

Chicago Tribune



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CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL

Attempt to curtail lobbying stalls



Ordinance to restrict donations to city mayors temporarily blocked as Johnson urges delay until more ‘comprehensive ethics package’ on table

By Jake Sheridan and Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

An ethics ordinance aimed at restricting lobbyists’ donations to Chicago mayors was blocked Wednesday in a temporary win for Mayor Brandon Johnson, whose team came out against the measure after running into trouble over his campaign contributions.

Ahead of an expected final vote, two aldermen used a parliamentary tactic to stall the ordinance

to fine or suspend lobbyists who make contributions to a mayoral candidate’s political fund. The aldermen later denied to reporters that the Johnson administration officials urged them to oppose it, but the maneuver nonetheless bought the mayor time to halt or amend the effort led by Ald. Matt Martin.

Martin said he was disappointed in the delay and intends to bring the ordinance back to the council in July.

Johnson was not enthusiastic about that timeline. In a post-council news conference, he said he wants to wait for a “full comprehensive ethics package” rather than move quickly on one that only addresses lobbyist contributions to mayoral candidates.

The legislation was crafted in response to how Johnson handled lobbyist donations his political committee received. It is part of a

Turn to Lobbying, Page 5

Mayor Brandon Johnson on Wednesday presides over the Chicago City Council meeting, during which an ethics ordinance crafted in response to how he handled lobbyist donations stalled. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Forensic scientists testify at rape trial

Jurors in Shannon case also hear from accuser’s best friend

By Jonathan Bullington
Chicago Tribune

Editor’s note: This story includes graphic language.

LAWRENCE, Kansas — Douglas County prosecutors rested their case Wednesday in the rape trial of Terrence Shannon Jr. as jurors heard testimony from his accuser’s best friend and others who were present at the crowded bar near the University of Kansas campus the night of the alleged sexual assault.

Shannon, a Chicago native and University of Illinois men’s basketball standout, faces one count of rape or an alternative count of aggravated sexual battery, also a felony. He stands accused of putting his hand under an 18-year-old woman’s skirt, grabbing her buttocks and penetrating her vagina with his finger while in an area of the Jayhawk Cafe called the Martini Room.

Shannon has denied the allegations, which stem from a September trip he and two others took to Lawrence to watch an Illini-Jayhawks football game. His NBA hopes — some prognosticators believe he could be a first-round pick in this month’s draft — likely hinge on the outcome of a trial that is scheduled to conclude two weeks before the NBA draft.

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Children play near a migrant shelter on the Lower West Side on June 4 in Chicago. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Chicago begins evicting entire migrant families from shelters

City officials say process will ease pressure on stretched resources, but advocates sound alarm

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson’s administration has begun the process of removing from city shelters dozens of migrant families, including those with children who attended Chicago Public Schools.

Just days after the CPS school year ended, officials this week

began the eviction process to continue to ease pressure on overstretched resources in shelters run by the city and state.

It’s the second significant wave of forced removals at shelters since the city began ordering mostly single men and some single women to find housing elsewhere. Now, entire families are being told the same.

Homeless advocates and experts said moving the families from shelters could be detrimental to the children’s sense of stability. For many of the migrant children, school has been the only structure in their lives after traveling for months to the United States, the experts said.

“Going through this eviction process is stressful and very challenging for them,” said Alyssa Phillips, education attorney for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

More than 43,000 migrants have arrived in Chicago since August 2022 when Republican Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas first ordered asylum-seekers be shuttled to Chicago and other northern cities to share the costs of the influx as well as to make a political statement about the nation’s immigration policies.

The migrants — who mostly come from Venezuela — are escaping their country of origin’s

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INSIDE



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2023

Riot Fest move has headliners, no Stars

Beck, Public Enemy and Fall Out Boy will headline this year’s Riot Fest, which is moving to SeatGeek Stadium in Bridgeview, but the Red Stars could seek legal action as the relocation tries to force the soccer team to move a home game. **Coverage in Arts & Living and Chicago Sports**

ANALYSIS HUNTER BIDEN TRIAL

Gun conviction saps GOP conspiracy

Trump allies secretly rooted for acquittal to use as evidence of justice system rigged for Bidens

By Jonathan Swan, Maggie Haberman and Michael Gold
The New York Times

The moment had come. Late Tuesday morning, nearly five years after Republicans first went after Hunter Biden, the president’s son could finally be called a convicted felon.

But former President Donald Trump and other Republicans did not seem to be relishing the opportunity. The early reaction to a jury’s guilty verdict against Hunter Biden on three felony gun charges resembled a shrivel-

ing balloon.

“The Hunter Biden gun conviction is kinda dumb tbh,” said one close Trump ally, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, in a post on the social platform X, using an abbreviation for “to be honest.”

Another Trump associate, Charlie Kirk, called it a “fake trial.”

Many Trump allies had been secretly rooting for an acquittal. The talking points wrote themselves: It would have been yet more evidence that the justice system was rigged in favor of the Bidens and against the Trumps. Tuesday’s guilty verdict was

inconvenient to that narrative.

Even more valuable would have been the fundraising potential.

A person with knowledge of the Trump campaign’s fundraising plans, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said there had been discussions about how much an acquittal would help Trump, potentially raising tens of millions of additional dollars as they planned to cite it as more evidence the justice system was rigged. After Trump was convicted in Manhattan on 34 felony counts, his campaign raised record sums online, and some of his advisers recognized that an acquittal of Biden’s son

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TODAY’S WEATHER



High 91 Low 66

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
177th year No. 165 © Chicago Tribune

