# Chicagomicutionne



THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

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 stadiur

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 render-

ings 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 Gorner, 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

**Biden: First installment** 

of aid rushed to Ukraine

Turn to Stadium, Page 5

By Aamer Madhani

and Seung Min Kim

WASHINGTON - Presi-

dent Joe Biden said Wednesday

that he was immediately rush-

ing 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

an end to the long, painful battle

with Republicans in Congress

over urgently needed assistance

for Ukraine, with Biden promis-

ing that U.S. weapons shipments

would begin making the way into

Ukraine "in the next few hours."

came together, and we got it

done," Biden said a White House

"We rose to the moment, we

The announcement marked

Associated Press

### **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** 

event to announce the bill-sign-

ing. "Now we need to move fast,

istration's effort to help Ukraine

repel Russia's invasion during

the funding impasse that dates

back to August, when the Demo-

cratic president made his first

emergency spending request

for Ukraine. Even with a burst

of new weapons and ammuni-

tion, it's unlikely that Ukraine will immediately recover after

Biden immediately approved

sending Ukraine \$1 billion in

military assistance, the first

installment from about \$61

billion allocated for the Kyiv

government. The package

But significant damage has been done to the Biden admin-

and we are."

## Ill. targets insurance stipulation

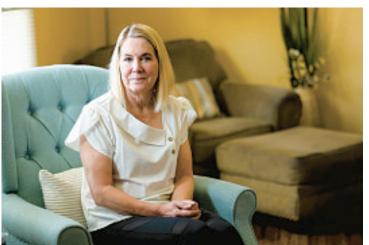
'Step therapy' worsens or prolongs symptoms, doctors, patients say

By Lisa Schencker Chicago Tribune

Kim Albin has lost count of the number of times she's had to battle health insurance compa-

nies 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,

"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

### TODAY'S WEATHER High 59 Low 44

Turn to Aid, Page 6

months of setbacks.

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

### Dom's, Foxtrot face lawsuit 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

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

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere 176th year No. 116 © Chicago Tribune