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Dairy farmer Owen Mathieu prepares to attach milking units to Jersey cows, owned by Doug Graybill of Deerland Dairy and his family, at Mathieu's barn in Rockton, Illinois, on Wednesday. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Food program delays have farmers anxious

Multimillion-dollar state effort aims to connect underrepresented farmers with communities in need to help local groceries, restaurants, homes

By Karina Atkins | Chicago Tribune

dairy farmer in northern Illinois was dumping milk down the drain two hours west of Chicago. Three and a half hours away in central Illinois, another farmer was running out of cold storage space for his poultry. Meanwhile, over 3 million Illinoisans live in food deserts, and food pantries across Chicago have struggled to meet unprecedented demand.

After months of delay, these farmers hope a multimillion-dollar state program to connect underrepresented farmers with communities in need can help them get their products in more grocery stores, restaurants and family kitchens soon.

The Illinois Equitable Access Towards Sustainable Systems (IL-EATS) program is part of a larger push to improve intrastate food supply chains, which stimulate local economies and make fresh, healthy food more accessible. Even though farms make up 75% of Illinois' land area, 95% of the food consumed in Illinois is purchased outside the state, according to the Illinois Local and Organic Food Farm Task Force.

Farmers across the state spent several months ramping up production in anticipation of the program's target January start date. First-generation dairy farmer Doug Graybill got more cows and extra feed. Ed Dubrick, a veteran and first-generation farmer, spent \$25,000 to double his poultry

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New piece of trail to Michigan set to be built

Work to begin in April on Marquette Greenway segment in New Buffalo

By Sarah Freishtat

A long-planned trail connecting Chicago's East Side to New Buffalo, Michigan, is about to come one step closer to completion.

Work on the far east end of the Marquette Greenway is set to begin with a groundbreaking in New Buffalo on April 3. Though some parts of the trail have been built in Chicago and Indiana, the April work will mark the start of construction in Michigan.

Once complete, the roughly 60-mile trail is intended to provide cyclists and pedestrians access to the industrial cities, lakefront towns and Indiana Dunes National Park, all of which dot the southern edge of Lake Michigan. The project has been planned for more than



Road markers direct cyclists to the Marquette Greenway near the intersection of East 102nd Street and South Avenue G in Chicago on Nov. 9, 2022. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Could Sox really move to Nashville?

As clock ticks on lease for stadium, all options face significant hurdles

By Brian J. Rogal Chicago Tribune

Chicago White Sox Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf pushed back last summer against rumors the team could abandon its South Side home for Nashville, but his December meeting with that city's mayor kept the rumors alive. And some worry the team will eventually use a possible move as leverage in negotiations with Mayor Brandon Johnson, perhaps forcing the city to funnel scarce tax dollars into a new downtown stadium.

"We have too much evidence that sports stadiums don't pay for themselves, and do not come anywhere close to it," said Allen Sanderson, a senior professor at the University of Chicago who studies the economics of sports. "I'm not anti-sports, I'm a sports fan, but I am also an economist, and anti-wasting money. I'd rather the city spend money on things that don't cost as much or on things it needs."

Baseball team owners have a lot of power to switch cities, and Nashville, one of the fastest-growing metro areas in the U.S., is at the top of Major League Baseball's wish list as league officials eyeball possible sites to plant new teams. But it's still not clear whether such a move would make sense for the White Sox if negotiations with Chicago officials fall apart, or if

Turn to Sox, Page 4

1 city, 1 day, 2 legal fears for Trump

Public perception is a huge worry for former president

By Maggie Haberman and Ben Protess

The New York Times

NEW YORK - Former President Donald Trump is expected to spend his Monday morning in the courtroom of a New York judge who might soon preside over his criminal trial and, ultimately, throw him behind bars. And that's not even the legal predicament that worries Trump most that day.

The hearing in his Manhattan criminal prosecution — in which he is accused of covering up a sex scandal to pave his way to the presidency — comes as he races to fend off a financial crisis arising from a \$454 million judgment in another case. New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought that civil fraud suit against Trump and his family business, might begin to collect as soon as Monday

To avoid a mortal threat to the Trump Organization, Trump must persuade another company to post a bond on his behalf, promising that it will cover the judgment if he loses a pending appeal and fails

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