

CHICAGO SPORTS

MAKING A STATEMENT

Bears topple NFC North-leading Lions 28-13 at Soldier Field for second straight division victory.



JOHN J. KIM/TRIBUNE

NATION & WORLD

ISRAEL DIGS IN

Israel says it is prepared to fight for months or longer to defeat Hamas rulers as battles rage on.

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Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Advocates: Sex crime training for judges

After controversy in Quincy, say sensitivity needed for survivors

By Jonathan Bullington

Chicago Tribune

Over the years, Carrie Ward's organization, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, has worked with law enforcement agencies and attorneys across the state on how to better understand the complexities of sexual violence cases.

But one part of the criminal justice system has been largely absent from that training: judges.

Since 2018, all Illinois police officers must undergo training to better respond to rape survivors — a mandate designed, in part, to encourage more survivors to come forward (an estimated 75% of sexual assaults nationally go unreported and in Illinois, more than 4,000 rapes were reported last year, FBI data show).

Ward and others question whether that training requirement should extend to the state's roughly 1,000 judges.

"The experience sexual assault survivors have is unique and we'd certainly welcome the opportunity to do training on sexual assault, victimization and recovery," said Ward, the organization's CEO. "Those opportunities could be invaluable to learn more about

Turn to Judges, Page 7

Smugglers overwhelm border in Arizona

Crossing reflects bids by agencies to push back

By Anita Snow

Associated Press

LUKEVILLE, Ariz. — Gerston Miranda and his wife were among thousands of migrants recently arriving at this remote area on Arizona's southern border with Mexico, squeezing into the United States through a gap in the wall and walking overnight about 14 miles with two school-age daughters to surrender to Border Patrol agents.

"There is no security in my country," said the 28-year-old from Ecuador, who lost work when his employer closed due to extortion by criminals. "Without security you cannot work. You cannot live."

A shift in smuggling routes has brought an influx of migrants here from countries as diverse as Senegal, Bangladesh and China, prompting the Border Patrol to seek help from other federal agencies and drawing scrutiny to an issue critical in next year's presidential elections.

With hundreds of migrants crossing daily in the area, the U.S. government last week indefinitely shut down the nearby international crossing between Lukeville, Arizona, and Sonoyta, Mexico, to free Customs and Border Protec-

Turn to Border, Page 12

At Stateville maximum security prison in Crest Hill, first group of inmates earn university degrees from Northwestern



'A place of second chances'

By Rebecca Johnson | Chicago Tribune



Top: Taurean Decatur waves to classmates as the graduating class from the Northwestern Prison Education Program enters the theater at Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill on Nov. 15. Above: Jennifer Lackey, the founding director of the program, greets a student before the commencement ceremony. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Before Sheila Bedi starts her law school class, the Northwestern University professor's nearly 20 students make last-minute touch-ups to their final presentations. Some look over their notes, while others chat with their neighbors.

The first group goes to the front of the room, painted purple and white with graduation photos on the walls. They discuss mass incarceration, from its ties to slavery to the prison abolition movement. Questions are asked, feedback is given and another group takes their place.

While it might sound like a normal college class, Bedi isn't teaching at the Evanston campus, and prisons aren't something her students have only read about in a textbook.

More than 450 prisoners are housed inside Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill, about an hour drive from Chicago, according to the Illinois Department of Corrections. Inside the men's maximum security prison, in a couple of rooms filled with desks and chalkboards, is the country's only bachelor's degree-granting program for incarcerated students offered by a Top 10 university.

Last month, 16 men became the first group to graduate from Northwestern's Prison Education Program, an accomplishment they and their professors hope will lead to a second chance. Experts believe similar educational offerings could reduce recidivism rates and save taxpayers money statewide.

"It all hasn't hit me yet, still. I know it's a great thing, it's a great feeling," one of the graduates, Taurean Decatur, told the Tribune recently at Stateville. "It's one of the best feelings of my life, like I did it. I wish I could put it on a T-shirt."

Decatur, now 33, is serving a 105-year sentence for first-degree murder and attempted murder after he fatally shot a man and injured another outside a bar in Broadview in 2009. Taking someone's life, Decatur said, puts him in a "moral deficit" with himself and with God.

Turn to Degrees, Page 4

Officials: Pollution report is just first step

City's assessment has unexpected findings on environmental justice

By John Lippert and Karina Atkins

Chicago Tribune

Straight out of the starting blocks, Chicago is learning how hard it will be to write an ordinance to reduce a broad array of pollutants built up over many years across a big, diverse city.

Chicago's first-ever "Cumulative Impact Assessment," released in September, is already sparking

debate.

In its current form, the assessment contains an index that assigns a 35.3 percentile environmental justice ranking to an East Side neighborhood census tract adjacent to where steel mills once roared, and a nearly identical 35.5 percentile to a glitzy Gold Coast tract.

Census tracts in the 75th percentile or greater, or whose scores are in the 70th percentile but are contiguous with a tract in the 75th percentile, are designated "Environmental Justice

Turn to Pollution, Page 2



The entrance to an industrial corridor at 116th Street and Avenue O in Chicago's East Side neighborhood on Nov. 29. CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 39 Low 30

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere 176th year No. 345 © Chicago Tribune

