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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ASYLUM SEEKERS IN CHICAGO

Council OKs \$51M for migrants



'Soul of Chicago' on trial, one alderman says, after contentious comment period saw police escort anti-immigrant disrupters

By Alice Yin, Gregory Pratt and A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

Chicago aldermen voted to spend \$51 million on migrant care through June as Mayor Brandon Johnson works to get a handle on the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

The City Council's spending authorization comes at a critical

time for Chicago government, which is struggling to care for thousands of migrants amid pushback from residents amid financial woes exacerbated by lowball funding appropriations from state government and little tangible support from President Joe Biden's administration.

The passage of the appropriation followed an unsuccessful attempt

last week, when three conservative aldermen blocked the vote during Johnson's first City Council meeting. But after being reintroduced during Wednesday's meeting, the appropriation passed 34-13.

Council members Gregory Mitchell, Michelle Harris, Anthony Beale, Marty Quinn,

Turn to Council, Page 6

Ald. Jeanette Taylor, 20th, center, wipes a tear from her eye as council members applaud after her impassioned speech in favor of funding for migrant aid Wednesday at Chicago City Hall. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

House approves debt limit package

Measure heading to the Senate with little time to avert default

By Lisa Mascaro, Kevin Freking, Stephen Groves and Farnoush Amiri
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Veering away from a default crisis, the House approved a debt ceiling and budget cuts package late Wednesday, as President Joe Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy assembled a bipartisan coalition of centrist Democrats and Republicans against fierce conservative blowback and progressive dissent.

The hard-fought deal pleased few, but lawmakers assessed it was better than the alternative — a devastating economic upheaval if Congress failed to act. Tensions ran high throughout the day as hard-right Republicans refused the deal, while Democrats said "extremist" GOP views were risking a debt default as soon as next week.

With the House vote of 314-117, the bill now heads to the Senate with passage expected by week's end.

McCarthy insisted his party was working to "give America hope" as he launched into a late evening speech extolling the bill's budget cuts.

But amid discontent from Republicans who said the spending restrictions did not go far enough, McCarthy said it is only a "first step."

Biden and McCarthy were counting on support from the political center, a rarity in divided Washington, testing

Turn to Deal, Page 11



Marist High School student Clare Dunneback, right, before graduation on May 18 in Chicago. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

'CLASS OF COVID'

By Zareen Syed and Olivia Alexander
Chicago Tribune
and Alexandra Kukulka
Daily Southtown

Jaylin Green was still adjusting to a new school in a new neighborhood when his barely rooted new life was uprooted in March of his freshman year. Something called COVID-19 was abruptly shutting down schools and hurtling students into one of many unknowns: remote learning.

The shift was jarring enough, even with Green thinking at first that "we're going to go and have normal class in a week or so."

When that week turned into the rest of the school year, the sense of isolation set in.

"It was really challenging. ... I was just in my room, just looking at a computer screen, and I know there's a lot of people there, but I was still by myself," said Green, now part of the class of 2023 of Chicago's Mather High School, whose seniors grad-

uated Wednesday evening. For this year's graduating seniors, the pandemic dominated and defined high school experience



Marist High School student Demarco Hunter adjusts his cap before his graduation ceremony in Chicago.

uated Wednesday evening.

Green and his peers have been dubbed by some the "class of COVID" — freshmen when the pandemic hit and, as it happened, seniors on the verge of earning their diplomas when the public health emergency formally ended in May. The coronavirus brought unprecedented academic, social and psychological upheaval even to those who didn't get sick or lose a loved; for many graduating seniors, it dominated and defined their high school experience.

Green was already dealing with a lot of change before the arrival of COVID-19, even though he got good grades his first semester as a freshman. He'd recently moved from the Southwest Side to the North Side, a transfer to Mather and without his old social crutches. And in Chicago Public Schools, the school year had already been disrupted by a two-week teachers strike

Turn to Class, Page 4

Civic Committee announces initiative to boost public safety

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

For the first time in its 146-year history, the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago is tackling crime, looking to bring

business leaders to the table in a bid to make the city safer.

The influential organization, which has spearheaded everything from the city's parks system to modernization of O'Hare International Airport, is outlining a

plan to reduce homicides and gun violence in Chicago over the next decade with the backing of the broader business community.

"The issue of public safety is the No. 1 issue for pretty much everyone in the city of Chicago," said

Derek Douglas, who became the first Black president of the Civic Committee in August. "And the business community is no different."

A former University of Chicago administrator and Barack Obama

presidential adviser, Douglas assembled a public safety task force last fall, seeking a platform for business leaders to work with city government, community groups,

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High 87 Low 66

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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