

Chicago Tribune



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

“Though being in warming buses is better than being out on the street, it is incumbent on the city of Chicago to find more dignified living spaces.”

— Elliott Young, a professor at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, who specializes in migration



A migrant drinks canned water near CTA buses at the city's "landing zone" Wednesday as Angelo Traviezo, second from right, of Venezuela, talks with others. At least eight CTA buses are being used at the site as temporary shelters. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

No showers, sparse food at migrant 'landing zone'

Advocates decry conditions as bitter cold weather looms

By Nell Salzman and Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

Hundreds of migrants who recently arrived in Chicago have been staying in warming buses provided by the city and they haven't taken a shower for days.

Many are hungry and sick with colds. Each night, they climb into eight warming buses to sleep at the Office of Emergency Management and Communications' "landing zone" in the West Loop. The number of migrants has climbed to 324. Wednesday morning, some could be seen tossing a football and running to stay warm. Others blew on their hands for warmth and scrounged for food.

"If you're not given food, you go to extreme measures. You look for food in the trash," said Robinson Mendez, 30, from Valencia, Venezuela.

He pointed at a group of migrants who he said had found three boxes of sandwiches in the trash and were hurriedly stuffing bread and meat in their mouths. They were matching navy USA soccer jackets and beanies. He said they — like him — had no

Turn to Migrants, Page 4



A group gathers outside at the city's migrant landing zone on Wednesday.

NEW SHELTER OPENS: The state opened a long-discussed shelter at a former CVS store in the Little Village neighborhood on Wednesday. That shelter, which will be funded by the state and operated by controversial contractor GardaWorld Federal Services, is intended to house more than 200 people, including families with young children, some who have been staying at a hotel paid for by the state since late December.

House panel votes to cite Hunter Biden for contempt



Hunter Biden, left, son of President Joe Biden, and lawyer Abbe Lowell attend a House Oversight Committee meeting on Wednesday in Washington. A different committee cited him for contempt of Congress. **KENT NISHIMURA/GETTY**

By Luke Broadwater
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The House Judiciary Committee voted Wednesday along party lines to hold Hunter Biden, the president's son, in contempt of Congress, hours after he surprised Republicans on another committee by appearing unannounced on Capitol Hill, prompting a partisan free-for-all.

The 23-14 vote sends the matter to the full House, which is controlled by Republicans. The measure accuses the younger Biden of failing to sit for a private deposition in the impeachment inquiry against

President Joe Biden. It came as the House Oversight Committee continued a lengthy and at times vitriolic meeting on an identical resolution, which also was expected to be approved along party lines.

"We will not provide Hunter Biden with special treatment because of his last name," said Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., chair of the oversight panel.

The day began with a dramatic twist: the unexpected arrival of the younger Biden, who has repeatedly offered to testify publicly in the impeachment inquiry but has declined to be interviewed behind

Turn to Biden, Page 5

■ Moving ahead with multiple impeachment plans, House Republicans set new sights on Homeland Security secretary over surge of migrants at the U.S. border. **Nation & World**

Abortion in Illinois surged as Roe fell

Nearly 17K patients came from other states during 2022 — a 49% increase

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

More than 56,000 abortions were performed in Illinois the year the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, marking the most pregnancy terminations statewide since the mid-1990s, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health's annual abortion statistics report.

The rise in abortions that year was driven by a roughly 49% spike in out-of-state patients: Nearly 17,000 people came from other states to Illinois to terminate a pregnancy in 2022 compared with roughly 11,000 abortion seekers who traveled from other states in 2021, the data showed.

In contrast, the number of Illinois residents having abortions in-state decreased slightly, from a little over 40,000 in 2021 to nearly 39,000 in 2022.

Abortions overall increased by about 9% from 2021 to 2022, according to the report, which was released Tuesday and includes the most recent state health department data on abortion available.

It's the first Illinois abortion report to include a partial year following the June 2022 demise of Roe, the landmark Supreme Court case that guaranteed the right to terminate a pregnancy nationwide for nearly 50 years.

The statistics offer a glimpse at the rise in travel for abortion seekers in a post-Roe nation, though the data doesn't include information on the states where patients are coming from or the distances traveled.

Data for 2023, the first full year without federal abortion protections, aren't available from the state health department yet.

While abortion rights remain protected in Illinois after the end of Roe, many states in the Midwest and around the country almost entirely banned or severely restricted terminating a pregnancy.

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Jury weighing fate of alleged gang members

Defendants accused in '20 slaying of rapper FBG Duck

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

After a nearly three-month trial and four days of closing arguments, a federal jury finally began deliberating late Wednesday in the racketeering case of six purported gang members charged with carrying out the brazen 2020 murder of drill rapper FBG Duck in the Gold Coast.

The jury of five men and seven women, who have remained anonymous due to security concerns surrounding the case, were sent back to the jury room at about 5:25 p.m. Wednesday, but almost immediately told the judge they wanted to leave for the day. They are expected to resume Thursday morning.

Prosecutors alleged the high-profile slaying of Duck, whose real name was Carlton Weekly, was part of a deadly, yearslong conflict between two South Side gang factions who boasted about their exploits and killing rivals through drill rap tracks that often name-dropped specific victims.

But in her closing argument Wednesday, the attorney for the lead defendant, Charles Liggins, accused prosecutors of losing the "ability to distinguish entertainment fantasy from reality," portraying the South Side rap culture

Turn to Jury, Page 2

BUSINESS

Grants for brave entrepreneurs

Businesses and nonprofits that launched during the heart of the pandemic are eligible for up to \$30,000 from the state's Back to Business NewBiz program.

ARTS & LIVING

An outdoor oasis to call your own

Dreaming of springtime? Find ways to spruce up your home to help your family to enjoy their exterior space as much as their interior one before warmer weather hits.



EBERFLUS TO RETURN AMID SHAKE-UP

The Bears say they'll move into 2024 with Matt Eberflus as their coach, but he'll be in search of five new offensive assistants. **Chicago Sports**



BEDARD LIKELY OUT FOR AT LEAST 6 WEEKS

Rookie sensation Connor Bedard could miss up to two months after jaw surgery, the Blackhawks announced on Wednesday. **Chicago Sports**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 32 Low 26

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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