

Chicago Tribune



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SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Disputed school names revived

Virginia board votes to reverse decision on Confederate officers

By Campbell Robertson
The New York Times

WOODSTOCK, Va. — After a meeting that lasted for hours, the Shenandoah County school board voted early Friday to restore the names of three Confederate officers to schools in the district.

With the vote, the district appears to be the first in the country to return Confederate names to schools that had removed them after summer 2020, according to researchers at the Montgomery, Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative.

The vote rolled back a decision made four years ago, when the murder of George Floyd prompted nationwide demands for a racial reckoning. At a virtual meeting in July 2020, the summer of the pandemic and protests, the board voted 5-1 to drop the names of two schools — Ashby-Lee Elementary and Stonewall Jackson High — that it deemed incompatible with a recently passed resolution condemning racism. The schools were renamed the next year as Honey Run and Mountain View.

But a fury had been unleashed in the rural county in the mountains of Virginia. People crowded into school board meetings, denouncing the name changes as secretive and rushed through with little advance notice, and voicing deeper resentments about cultural shifts they saw as being foisted upon them.

After a revote ended in a tie in 2022, the name changes stood. But opponents swore that Stonewall Jackson would be revived. And Friday, he was.

“When you read about this man — who he was, what he stood for, his character, his loyalty, his leadership, how godly a man he was — those standards that he had were much higher than any leadership of the school system in 2020,” said Tom Streett, one of the board members. Then he and four of his five colleagues voted to bring Jackson and the other names back.

The county, which is more than 90% white, is not alone in rolling back decisions made in 2020. Across the U.S., several measures adopted in 2020 and 2021, including new classroom curricula about the nation’s racial history, have been curtailed or eliminated in the

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NAM Y. HUH/AP

Rookie minicamp showcases new QB

Caleb Williams ran the Bears’ offense and worked with wide receivers, including first-round pick Rome Odunze, in the first practice of a two-day rookie minicamp in Lake Forest. **Chicago Sports**

Pilsen church’s future debated at hearing

At a Commission on Chicago Landmarks hearing, dozens who back landmarking St. Adalbert clashed with leaders of the Chicago Archdiocese. **Chicagoland, Page 2**



NO MOW MAY GETTING A TRIM

Chicagoans put off mowing to help bees — but only until Mother’s Day

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

The lawn in front of Annette Peterson’s Riverside bungalow stands maybe 2 inches higher than the standard emerald buzz-cut.

Look closely and you can see low-lying wildflowers — yellow, violet and lavender — hiding in the lush grasses.

Still, there’s little to suggest that Peterson is participating in No Mow May, a national conservation initiative that encourages homeowners to aid struggling pollinators, including bees, by forsaking the lawnmower until June 1.

Four years after No Mow May arrived in the United States, along with foot-high grasses and lawns dotted with hundreds of dandelions, there are signs that the

“I grew up in this area. I’m very familiar with the ecology and grass. Even in an average year, I don’t think you can get through the entire month of May (without mowing).”

— Jon Yeater, supervisor of the forestry and grounds division at the Westmont Public Works Department

Chicago area is embracing a more moderate approach.

At least five cities and towns in the area, including Westmont, La Grange Park and Riverside, are hosting No Mow ‘Til Mother’s Day, which allows lawns to grow and flowering weeds such as dandelions and creeping Charlie to fully flourish, but only until mid-May.

To supporters, it’s a win-win: Hungry bees get access to important early season pollen and nectar, and neighbors get more orderly vistas.

“I think it’s the perfect middle ground for suburban Chicagoland,” said Peterson, a yoga teacher.

The other participating communi-

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Homeowner Annette Peterson stands in her unmowed backyard in Riverside on Wednesday. In No Mow May, some people let their lawns grow so that pollinators, such as bees, can feed on the early-season nectar of flowers. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Former University of Illinois basketball player Terrence Shannon Jr. appears in court Friday in Lawrence, Kan. A judge ordered him to stand trial on a rape charge. **CHRIS CONDE/THE LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD**

Former Illini star Shannon to stand trial on rape charge

Woman testified she was assaulted at crowded campus bar

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

A Kansas judge has ruled that former University of Illinois basketball star Terrence Shannon Jr. must stand trial

on a rape charge after a woman testified Friday that she was “terrified” as she allegedly was being assaulted.

Shannon, 23, appeared before Judge Sally Pokorny in Douglas County District Court in Kansas on Friday for a preliminary hearing. The Chicago native is charged with one count of rape or an alternative count of aggravated sexual battery, which is a

felony, according to a criminal complaint.

A jury trial is scheduled to begin June 10 in Kansas, according to court officials.

An attorney representing Shannon said he pleaded not guilty to the charges.

“Our legal team is neither shocked nor disappointed by

Turn to Shannon, Page 4

‘Pink slime’ pubs must remove voter info

Judge orders them to take birthdates, addresses off websites

By Rick Pearson
Chicago Tribune

A Lake County judge has given the company that publishes far-right websites and flyers designed to look like newspapers until 5 p.m. Monday to remove some personally identifiable voter information it publicly posted earlier this year in apparent violation of state law.

In an order issued Thursday in response to a complaint from Democratic Attorney General Kwame Raoul, the publishers of the so-called “pink slime” publications must remove registered voters’ full birthdates and street addresses from their websites. That is consistent with publicly released state voting information under federal law.

The publications also are enjoined from posting additional voter lists that include full birthdates and street addresses

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TODAY’S WEATHER



High 67 Low 49

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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