

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Suburbs restrict migrant drop-offs

Area municipalities use Chicago's rules to crack down on buses

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Chicago suburbs have begun to crack down on buses of migrants arriving from the southern border with little to no coordination, facing the fallout of increased border crossings that are for the first time in over a year being brought directly to their doorsteps.

For days now several municipalities outside of Chicago have borne the brunt of Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's unwavering practice of busing migrants across state lines.

Buses began arriving outside Chicago after the city tightened restrictions on when and where they could arrive. Over a dozen other suburbs are now using Chicago's rules as a blueprint so migrants will stop coming unannounced.

Hinsdale — which has received 12 buses since mid-December — became one of the latest to do so. Its village board passed an ordinance Tuesday to address the issue of unscheduled bus drop-offs at or near the train station.

"As the weather turns dangerously cold, migrant drop-offs unannounced in Hinsdale put in danger lives," Hinsdale Village President Thomas Cauley said.

Governing boards in several other Chicago-area suburbs took similar action Tuesday.

In Lake County, Waukegan, North Chicago, Highwood and Grayslake all approved ordinances to regulate unscheduled buses, as did Buffalo Grove, which includes parts of Lake and Cook counties.

Many other suburbs approved similar measures in recent weeks.

More than 70 buses

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Speaker's border trip highlights impasse

By Valerie Gonzalez and Stephen Groves
Associated Press

EAGLE PASS, Texas — House Speaker Mike Johnson led about 60 fellow Republicans in Congress on a visit Wednesday to the Mexico border to demand hard-line immigration policies in exchange for backing President Joe Biden's emergency wartime funding request for Ukraine. He expressed serious doubts about whether he would support a bipartisan compromise.

The trip to Eagle Pass, Texas, came as the Senate engages in delicate negotiations in hopes of striking a deal.

With the number of illegal crossings into the United States topping 10,000 on several days last month, the border city has been at the center of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star, his nearly \$10 billion initiative that has tested the federal government's authority over immigration and elevated the political fight over the issue.

An agreement in the lengthy talks in Washington could unlock Senate GOP support

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District judge decides to wait for high court's ruling in bribery case

Prosecutors fire back, claiming 'wheels of justice' move too slowly

Madigan trial delayed



Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, center, and his lawyer Thomas Breen, left, leave the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago on Wednesday after a hearing over whether Madigan's landmark trial should be postponed. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

WHY SUPREME COURT DECISION MATTERS

A decision from the high court overturning the conviction of James Snyder, the former mayor of Portage, Indiana, could resolve a split among federal circuits over whether "rewards and gratuities" given to a public official constitute bribes, even in the absence of a distinct quid pro quo. Where the Supreme Court lands on the issue could reverberate across a number of high-profile cases in Chicago, where defense attorneys have long complained that prosecutors overreach when it comes to charging public officials under the federal bribery statute with illegally receiving gratuities.

By Jason Meisner and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's landmark racketeering trial was postponed Wednesday pending a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court in a Chicago-area bribery case that could fundamentally alter what prosecutors are required to prove.

The new date for the trial was set for Oct. 8. It's expected to last up to three months.

"I don't do this lightly," U.S. District Judge John Robert Blakey said. "But it's better to do it right than to do it twice."

Blakey's ruling came as Madi-

gan, the former leader of the state Democratic Party who holds the nationwide record 36 years as speaker, appeared in court for the first time since his indictment nearly two years ago.

Blakey had allowed both Madigan and his co-defendant, longtime confidant Michael McClain, to appear via video-conference, which McClain accepted. Madigan, however, appeared in person instead, walking into the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse with his legal team shortly after 1:30 p.m., noticeably grayer around the temples than when he controlled the House.

While awaiting the start

of the proceedings, Madigan nodded hello at lead prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Amarjeet Bhachu, who shook hands with his attorneys.

The former speaker sat at the defense table for most of the hourlong hearing dressed in a black suit and blue tie, wearing reading glasses and occasionally taking notes on a yellow legal pad. Near the end, Madigan was asked to step forward to the microphone so the judge could confirm he agreed to the trial delay.

"Uh, yes, I do your honor," Madigan said in a soft voice, marking the first words he has

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INSIDE



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Infant hospitalized, 2 mothers killed in Cicero shooting

The slaying of two young mothers shot in a Cicero home Tuesday night, followed by the apparent suicide of the gunman, took a turn Wednesday morning when a baby first reported to be unharmed in the shooting was admitted to a Chicago hospital with serious wounds. The 10-month-old boy's grandmother first told police the baby was not injured but sought medical help as the infant's behavior changed. **Page 5**

Scores dead in Iran blasts

Two bombs killed at least 95 people Wednesday at a commemoration for a prominent Iranian general slain by the U.S. in a 2020 drone strike, but the culprit is unknown. **Nation & World**

Remembering 'Coach Joe'

Joey Meyer, the former DePaul men's basketball coach who died Friday at the age of 74, left a long legacy of respect and kindness for others, writes columnist Paul Sullivan. **Chicago Sports**

Veteran of juvenile justice to run DCFS

By Jeremy Gorner
Chicago Tribune

Gov. JB. Pritzker on Wednesday announced a new leader for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, shifting a veteran youth justice practitioner who oversees the state's juvenile detention system to head the troubled child welfare agency.

Heidi Mueller, who has been director of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice since 2016, was chosen to head DCFS following a national search to replace Marc Smith, who has led the agency since April 2019. Smith, selected by Pritzker during his first year in office, announced in October he was stepping down.

Mueller said in a statement that during her time with the

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Mueller

