

Chicago Tribune



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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Supporters of Donald Trump spar with opponents outside of the criminal court where the former president is on trial on Wednesday in New York City. **STEPHANIE KEITH/GETTY**

Jury set to decide historic Trump hush money case

Day 1 deliberations end without verdict after panel asks to rehear testimony

A second listen

Jurors asked to rehear testimony from then-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen and former National Enquirer publisher David Pecker about an August 2015 meeting with Trump at Trump Tower where the tabloid boss agreed to be the “eyes and ears” of his fledgling presidential campaign. Pecker testified that the plan included identifying potentially damaging stories about Trump so they could be squashed before being published. That, prosecutors say, was the beginning of the catch-and-kill scheme at the heart of the case.

By Michael R. Sisak, Jennifer Peltz, Eric Tucker and Michelle L. Price
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The jury in Donald Trump’s hush money trial ended its first day of deliberations without a verdict Wednesday but asked to rehear potentially crucial testimony about the alleged hush money scheme at the heart of the history-making case.

The 12-person jury was sent home around 4 p.m. Eastern time after about 4 ½ hours of deliberations. The process is to resume Thursday.

Jurors also asked to rehear at least part of the judge’s instructions meant to guide

them on the law. The notes sent to the judge with the requests were the first burst of communication with the court after the panel of seven men and five women was sent to a private room just before 11:30 a.m. to begin weighing a verdict.

“It is not my responsibility to judge the evidence here. It is yours,” Judge Juan M. Merchan told jurors earlier in the day before dispatching them to begin deliberations, reminding them of their vow during the selection process to judge the case fairly and impartially.

It’s unclear how long the deliberations will last.

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“We were met with a lot of opposition and rejection to these ideas. Finally seeing that it’s moving, that we are being able to deliver on the demands we have been making for so long, it’s a beautiful thing. This is just the beginning.” — Ald. Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez, 33rd

City to reopen Roseland mental health clinic, add two other sites

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson is expanding city-run mental health services at three locations across Chicago, a decisive step to fulfill the so-called Treatment Not Trauma plan he pushed during his campaign.

Johnson is set to announce the moves Thursday morning outside the city’s closed Roseland clinic on the Far South Side, now set to reopen by the end of the year. The city will also add mental health services to a Chicago Department of Public Health clinic in Pilsen in August and inside the Legler Regional Library in West Garfield Park as soon as June, according to a plan the Johnson administration shared with the Tribune.

The move comes more than a decade after former Mayor Rahm Emanuel closed six of the city’s 12 public mental health clinics. Emanuel’s decision sparked fiery protests by patients and union members who lost jobs at those clinics, which developed into a campaign that has badgered Chicago’s politicians ever since.

After former Mayor Lori Lightfoot backed



The Roseland Community Health Center at 200 E. 115th St. in Chicago will reopen by the end of the year. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

away from her own campaign promise to reopen clinics, activists have apparently found their champion in Johnson. His plan to broadly expand the city’s mental health resources in large part by reopening clinics offers “a path for us to begin reversing decades of disinvestment,” he said in a report announcing the plan.

The mayor cited the memory of his brother, Leon, who he said struggled with mental illness and died addicted and homeless.

“I believe a commitment to mental health and to treating individuals experiencing trauma and not criminalizing them would have extended his time on this Earth,” Johnson said. “For me this work is personal.”

The expansions are the first clear-cut plans from Johnson’s administration to execute the campaign promise. They mark a new direction in mental health care for Chicago after past administrations sharply

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Amid drama, budget passes

House breaks at dawn after last-minute fight for votes on \$750M tax package

By Jeremy Gornier, Olivia Olander, Olivia Stevens and Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — Democratic dominance in the Illinois legislature was put to the test this budget season as House lawmakers stumbled across the finish line at dawn Wednesday, needing three votes and a series of procedural maneuvers to pass a \$750 million tax hike package necessary to balance their \$53.1 billion spending plan.

The early morning chaos reflected the difficulty in trying to maintain unity within House and Senate Democratic supermajorities that encompass a broad range of ideological and geographic perspectives and priorities.

An election-year budget that included tax increases on sportsbooks, retailers and other businesses along with 5% pay raises for lawmakers and other state officials set up a series of tough votes, particularly for Democrats who are up for reelection this fall in more moderate to conservative suburban and downstate districts.

Last week, the legislature blew through its self-imposed Friday deadline to send a budget to Gov. J.B. Pritzker, and while lawmakers trimmed the nearly \$900 million in tax increases

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■ Illinois lawmakers quietly approved a five-year extension of a 2018 cellular communications law that prosecutors say was a product of AT&T’s alleged scheme to bribe then-House Speaker Michael Madigan. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Bill expands reporting of sex abuse in health care

By Lisa Schencker and Emily Hoerner
Chicago Tribune

The Illinois legislature has passed a bill that would require more health care facilities to report allegations of patient abuse to the state — a measure that follows a Tribune investigation into the issue.

Under the bill, doctors’ offices and clinics affiliated with hospitals would have to report allegations of patient abuse to the Illinois Department of Public Health, triggering an investigation by the state. Now, hospitals must only report allegations that happen at hospitals.

The House unanimously passed the bill Tuesday night. The Senate also previously passed the bill unanimously. The bill now goes to the governor for his signature.

The governor’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the bill Wednesday.

The bill comes several months after a Tribune investigation found that well-known health systems allowed workers accused of sexually abusing patients to continue providing care, and, in some

Turn to Abuse, Page 2

Private equity firm wins Oberweis

A Winnetka private equity firm emerged as the top bidder Wednesday for the bankrupt assets of the century-old Oberweis Dairy, putting everything from its North Aurora plant to more than three dozen branded ice cream scoop shops under new ownership. **Business**

Israeli army advances to border

Israel’s military said Wednesday that it seized control of a strategic corridor along Gaza’s border with Egypt, jeopardizing a 1979 peace accord. Israel also deepened its incursion into Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians were seeking shelter. **Nation & World**

‘Grateful’ to start a new chapter



Finally pain-free after four years of frustration, beginning with complications from a spinal tumor discovered in 2019, Sky wing Diamond DeShields now looks forward to becoming the best version of herself on the court. **Chicago Sports**

