

Chicago Tribune



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MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

COMMENTARY



A man walks past a U.S. flag and a Chicago police memorial flag flying at half-staff on West Grand Avenue on May 15. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Our flag seems to be at half-staff all the time now. For Memorial Day, we asked why.

By Christopher Borrelli | Chicago Tribune

This Memorial Day, assuming you wake up early enough, you may notice the United States flag at half-staff. When you get up matters, because on Memorial Day, and only on Memorial Day, Old Glory flies at half-staff until noon. Afterward, it's back to full staff.

That's proper flag protocol.

The United States, perhaps you didn't realize, is rich in flag protocol. In fact, I was talking the other day with James Ferrigan, chief protocol expert for the North American Vexillological Association — vexillology being the study of flags — and he said, "In terms of our flag awareness, the United States is the second-most flag-conscious country. We have a code for handling the flag, and a national song about the flag, and millions of us pledge allegiance to their flag daily." In many countries, the national flag is "just window dressing, and not even allowed to be owned by its citizens unless they get permission."

If we're the second-most flag-conscious nation, who's first? "Probably North Korea." Maybe it's better to be second then? "I'm not going there."

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LEGISLATURE

Dems boost budget plan

Senate 'grinding away' to get to vote after House leaves town

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

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Senate Democrats closed in Sunday on approving the state's next budget, keeping much of fellow Democrat Gov. J.B. Pritzker's plans in place but boosting expected spending by \$400 million while also giving themselves, House representatives and many top state officials a 5% bump in pay.

The Senate was poised to vote on the \$53.1 billion fiscal plan in the thick of the Memorial Day weekend as Democratic majorities in both the Senate and House continued to try to find common ground on some key sticking points, and Republicans weighed in but without enough political power to affect the outcome. The plan includes \$750 million in tax hikes but also includes some cuts to the governor's plans that supporters say will help lower- and middle-income Illinois residents.

"We're going to get it done. We're grinding away," Senate President Don Harmon, an Oak Park Democrat, said Sunday afternoon, adding: "We're staying in close contact with the House. We live by the mantra 'no surprises,' and we're going to try to make sure that we don't send anything to the House that they're not ready to receive."

Amid the Democratic squabbling, lawmakers blew past a self-imposed Friday deadline and the Illinois House went home Saturday night with plans to return after the holiday weekend. That tees up a final budget

Turn to Senate, Page 4

35 killed in Israel's Rafah push, medics say

Strike targets Hamas after rockets fly from Gaza once again

By Wafaa Shurafa, Tia Goldenberg and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Palestinian medics said an Israeli airstrike killed at least 35 people Sunday when it hit tents for displaced people in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, and "numerous" others were trapped in the debris.

The strike came two days after the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to end its military offensive in Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population had sought shelter before Israel's recent incursion. Tens of thousands of people remain in the area while many others have fled.

Images from the scene showed heavy destruction and flames. Israel's army confirmed the strike and said it hit a Hamas installation and killed two senior Hamas militants. It said it was investigating reports that civilians were harmed. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant was in Rafah

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A lead service line lies in the street after removal from a home in the 10100 block of South Green Street in Chicago on May 2. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Chicago needs to accelerate lead pipe plan, experts say

Homeowners often don't know about available programs while service line replacement lags

By Samantha Moilanen

A few months before Doris Summerville was planning to open an at-home day care in her Maywood home, she discovered she had a lead service line.

If not for plumbing problems, Summerville might not have

found out about the threat.

"We have got to do what we have got to do to be safe, and then for these children, especially the children in my care, I don't want them growing up and they have all these issues," she said.

Summerville was able to take

advantage of LeadCare Illinois, a statewide initiative aimed at helping child care providers address lead in drinking water. She now runs Nana's House, where she cares for children 6 weeks to 12 years old.

Replacing lead pipes in the Chicago area is a complex process. Even those who know about and qualify for the city's

Turn to Lead, Page 2

INSIDE

S. Chicago church honors fallen vets of Vietnam War

About 200 people gathered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church to pay tribute to 12 members of the community lost in the war. The ceremony came as local groups are raising money to refurbish a mural at the neighborhood's Vietnam Memorial. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Legislature puts Bears' stadium pitch on back burner

The Chicago Bears' appeal for more than \$2 billion in public assistance to build a new domed stadium on a re-imagined lakefront is on hold until at least the fall, high-ranking Democratic lawmakers confirmed. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Sueños festival turns up reggaeton, Mexican music

Nearly 70,000 people attended the music festival on Saturday in Chicago's Grant Park, bringing Latinos from all over the country together. **Arts & Living, Page 4 in Nation & World**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 76 Low 57

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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