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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Biden hails ‘ghosts of Pointe du Hoc’

President apologizes earlier to Zelenskyy for weapons delay

By Chris Megerian, Sylvie Corbet and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

PARIS — President Joe Biden on Friday for the first time publicly apologized to Ukraine for a monthslong congressional holdup in American military assistance that let Russia make gains on the battlefield.

Biden met in Paris with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who appealed for bipartisan U.S. support going forward “like it was during World War II.”

A day earlier, the two had attended ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, where Biden had drawn common cause between the Allied forces that

helped free Europe from Nazi Germany and today’s effort to support Ukraine against Russia’s invasion and Zelenskyy had been greeted with a rapt ovation.

“I apologize for those weeks of not knowing what’s going to happen in terms of funding,” Biden said, referring to the six-month holdup by conservative Republicans in Congress to a \$61 billion

military aid package for Ukraine. Still, the Democratic president insisted the American people were standing by Ukraine for the long haul. “We’re still in. Completely. Thoroughly,” he said.

Later Friday, a day after paying his respects to the D-Day force in an emotional ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery, Biden summoned Americans to defend democracy from threats at home and abroad — and cast an

implicit contrast with former President Donald Trump — as he drew on the heroism of Army Rangers who scaled the seaside cliffs of Pointe du Hoc during the invasion 80 years ago.

The same spot was etched in the nation’s political memory in 1984, when President Ronald Reagan honored the “boys of Pointe du Hoc” and drew common cause

Turn to Biden, Page 6

City Hall tiff over ethics measure

Ordinance would hit lobbyists who donate to mayor campaigns

By Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

Chicago aldermen advanced an ethics ordinance this week that would punish lobbyists for contributions to political campaigns of mayoral candidates, in another instance of the City Council moving to buck Mayor Brandon Johnson’s administration.

Chaired by Johnson ally Ald. Matt Martin, 47th, the Ethics Committee unanimously approved the measure Thursday to fine or suspend lobbyists who violate a rule already codified in a 2011 executive order banning them from making campaign contributions to a mayor’s political fund. The legislation now heads to a final City Council vote this month.

The committee acted after the city ethics board in April dropped several cases of registered lobbyists improperly donating to Johnson’s political committee because the body lacked the legal authority to enforce the 2011 rules. Aldermen voted in favor of the ordinance despite the Johnson administration clashing with Martin over codifying the restrictions.

“The mayor’s office made clear that they did not want to move on anything, and even though I repeatedly asked for suggested edits so that we can find a mutually agreeable solution, they declined to do so,” Martin told reporters after the vote. “They made clear that there were not any changes that they could suggest that would get them on board ... and at the end of the day, it’s important for me to move this forward.”

Other aldermen and good government advocates also admonished Johnson’s team for not supporting the measure and said sitting on it would move ethics reform at City Hall backward.

Turn to Ethics, Page 4

Buyer for Signature Room

The operator of the 360 Chicago observation deck near the top of the former John Hancock Center has purchased the building’s 95th and 96th floors. Business, Page 2

Daughter testifies in father’s case

Hunter Biden’s daughter Naomi testified Friday in his federal gun trial about visiting her father while he was at a California rehab center, telling jurors that he seemed to be improving in the weeks before he bought the revolver in 2018. Nation & World



VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

March calls out inaction

People gather at the intersection of South King Drive and Pershing Road during the We Walk for Her march on Wednesday in Chicago. Youths and adults in lavender T-shirts with the words “We Walk For Her” took to the southbound lanes of King Drive to protest the continuing lack of action when it comes to missing Black and brown girls and women. Chicagoland, Page 3



Jewel-Osco employee Sandy Farrer, who works as a personnel coordinator in Glenview, stands outside the grocery store following her shift Friday. Farrer recently celebrated her 50th anniversary at Jewel-Osco. ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

‘She takes care of all of us’

Chicago woman celebrates 50 years on the job at Jewel-Osco

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

Sandy Farrer’s first day on the job at Jewel-Osco started a bit, well, sticky.

She bagged groceries alongside a cashier who liked to move quickly. But when two liter glass bottles of pop bumped together, exploding all over her, Farrer said she spent her first shift soaked in the drink.

But Farrer overcame the bumpy start, recently celebrating her 50th anniversary with the grocery chain. Oh, and that cashier — he’s now her husband.

“I said this to my husband, ‘God I’ve known you for 50 years.’ It was like, wow,” she said. They began dating a few years after they met and married in 1981. “It’s kind of nice that we met there. If he wouldn’t have broke those bottles.”

Farrer started out as a service clerk at the supermarket chain when she was 16 and through the years, has also worked as a cashier, an assistant manager and more at eight different stores. Now, at 66, she’s a part-time personnel coordinator in Glenview, where she does payroll, explains employee benefits and organizes anniversary parties —

Turn to 50 years, Page 2

1 charged in \$60 million COVID-19 fraud case

Prosecutors say Morton Grove man falsely billed for tests

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

A suburban Chicago man has been charged in a \$60 million COVID-19 fraud scheme that billed Medicare for millions of at-home test kits over a two-month period last year, including tests for at 4,000 people who were later determined to be dead.

Syed Shaukat Ahmed, 58, was arrested this week on a three-count criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court with Medicare fraud, transfer of fraudulently obtained funds, and using illegally obtained money to pay off his mortgage.

Agents stopped Ahmed on Monday at O’Hare International Airport, where he was scheduled to board a flight to Pakistan with his family, according to court records. It was later determined that it was a scheduled annual trip back to his home country and apparently not an attempt to flee prosecution.

Still, prosecutors initially

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