

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Stateville prison almost emptied out

State moves quickly to comply with court order over poor conditions

By Olivia Olander  
Chicago Tribune

The state is on track to have moved all but a few inmates out of Stateville Correctional Center by a court-ordered deadline Monday, marking the end of an era for the dilapidated century-old facility and a moment of relief for some former inmates who say they are still haunted by memories of their time there.

For more than a month, the Illinois Department of Corrections has been transferring hundreds of Stateville inmates to prisons around Illinois, leaving the storied maximum security facility in Crest Hill, near Joliet, almost deserted.

A federal judge this summer ordered state prison officials to move most people incarcerated at Stateville by Sept. 30, after civil rights lawyers filed a lawsuit on behalf of inmates arguing conditions were hazardous for people housed there. The state did not contest the judge's order, which came as Gov. JB Pritzker's administration is moving forward with plans to rebuild both Stateville and Logan Correctional Center, a women's prison in Lincoln that could be rebuilt on Stateville's campus.

IDOC spokesperson Naomi Puzzello said Friday that all "general population" inmates have been transferred to other

facilities. Inmates were expected to be spread out in minimum-, medium- and maximum-security facilities across the state. Puzzello said factors, including programming, medical needs, staffing and security, were considered in the transfers.

"It's not easy. It's a relatively short period of time, but we do — because we have other corrections institutions in the state that have some space, we're able to do it in the period that they're asking us to," Pritzker said at an unrelated event Wednesday.

A full complement of Stateville employees represented by

**Turn to Prison, Page 4**



James Lenoir says his time incarcerated at Stateville Correctional Center left him with symptoms of obsessive compulsive disorder because of conditions there. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

**BEARS 24, RAMS 18**



**BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## A FIGHT TO THE FINISH

Bears quarterback Caleb Williams, right, celebrates his touchdown pass to DJ Moore, left, against the Rams in the third quarter Sunday at Soldier Field. The Bears found needed relief with a 24-18 victory. **Coverage in Chicago Sports**

### INSIDE

#### Slain officer's mom helps on-duty cops with nonprofit

Light the Line, run by Elizabeth French and three Chicago police officers, operates a mobile wellness unit that travels around the city to provide refreshments to on-duty police officers. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

#### Israeli airstrikes kill dozens more across Lebanon

Hezbollah confirmed the deputy head of the militant group's Central Council was killed Saturday, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader slain in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. **Nation & World**

#### Jeff Lynne's ELO delivers farewell show in Chicago

The group filled the United Center with symphonic songs and airy choruses that begged to be shouted, embraced and, most of all, remembered. **Arts & Living**

## Illinois farmers still frustrated; environmental goals threatened

Congress expected to fail to pass new farm bill yet again

By Karina Atkins  
Chicago Tribune

Since the last farm bill was enacted in 2018, international wars and a pandemic have disrupted supply chains, inflation has skyrocketed and worsening climate change has put a renewed emphasis on conservation practices.

Farmers feel left behind and forgotten.

"I should be in a good mood. My Illini just won and I had a nice weekend with my family, but to be real honest, I'm frustrated," Jared Gregg, a seventh-generation farmer from Piatt County, told the Tribune in early September.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture had just called and asked him to complete a survey when he was in the midst of preparing for a busy harvest season. It was another reminder that the federal government is out of touch with farmers, said Gregg.



Brian Duncan transfers corn into a red grain cart on Friday in Polo, Illinois. Family farming dates to the 1900s for the Duncan family. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Yet again, Congress is unlikely to pass an updated farm bill.

The comprehensive package of legislation that sets agriculture and food policy is supposed to be updated every five years. But partisan gridlock got in the way last year, forcing Congress to simply extend the 2018 bill another year. That extension

expires Sept. 30 and, with a presidential election less than two months away, Congress isn't focused on finalizing a new five-year plan. Experts say the lawmakers are likely to extend the 2018 bill again.

"I'd like to see the government

**Turn to Bill, Page 2**

## Helene death toll jumps to at least 84

Heartache sinks in as devastated areas see hard road ahead

By Kate Payne  
and Jeffrey Collins  
Associated Press

PERRY, Fla. — The Southeast on Sunday grappled with a rising death toll, a lack of vital supplies in isolated, flood-stricken areas and the widespread loss of homes and property while the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene became clearer.

Officials warned of a lengthy and difficult rebuild.

A North Carolina County that includes the mountain city of Asheville reported 30 people killed due to the storm, pushing the overall death toll to at least 84 people across five states. Deaths also were reported in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia.

Supplies were being airlifted to the region around Asheville.

Buncombe County Manager Avril Pinder pledged that she would have food and water into the city — which is known for its arts, culture and natural attractions — by Monday.

"We hear you. We need food and we need water," Pinder said Sunday on a call with reporters. "My staff has been making every request possible to the state for support, and we've been working with every single organization that has reached out. What I promise you is that we are very close."

Several million people were still without power Sunday.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper predicted the toll would rise as rescuers and other emergency workers reached areas isolated by collapsed roads, failing infrastructure and widespread flooding.

He implored residents in western North Carolina to avoid travel, both for their own safety and to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles.

More than 50 search teams spread throughout the region in search of stranded people.

**Turn to Helene, Page 8**



Elsie Hicks looks at the destruction of her home in Horseshoe Beach, Florida, on Saturday. **GERALD HERBERT/AP**

