

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

District OKs disciplinary reforms

Four Rivers was subject of federal civil rights investigation over arrests of disabled students

By **Jennifer Smith Richards**
and **Jodi S. Cohen**
ProPublica

An Illinois school district that had the nation’s highest student arrest rate has agreed to change its disciplinary practices and provide help to those who missed class

time while being punished.

The agreement with the U.S. Department of Education will end a federal civil rights investigation into the Four Rivers Special Education District that was launched following a 2022 ProPublica and Chicago Tribune investigation that found the district turned to police

with stunning frequency to discipline students with disabilities.

Under the deal, students who were referred to police or sent to a “crisis room” multiple times during the past three academic years could be eligible for services including tutoring, counseling or remedial education.

Four Rivers operates one public school: the Garrison School, in west-central Illinois, for students in an eight-county area of the state

who have severe emotional and behavioral disabilities; some also have autism or ADHD.

In announcing the agreement on Thursday, the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights said it found that despite claiming to be a “supportive” school, Garrison routinely sent students to police for noncriminal conduct that could have been related to their disabilities — something explicitly prohibited by federal law.

In the 2021-22 school year, investigators found that students were sent to police 96 times — more than the total number of students enrolled that year — for reasons including “noncompliance,” “disruption,” “inappropriate language” and violating a phone policy. Students also “spent extensive time out of the classroom” even when police weren’t involved;

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Judge postpones Trump’s sentencing

In hush money case, punishment pushed beyond Election Day

By **Michael R. Sisak**
and **Jennifer Peltz**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A judge agreed Friday to postpone Donald Trump’s sentencing in his hush money case until after the November election, granting him a hard-won reprieve as he navigates the aftermath of his criminal conviction and the homestretch of his presidential campaign.

Manhattan Judge Juan Merchan, who is also weighing a defense request to overturn the verdict on immunity grounds, delayed Trump’s sentencing until Nov. 26, three weeks after the final votes are cast in the presidential election.

It had been scheduled for Sept. 18, about seven weeks before Election Day. The new date is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

The delay, the latest bit of good legal fortune for Trump, means the presidential election will be decided without voters knowing if the Republican nominee is going to jail.

Merchan explained in a four-page decision that he was postponing the sentencing “to avoid any appearance — however unwarranted — that the proceeding has been affected by or seeks to affect the approaching presidential election in which the Defendant is a candidate.”

“The Court is a fair, impartial, and apolitical institution,” he added, writing that his decision “should dispel any suggestion”

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TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Rizzo celebrated in return to Wrigley

Cubs fans cheer for Anthony Rizzo in his long-awaited homecoming three years after being traded to the Yankees. **Chicago Sports**

Teen, father jailed in Ga. school shooting

The suspect and his father, who was arrested for allowing his son to have a weapon, will stay in custody after their lawyers decided not to seek bail. **Nation & World**



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Shedding light on veterans’ suicides

Veterans, their family members and supporters ride on Hayes Drive as they cross DuSable Lake Shore Drive to begin a 20-mile journey on horseback along Chicago’s lakefront on Friday. Nonprofit Bravehearts was riding for awareness of veterans’ suicides.

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Chicago Bears President and CEO Kevin Warren, right, shakes hands with Conagra Brands President and CEO Sean Connolly at an Economic Club of Chicago event at the Sheraton Grand Chicago hotel on Thursday. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Bears CEO sticks to game plan for Chicago lakefront stadium

Warren continues push in talks with city business leaders

By **Dan Petrella**
Chicago Tribune

On the eve of a football season that’s been billed as the beginning of a new era for the Chicago Bears, team President and CEO Kevin Warren continues to push for public financing for a new lakefront stadium for the charter NFL

franchise despite ongoing skepticism from state officials who would have to approve a deal.

Warren, arguing a new domed stadium near where Soldier Field is located would be a boon both for the team and the city, largely stuck to a familiar script as he spoke Thursday evening in front of a group of Chicago business leaders.

Warren said the nearly \$5 billion stadium project would create short-term construc-

tion jobs and long-term economic activity for the city. He reiterated his expectation the stadium also will enable the city the opportunity to host Super Bowls and NCAA Final Fours, among other high-profile events.

“If we can’t figure this out, Chicago, shame on us,” Warren said in a wide-ranging conversation with Conagra Brands President and CEO Sean Connolly before the Economic

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Convicted serial killer to stand trial in ’93 slaying

Gargiulo extradited from Calif. in death of Glenview student, 18

By **Madeline Buckley**
and **Richard Requena**
Chicago Tribune

More than 30 years after 18-year-old Tricia Pacaccio’s father found her stabbed to death on the family’s porch, a convicted serial killer dubbed the “Hollywood ripper” appeared in a Cook County courtroom Friday for the first time to stand trial on charges of murder in the Glenview teen’s 1993 slaying.

Pacaccio’s family has long sought justice for the teen who was killed shortly before she was set to start her freshman year at Purdue University. But the many twists and turns of the case meant that a suspect, Michael Gargiulo, was not charged until 18 years after the killing.

It took another decade still for Gargiulo to face a judge in the case. Authorities on Thursday extradited him from California, where he has been incarcerated for years.

Wearing sunglasses and a beige jumpsuit, Gargiulo appeared before a judge at the branch courthouse in Skokie on murder charges filed in 2011. Judge Anthony Calabrese ordered him detained while awaiting trial, while emotional family, present in the

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