

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## US: Putin agrees to Ukraine security proposal

Trump envoy says NATO-like deal could help end war

By **Jill Colvin**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Russian leader Vladimir Putin agreed at his summit with President Donald Trump that the United States and its European allies could offer Ukraine a security guarantee resembling NATO’s collective defense mandate as part of an eventual deal to end the war, a U.S. official said Sunday.

Trump envoy Steve Witkoff, who took part in the talks Friday at a military base in Alaska, said it “was the first time we had ever heard the Russians agree to that” and called it “game-changing.”

“We were able to win the following concession: That the United States could offer Article 5-like protection, which is one of the real reasons why Ukraine wants to be in NATO,” Witkoff told CNN’s “State of the Union.”

Witkoff offered few details on how such an arrangement would work. But it appeared to be a major shift for Putin and could serve as a workaround to his deep-seated objection to Ukraine’s potential NATO membership, a step that Kyiv has long sought.

It was expected to be a key topic Monday as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and major European leaders meet with Trump at the White House to discuss ending the 3 ½-year conflict.

“BIG PROGRESS ON RUSSIA,” Trump said in a social media post. “STAY TUNED!”

Article 5, at the heart of the 32-member trans-Atlantic military alliance, says an armed

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Fans tailgate outside Sunday before the Bears’ game against the Bills at Soldier Field in Chicago. For coverage of Sunday’s preseason game, go to [chicagotribune.com/sports](http://chicagotribune.com/sports). **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Bears face long drive in short legislative session

Lawmakers expected to make demands of team as it seeks passage of stadium legislation in fall

By **Rick Pearson, Jeremy Gorner and Olivia Olander**  
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — The Chicago Bears’ playbook for constructing a new domed stadium and football entertainment complex in Arlington Heights calls for state lawmakers to act in October to approve property tax break legislation that would allow them to break ground this year.

But it is the Bears’ pocketbook that may be more important in getting legislators’ votes, partic-

ularly those from Chicago, to ease the way for one of the NFL’s founding franchises to leave the city it has called home for 104 years, since George Halas moved the Staleys from Decatur.

Already, there is \$525 million in outstanding public debt from the controversial 2003 Soldier Field renovation, a tab currently covered by city hotel taxes and, when that falls short, by Chicago’s share of state income taxes. The Bears’ lease at Soldier Field expires in 2033, but it can be broken early with a penalty, and the team says it will take three

years to build its new stadium.

But even if the Bears were forced to pay off the outstanding debt, that alone is unlikely to be enough to satisfy city lawmakers who are key in providing the necessary votes to advance any legislation to help the team.

Instead, the Bears’ hole may have grown deeper, with legislators from the city potentially seeking additional funding from the team, ranging from help to maintain the Soldier Field lakefront campus to programming funds for the city’s public schools to even assistance related to funding for a public transit system that’s facing a shortfall of hundreds of millions of dollars.

And if votes of downstate

lawmakers, largely Republicans, are needed in the Democratic-led legislature, they are likely to make their own demands that the team help fund some of their local initiatives.

Bears President Kevin Warren set the stage for negotiations when he said virtually a week ago that “the goal would still be to be in a position to move dirt this year” on the new stadium complex at the former Arlington International Racetrack and have its formal groundbreaking next year.

“These things take time,” Bears owner George McCaskey told reporters on Aug. 8. “It’s on us to

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Khalil Abu Shaban, center, moves on an electric wheelchair as he and other children injured during the war in Gaza are introduced at an event in Frankfort on Saturday. **VINCENT D. JOHNSON/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## ‘These are just injured children’

As one Palestinian boy heals in Chicago, US State Department halts visas for others seeking care

By **Rebecca Johnson**  
Chicago Tribune

At a farm in the south suburbs, upbeat Arabic music swept across the land as more than a dozen Palestinian children — many with prosthetic limbs or in wheelchairs — and their families danced and moved to the music in the center of a raised platform.

One of the children, Khalil Abu Shaban, traveled in a circle using his wheelchair and periodically sang into a microphone as the dozens who attended the Saturday celebration at Arab Chicago Farm in Frankfort excitedly clapped for him.

Abu Shaban, 14, arrived in Chicago about a year ago with his mom and sister to receive medi-

cal care at Shriners Children’s specialty hospital after losing both his legs in a bombing in Gaza. He said he’s working on getting his final prosthetics and attends physical therapy a few times a week. He’s also preparing to start ninth grade and has enjoyed swimming and fishing while in the United States.

“I’m waiting on my final prosthetic so I can actually practice on that,” Abu Shaban said via an

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## Lake Zurich priest put on leave for third time

Lawsuit alleges sexual abuse decades ago at Maryville Academy

By **Andrew Carter**  
Chicago Tribune

The letter arrived in late July with the tone of the two before it, the ones that announced the Rev. David Ryan, a longtime Chicago-area priest, had been placed on leave amid allegations of child sexual abuse.

This one, like those previous, came with a sense of the somber, an acknowledgment of the severity of the accusations and a reminder of the presumption of innocence.

The letter was dated July 29, with Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, the archbishop of Chicago, addressing the St. Francis de Sales parish community in Lake Zurich. It marked at least the third time since 2020 that Cupich had sent such a note

acknowledging the accusations that have embroiled Ryan.

The cardinal opened this latest letter with a line that now felt familiar amid controversy that refuses to fade:

“It is with great difficulty that I write to share news about your pastor ...”

The archdiocese first placed Ryan on leave in 2020 amid allegations that he abused a minor at Maryville Academy, then a church-run home for troubled youth in Des Plaines. He was reinstated in September 2021, only for Cupich to address the congregation days later with the revelation of “additional information, not previously provided ... that will mean delaying Father Ryan’s return.”

In February, 2023, he was reinstated, again, with Cupich making a plea:

“We must keep our word,” he wrote, “and do everything possi-

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### INSIDE

#### Texas rep. gives Chicago sermon

Rep. James Talarico was welcomed at Trinity United Church of Christ amid the battle over gerrymandering. **Page 2**

#### Israel’s frustration grows over Gaza

Tens of thousands of people protested Sunday, demanding a deal to free hostages in Gaza and aiming to shut down the country. **Nation & World**

