

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

U. of I. hopeful for less discrimination

Students say they welcome new policies after federal civil rights complaint

By Sylvan Lebrun and Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

Ben Shapiro, a senior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said that the school is in many ways an “amazing place to be a Jewish student.”

As president of Illini Hillel, Shapiro organizes barbecues, semiformal dances and weekly Shabbat dinners for a Jewish student population of about 3,000.

Yet this community also faces “a lot of challenges,” he said. When Shapiro was a freshman, a rock was thrown at a group of Jewish

students gathering at Illini Hillel during a religious holiday, he said. Swastikas have been drawn on dorm room doors.

“There was one particularly disturbing incident where a Jewish student with a yarmulke was walking on the quad, and another student threw a bunch of pennies on the ground and said, ‘Would you pick that up?’” Shapiro said.

Shapiro said he’s now encouraged that the university on Tuesday agreed to comply with federal civil rights laws following a multi-year U.S. Department of Education investigation into allegations of antisemitism and anti-Muslim

discrimination at the Big Ten university.

The federal agency’s Office for Civil Rights looked into 135 complaints of discrimination against Jewish students — as well as four alleging anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian or anti-Arab discrimination — from 2015 to 2023. Alleged antisemitic incidents during that time included accounts of swastikas drawn around campus, a brick shattering the window of a Jewish fraternity and mezuzahs — a religious symbol — ripped off of the doors of Jewish

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Illinois freshman Malachi Applebaum, center, joins other students in observing Shabbat on Friday evening at Illini Chabad on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

BEARS 24, TITANS 17



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Bears rookie quarterback Caleb Williams celebrates while coming off the field after Sunday’s victory over the Titans at Soldier Field.

Stories in Chicago Sports

Fans get the party going at Soldier Field

Tailgaters start early ahead of Bears opener

By Karina Atkins
Chicago Tribune

They were strangers decked out in Bears gear as they commiserated about last season and expressed hope for this season on a CTA bus to Soldier Field

Sunday morning. But they continued bonding as they filed to the tailgates on the south side of the stadium and became so much more. They were united as Bears fans.

By 9 a.m., the festivities on Waldron Deck were in full swing ahead of a noon kickoff against the Tennessee Titans. The crisp fall air wafted the smell of cooking meat in every direction.

“Today is an Italian beef day,” declared Jaye Beasley. The 55-year-old South Side resident has been a season ticket holder for 17 years and always matches his tailgate food to the weather. He easily had enough sandwiches to feed a small army and was eager to dish them out to other fans who shared his confidence that the Bears would make the playoffs this season.

There was already a sea of people proudly donning 18 on their chests: the number of the Bears’ rookie quarterback, Caleb Williams.

After a promising preseason showing, fans are eager to see if this first-round draft pick can bring the Bears long-awaited success alongside new offensive

Turn to Bears, Page 2

3 Israelis killed at West Bank crossing

Gunman fired from Jordan’s side of the border, officials say

By Mahmoud Illean and Natalie Melzer
Associated Press

ALLENBY CROSSING, West Bank — Three Israelis were shot and killed Sunday at the border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, Israeli officials said, in what appeared to be an attack linked to the 11-month-old war in Gaza.

Israel’s military said the gunman approached the Allenby Bridge Crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces, who killed him in a shootout.

Israel’s Magen David Adom rescue service said the three Israelis were all men in their 50s, and the military said they were civilians.

Relatives identified the gunman as Maher al-Jazi, a retired Jordanian soldier from Athroh, a town in the impoverished area of Maan. Jordan’s state-run Petra News Agency said he was a truck driver transporting goods to the West Bank. The interior ministry confirmed that, based on initial investigation results, the incident was an individual act.

Jordan was investigating. The Western-allied Arab country made peace with Israel in 1994 but is deeply critical of its policies toward the Palestinians. Jordan has a large Palestinian population and has seen mass protests against Israel over the war in Gaza.

The Allenby crossing over the Jordan River is also known as the King Hussein Bridge. It is mainly used by Palestinians and international tourists, as well as

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Trump threatens to jail adversaries

Former President Donald Trump posted a warning on his social media site threatening to jail those “involved in unscrupulous behavior” this election. **Nation & World**

Play has new resonance after monarch’s death

Chris Jones reviews “The Audience,” about the relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and her prime ministers, at Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace. **Arts & Living**

Cannabis Research Institute opens in Chicago

Center looking to dig deep into marijuana policy as legislation, opportunities expand in Illinois

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

Nearly a year and a half after it was announced, the Cannabis Research Institute is getting operations underway in Chicago, with the goal of studying, among other things, how marijuana could help or harm people.

The institute’s leader hopes to break new ground in finding medical uses for cannabis, possibly for the treatment of cancer. Researchers also can help with the creation of a new state reference lab to check for accuracy in the testing of commercial pot.

And they could track down a virus that threatens to ruin crops.

The research group is making use of a new lab in a former COVID-19 testing facility in the Illinois Medical Center campus on the West Side, harnessing DNA sequencing equipment formerly used to test for COVID-19.

But at least for now, the institute’s lab will not be in its planned new office. The headquarters for its parent organization, the University of Illinois System’s Discovery Partners Institute, is proposed for vacant land on The

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The headquarters for the Cannabis Research Institute is proposed for vacant land on The 78 in the South Loop. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

TODAY’S WEATHER



High **83** Low **58**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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