

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Florida scrambles as Milton looms

Hurricane forcing Tampa evacuation, again reaches Category 5

By **Terry Spencer and Haven Daley**
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Fearful Florida residents streamed out of the Tampa Bay region Tuesday ahead of what could be a once-in-a-century direct hit from Hurricane Milton, as crews worked furiously to prevent furniture, appliances and other waterlogged wreckage from the last big storm from becoming deadly projectiles in this one.

The preparations marked the last chance for millions of people in the Tampa metro area to prepare

for lethal storm surges, ferocious winds and possible tornadoes in a place that has narrowly avoided a head-on blow from a major storm for generations.

“Today’s the last day to get ready,” said Craig Fugate, a former FEMA director who previously ran the state’s emergency operation division. “This is bringing everything.”

Gov. Ron DeSantis said the state deployed over 300 dump trucks that had removed 1,300 loads of debris left behind by Hurricane Helene by Tuesday afternoon. In Clearwater Beach, Nick Szabo spent a second long day hauling

away 3-foot piles of soggy mattresses, couches and drywall after being hired by a local resident who was eager to help clear the roads and unwilling to wait for overwhelmed city contractors.

“All this crap is going to be missiles,” he said. “It’s like a spear coming at you.”

After weakening slightly, Milton regained strength Tuesday afternoon and became a Category 5 storm again, with winds of 165 mph. It could make landfall Wednesday night in the Tampa Bay area, which has a population

Turn to Milton, Page 2



Juan Hernandez helps his father, Jorge Hernandez, screw plywood over the windows of their home on Tuesday before Hurricane Milton’s arrival in Estero, Florida. **JOE RAEDLE/GETTY**



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jackson celebrates at City Hall

Civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson blows out candles on a cake as he’s honored on his 83rd birthday with a celebration at Chicago City Hall on Tuesday. Son and U.S. Rep. Jonathan Jackson, the Rev. Janette Wilson and Mayor Brandon Johnson were among those who spoke at the event. Johnson also presented Jackson with a key to the city.

State scraps variations of ‘October 7’ on car plates

Giannoulias’ office cites authority to ban those that it deems offensive

By **Jeremy Gorner**
Chicago Tribune

In a decision that is raising free speech questions while wading into the political sensitivities surrounding the Israel-Hamas war, Democratic Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias has revoked a handful of license plates that display some iteration of the date “October 7” after his office fielded complaints that one plate appeared to endorse last year’s attack on Jewish citizens.

Giannoulias’ office said it is using its authority to ban license plates it deems offensive after members of the public, including Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza, reached out last month regarding a picture shared on social media that showed a Chevy Tahoe with a specialized environmental Illinois license plate with the letters and number “OCT 7” framed by a plate holder reading “FREE PALESTINE” along with images of two Palestinian flags.

Turn to Plates, Page 4

ELECTION 2024



Left: Republican candidate Bob Fioretti meets with Chicago Tribune Editorial Board members on Oct. 3. **Right:** Democrat candidate Eileen O’Neill Burke meets with Chicago Tribune Editorial Board members Oct. 2. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**



Focus differs for county state’s attorney candidates

O’Neill Burke touts experience, Fioretti targets migrant crime

By **A.D. Quig**
Chicago Tribune

As the Democratic nominee for Cook County state’s attorney, Eileen O’Neill Burke has the inside track to take over an office that hasn’t been led by a Republican in 28 years.

But Republican nominee Bob Fioretti — a former long-time Democrat and Chicago alderman — is leaning on some central GOP policy talking

points in the apparent hope it will reverse his steep political odds with county voters.

Either candidates’ victory will bring a noticeable departure from the sometimes-contentious but unquestionably progressive reforms implemented by outgoing Democratic State’s Attorney Kim Foxx. But each is coming at that change from a different direction.

Fioretti is pledging to focus on cracking down on crimes committed by migrants and to ask lawmakers in Springfield to tweak provisions of the year-old SAFE-T Act —

the bail reform legislation that has become a popular target of conservatives in recent elections — to put more discretion back in judges’ hands.

O’Neill Burke, meanwhile, has touted the importance of the SAFE-T Act and also plans to create a dedicated unit to defend Cook County Hospital against anti-abortion lawsuits and prepare charges to defend other local abortion providers related to picketing, noise violations or bomb threats.

In securing a razor-thin victory this spring over a

Turn to Election, Page 5

AG lawsuit takes aim at slowing TikTok

Says app harms mental health and is designed to ‘addict young users’

By **Olivia Olander and Rebecca Johnson**
Chicago Tribune

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul on Tuesday filed one of more than a dozen state-level lawsuits nationwide against TikTok, arguing that the endless-scrolling vertical video app is taking advantage of children and harming their mental health.

In joining states from across the nation and Washington, D.C., Illinois’ TikTok lawsuit is the latest step that the state has taken to rein in tech companies not based in the Midwest and regulate technology that has an impact across the globe. The lawsuit comes on the heels of Illinois legislation cracking down the use of deepfakes and enacting strict regulations on biometric technology and child influencers.

Illinois aims to hold the social media company “accountable for unfairly and deceptively designing, operating and marketing the TikTok Platform to ensnare and addict young users in Illinois,” the lawsuit stated.

TikTok’s strategies to pull in young people lead to “excessive, compulsive, and addictive” usage and sleep issues, and it can exacerbate depression, anxiety and other mental health problems, according to the lawsuit. In turn, it falsely markets itself as safe for young people, while “compulsive use is woven into the very fabric of the app,” the lawsuit states.

TikTok — which, according to the lawsuit, has both a 30,000-square-foot Fulton Market space and a data center in the Chicago area — disputed the attorney general’s claims Tuesday.

“We’re proud of and remain deeply committed to the work we’ve done to protect teens and we will continue to update and improve our product,” company spokesperson Michael Hughes

Turn to TikTok, Page 4

INSIDE

Fourth-year guard steps up for Bulls

Only 24, Ayo Dosunmu has grown into a leadership role for the Bulls. But where does he fit in a guard-heavy rotation? **Chicago Sports**

Challenging culinary and cultural identity

Chicago restaurant Maxwells Trading makes deeply delicious, Asian-influenced, intimately American food. **Food & Health**

