

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Johnson: Shelter evictions to begin

Group of 34 adult migrants will be the first required to leave locations Sunday

By Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration announced Friday that 34 migrants will be evicted from Chicago's migrant shelter system this weekend while scores of families will receive new exemptions allowing them

to stay, the latest update in his handling of a 60-day shelter limit policy that has seen months of delays and backlash.

The group of 34 adults will be the first migrants required to leave the shelters, after a week of uncertainty over whether the Johnson administration

would move ahead with limited evictions at the next deadline Saturday as outcry mounted from aldermen opposed to the policy.

Thousands of new exemptions were granted to all families with children, on top of existing ones for those who have medical issues including a mental health condition or quarantine requirement, are in the process of securing housing or leaving Chicago, experi-

encing domestic violence or are pregnant. Further exceptions include those enrolled in public benefits or undergoing bereavement.

During a Friday briefing with City Hall reporters, Johnson's team confirmed the change. It came two days after the mayor said the city was proceeding with the policy that was to see its first wave of evictions on Saturday, without elaborating on how many would be

affected.

Johnson's deputy chief of staff Cristina Pacione-Zayas nodded to the whiplash that came with the evolving guidelines surrounding the 60-day policy, noting that even after Friday, "There may be more. I think you can go ahead and talk to (Texas) Gov. Abbott to see what his plan is, because it's unknown from our perspective."

She also sought to

frame the new extensions concerning migrant children — up to three 30-day extensions, through June — as a solace for families who once slept on the floors of police stations and airports.

"I'm recounting all of this to basically illustrate how unpredictable the conditions are and therefore the necessity to respond to that and be flexible in the

Turn to Evictions, Page 2



Alicia Perkins, center, an aunt of the father of Jayden Perkins, holds balloons to release at a memorial on Friday outside Jayden's home in Chicago. The 11-year-old Jayden was stabbed to death in his home. **VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

‘An assault on the very fabric of our community’

Chicago police announce charges in stabbing that killed 11-year-old boy and injured his mother in Edgewater

By Caroline Kubzansky,
Madeline Buckley
and Sam Charles
Chicago Tribune

Just one day after being released from prison, Crosetti Brand barged into the apartment of a pregnant woman he has terrorized for nearly two decades, stabbing her while

she was on the phone with her mother, prosecutors alleged.

When her 11-year-old son, Jayden Perkins, tried to help her, Brand stabbed him, killing the boy in front of his younger brother in their Edgewater home, prosecutors said.

Cook County prosecutors on Friday laid out their case

against Brand, 37, whom a judge held detained — during a fraught and chaotic hearing that was paused when deputies escorted out members of Jayden's family after a scuffle.

Chicago police Superintendent Larry Snelling and Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx earlier in the day announced the murder

charges for Brand, who has a documented history of domestic violence against multiple women, including Jayden's mother, who is expected to survive along with her unborn child.

The reason for Brand's release from prison on Tuesday was not immediately clear.

Sobs broke out in the courtroom at the Leighton Criminal Court Building as prosecutors relayed gruesome details in the slaying

of the boy, whom a friend described as a graceful dancer with a passion for musical theater.

"Of the people that come through this courtroom, it's hard to find someone who is more dangerous than this defendant," said Assistant State's Attorney Anne McCord Rodgers, asking Judge Maryam Ahmad to hold Brand in jail while he awaits trial.

Turn to Stabbing, Page 4

Wade cedes in Trump Ga. case

Move allows Willis to pursue charges after judge's ruling

By Kate Brumback and
Alanna Durkin Richer
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A special prosecutor who had a romantic relationship with Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis formally withdrew Friday from the Georgia election interference case against Donald Trump after a judge ruled he had to leave or Willis couldn't continue to pursue the charges.

Attorney Nathan Wade's resignation allows Willis to remain on the most sprawling of four criminal cases against the presumptive Republican nominee in the 2024 presidential election.

But the long-term damage to the public perception of the prosecution remains unclear, particularly in light of Trump's relentless barrage of attacks on the pair who pledged to hold Trump accountable but found their own actions under a public microscope.

Wade offered his resignation in a letter to Willis, saying he was doing so "in the interest of democracy, in dedication to the American public and to move this case forward as quickly as possible."

"I am sure that the case, and the team, will be in good hands moving forward and justice will be served," Wade wrote.

Willis complimented Wade's "professionalism and dignity" in a letter accepting his resignation, effective immediately. She

Turn to Georgia, Page 6

Plan to overhaul Stateville draws mixed bag of reaction

Concern, optimism sounded by unions, local politicians

By Olivia Olander
and Jeremy Gorner
Chicago Tribune

The union representing prison employees said it was concerned over the lack of details in Gov. J.B. Pritzker's plan to overhaul two major Illinois prisons, while advocates for incarcerated people expressed cautious optimism that the proposal could improve conditions for those locked up in the aging, dilapidated facilities.

The governor's office on Friday announced its plan to rebuild the Stateville and Logan correctional centers in a close to \$1 billion project that would take three to five years. The proposal



The guard tower stands in the middle of F House at Stateville Correctional Center on March 18, 2002. Illinois Department of Corrections officials on Dec. 1, 2016, announced the closure of F House, known as the "roundhouse." **CHUCK BERMAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

remains subject to approval from legislators. The administration offered few details on the logistics of the overhaul, which would be particularly complicated at

Stateville, since that facility would be closed and demolished before being rebuilt under Pritzker's plan.

Turn to Stateville, Page 4

Chicago students take part in early voting event

Hundreds of Chicago Public Schools students heard from candidates in the 7th Congressional District Democratic primary at a civic education event before they took to the polls to cast their votes for the first time. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

TODAY'S WEATHER

High **59**
Low **32**



Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
176th year No. 76
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In these chaotic days, we need hope!

WHEN DEATH WAS DEFEATED

Mar 16	5:00 PM	WJYS	Saturday
Mar 23	9:30 PM	WJYS	Saturday
Mar 24	5:30 PM	WJYS	Sunday
Mar 30	9:30 AM	WJYS	Saturday

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