

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Bias found in Chicago traffic stops

Black drivers more likely to be stopped by police than to get traffic camera tickets, study finds

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

Black drivers in Chicago are more likely to be stopped by police than issued tickets by traffic cameras, highlighting the role of racial bias in traffic stops, according to a new study.

The findings, published this month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, follow years of scrutiny of racial disparities in Chicago traffic stops. They also come amid renewed debate about the use of the stops, as outgoing Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx unveiled a

controversial proposal to decline to prosecute possession cases when guns or drugs are found during traffic stops initiated for reasons like expired registration or a broken light. Officials also recently moved to add oversight of traffic stops to a federal consent decree guiding Chicago Police Department reform.

In the latest study, researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Cornell University,

Rutgers University and the University of Sydney in Australia analyzed GPS data from cellphones and 2019 data on traffic stops and speed camera tickets. They determined the racial makeup of drivers on the road, and compared that with the demographics of the people stopped or ticketed.

They found that on a street where half of drivers were white, the probability of a white driver getting a traffic camera ticket was

just under 50%, while white drivers made up, on average, fewer than 20% of police stops.

On a street where half of drivers were Black, the probability of a Black driver getting a camera ticket was 54%. But Black drivers made up about 70% of police stops.

Comparing automated camera data to stops initiated by police sheds light in a clear way on the

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Trial set to begin for Illini standout

Shannon faces rape charge today in court in Kansas

By Jonathan Bullington
Chicago Tribune

One of the basement bar areas at Lawrence, Kansas' 105-year-old Jayhawk Cafe is called the "Martini Room." And it was in that room, steps from the University of Kansas campus, where the 18-year-old would later tell police she first saw the attractive guy wave her over as she and her friend were heading for the door.

At her friend's encouragement, she said, she ventured back in his direction, slowly weaving through the hot and sweaty crowd, its numbers swelled that September night by a KU football victory hours earlier at home against the University of Illinois.

What happened in the seconds that followed is soon to be a question for a jury to answer when the rape trial of Illinois men's basketball standout and Chicago native Terrence Shannon Jr. begins Monday in a Douglas County, Kansas, courtroom.

Shannon, 23, faces one count of rape or an alternative count of aggravated sexual battery, also a felony, in a case that stems from a trip he and two others took to watch that September Illini-KU football game.

Lawrence police said in an affidavit that the 18-year-old told a detective that Shannon put his hand under her skirt, grabbed her buttocks and

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Far-right side gains in EU election

Surging far-right parties dealt a blow to two of the European Union's most important leaders: French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. **Nation & World**

Music Box getting new seats and more

After an August film festival, the theater's main venue closes for a \$750,000 renovation including new seats, carpeting and lighting, and other improvements. **Arts & Living**

Victory in defeat for Red Stars

The 35,038 fans in attendance Saturday at Wrigley Field for the home team's game against Bay FC broke the National Women's Soccer League record. **Chicago Sports**



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

STAGING A WALKOUT

Several dozen graduates and supporters gather outside for Palestinian victims of the war in the Gaza Strip after walking out in protest during Northwestern University's commencement on Sunday at the United Center. **Story in Chicagoland, Page 3**



Steve Pitstick stands in newly planted soybean fields that he farms with his son, Dale, along Pouley Road in Elburn on April 18. They plant several thousand acres of soybeans or corn annually. **STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE**

Soy Innovation Center aims to boost key Illinois industry

Booming crop used in many products eyed as petroleum substitute

By Shanzeh Ahmad
Chicago Tribune

Steve Pitstick has been working the fields on his family's soybean farm his entire life. That's long enough to have seen considerable changes in the business.

Pitstick, 65, remembers tending to the crop with a tractor and using a radio to check for weather updates. Today, he plants using a computer-guided machine, and genetically engineered seeds make it possible for Pitstick and other farmers to produce more.

Although the history of his family's Elburn-area farm goes back generations, Pitstick is focused fully on the future as the need for soy products grows.

And he's not the only one.

Pitstick is one of some 43,000 soybean farmers represented by the Illinois Soybean Association, which is leading an effort to spur the development of soy-based products that are increasingly used as a cleaner and more sustainable replacement for petroleum.

Launched by the association in March, the Soy Innovation

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Centrist quits War Cabinet in Israel

Gantz says Netanyahu has mismanaged war on Hamas in Gaza

By Melanie Lidman
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Benny Gantz, a centrist member of Israel's three-man War Cabinet, announced his resignation Sunday, accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of mismanaging the war effort and putting his own "political survival" over the country's security needs.

The move does not immediately pose a threat to Netanyahu, who still controls a majority coalition in parliament. But the Israeli leader becomes more heavily reliant on far-right allies who oppose the latest U.S.-backed ceasefire proposal and want to press ahead with the war.

"Unfortunately, Netanyahu is preventing us from achieving true victory, which is the justification for the painful and ongoing price," Gantz said. He added that Netanyahu was "making empty promises," and the country needs to take a different direction as he expects the fighting to continue for years to come.

The popular former military

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