

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

NU chief will testify before Congress

Schools throughout US face mounting accusations of climates hostile to Jews

By **Angie Leventis Lourgos**
Chicago Tribune

Northwestern University President Michael Schill is scheduled to testify Thursday morning at a congressional hearing titled “Calling for Accountability: Stopping Antisemitic College Chaos,” as the elite Big Ten school and others

across the country face mounting accusations of fostering climates that are hostile or discriminatory to Jews.

Schill — who describes himself as a “proud Jew” raised with an enduring love for Israel — is slated to appear before lawmakers alongside the leaders of Rutgers University and the University of

California at Los Angeles.

A similar congressional hearing on antisemitism on college campuses in December spurred the resignations of several leaders of Ivy League schools, amid fierce backlash to their testimonies.

The Anti-Defamation League Midwest recently called for Schill’s resignation or removal by the university board of trustees, arguing in a statement that Jewish students at Northwest-



Schill

ern “have been harassed and intimidated by blatant antisemitism on campus,” which has worsened since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel killed roughly 1,200 and plunged the Middle East into an ongoing war.

Northwestern officials said in a statement Tuesday that the school’s “foremost responsibility is ensuring the safety of our students.”

“We are confident in the actions we have taken to address antisem-

itism on our campus,” the statement said, adding that “President Schill looks forward to discussing them with the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.”

The Republican chairwoman of that committee, however, has already expressed a hard-line stance when it comes to university officials, campus protesters and allegations of antisemitism.

“The Committee has a clear message for mealy-mouthed,

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Three more nations back Palestinian statehood

Decision by Norway, Ireland, Spain spurs backlash from Israel

By **Joseph Wilson, Melanie Lidman and Joseph Krauss**
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Norway, Ireland and Spain said Wednesday they would recognize a Palestinian state, a historic but largely symbolic move that further deepens Israel’s isolation more than seven months into its grinding war against Hamas in Gaza. Israel immediately denounced the decisions and recalled its ambassadors to the three countries.

Palestinian officials welcomed the announcements as an affirmation of their decadeslong quest for statehood in east Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war and still controls.

While some 140 countries — more than two-thirds of the United Nations — recognize a Palestinian state, Wednesday’s cascade of announcements could build momentum at a time when even close allies of Israel have piled on criticism for its conduct in Gaza.

The timing of the move was a surprise, but discussions have been underway for weeks in some European Union countries about possibly recognizing a Palestinian state. Proponents have argued that the war has shown the need for a new push toward a two-state solution, 15 years after negotiations collapsed between Israel and the Palestinians. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government opposes Palestinian statehood.

It was the second blow to Israel’s international reputation this week after the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said he would seek arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his defense minister. The International Court

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Gabriel Kenah, left, and Jake Pietryla play with a football in Lake Michigan on Monday at 31st Street Beach. Chicago beaches officially open Friday for the summer. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Experts caution safety as beaches open for business

Drownings are prevalent in Lake Michigan, with most located in its south end

By **Avani Kalra**
Chicago Tribune

For Pam Kaloustian, the opening of beach season in Chicago signifies something special. As an avid swimmer, Kaloustian travels to Oak Street Beach at least once a week every summer to enjoy the water, sun and sights.

“The Park District puts up lane lines that run parallel with the pavement right at Oak Street,” said Kaloustian, 65, of Arlington

Heights. “Going around and just being able to see buildings as we take a breath, it’s just unbelievable. It’s breathtaking.”

Kaloustian said nothing compares to open-water swimming.

But even experienced swimmers can run into trouble with unpredictable weather conditions. According to statistics, Lake Michigan is the most dangerous of the Great Lakes for swimming.

As the city gears up to open its beaches Friday, emergency responders and the Chicago Park District caution swimmers to be vigilant.

Dave Benjamin is co-founder and executive director of the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project. The project tracks drowning statistics across the Great Lakes and reported that 41 of the 85 Great Lakes drownings in 2023 occurred in Lake Michigan.

“Half of all Great Lakes drown-

ings will happen in Lake Michigan, and half of Lake Michigan drownings will happen in the south end of Lake Michigan,” Benjamin said. “Right now, we’re really at the beginning of the season for drownings.”

Benjamin said year to year, weather is the biggest predictor of drownings across the Midwest. The more sunny days, the more beachgoers, and often,

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Council defies mayor over ShotSpotter’s future



Ald. David Moore, 17th, talks about the ShotSpotter technology used by the city during Wednesday’s City Council meeting. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Johnson says move ‘has no bearing on my executive authority’

By **Jake Sheridan and Alice Yin**
Chicago Tribune

Chicago aldermen voted Wednesday to take control over the ShotSpotter gunshot detection system’s future out of Mayor Brandon Johnson’s hands in a bid to stop him from deactivating it.

The 34-to-14 vote to give the City Council final say over the mayor’s cancellation plans sharply defies Johnson, who campaigned on the promise of getting rid of the controversial and expensive technology.

Under the order that passed Wednesday, the pact with ShotSpotter is now subject to an up-or-down council vote before

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INSIDE



STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE

Opportunity comes for right-hander

Pitcher Nick Nastrini returns from Triple-A Charlotte in the latest rotation shuffle for the White Sox. **Chicago Sports**

Pritzker heaps scorn on Trump

The governor Wednesday said the presumptive GOP presidential nominee is cruel and wants to be a dictator. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

