

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Shifting from Arlington Heights site, team says lakefront stadium could host Super Bowls and Final Fours  
 Domed venue would be built with public, private funds; Pritzker argues taxpayers have higher priorities

## Bears call \$4.6B audible



Team President and CEO Kevin Warren speaks alongside Mayor Brandon Johnson and Chairman George McCaskey as the Bears announce their plans to build a new domed lakefront stadium on Wednesday at Soldier Field. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Johnson vows no new taxes for city's residents, but skeptical Springfield asked to cover billions

By Dan Petrella, Olivia Olander and A.D. Quig  
 Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Bears stood with Mayor Brandon Johnson at Soldier Field on Wednesday to launch their public push for a domed stadium on a re-imagined lakefront that could cost nearly \$5 billion, but the pitch was met with wariness from the triumvirate in Springfield that ultimately will control its fate.

Despite Johnson's ringing endorsement for the plan that would see the Bears chip in about \$2.3 billion in private funding, Gov.

J.B. Pritzker and the Democratic leaders in the state House and Senate made clear the team doesn't currently have the support it needs to make the architectural renderings a reality.

With the price tag of the stadium itself estimated at \$3.2 billion, the Bears are asking the state to take on \$900 million in new debt to cover the remaining cost, backed by an existing 2% tax on hotel stays in the

**Turn to Skeptical, Page 5**

Questions mount for project reliant on existing hotel tax that failed to pay for prior renovations

By Robert McCoppin, Jeremy Gerner, Caroline Kubzansky and Jake Sheridan  
 Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Bears laid out elaborate plans Wednesday for a new publicly owned domed stadium on the lakefront but left unanswered how the city would pay for expensive infrastructure improvements.

With a dazzling video presentation of a stadium featuring a translucent roof and a glass wall with a view of downtown, team President and CEO Kevin Warren presented his vision for a \$3.2 billion focal point for great city

gatherings, not just football.

The city has an opportunity to build an international attraction that would resonate for generations to come, Warren told a crowd of supporters at the Bears current home, 100-year-old Soldier Field.

"It's time for us to do something special together," he said.

The team proposed spending \$2 billion for the stadium, plus \$300

**Turn to Stadium, Page 5**

**CALEB WILLIAMS' MOMENT:**

The NFL draft finally has arrived, and almost the entire football world agrees that the USC quarterback is the no-brainer No. 1 selection for the Bears. The question is whether Williams is finally the guy with the complete toolbox — of talent, of football IQ, of leadership skills, of unflappable composure — who will change the team's fortune. **Chicago Sports**

## Ill. targets insurance stipulation

'Step therapy' worsens or prolongs symptoms, doctors, patients say

By Lisa Schencker  
 Chicago Tribune

Kim Albin has lost count of the number of times she's had to battle health insurance companies over medications.

Albin, who has been living with multiple sclerosis for nearly 30 years, said health insurers have told her time and again that they won't cover medications her doctors have prescribed until she first tries alternate, often cheaper, ones.

"It's like playing Russian



Kim Albin, of Carol Stream, says health insurers' insistence on her trying cheaper, alternative multiple sclerosis medications first is "like playing Russian roulette." **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

roulette," said Albin, 65, of Carol Stream. Multiple sclerosis is a disease of the brain and spinal cord that can lead to disability. "When you have a disease like MS and you do that and the drug doesn't work, you ... make the problem even worse."

It's not uncommon for health insurance companies to impose

such requirements, which are called step therapy or "fail first." Step therapy is when a doctor prescribes a treatment or medication for a patient, but the insurer requires the patient to instead try different treatments or medications first. Only when the first

**Turn to Drugs, Page 6**

## Biden: First installment of aid rushed to Ukraine

By Aamer Madhani and Seung Min Kim  
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden said Wednesday that he was immediately rushing badly needed weaponry to Ukraine as he signed into law a \$95 billion war aid measure that includes assistance for Israel, Taiwan and other global hot spots.

The announcement marked an end to the long, painful battle with Republicans in Congress over urgently needed assistance for Ukraine, with Biden promising that U.S. weapons shipments would begin making the way into Ukraine "in the next few hours."

"We rose to the moment, we came together, and we got it done," Biden said a White House

event to announce the bill-signing. "Now we need to move fast, and we are."

But significant damage has been done to the Biden administration's effort to help Ukraine repel Russia's invasion during the funding impasse that dates back to August, when the Democratic president made his first emergency spending request for Ukraine. Even with a burst of new weapons and ammunition, it's unlikely that Ukraine will immediately recover after months of setbacks.

Biden immediately approved sending Ukraine \$1 billion in military assistance, the first installment from about \$61 billion allocated for the Kyiv government. The package

**Turn to Aid, Page 6**

## College cuts ties with church

Prairie State College officials say they will no longer hold events at a Matteson church amid outcry over the church's opinions on gay marriage. **Page 2**

## Dom's, Foxtrot face lawsuit

Foxtrot and Dom's Kitchen & Market are facing a lawsuit alleging they violated workers' rights by closing without legally required notice. **Business**

**TODAY'S WEATHER** High 59 Low 44

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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