built in 1929. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

Amid condition concerns, Stateville moves prisoners

Outcry over welfare hastens transfers from century-old facility near Joliet

By Olivia Olander
Chicago Tribune

Dozens of men have begun to be transferred out of Stateville Correctional Center just north of Joliet as debates continue over the condition of the century-old prison and Gov. JB Pritzker's plans to rebuild it in the coming years.

So far, 75 people in custody have been transferred out of Stateville, Illinois Department of Corrections spokesperson Naomi Puzzello said Wednesday. Those men went to prisons across the state, according

to Anders Lindall, a spokesperson for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 31, which represents many employees at the maximum-security correctional facility.

The transfers mark a significant step and a slight speed-up in plans regarding Stateville and other Illinois prisons as advocates for those who are incarcerated and employees at prisons have raised a broad range of sometimes differing concerns.

A federal judge earlier this month ordered most Stateville inmates be moved out by Sept. 30

after civil rights lawyers argued the conditions were too hazardous. As of the end of June, IDOC reported Stateville's total population was 568.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Andrea Wood came about five months after the Pritzker administration said it planned to rebuild Stateville in Crest Hill and Logan Correctional Center in downstate Lincoln as part of a nearly \$1 billion project.

Outcry over the welfare of those incarcerated at Stateville and at other Illinois prisons grew louder among advocates this summer after the June

death of 51-year-old Michael Broadway, who died in Stateville during a severe heat wave. Advocates put at least part of the blame for Broadway's death on the heat and squalid conditions inside the prison. Those conditions include poor ventilation, visible mold, rodent infestations and unsanitary drinking water. Broadway's autopsy report has not been released.

As IDOC has begun moving those at Stateville to other facilities, state officials have continued working on plans to demolish

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ComEd Four make push for acquittal

Lawyers claim case was built on 'rotten foundation'

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

Lawyers for four ex-ComEd executives and lobbyists convicted in a scheme to bribe then-House Speaker Michael Madigan argue in a new court filing that the entire prosecution was built on a "rotten foundation" and the charges should be dismissed in light of a key Supreme Court ruling in June.

The motion filed late Tuesday lays out in the starkest detail yet how defense attorneys for the so-called ComEd Four view the impact of the high court's ruling in the bribery case of a former Indiana mayor, James Snyder, which said the federal bribery statute known as 666 does not criminalize "gratuities," which are favors or gifts given to a public official without any agreement ahead of time to take some kind of official action.

"From the outset of this case, the government maintained that giving things of value to a powerful politician as a reward for past acts or to curry favor without a quid pro quo is criminal," the ComEd Four defense teams argued in the motion. "On that foundation, the government built an edifice of overlapping charges. But as with all structures, if the foundation is rotten, the structure will fall. And in Snyder v. United States, the Supreme Court confirmed that the government's theory has been rotten from the start."

The ComEd Four defendants — former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore; Madigan

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Downtown hotels win big during week of DNC

Occupancy levels as much as 20% higher than period last year

By Brian J. Rogal
Chicago Tribune

Downtown hotels enjoyed a lucrative week during the Democratic National Convention, with occupancy levels as much as 20% higher than the same period last year and rooms rented at much higher rates to the tens of thousands of visiting delegates, lobbyists and other convention attendees, according to data from CoStar, a real estate analytics firm.

"It's economics 101. If demand goes up, prices go up," said Jan Freitag, national director of hospitality analytics at CoStar. "These are very healthy numbers, so I think it was a very successful week, at least from a hotel perspective."

Mayor Brandon Johnson and Gov. JB Pritzker have been taking victory laps over what most observers regard as an effective convention, and even though many local restaurants saw huge revenue cuts last week, the solid business done by the city's hotels, especially ones downtown and near the United Center, could bolster the case for chasing after the 2028 conventions.

Winning the right to host a 2028 convention would provide another boost to downtown business activity and the city's reputation, especially if it takes place during the dog days of August, said Maverick Hotels and Restaurants CEO Robert Habeeb, the propri-

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ELECTION 2024

Trump reposts incendiary messages

Blasts shared on Truth Social after new indictment

By Michelle L. Price
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump shared more than a dozen posts on his social media network Wednesday that call for the trial or jailing of House lawmakers who investigated the attack on the U.S. Capitol, special counsel Jack Smith and others, along with images that reference the QAnon conspiracy theory.

The former president began posting a string of messages Tuesday evening after Smith filed a new indictment against him over his efforts to undo his loss in the 2020 presidential election. The new indictment keeps the same criminal charges but narrows the allegations against Trump following a Supreme Court opinion last month that extended broad immunity to former presidents.

Trump reposted a doctored image that was made to look like President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in orange prison jumpsuits, among other political figures, and a lewd

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INSIDE



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Happy homecoming for preemie

Nathan Zarate, who was born after 25 weeks in the womb, weighing only 14.3 ounces, goes home with parents Alicia and Jonathan Zarate on Wednesday after a nearly 300-day stay at Advocate Children's Hospital in Park Ridge. "It's amazing," Alicia said. "I never thought I would see the day. It's been a long journey with lots of ups and downs. We made it." **Chicagoland, Page 2**

The calm before storm of season

After a relatively calm Bears training camp, now it's time to see if General Manager Ryan Poles has the team ready to compete for an NFC North title. **Brad Biggs in Chicago Sports**



STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE

Israeli troops raid sites in West Bank

The ongoing operation was among the largest in the West Bank in months and killed at least 10 Hamas combatants and sealed off the volatile city of Jenin. **Nation & World**

