

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL

Martinez defends work at CPS

In contentious hearing with aldermen, embattled schools CEO tries to wipe the target off his back

By Jake Sheridan,
Nell Salzman and
Ikram Mohamed
Chicago Tribune

Chicago Public Schools CEO Pedro Martinez had the stage to himself Wednesday at City Hall, and used it to go on the offensive in his ongoing fight with Mayor Brandon Johnson over control of the city's schools.

As expected, only Martinez — and none of the Chicago Board of Education nominees Johnson tapped in an apparent bid to get Martinez fired for refusing to borrow money to balance the school budget — showed up to the Education Committee meeting aldermen called to vet the mayor's picks.

Johnson last week refused to pledge to tell the six to attend,

taking some of the drama out of the meeting but clearing the way for Martinez to make his case for solving CPS' daunting financial challenges with little pushback.

Martinez tried to wipe the target off his back, arguing to aldermen that his hand has guided recent education gains and that he has done everything he can to try to address decadeslong disinvestment by lobbying for more school funding from Springfield.

"The issues that we have are

Turn to Martinez, Page 5



Chicago Public Schools CEO Pedro Martinez speaks during a council Education Committee hearing to address the budget and vet potential school board members at City Hall on Wednesday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



RECALLS ARE NOW A SHELF STAPLE

Recent FDA advisories have raised concerns about food safety, but experts credit better government regulation and technology

By Vivian La | Chicago Tribune

Chicago Heights resident Stephanie Petersen was concerned by how many food recalls she saw daily on the Food and Drug Administration website. "There was, like, (multiple) recalls every single day. And a lot of salmonella, listeria, a lot of different things," Petersen said. "I was like, what is going on? It's so many."

Petersen, an occupational therapy student who posts regularly on social media about health, started creating TikTok videos in August where she updates followers on the latest recalls. She includes information like dates, severity, screenshots from the FDA website and news sources.

"I'm just doing it to help and keep everybody safe," Petersen said. "All I say is just, you know, stay on top of the recalls."

Recent food recalls have raised concerns among consumers about food safety and regulation. But experts said the issue is complicated due to factors like increased regulation, better technology and more public awareness.

Turn to Recalls, Page 6

Volunteer Michael Jones unpacks boxes of eggs at Common Pantry in the North Center neighborhood on Monday after receiving a delivery from the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Common Pantry has been affected by an ongoing egg recall, and to preserve supply, workers have been splitting cartons in half to give to families. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

■ Listeria recall grows to nearly 12 million pounds of meat, poultry items. **Nation & World**

City bike project already altered

Strife over greenway in Lincoln Park costs Chicago extra \$27K

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

A Lincoln Park bike installation that became a flashpoint for neighborhood tensions that can surround cycling projects has been partly revamped, less than a year after it opened.

At an estimated cost of \$27,505, the city has again redesigned a stretch of Dickens Avenue that had been closed to traffic, after outcry from some in the community. The roughly 200-feet of redesigned road forms the east end of the Dickens Greenway, a series of bike lanes, lower speed limits, curb bump-outs and other measures intended to make the road comfortable for all users, including cyclists traveling to Oz Park, the Lincoln Park Zoo and the lakefront.

The \$1 million greenway was in the works for years before construction finished in December 2023. Long contentious, the project came to show the challenge of getting neighborhood buy-in for bike projects, even as the city has outlined a strategy to build out Chicago's bike network as cycling grows in popularity and as advocates say making the city more bike friendly is crucial to its success.

But residents had raised fears that cyclists whizzing by on a shared section of the path near Lincoln Park High School could pose risks to students and pedestrians, that the bike project was an unnecessary and confusing eyesore and expressed frustration about communication between public officials and the community before the project was built.

Especially contentious was

Turn to Project, Page 6

ELECTION 2024

Battle intensifies as campaigns woo union support

By Joey Cappelletti
and Matt Brown
Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Vice President Kamala Harris rallies in Michigan's union halls, standing alongside the state's most powerful labor leader, while former President Donald Trump fires back from rural steel factories, urging middle-class workers to trust him as the true champion of their interests.

As they compete for blue wall

states with deep union roots, the presidential candidates are making their case to workers in starkly different terms. And nowhere is that contrast more significant than in Michigan, where both candidates are vying for workers' support in a race that could mark a pivotal moment for organized labor.

"The American dream was really born here in Michigan," United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain told a crowd of several hundred while campaigning for

Harris in Grand Rapids. Fain, who described Michigan as "sacred ground" for his union at the early October rally, warned that the dream was on "life support" and that unions like his were key to protecting it for American workers.

Harris, who is planning to meet with union workers again in Michigan on Friday, hopes her message — amplified by supporters such as Fain — will resonate beyond the union families that once formed a rock-solid base

for the Democratic Party. Her campaign has grown increasingly concerned about her standing with men in the blue wall states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, where they are looking to union leaders to help mobilize voters in a political landscape that has shifted in the winds of a rapidly changing economy.

These concerns intensified recently when Harris failed

Turn to Unions, Page 10

CHICAGO SPORTS Bulls guard Ball 'happy to be back'



For the first time in nearly three years, Lonzo Ball put on a Chicago Bulls jersey

and entered an NBA game Wednesday night at the United Center. But if Ball, who suffered what appeared to be a minor meniscus injury in his left knee that led to three operations, was feeling any nerves ahead of a return to the court, he wasn't admitting any of it.

