

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Abuse alleged at youth facility

Ex-detainees call on county to close detention center

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

Attorneys and former detainees are calling for the closure of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, alleging in newly filed class-action lawsuits systematic sexual abuse and “atrocious conditions” in the facility where minors are held while awaiting trial.

The complaints, filed Monday on behalf of 193 former residents of the Near West Side detention center, formerly called the Arthur J. Audy Home, accuse county officials of allowing widespread sexual abuse and implementing strip searches that were unconstitutional and against regulation.

During a news conference on Tuesday, plaintiffs spoke out about abuse that they say they suffered while ordered to stay at the facility, calling for reform and even closure of the detention center. The plaintiffs join hundreds of others who have alleged in multiple lawsuits that systemic sexual abuse occurred in youth detention centers across Illinois.

“I was abused nearly two decades ago, but it still affects me to this day,” said a woman, who did not give her full name. “I stand here for my kids and for all the girls who went through what I did.”

A spokeswoman for Chief Judge Tim Evans’ office said the office does not comment on pending litigation.

The complaint, which spans from the 1990s to present day, alleges that Cook County, as well as the state by way of the chief judge’s office, failed to protect the youth in its care as well as enact policies that would prevent abuse. It further

Turn to Abuse, Page 2

ELECTION 2024



Vice President Kamala Harris, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, greets people on the tarmac after arriving on Air Force Two in Milwaukee on Tuesday. KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Harris hits the trail

In swing state Wisconsin, vice president begins making case against Trump

BUILDING OUT AN ILLINOIS CAMPAIGN:

With Vice President Kamala Harris securing the support of enough Democratic National Convention delegates to land the party’s presidential nomination, her backers in Illinois on Tuesday moved to the next step — putting together an infrastructure to promote her nascent campaign. **Page 4**

■ President Joe Biden will address the nation Wednesday from the Oval Office on his decision to drop his 2024 Democratic reelection bid. **Page 11**

By Dan Petrella and Olivia Olander
Chicago Tribune

WEST ALLIS, Wisconsin — Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday began prosecuting her case against former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, in her first major public campaign rally since President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid and threw his support behind his running mate.

In her campaign trail debut as the Democrats’ presumptive nominee and only about 48 hours after Biden bowed out, the former California attorney general and prosecutor displayed a potentially potent line of attack

against Trump.

“In those roles, I took on perpetrators of all kinds,” Harris said, referencing the multiple legal issues facing the former president, including his felony convictions in the New York state hush money case and the finding by another New York jury that he was liable for sexual abuse. “Predators who abused women, fraudsters who ripped off consumers, cheaters who broke the rules for their own gain.”

“So hear me when I say, I know Donald Trump’s type.”

But the vice president, who arrived in Wisconsin only hours removed from receiving commitments from enough delegates to next month’s Democratic

National Convention in Chicago to secure the nomination, told a packed high school field house in suburban Milwaukee that her “campaign is not just about us versus Donald Trump.”

“This campaign is about who we fight for,” Harris said, laying out planks of a “people-powered” agenda she said would protect and build the middle class — among them fighting poverty, protecting union rights, making health care and child care more affordable, and creating paid family leave.

Harris, who addressed the crowd for about 18 minutes, and the speakers who preceded

Turn to Harris, Page 4

As new Foxtrot owner plans to reopen stores, a former undocumented worker recounts his struggle to find a job and collect unemployment

‘They threw us out like nothing’

By Laura Rodríguez Presa
Chicago Tribune

A little over nine years ago, Javier Mancera landed a job at a commissary to supply a startup of boutique convenience stores in Chicago. It seemed promising, he recalled.

And it was. He was quickly tasked with hiring more workers as Foxtrot became known as an upscale grocer and cafe chain based in Chicago, which later expanded to Texas and Washington, D.C. That was until Foxtrot and Dom’s Kitchen & Market abruptly shuttered in April before filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, causing chaos amongst their customers and leaving hundreds of their workers suddenly without a job.

The stores in Chicago were all located on the city’s North Side. The commissary, however, was on the Southwest Side, predomi-



Javier Macedo worked for nine years in the Foxtrot commissary until the company abruptly closed in April. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

nantly staffed by Mexican immigrant laborers like Mancera, who never set foot in one of the boutique stores. Yet, they religiously performed their jobs to ensure that all stores had enough breakfast tacos and other items that were unique to the brand.

“(The items in the store) were too expensive. I know that because we prepared all the food that was sold there. We did it the best we could for it to be presentable and of good quality for those

who could pay for it,” Mancera said. “(When they suddenly closed,) I felt used and discriminated against. We helped the company grow so much and at the end of the day they threw us out like nothing.”

As a co-founder of Foxtrot and new investors plan to reopen about a dozen stores this fall, Mancera and most of the other 50 former immigrant workers

Turn to Foxtrot, Page 6

Secret Service head resigns amid outcry

Cheatle steps down from post after admitting responsibility for Trump assassination attempt

By Colleen Long
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The director of the Secret Service resigned Tuesday in the aftermath of the assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump that unleashed an outcry about how the agency failed in its core mission to protect current and former presidents.

Kimberly Cheatle, who had served as Secret Service director since August 2022, faced growing calls to resign and several investigations into how a gunman was able to get so close to the Republican presidential nominee at an outdoor campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

“I take full responsibility for the security lapse,” she said in an email to staff. “In light of recent events, it is with a heavy heart that I have made the difficult

decision to step down as your director.”

Cheatle’s departure was unlikely to end the scrutiny of the long-troubled agency after the failures of July 13, and it comes at a critical juncture ahead of the Democratic National Convention and a busy presidential campaign season. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have promised more investigations. An inspector general probe and an independent and bipartisan

effort launched at President Joe Biden’s behest will keep the agency in the spotlight. Cheatle’s resignation came a day after she appeared before a congressional committee and was berated for hours by Democrats and Republicans for the security failures. She called the

Turn to Cheatle, Page 5



Cheatle

City braces for migrant surge

Chicago is bracing for up to 25,000 migrants to arrive by bus ahead of the Democratic National Convention amid an alleged Republican effort to hamstring the city. **Page 3**

Chicago’s croissant golden age

With the Paris Olympics opening Friday, find a guide to the golden age of croissants around Chicago, where chefs are giving the classic pastry new life. **Food & Health**

A net presence for US women

Faced with uncertainty heading into the Paris Olympics, the U.S. women’s national soccer team will rely on Red Stars’ goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher. **Chicago Sports**

TODAY’S WEATHER



High 76 Low 64

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 10

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
177th year No. 206 © Chicago Tribune



7 49485 00001 2