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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Ex-Speaker Madigan back in court

His lawyers ask judge to gut indictment in wake of Supreme Court ruling

By Jason Meisner, Ray Long and Megan Crepeau
Chicago Tribune

Armed with a U.S. Supreme Court decision that scaled back a key federal bribery statute, lawyers for ex-House Speaker Michael Madigan argued in a new filing Monday that 14 counts of the indictment are “fatally infirm” and should be dismissed, in part because there is no proof that the once-powerful Democratic leader agreed to use his official position for personal gain.

On Tuesday, Madigan was back in court for a lengthy hearing for the first time since that decision came down, though the issue was not up for discussion. Instead, U.S. District Judge John Robert Blakey heard arguments about proposed expert witnesses and some of the nuts-and-bolts logistics of the trial, which is fast approaching.

Madigan, whose appearance was not required, strode into the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse flanked by his legal team and sat at the defense table throughout the nearly three-hour hearing. Dressed in a dark suit and

purple tie, Madigan peered over his reading glasses at the judge and occasionally wrote notes on a yellow legal pad.

His co-defendant and longtime confidant, Michael McClain, was not present.

The 73-page defense filing this week largely mirrors the defense’s motion to dismiss in February 2023, which had yet to be ruled on by Blakey. Instead, the judge ordered the parties to renew their submissions in light of the Supreme Court’s decision last month in the case of former Portage, Indiana, Mayor James Snyder.

The filing includes dozens of citations to the Snyder ruling, which says the federal bribery statute commonly known as 666 after its number in the federal criminal code does not criminalize “gratuities,” gifts given to elected officials to express thanks for taking a favorable action.

“The impact of Snyder on this case cannot be questioned,” the filing stated. “The Supreme Court clearly and definitively held that the statute applies only to bribes, not gratuities, and that bribery ‘requires that the official have a corrupt state of mind and accept (or agree to accept) the payment

Turn to Madigan, Page 4



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Mother Nature wallops Chicago area

Crews clear a fallen tree that hit a house and uprooted a sidewalk Tuesday on South Euclid Avenue in Oak Park after Monday night’s storms. Heavy rains and tornadoes rattled the Chicago area and the Midwest, cutting power to hundreds of thousands and overtopping a dam in southern Illinois. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miller: Media has ‘demonized Trump’

Downstate US rep. symbolizes rightward shift of Illinois GOP

By Jeremy Gorner and Rick Pearson
Chicago Tribune

MILWAUKEE — U.S. Rep. Mary Miller, who is leading the Illinois’ 64-member delegation at the GOP’s national presidential nominating convention, on Tuesday blamed former President Donald Trump’s low standing in Illinois on the news media and said that if gun owners in the solidly blue state showed up to vote Republicans could “flip the state red.”

Miller, 64, symbolizes the new leadership of an Illinois Republican Party moving ever rightward in deference to Trump. Voted by her fellow state delegates to take the lead role in Milwaukee, her unwavering support of the former president, including a visit to his “hush money” trial in New York, puts her in politically good stead If he wins the presidency and the GOP maintains control of the House.

Turn to Miller, Page 2



U.S. Rep Mary Miller, 15th District, speaks to the media Tuesday after the Illinois Republican Party Delegation breakfast in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.
E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Pritzker, Bears huddle over stadium plan

Governor’s office describes private meeting as ‘cordial’

By Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

Gov. J.B. Pritzker met privately for the first time Tuesday with Chicago Bears President and CEO Kevin Warren as the team continues to push for upward of \$2 billion in public support for its proposed new domed stadium on a reimagined lakefront.

The governor’s office, which confirmed the breakfast meeting, said the discussion between the two was “cordial” and was intended for them to get to know each other.

Pritzker has publicly cast doubt on the Bears’ request for the state of Illinois to help fund the team’s nearly \$5 billion plan to replace Soldier Field, a plan that has the full backing of Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson. The governor previously expressed a willingness to listen but said any plan with public backing must “be a good deal for taxpayers.”

When Warren and Bears Executive Vice President Karen Murphy met virtually with top Pritzker aides in May, the governor’s office issued a statement calling the team’s plan “a nonstarter.” The

Turn to Stadium, Page 5

The thrill is in the chill

Coffee roasters big and small explore the growing cold brew canned coffee market. Plus, a look at six local offerings and how they stack up against each other. **Food & Health**

Menendez convicted in bribery case

The New Jersey senator was found guilty of accepting bribes of gold and cash from businessmen and acting as a foreign agent for the Egyptian government. **Page 6**

