

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Work is underway at the tent city site in the Brighton Park neighborhood on Monday. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

State to assist on migrant camp in Brighton Park

Pritzker reveals more Illinois support as work begins despite aldermanic opposition

By Alice Yin and Nell Salzman and Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

Chicago's first government-run tent encampment for migrants is slated to begin construction at a controversial Southwest Side site this week, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced Monday in his most hands-on involvement yet in Mayor Brandon Johnson's effort to shelter asylum-seekers.

Pritzker revealed his more prominent role in running the lot on 38th Street and California Avenue in Brighton Park as well as plans for a new temporary

housing facility in Little Village that will serve as the state's first migrant shelter. The two sites will hold up to 2,200 asylum-seekers combined and be funded by the state as part of its \$160 million infusion toward migrant services.

The governor's new tack in dealing with Chicago's migrant crisis comes after he faced criticism from officials at City Hall who said the state wasn't doing enough to help. He'll now have an opportunity to say he's leading in addressing the unprecedented influx of asylum-seekers, but will also bear more of the responsibility if things go badly.

And he's likely to anger neighbors around the Brighton Park site who have opposed its conversion into the migrant encampment.

Pritzker is prepared to shoulder any political blowback that may come from taking a leading role in standing up the tent encampment in the lot near 38th and California, a location chosen by the city that appears to be the most expedient option, Pritzker spokeswoman Jordan Abudayyeh said.

"The governor has led the state through many crises at this point, and political considerations have never been the reason to do something or not do something,"

Abudayyeh said. "We are at an inflection point where it is quickly getting colder and colder each day. People are sleeping outdoors, and we don't have any other options."

In a statement, Pritzker's administration noted the camp will not officially open its doors until assessments on environmental concerns — part of the local alderman and community advocates' frustrations — conclude.

The state hopes to have results from the environmental study by the end of the week and has reached an agreement

Turn to Migrants, Page 2

Petitions filed for March primary

In frigid temperatures, candidates line up to submit paperwork

By Jeremy Gornor and Rick Pearson
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — Bundled up against frigid temperatures, dozens of candidates for state and federal offices, some represented by surrogates, lined up outside the Illinois State Board of Elections office on Monday to file petitions for the March 19 primary ballot.

Waiting with stacks of signatures in an otherwise barren strip mall before the state's election authority opened its doors at 8 a.m. were hopefuls for Congress and state legislative seats, as well as various judgeships.

Submitting petitions on the first day of the weeklong filing period makes candidates eligible for the top ballot position in their race. If they're in line during the closing minutes on the last day for filing next Monday, they take part in a lottery to appear last on the ballot. Political lore holds that candidates whose names appear first or last in a crowded field gain a slight advantage.

Up for election and reelection are all 118 Illinois House seats, 23 of the Illinois Senate's 59 seats, all 17 congressional seats and 77 judicial seats.

Among the candidates braving the cold were U.S. Rep. Delia Ramirez, a progressive Democrat from Chicago running for her second term on Capitol Hill, and her freshman colleague in Congress, U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski, a Democrat from Springfield.

Chicago Ald. Raymond Lopez waited in line to hand in his petitions in a bid to unseat veteran U.S. Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia in the Democratic primary. Also submitting petitions in the Democratic primary was Jesse Reyes, an Illinois appellate judge who is vying to unseat incumbent Joy Cunningham on the state Supreme Court.

Turn to Candidates, Page 4

■ Fifty-five candidates on Monday officially filed to run for several Cook countywide offices, including the high-profile race to replace outgoing State's Attorney Kim Foxx. **Chicagoland, Page 4**

Israel and Hamas extend cease-fire

More are freed as hopes increase for even longer truce

By Tia Goldenberg, Jack Jeffery and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their cease-fire for two more days past Monday, raising the prospect of further exchanges of hostages held in Gaza for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and a longer halt to their deadliest and most destructive war.

Eleven Israeli women and children, freed by Hamas, entered Israel on Monday night in the fourth swap under the original four-day truce, which began Friday and had been due to run out. Israel's prison service said

Turn to War, Page 5



EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears survive Vikings for victory

Justin Fields leads game-winning, fourth-quarter drive after losing two fumbles and the lead earlier in the quarter as the Bears beat the Vikings on the road 12-10. **Chicago Sports**

Chicago-based grocers to merge

Specialty grocery startups Foxtrot and Dom's Kitchen & Market, which looked to carve a niche in Chicago's competitive grocery market with upscale, small-format stores, are merging. **Business**

Six armed robberies reported in 2 hours

Chicago police are investigating at least six armed robberies that occurred within about two hours Sunday afternoon on the Northwest and Southwest sides. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Jurors hear details about alleged scheme

Ex-Ald. Burke's trial again slowed by lawyer contracting COVID-19

By Jason Meisner, Megan Crepeau and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

It was all-systems-go on the renovation of a Burger King on Chicago's Southwest Side in 2017 when the project's field representative got a strange call from then-Ald. Ed Burke's longtime ward assistant, who said work had to stop over a permit issue.

"I was concerned and a little bit startled," Pam Smith, a supervisor with Tri City Foods, testified Monday in Burke's corruption trial, saying the Oct. 24, 2017, call from 14th Ward aide Peter Andrews Jr. was the first interference from an alderman's office she'd ever experienced.

Andrews' warning prompted her to send an email to others on the project saying it was on hold until they could meet with Burke's people.

"Hopefully, they do not send the health department and start

messing around with us," Smith wrote. "I know these guys are very powerful and they can make life very difficult for all of our Chicago stores."

What Smith didn't know at the time was that Burke and Andrews had been talking for months about getting her Texas-based boss to hire Burke's private law firm to do property tax appeals for dozens of fast-food restaurants he owned in the Chicago area.

The testimony came as the historic trial was supposed to see its first full week starting Monday after an unexpectedly slow jury selection, followed by a COVID-19 diagnosis for one of the defense attorneys and a shortened week for the Thanksgiving holiday put the proceedings behind schedule.

U.S. District Judge Virginia Kendall has said that despite the delays, she still expected the trial to finish by the Christmas holiday, which is now just four weeks away.

But it suffered another hiccup Monday when Todd Pugh, an attorney representing Andrews, tested positive for COVID, necessitating an early end to proceedings

Turn to Burke, Page 5

