

# Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## 'It is sad and unfair'

Appellate Court backs Chicago Public Schools' decision not to renew Urban Prep charter

By Zareen Syed  
Chicago Tribune

Just before the end of the school year in June, Lisa Brown washed, dried and neatly folded up her son's Urban Prep Academy uniforms, well worn after four years at the once-esteemed all-boys high school.

"I took them to the school for students that may be coming next school year and need uniforms to wear because, as far as I was concerned, everything was OK," Brown said.

But last Thursday, just days before graduation, the institu-

tion was dealt a blow by an Appellate Court in Illinois' 1st Judicial District, which ruled that Chicago Public Schools did not violate the 2021 moratorium on school closures when it voted not to renew the charter contracts for Urban Prep Academies two South Side high schools.

The decision puts a wrench in Urban Prep officials' two-year battle with CPS, which revoked the charter of the school's Bronzeville and Englewood campuses in October 2022 following a long line of missteps.

Turn to Urban Prep, Page 4



Junior Myles Brown, with his mother, Lisa Brown, arrives for school at Urban Prep Academy in Chicago on May 5, 2023.  
ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Justices reject ban on bump stocks

High court ruling returns firearms to political spotlight

By Lindsay Whitehurst  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday struck down a Trump-era ban on bump stocks, the rapid-fire gun accessories used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, in a ruling that threw firearms back into the nation's political spotlight.

The high court's conservative majority found that the Trump administration overstepped when it changed course from predecessors and banned bump stocks, which allow a rate of fire comparable to machine guns. The decision came after a gunman in Las Vegas attacked a country music festival with semi-automatic rifles equipped with the accessories.

The gunman fired more than 1,000 rounds into the crowd in 11 minutes, sending thousands of people fleeing in terror as hundreds were wounded and scores killed.

The ruling thrust guns back into the center of the political conversation with an unusual twist as Democrats decried the reversal of a GOP administration's action and many Republicans backed the ruling.

The 6-3 majority opinion written by Justice Clarence Thomas found the Justice Department was wrong to declare that bump stocks transformed semiautomatic rifles into illegal machine guns because, he wrote, each trigger depression in rapid succession still only releases one shot.

The ruling reinforced the limits of executive reach and two justices — conservative Samuel Alito and liberal Sonia Sotomayor — separately highlighted how action in Congress could potentially provide a more lasting policy.

Turn to Bump stocks, Page 6



VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Hip-hoppin' around at Summer Smash

Dylan Whitlock, center, cheers during a performance by BLP Kosher on Friday at Summer Smash music festival at SeatGeek Stadium in Bridgeview. The hip-hop music festival runs through Sunday.

## Bears CEO Warren added to state board

Group focuses on bringing economic growth to Illinois

By Dan Petrella  
Chicago Tribune

Chicago Bears President and CEO Kevin Warren is joining the board of a statewide economic development organization that works closely with Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration to help attract businesses to Illinois.

Warren's appointment to the Intersect Illinois board comes as he is deepening his outreach to the state's business community after the Bears' proposal that the public help pay for a new domed stadium on a reimagined lakefront failed to advance during the state legislature's spring session.

Warren joins the board along with GCM Grosvenor CEO

and Chairman Michael Sacks and Spaan Tech President and CEO Smita Shah, with all three appointments announced Friday by the Intersect Illinois board. The additions are among nearly a dozen in recent months as Intersect, a public-private economic development partnership, expands its board and revamps its membership to focus on top-level executives.

Despite the timing, Warren said Friday the new position doesn't have any connection to the Bears' drive for upward of \$2 billion in public money for its stadium proposal.

"I am not at all looking at this to have any impact on our stadium project that we're working on," Warren said in an interview with the Tribune. "My whole focus in accepting this invitation to join the board is

Turn to Warren, Page 2



John Lill, a professor of biology at George Washington University, and Martha Weiss, a Georgetown University environmental studies professor, mark cicada holes in Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve in Lake Forest on Thursday.  
STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Cicadas' impact on food webs eyed

Studies find they add to birds' diets during emergence years, caterpillars spared

By Kate Armanini  
Chicago Tribune

In a wooded clearing in Lake Forest, a team of researchers crouched close to the grass. They watched as hundreds of ants crawled over seeds, sipped sugar water and indulged in a seasonal treat: cicadas.

Ants' foraging activities may

seem trivial. But to these scientists, they're a gateway to unraveling the little-known impact on forest food webs when billions of cicadas emerge from the ground in Illinois.

"We're trying to look at the interconnectedness of all of this," said researcher Sean Menke, an ant expert and biology professor at Lake Forest College.

It's one of the many unknowns surrounding the cicadas, which remain difficult to study because of their yearslong dormancy. But scientists suspect that the insect's emergence has a cascading effect on intertwined food chains — potentially rewiring the complex energy flows between organisms

Turn to Cicadas, Page 4

### Original opening date unlikely

Analysts and investors are increasingly concerned that the permanent Bally's Chicago Casino may be delayed, given a more challenging financing environment. **Business, Page 2**

### Ukraine rejects Putin 'ultimatum'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy rejected an offer by Russian President Vladimir Putin for a cease-fire if Ukraine would withdraw soldiers from annexed land. **Nation & World**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 85 Low 66

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
177th year No. 167 © Chicago Tribune

