

Chicago Tribune



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

GOLD RUSH FOR U.S. GYMNASTS



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Simone Biles finishes her floor routine as teammates cheer Tuesday at Bercy Arena during the Paris Olympics. The U.S. women won the women's team gymnastics gold medal. **Chicago Sports**

Security chief 'ashamed' of shooting

Senators told that Secret Service left in dark on gunman

By Eric Tucker, Farnoush Amiri, Rebecca Santana and Claudia Lauer
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Secret Service's acting director told lawmakers Tuesday that he considered it indefensible that the roof used by the gunman in the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump was unsecured, faulting local law enforcement for not circulating urgent information ahead of the shooting and for not adequately protecting the scene.

Ronald Rowe Jr. also testified that he recently visited the shooting site and lied down on the roof of the building where shots were fired in order to evaluate the gunman's line of sight during the July 13 shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania.

"What I saw made me ashamed. As a career law enforcement officer and a 25-year Secret Service veteran, I cannot defend why that roof was not better secured," he said.

Rowe said the shooting amounted to a "failure on multiple levels," including a failure of imagination.

"Neither the Secret Service counter-sniper teams nor members of the former president's security detail had any knowledge that there was a man on the roof of the building with a firearm," Rowe said. "It is my understanding those personnel were not aware the assailant had a firearm until they heard gunshots."

The testimony was the most detailed catalogue to date by the Secret Service of law enforcement failings and miscommunications, with Rowe accepting blame for his own agency's mistakes while repeatedly lacing into local law enforcement for not sharing information that a gunman, later identified as 20-year-old Thomas

Turn to Shooting, Page 4

The water that raised her

Wilmette native Shea set her Olympic sailing course on Lake Michigan

By Stacy St. Clair
Chicago Tribune

MARSEILLE, France — On her trips back to Chicago, Olympic sailor Maggie Shea makes sure to look out the airplane window and take stock of Lake Michigan.

She wants to see how the waves are cresting, how the current is moving. She locates her old racing circles and checks to see who's on the water, whether it's the junior sailors or the big boats.

This is the lake that raised her, that taught her how to sail in unpredictable waters and provided some of her happiest childhood memories. It's where the Wilmette native sat with her grandpa and listened



Team USA's Maggie Shea competes with partner Stephanie Roble in a women's skiff sailing race Sunday at Marseille Marina during the Paris Olympics. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

to him explain racing strategy. It's where she first competed against rival sailor Stephanie Roble, who would later become her teammate and close friend.

And it's where, when Shea and Roble needed money to fund their Olympic dream, the Chicago Yacht Club Foundation stepped in to help.

"This lake is my home," Shea said.

Shea is more than 4,400 miles from home this week, competing in what she says will be her final Summer Games. She and Roble, both 35, are in contention for the medal race on Thursday. They're currently in 12th place

Turn to Shea, Page 4

Sharing the land — not competing for it

Some farmers and solar developers want to work side by side

By Karina Atkins
Chicago Tribune

Matt Riggs' family has been farming in Urbana since 1874. But, his parents had to work second jobs to cushion themselves from the volatile corn and soybean markets that dominate Illinois' agricultural sector.

It quickly became clear that Riggs would also need to find another income stream if he wanted to keep the farm. He expects to lose \$200 to \$300 on each acre of corn this year, but a craft brewery he and his brother started is keeping the family farm afloat.

In the past few years, Riggs has realized the land his family has worked for 150 years is also ideal for solar panels. It's flat, well-drained and gets lots of sunlight.

As Illinois strives to convert 40% of its energy consumption to renewables by 2030 and 100% by 2050, solar installations are expected to increase by 1,700% over the next five years, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Across the country, approximately 83% of new solar projects developed by 2040 will be installed on farm and ranch land, according to a 2022 American Farmland Trust analysis.

But, broad, low-lying solar arrays are not inherently compatible with farming. They typically

Turn to Solar, Page 6



Alson Time, a postdoctoral research associate, checks soil moisture and a temperature sensor in a soybean plot on July 23. The plot is between solar panels in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's agrivoltaics farm, where researchers are exploring how crops can coexist with solar panels. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Trump invitation divides NABJ:

Former President Donald Trump's scheduled appearance Wednesday at the National Association of Black Journalists convention in Chicago has roiled the organization. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Deere reports more layoffs

Deere & Co. said it will lay off nearly 300 salaried employees at its Moline headquarters in a notice filed with the state Monday. **Business**

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High 89 Low 73

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
177th year No. 213 © Chicago Tribune

