

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Court gives Trump substantial immunity

Ruling curtails Smith's case against former president

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday ruled for the first time that former presidents have broad immunity from prosecution, extending the delay

in the Washington criminal case against Donald Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss and all but ending prospects the former president could be tried before the November election.

In a historic 6-3 ruling, the court's conservative majority, including the three justices appointed by Trump, narrowed the case against him and returned it to the trial court to determine what is

left of special counsel Jack Smith's indictment.

The ruling reflected a muscular view of presidential power, and left dissenting judges to criticize it as undermining a core democratic principle that no person is above the law.

The court's decision highlighted how the justices have been thrust into an impactful role in the November presidential election. Earlier, they had rejected efforts

to bar him from the ballot because of his actions following the 2020 election. The court last week also limited an obstruction charge faced by Trump and used against hundreds of his supporters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The split among the justices also in many ways mirrored the political divide in the U.S.

"Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power

entitles a former president to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court. "And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts."

Turn to Trump, Page 8



Members of the public tour the the peninsula below the Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Des Plaines River in Joliet on Dec. 5. Officials announced Monday that Illinois has signed a partnership agreement that will allow construction of the \$1.15 billion Brandon Road Interbasin Project to combat the movement of invasive carp and other problem species into the Great Lakes. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Pritzker signs federal, state carp agreement

Deal allows \$1.15B project to protect Lake Michigan from invasive species to begin

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

After several months of back and forth, officials announced Monday that Illinois had signed a partnership agreement that will allow construction of the \$1.15 billion Brandon Road Interbasin Project to begin in early 2025 with significant federal funding.

The effort, decades in the making, will become the last, multi-pronged line of

defense to stop invasive silver and bighead carp from making it into Lake Michigan, where they pose a threat to Great Lakes ecosystems and billion-dollar fishing and boating industries.

In the last few weeks, the office of Gov. J.B. Pritzker and the state of Illinois reviewed final drafts and wrapped up negotiations to reach a final agreement that "balanced the need to preserve the Great Lakes ecosystem with the responsibility to carefully steward taxpayer

dollars," according to a news release.

The announcement comes as experts and advocates expressed concerns that \$274 million in federal funds would be lost if the agreement wasn't signed soon, and that construction workers wouldn't be able to take advantage of an upcoming scheduled closure at Lockport Lock near Brandon Road in Joliet.

Any more delays, they said, could have

Turn to Carp, Page 4

Black-, gay-owned weed businesses gain traction

More overcome obstacles to open and expand in Illinois

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

After years of struggling to get off the ground, several Black-owned cannabis businesses recently have opened or expanded in Illinois, bucking the trend of companies that haven't been able to acquire financing to get going.

One of the recent openings is the self-described Black-, Latino-, veteran- and queer-owned SWAY dispensary in the Lakeview neighborhood. The retail store is a collaboration between cannabis equity advocate and Army veteran Edie Moore, and LGBTQ rights and local business leaders Art Johnston and José "Pepe" Peña — both now 80.

"It's a long time coming," Moore

said. "Financing is always a big challenge. It's very expensive to do one of these facilities. Zoning (in Chicago) is a bear, and expensive."

Access to marijuana was an important issue in the gay rights movement, especially in the 1980s, because so many members of the community were suffering from AIDS or cancer.

"After all of these years of prohibition," Johnston said, "it will be an honor to provide safe access to cannabis for our community and beyond."

Johnson and Peña also are co-owners of Sidetracks, a popular gay bar since the 1980s, across the street from SWAY.

Statewide, there are 213 recreational or "adult use" dispensaries, almost half of which are social equity dispensaries, generally defined as those owned by people with prior low-level cannabis convictions, or who come from



The self-described Black-, Latino-, veteran- and queer-owned SWAY dispensary is in the Lakeview neighborhood. The dispensary is a collaboration between José "Pepe" Peña, from left, Edie Moore and Art Johnston. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

areas of high cannabis arrest rates or high poverty.

Another 100 or so conditionally licensed companies are working toward opening. In May, state officials announced they were awarding an additional 48 new conditional licenses.

The openings come as many of those companies face difficulties meeting a July 11 deadline to open.

The state will grant further extensions based on need.

At SWAY, its opening brings to fruition a goal that Peña proposed decades ago, never thinking it would come true: "Wouldn't it be great to sell weed instead of alcohol?"

"The response from the community has been overwhelming,"

Turn to Cannabis, Page 2

Family retrieves Purple Heart

Pearl Harbor veteran's award back, with help of treasurer's office

By Molly Morrow
Chicago Tribune

Jim Even thought his family had all of his father's belongings and memorabilia after he died in 2014. His father was organized: As a U.S. Army Air Corps master sergeant and accountant, he had gotten his affairs in order before his death at age 92.

But unbeknownst to his loved ones, Jerome Even had put his Purple Heart medal — a heart-shaped medal given to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded or killed in combat — in a safe-deposit box. The medal eventually found its way to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office. In May, the treasurer's office unveiled a website listing Purple Heart medals they seek to return to honorees and their families. The website lists the names of Purple Heart recipients whose medals are with the treasurer's office.

Soon after, Jim Even received at least a dozen calls from people telling him that his father's Purple Heart medal was with the treasurer's office.

"Ten years (after his death), I get a call from somebody that said, 'Hey, are you related to Jerome Even?'" Even recounted. "And I'm like, 'Who is this? Is this a sales call?'"

Jim Even's siblings received similar calls, all from people who recognized their father's name on the treasurer's office website. The family got in touch with the treasurer's unclaimed property team to get their father's medal back.

On July 1, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs officially returned the Purple Heart medal to Jim Even in a ceremony at the treasurer's office in the West Loop. The Even family is a success story in the treasurer's mission to return Purple Heart medals to veterans and their families.

But 12 of the medals are still unclaimed and in the possession of the treasurer's office until the recipients or their families come

Turn to Vet, Page 4

Jack in the Box returns

The popular fast-food chain hasn't been in the Chicago area since the 1980s, but the San Diego-based firm plans to expand with eight company-owned stores in the area next year, including a location near Midway Airport.

Business, Section 2 Page 1.

Blackhawks make big splash

The Blackhawks made a flurry of moves Monday on the opening day of free agency. They added six players, including former Hawk Teuvo Teräväinen and former Maple Leafs forward Tyler Bertuzzi.

Chicago Sports Section 3 Page 1.

