

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



U.S. Army veteran Olga Lopez, second from left, salutes the flag Monday during the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Rosehill Cemetery on Chicago's North Side. **VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SERVICE

'We are indebted to you': Fallen US troops receive salute on Memorial Day

By Avani Kalra
Chicago Tribune

One of Danny Montcalm's first memories of Memorial Day took place near Rosehill Cemetery.

"On Clark Street, there's a monument to World War I veterans that my grandfather took me to when I was just 5 years old," Montcalm said.

Now, Montcalm, 70, spends every Memorial Day just feet away, watching as a parade of local veterans groups, Cub Scouts, high school students and other organizations march past that very monument and through the gates of Rosehill Cemetery to honor America's fallen military troops.

Montcalm, whose father and grandfather were members of the armed forces, was one of hundreds of Chicago-area veterans, current service members and other residents who gathered to watch the cemetery's annual Memorial Day parade Monday, which was followed by a ceremony, a

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Panita Luangkesorn, right, comforts her husband, Ryan Killackey, a veteran who served in Afghanistan, after he became emotional Monday during the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago.

Netanyahu admits 'tragic mistake'

Rafah camp attack killed at least 45, local officials say

By Melanie Lidman,
Tia Goldenberg
and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that a "tragic mistake" was made in an Israeli airstrike in the southern Gaza city of Rafah that set fire to a camp housing displaced Palestinians and, according to local officials, killed at least 45 people.

The strike only added to the surging international criticism Israel has faced over its war with Hamas, with even its closest allies expressing outrage at civilian deaths. Israel insists it adheres to international law even as it faces scrutiny in the world's top courts, one of which last week demanded that it halt the offensive in Rafah.

Netanyahu did not elaborate on the error. Israel's military initially said it had carried out a precise airstrike on a Hamas compound, killing two senior militants. Hamas triggered the war with its Oct. 7 attack into Israel.

As details of the strike and fire emerged, the military said it had opened an investigation into the deaths of civilians.

Sunday night's attack, which appeared to be one of the war's deadliest, helped push the overall Palestinian death toll in the war above 36,000, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between fighters and noncombatants in its tally.

"Despite our utmost efforts not to harm innocent civilians, last night there was a tragic mistake," Netanyahu said Monday in an address to Israel's parliament. "We are investigating the incident and will obtain a conclusion because this is our policy."

Mohammed Abuassa, who

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"Despite our utmost efforts not to harm innocent civilians, last night there was a tragic mistake."

— Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

CTA plans 250 buses for DNC usage

Questions linger about regular service, staffing

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

The CTA has committed to providing as many as 250 buses for use during the Democratic National Convention this summer, even though the agency has faced staff shortages that led to service cuts in recent years.

The head of the union that represents bus drivers says he anticipates having enough staffing for both the DNC and regular scheduled bus service. But designating buses for the convention has some advocates concerned.

"Pulling CTA operators from their regular routes to a specified task that doesn't serve all of Chicago is of tremendous concern," said Kyle Lucas, with the transportation advocacy group Better Streets Chicago. "And what will service look like for everyday

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Bill Walton stood with fellow recipients of the annual National Civil Rights Museum Sports Legacy Award before the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Game on Jan. 21, 2019, in Memphis, Tenn. **BRANDON DILL/AP**

Bill Walton, NBA Hall of Fame player and star broadcaster, dies at 71

Bill Walton, who starred for John Wooden's UCLA Bruins before becoming a Hall of Fame center for his NBA career and one of the biggest stars in basketball broadcasting, died Monday. "Bill Walton," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said, "was truly one of a kind."

Chicago Sports

New process aids lung cancer patients

After developing a new technique to replace damaged lungs during the COVID-19 pandemic, Northwestern Medicine's Canning Thoracic Institute has now performed more than 40 successful lung transplants on cancer patients. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Pritzker continues to clash with Senate over Illinois parole board

Measure passes in face of governor's opposition

By Dan Petrella
and Jeremy Gornier
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Senate and Gov. J.B. Pritzker remain divided over changes to the state's embattled parole board, even as the Democratic-controlled legislature and the Democratic governor move toward a belated state budget deal.

Over opposition from the governor's office, Senate Democrats, joined by their Republican colleagues, voted without opposition late Sunday to codify a series of changes to the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, a body that has been a source of long-running bipartisan tension between the legislative chamber and the Pritzker administration.

The discord, which began two years ago when the Senate rejected

some of Pritzker's appointments to the board, most recently flared earlier this spring after the panel released 37-year-old parolee Crosetti Brand. After his release, he was charged with killing 11-year-old Jayden Perkins and attacking the child's mother, with whom he once had a relationship.

The attack occurred March 13 at the woman's residence on Chicago's North Side, a day after Brand was released from state custody.

Days after the attack, the board's chairman, Donald Shelton, and board member LeAnn Miller, who drafted the order authorizing Brand's release, resigned.

"We here in the Senate have wrestled for several years with the Prisoner Review Board and some of the consequences of decisions made there," Senate President Don Harmon said while explaining the proposal on the Senate floor ahead of Sunday's vote.

While the Oak Park Democrat

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High 70 Low 54

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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