

Chicago Tribune



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SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

Biden says he 'will beat' Trump

President scrambles to save campaign with interview, rally

By Colleen Long and Seung Min Kim
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — President Joe Biden, fighting to save his endangered reelection effort Friday, said his disastrous debate performance last week was a “bad episode” and there were “no indications of any serious condition” in a highly anticipated ABC interview that was seen as a significant test of his fitness to run for office.

“I didn’t listen to my instincts in terms of preparing,” Biden told ABC’s George Stephanopoulos in an excerpt that aired Friday.

Yet Biden’s rigorous efforts to course correct from his debate performance were not yet quelling internal party frustrations, with one Democratic senator working on a nascent push that would encourage the president to exit the race and Democrats quietly chatting about where they would go next if the Biden drops out — or what it would mean if he stays in.

Still, in Wisconsin on Friday, Biden was focused on proving his capacity to remain as president.

When asked whether he would halt his campaign, he told reporters he was “completely ruling that out” and said he is “positive” he could serve another four years. At a rally in front of hundreds of supporters he acknowledged his subpar debate performance but insisted, “I am running, and I’m going to win again.”

“I beat Donald Trump,” a forceful Biden said, as the crowd gathered in a local middle school cheered and waved campaign signs. “I will

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Wheaton zoo has parking dilemma

Plan to expand to new lot has nearby residents howling

By Bob Goldsborough
Chicago Tribune

For the past year, plans for additional parking space to serve overflow visitors to Wheaton’s Cosley Zoo have drawn the ire of neighbors, who worry about the impact the proposal will have on the mostly residential area.

The nearby residents have filled Wheaton Park District and Wheaton City Hall meeting rooms and now have gathered the required number of signatures to place an advisory referendum question on the measure on November ballots.

On Monday night, however, the proposed 93-space parking lot moved one step closer to fruition when the City Council voted 5-1 in favor of it.

Fifty-year-old Cosley Zoo sits on 4 acres at 1356 Gary Ave. in Wheaton and has another adjoining acre for its current 80-space parking lot. Land for the zoo, according to its website, was donated in

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Sarah Bustamante visits the grave of her sister, Amy Brown, at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Evergreen Park on June 21. Brown was fatally stabbed in the Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago on June 26, 2022. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

A Chicago family’s ‘absolute nightmare’

Calls for renewed probe 2 years after woman’s fatal stabbing in Back of the Yards

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

Melony and Sarah Bustamante carefully placed colorful trinkets and flowers at their younger sister’s grave. Amy was an artist, they said, so she’d appreciate the effort.

The bright pink flamingos were one of Amy’s favorite animals. She might have found the rainbow flowers that blow in the breeze comforting because she was gay. Melony’s daughter painted the pink and yellow butterfly statue specifically for her tia, they said.

“Amy loved to draw and paint so much — she would do it everywhere,” Sarah, 34, recounted during a recent visit to St. Mary

Cemetery in Evergreen Park while surrounded by a few other family and friends. “As long as she had the image in her head she was going to put it down. It was very therapeutic for her.”

Amy Brown, 22, was fatally stabbed during what police described as a domestic-related altercation in the Back of the Yards neighborhood on June 26, 2022. Two years after her death, Brown’s family still mourns, cycling between the mixed emotions of shock, depression and anger that experts say are common for families of homicide victims. They also are calling for a renewed investigation into her case where no one has been charged.

The night Brown died, officers responded to reports of a person stabbed in the 5200 block of South Carpenter Street around 10:25 p.m., according to a police report. Officers found Brown unresponsive outside on the grass with multiple stab wounds and two knives near her body, the report said. Brown’s family said she lived in the home where she was killed.

The alleged attacker’s hands and arm were covered in what officers believed to be blood, and he was placed in custody. He told officers at the scene that Brown had attacked him with knives after she came home screaming, according to the report. In

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Two years after the death of Brown, above, her family is calling for a renewed investigation into her case. **COURTESY**

“With anybody who loses somebody in a traumatic and violent way, it just never goes away. It’s always that sense that somebody who should be there is missing.”

— Dr. Traci Kurtzer, medical director of trauma-informed care and education at Northwestern Medicine



NASCAR vehicles are looked over Friday after being unloaded off trucks in preparation for the race. **ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE**

NASCAR race not universally welcomed

Even with greater knowledge of what to expect in year two, and changes for the event, some remain critical. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Texas prepares for storm Beryl

Beryl batters Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula on Friday, while officials in Texas urge coastal residents to prepare. **Nation & World**

Steele goes distance in Cubs victory

Left-hander Justin Steele throws a complete game for his first victory of the season as the Cubs topped the Angels 5-1. **Chicago Sports**

Verdict from Dolton police chase affirmed

Village owes \$33.5M in fatal incident; funds frozen in another case

By Olivia Stevens
Daily Southtown

Decisions in two lawsuits against the village of Dolton are contributing to financial troubles, with the village owing \$33.5 million from one case and having \$440,000 in funds frozen from another.

An Illinois Appellate Court affirmed June 20 the \$33.5 million verdict on behalf of John Kyles, who died following a 2016 police chase in Dolton, and a second man, Duane Dunlap, who was left severely injured, according to court documents.

Attorneys said the chase stemmed from a traffic violation after the men’s car skidded through a stop sign. Police chased the vehicle for about a mile until the vehicle crashed into a building.

Kyles died while Dunlap was left with “severe, catastrophic and permanent injuries,” according to the wrongful death lawsuit filed in November 2019. The ruling from the Appellate Court in 1st Judicial District said attorneys claimed the police vehicle had a dashboard camera with footage that, despite a court order, the village never produced.

When the jury award was announced in August 2022, attorneys from Loevy & Loevy said they believed it to be one of the largest police misconduct cases in Illinois history.

“This is a case (the village) should have settled,” said Jon Loevy, an attorney representing the administrator for Kyles and a guardian for Dunlap. “They could have settled for a fraction of this.”

Despite Dolton’s appeal, the village never sought a stay on the payment and it was considered “present and due” when

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