

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Aldermen help with measles crisis

Spanish speakers brought in to inform migrants after West Side shelter outbreak

By Alice Yin, Nell Salzman and Jake Sheridan  
Chicago Tribune

Ald. Julia Ramirez stood late Sunday evening on the top level of a Lower West Side migrant shelter, megaphone in hand as she helped deliver the news that another child had contracted measles. Three hours later, around

midnight, the 12th Ward alderman finished visiting all six floors of the warehouse-turned-shelter, where residents who were unvaccinated when the outbreak occurred are now under 21-day quarantine due to the measles outbreak. Ramirez stressed to its nearly 1,900 residents the importance of being vaccinated against the highly contagious disease.

“We were there for 30 minutes (per floor), which was a good amount of time,” said Ramirez, who was invited to speak by the shelter’s presiding alderman, Byron Sigcho-Lopez, 25th. “But we also felt rushed, considering the amount of conversation that we could have still been having on one floor alone.”

Ramirez is one of several Spanish-speaking aldermen taking shifts this week at the shelters to urge asylum-seekers to get vaccinated amid a measles outbreak at the Lower West Side facility. Some

of her colleagues were asked by Mayor Brandon Johnson’s administration to pitch in on educating the asylum-seekers, while others responded to a call from Latino Caucus chair Ald. Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez.

As of Tuesday, seven cases had been reported at the shelter at Cermak Avenue and Halsted Street, according to the Chicago Department of Public Health. That’s three new cases from Monday. Meanwhile, a team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention touched

down in Chicago to assist with the screening and vaccination response.

The pitch for Spanish-speaking elected officials to directly assist with speaking to migrants wasn’t received enthusiastically by all recipients, as some balked at the administration and allies resorting to aldermen instead of trained public health workers to contain an infectious disease outbreak. Some also questioned why outside city contractors that have driven up the

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Jackie Wilson leaves court during a break in the trial of former Cook County assistant state’s attorneys Nicholas Trutenko and Andrew Horvat on Oct. 17, 2023, on charges related to Wilson’s murder prosecutions at the courthouse in Rolling Meadows. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Burge-connected case expected to cost \$17M

Courts found Jackie Wilson had been tortured into confession by police officers

By Stacy St. Clair and Christy Gutowski  
Chicago Tribune

Cook County is expected to pay \$17 million to a Chicago man exonerated in the 1982 killings of two Chicago police officers, according to court records and a recommendation from a county board subcommittee.

Cook County commissioners are scheduled to vote on the deal this week, which would bring a quiet end to a civil rights lawsuit filed against former Cook County state’s attorneys accused of railroading Jackie Wilson for

murders committed by his older brother.

The lawsuit against several Chicago police officers involved in the case will continue in federal court.

Wilson’s case traces back more than 40 years to the slayings of Chicago police Officers William Fahey and Richard O’Brien, who were fatally shot by Wilson’s older brother Andrew during a traffic stop.

Jackie Wilson, then 21, was behind the wheel of the car and was accused of being the getaway driver. Wilson has said he did not know his brother would shoot

the officers.

The courts have previously found that both brothers were tortured into giving confessions by Chicago police officers under Cmdr. Jon Burge. Burge and his so-called midnight crew of rogue detectives led the torture of criminal suspects for two decades, coercing dozens of confessions.

Chicago taxpayers have paid more than \$130 million in lawsuit settlements and judgments related to Burge’s conduct over the past two decades, according to public records. The amount includes \$5.5 million in reparations for torture survivors, which

was approved by the Chicago City Council in 2015.

The Wilson settlement — thought to be among the largest for a single defendant in Cook County history — is an unusual step for the state’s attorney’s office. Prosecutors are often dismissed from wrongful conviction lawsuits because they have near-absolute immunity from such actions. Exceptions can be made when their actions are not related to advocating for the prosecution, such as acting as an investigator or serving as a

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## Counsel defends Biden docs report

Hur takes fire from GOP side in House, president’s backers

By Zeke Miller, Colleen Long and Farnoush Amiri  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers turned a Tuesday hearing on President Joe Biden’s handling of classified documents into a proxy battle between the Democratic president and Republican front-runner Donald Trump, as a newly released transcript of Biden’s testimony last fall showed that he repeatedly insisted he never meant to retain classified information after he left the vice presidency.

Special counsel Robert Hur, testifying for more than four hours before the House Judiciary Committee, stood steadfastly by the assessments in his 345-page report that questioned Biden’s age and mental competence but recommended no criminal charges for the 81-year-old president, finding insufficient evidence to make a case stand up in court.

“What I wrote is what I believe the evidence shows, and what I expect jurors would perceive and believe,” Hur said. “I did not sanitize my explanation. Nor did I disparage the president unfairly.”

The transcript of hours of interviews between Biden and the special counsel released Tuesday provide a more textured picture of the roughly yearlong investigation, filling in some of the gaps left by Hur’s and Biden’s accounting of the exchanges. But there was no guarantee the hearing or transcript would alter preconceived notions about the president, the special counsel who investigated him or Trump, particularly in a hard-fought election year.

While Biden was adamant that he treated classified infor-



Hur

### INSIDE



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

### Weighing buyout

Bally’s chairman launches bid to buy out current shareholders, doubling down on the company behind Chicago’s casino. **Business**

### Irish ayes

St. Patrick’s Day specials at Chicagoland restaurants and bars range from green beer to corned beef and cabbage. **Food & Health**

## Historic emergence of cicadas ahead in Illinois

This summer, 2 broods will converge on state — a first in 221 years

By Adriana Pérez  
Chicago Tribune

When his youngest daughter was born early in the summer of 2004 in Washington, D.C., John Lill and his wife could hear cicadas singing from inside the hospital.

“That’s how loud it was,” he said. “So my daughter, who was just an infant at the time, didn’t get to experience it. She missed it. She was just a baby. But 17 years later, her crazy parents had to drag her out, and she got to see all of it.”

Lill’s family history has been

marked by these noisy insects. His wife was born in a year of a big cicada emergence, so she is a “cicada baby,” too. A biology professor at George Washington University, Lill has dedicated decades of research to these creatures, sharing his fascination both at work and at home. In a few months, he plans to visit Illinois to experience and study a historical cicada event that is only happening here.

This summer, millions of periodical cicadas will emerge simultaneously across the United States. They belong to Brood XIX, four species that appear every 13 years in the Southeast, and Brood XIII, three species that appear every 17 years in

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A Brood XIII cicada waits for its wings and new exoskeleton to dry and harden after climbing and molting on a tree in a front yard in Homewood in 2007. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

