

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Nine south suburban mayors have sent a letter to the Biden administration requesting that Jesse Jackson Jr. be pardoned. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2017**

Jackson seeks pardon

With help from suburban mayors, son of civil rights icon, who was convicted in 2013 of conspiring to defraud congressional campaign fund, now calls for Biden's support

By Dan Petrella and Mike Nolan
Chicago Tribune

Convicted former Democratic U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. is ramping up an effort to get politicians to encourage President Joe Biden to pardon the former congressman before the Democratic president leaves

office early next year.

Jackson, who served about 17 months in federal prison after pleading guilty in 2013 to conspiring to defraud his campaign fund of roughly \$750,000, has enlisted the help of south suburban mayors from his former congressional district and also put out a general call on his Facebook

page for others to write letters of support to Biden.

"If you would like to write a letter on my behalf on your (stationery), a church resolution, on official (stationery), please send to me in messenger because I have to upload it to the pardon office and to my file," Jackson wrote in a Facebook post Sept. 6.

That was the same day NBC News reported nine south suburban mayors had sent a letter to the White House requesting Jackson be pardoned. Jackson shared the NBC story and a copy of the letter in one of his posts that day on Facebook. But neither Jackson,

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LA SCHIAZZA TRIAL

Jury sees emails of Madigan confidant

AT&T was asked to pay ex-state rep working as lobbyist

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

Nobody at AT&T Illinois was keen on hiring Eddie Acevedo as a lobbyist when he retired from the state legislature in 2017, and not only because the South Side Democrat's overly partisan style rubbed many of his colleagues across the aisle the wrong way, a former AT&T insider told a federal jury Thursday.

"Eddie tended to go out in the evenings in Springfield after session and on occasion would have too much to drink," testified Stephen Selcke, who worked for years as one of AT&T's top internal lobbyists. "And when he drank too much, he could get belligerent and, to a degree, a little loose-lipped."

But it turned out Acevedo had something going for him that trumped even his more unpleasant attributes.

He had Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan in his corner.

That's why, after a push from Madigan's longtime confidant, Michael McClain, AT&T Illinois President Paul La Schiazza wound up hiring Acevedo as an off-the-books consultant in the spring of 2017, paying him \$2,500 per month through a firm run by another Madigan ally, according to Selcke.

"My impression was that, uh, that Mr. McClain was advancing a request to Paul after a presumed discussion he had had with Speaker Madigan," Selcke told the jury.

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STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A STAR IS CORN

Caitlin Clark, rookie guard for the WNBA's Fever, takes center stage at this year's County Line Orchard corn maze in Hobart, Ind. The maze, complete with a photo scavenger hunt, honors the phenom who has, along with Sky rookie Angel Reese, helped boost national interest in the women's basketball league. County Line, which also offers pick-your-own apples and pumpkins along with other family-friendly activities, creates themed mazes every year; in 2016, the farm's Cubs-themed corn maze celebrated the team's World Series win.

JOLIET

Stabbing raises questions about child culpability laws

By Karina Atkins
Chicago Tribune

The recent fatal stabbing of a 2-year-old Joliet boy, allegedly at the hands of his 6-year-old brother, has bolstered calls to amend how Illinois' criminal code handles young children.

Within hours of Joliet police responding to a 911 call from the mother shortly

after 5 p.m. on Sept. 6, the older brother was placed in the custody of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, which arranged a mental health evaluation at a local hospital the next morning. The department declined to confirm if he was still in its care as of Wednesday since the investigation into the stabbing is ongoing.

The 6-year-old boy could be charged with murder because Illinois is one of 24 states without a minimum age for criminal responsibility.

"There are very real questions about whether children are capable of forming criminal intent, of understanding the impact

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"A 6-year-old allegedly murdering someone isn't a system issue. This is always going to be an exceptional case where you're going to have to design a unique response. Keep the focus on the family."

— Psychologist and attorney Eugene Griffin

ELECTION 2024

Harris, Trump race to crucial battleground states following debate

By Chris Megerian, Jonathan J. Cooper and Gary D. Robertson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump are racing toward swing states that

they hope to flip in their favor this year, both of them trying to expand their narrow paths to victory in a closely fought presidential campaign.

Harris has her sights set on North Carolina, where she scheduled rallies in Charlotte and Greensboro

on Thursday, her first political events after she buoyed supporters with her performance in Tuesday's debate. Her team is working to turn key moments from the debate into new television and digital advertising, and promising more travel in battleground states.

Trump headed west to Tucson, Arizona, as he looks to stabilize his campaign, which continues to struggle to recalibrate nearly two months after Harris replaced President Joe Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket. Although Harris' team

proposed a future debate, Trump on Thursday rejected the idea in a post on his Truth Social account.

"THERE WILL BE NO THIRD DEBATE!" Trump said with his signature all-caps, including his debate against Biden in the count.

The candidates are barnstorming one day after they marked the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, a somber occasion that provided little respite from partisan politics in a high-speed campaign season.

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No fear of Friday the 13th

How the Anti-Superstition Society of Chicago, founded in the early 1930s to debunk the idea that specific actions would cause bad luck, celebrated Friday the 13th through its decadeslong run of highly publicized hijinks. **Page 5**

Challenges for revived Foxtrot

As upscale convenience store chain Foxtrot plots a comeback, licensing, staffing and lease renegotiations are among its biggest challenges, CEO Mike LaVitola said in a virtual conversation Thursday. **Business**

Big questions for the Bulls



The Bulls enter the upcoming season with more questions than answers amid the departures of DeMar DeRozan and Alex Caruso and the discontentment of Zach LaVine. **Chicago Sports**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High **84** Low **67**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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