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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



University of Illinois basketball standout Terrence Shannon Jr., center, gets a hug after being found not guilty after his rape trial on Thursday in Lawrence, Kansas. **CHRIS CONDE/THE LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD**

TERRENCE SHANNON JR. TRIAL

Illini star not guilty

Jury acquits potential NBA draft pick of charges in alleged rape at bar near University of Kansas

By Jonathan Bullington
Chicago Tribune

Editor's note: This story contains graphic language.

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Terrence Shannon Jr., the University of Illinois men's basketball star and potential first-round pick in this

month's NBA draft, has been found not guilty of raping an 18-year-old woman in September at a bar near the University of Kansas campus.

It took a Douglas County jury — seven men and five women — about 90 minutes to reach the unanimous verdict of not guilty to one felony count of rape and to an alternative count of aggravated

sexual battery, also a felony.

The 23-year-old Chicago native sat motionless next to his attorneys, Tricia Bath and Mark Sutter, as Judge Amy Hanley read the verdict.

Behind him and to his right, in a nearly full courtroom gallery, his accuser, now 19, and her friend stared forward, expressionless, while a woman to her right quietly sobbed.

Shannon's family and friends

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ABORTION RIGHTS

Justices uphold access to pill

High court rules 9-0 against challenge to FDA drug approval

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously preserved access to a medication that was used in nearly two-thirds of all abortions in the country last year, in the court's first abortion decision since conservative justices overturned Roe v. Wade two years ago.

The nine justices ruled that abortion opponents lacked the legal right to sue over the federal Food and Drug Administration's approval of the medication, mifepristone, and the FDA's subsequent actions to ease access to it. The case had threatened to restrict access to mifepristone across the country, including in states where abortion remains legal.

Abortion is banned at all stages of pregnancy in 14 states, and after about six weeks of pregnancy in three others, often before women realize they're pregnant.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was part of the majority to overturn Roe, wrote for the court Thursday that "federal courts are the wrong forum for addressing the plaintiffs' concerns about FDA's actions."

The opinion underscored the stakes of the 2024 election and the possibility that an FDA commissioner appointed by Republican Donald Trump, if he wins the White House, could consider tightening access to mifepristone, including prohibiting sending it through the mail.

Kavanaugh's opinion managed to unite a court deeply divided over abortion and many other social issues by employing a minimalist approach that focused on the technical legal issue of standing and reached no judgment about the FDA's actions.

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Riot Fest departure from Douglass Park sparks more debate over costs and gains for a community that had an ambivalent relationship with the event



When the rock rolls

By Rebecca Johnson, Jake Sheridan and Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

Sheila McNary had a somewhat complicated relationship with Riot Fest over the years. The 71-year-old North Lawndale resident lives across the street from Douglass Park.

When the festival moved to the park in 2015 — following neighbor complaints at its previous location in Humboldt Park — McNary said it almost felt like the community was being invaded by unfamiliar music and traffic congestion. McNary and her husband left to stay in a hotel for the weekend.

"When they first came, it was more or less like a group coming to profit from a big festival in the community that they're not from, the music was not from the community," said McNary, who is involved with the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council.



Above: Homei, right, stands by as his owner, Jose Allende, exercises under a willow tree Thursday in Douglass Park in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood. **Top:** A couple pushes a stroller through the park, which had hosted Riot Fest since 2015. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

"We don't get a lot of traffic in that community. That is the one time that our community can say there are 50,000 people in one day, so they have to eat and go someplace." — Ald. Monique Scott

The rock, punk and hip-hop festival has long been a source of controversy for the West Side park, which is surrounded by North Lawndale, a predominantly Black neighborhood, and the largely Latino Little Village. It prompted a movement to evict the huge crowds that activists said trashed the green space, while cutting off access to half the park. Two other large music festivals previously held in the park also moved, while the free Juneteenth Village Celebration will be held Saturday.

But over time, McNary said the relationship improved, with more community involvement, free local vendor spaces, and jobs. When she learned the festival was moving to southwest suburban Bridgeview this September, McNary said she was shocked.

Riot Fest officials arrived at the decision after years of controversy. They had tried

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Morton Arboretum awards \$6.8M for urban forestry projects

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

On any summer day, no matter how hot, Tom Tomschin can sit comfortably on his porch and enjoy the pleasant shade of his front yard.

"My neighbors always want to park under my tree," said the long-time Cicero resident and executive director of the town's Department

of Housing.

Tomschin and other town officials expect more locals will have coveted and much-needed access to shade in the coming year as a new project aims to plant 500 trees and develop an urban forestry management plan for the west suburb of Chicago.

Cicero is one of 22 Illinois communities that will collectively receive nearly \$6.9 million

in federal funding to plant and care for more than 1,800 trees in disadvantaged communities across the state, the Morton Arboretum announced Monday. A tree canopy is crucial to public and environmental health by cooling high urban temperatures, supporting biodiverse ecosystems, reducing flooding and cleaning dirty air.

The arboretum, which received 61 applications for more than \$14

million, will administer the almost \$7 million through their Chicago Region Trees Initiative, or CRTI, using U.S. Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act funds and under the direction of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Awarded communities, which include the city of Chicago and the Chicago Park District, will also use these funds over the next four years to complete tree inventories,

collectively prune over 500 trees, remove hundreds of dead or high-risk trees and clear several acres of woody invasive species, as well as provide educational and multilingual resident outreach.

"Doing an inventory of the entire community," said Zach Wirtz, director of CRTI, "can really help us understand the priorities

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