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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



A protester displays the words “free speech” written on her forearms as Michael Schill, president of Northwestern University, testifies before the Republican-led House Committee on Education and the Workforce in Washington on Thursday. **SHURAN HUANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Lawmakers grill NU chief at antisemitism hearing

Schill stands by decision to reach deal with pro-Palestinian protesters

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

Congressional lawmakers grilled Northwestern University President Michael Schill for several hours on Thursday about the rise of antisemitism on campus — including allegations that a Jewish student at the elite Big Ten school was recently assaulted and another student wearing a yarmulke was spat on.

Schill, who described himself as a Jewish descendant of Holocaust victims and survivors, acknowledged the recent “disturbing spike in antisemitism” at Northwestern and other schools nationwide as he testified before congressional leaders during

a hearing in Washington titled “Calling for Accountability: Stopping Antisemitic College Chaos.”

He said the Evanston-based university will work over the summer to update its conduct code before the next academic year begins.

“Where there is conduct that threatens the Northwestern community, we must impose discipline, and we have done so,” Schill said during opening remarks. “Yet, I will be the first to admit our existing rules and policies are falling short, and we must improve our processes to meet the current challenge.”

Schill added that the university will also increase security and enhance enforcement

of the student code of conduct.

“We are confident we can continue to promote two principles at the core of our mission — free expression and academic freedom — while disciplining harassment and intimidation,” he said.

Colleges and universities across the country have faced mounting accusations of fostering environments that are hostile or discriminatory to Jews, particularly since the Oct. 7 Hamas terror attack on Israel, which killed roughly 1,200 and plunged the region into an ongoing war.

The hearing before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce came

Turn to Hearing, Page 2

“They don’t know anything about the U.S. legal system. They don’t know anything about the immigration system. They may come from countries where they can’t trust the police.”

— Nicole Hallett, director of the Immigrants’ Rights Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School

Report: Illinois fails to protect immigrant crime victims

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Illinois is failing to protect immigrant victims of crime or trafficking, according to a new report from the University of Chicago. Those who work with migrants say the crimes against immigrants range from labor trafficking to forced sex acts.

The report released Thursday reveals widespread violations by the state’s law enforcement agencies of an act that attempts to provide greater access to protections for immigrants who are victims of crime or human trafficking.

Amid a migrant crisis in Chicago in which over 42,000 people have arrived in the city in nearly two years sent on buses from the southern border, the report shines a light on an intractable problem: that some will inevitably be victims of crime but won’t rely on police or law enforcement agencies for support because they’re worried they will face trouble with the law for their



A migrant waits in front of a shelter on the Lower West Side in Chicago on March 4. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

immigration status.

“They don’t know anything about the U.S. legal system. They don’t know anything about the immigration system. They may come from countries where they can’t trust the police,” said Nicole Hallett, director of the Immigrants’ Rights Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School, who authored the report.

Hallett said the widespread lack of compliance with the 2019 act — Voices of Immigrant Communities Empowering Survivors — points to the fact that law enforcement agencies in Illinois are decentralized.

“It’s been five years,” she said. “But the

Turn to Victims, Page 6

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dems at odds over tax hikes

State budget talks head to self-imposed overtime again as deadline looms

By Jeremy Gerner, Olivia Olander, Olivia Stevens and Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — Despite their iron-clad control in Springfield, Illinois Democrats for the second straight year will be unable to meet a self-imposed deadline for approving a state spending plan as Gov. J.B. Pritzker faces pushback from his own party on more than \$900 million in tax hikes that he says are needed to balance his proposed \$52.7 billion election-year budget.

With the state facing a tighter financial outlook than in recent years, when revenues have routinely outperformed projections, a budget agreement had yet to surface as of Thursday evening. That doesn’t leave enough time for the House and Senate both to approve a spending plan before Friday, when the spring session was scheduled to end.

Negotiations for the budget year that begins July 1 have been rocky as some Democrats have expressed reluctance to accept at least some of the tax increases proposed by Pritzker, which include hikes for sportsbooks, retailers and corporations.

Without the benefit of unanticipated revenue windfalls to look forward to and billions of dollars in federal coronavirus relief money already allocated to one-time expenditures from past

Turn to Budget, Page 4

Lawmakers in La. target abortion pills

Bill on governor’s desk adds jail time, steep fines for use

By Emily Cochrane and Pam Belluck
The New York Times

Louisiana lawmakers passed legislation Thursday to make the state the first in the nation to designate abortion pills as dangerous controlled substances. Possession of the drugs without a prescription would be a crime punishable with jail time and thousands of dollars in fines.

The legislation, which passed the state Senate by a vote of 29-7, now goes to Gov. Jeff Landry, a Republican who previously defended the state’s stringent abortion ban in court as attorney general. He is widely expected to sign it.

By classifying the abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol as Schedule IV drugs — a category of medicines with some potential for abuse or dependence that includes Ambien, Valium and Xanax, among others — lawmakers in the state say they aim to curb the illicit distribution of the drugs for abortions. But the Food and Drug Administration does not consider the two medications to have potential for abuse or dependence, and years of research have overwhelmingly shown both pills to be safe.

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**TODAY’S
WEATHER**



High **82** Low **57**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

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