

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



People cheer for runners on the State Street bridge during the first miles of the Chicago Marathon on Sunday. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## LONG-LASTING FUN

From drag shows to makeshift breakfast buffets and a chicken costume, spectators bring lots of energy to Sunday's Chicago Marathon

**By Karina Atkins**  
Chicago Tribune

Cheers, music and cowbells are not Chicago's typical Sunday morning soundtrack, but little was typical about the city streets during the 46th Chicago Marathon.

Savannah Payne, of Lakeview East, enticed her friends to join her on the crisp fall morning by turning a bus stop bench into a breakfast buffet equipped with pancakes, fruit salad and coffee.

"I want to be here the whole time. It's cool watching people do something that's really hard," said the 25-year-old, who was cheering on her cousin and a handful of friends. She was also garnering inspiration for her first half-marathon next month.

When the first wave of runners passed North Sheridan and West Diversey around 8 a.m. Sunday, the typically sleepy sidewalks



Ruth Chepngetich, of Kenya, crosses the finish line to win the women's professional division and break the women's marathon world record.

**TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

were lined with spectators who got to see newly minted world-record-holder Ruth Chepngetich sprint by.

The Kenyan athlete shattered the women's world record less than two hours later. Finishing in 2 hours, 9 minutes and 56 seconds,

she shaved nearly 2 minutes off the previous world record set by Ethiopian runner Tigst Assefa at the 2023 Berlin Marathon. Chepngetich also won the 2021 and 2022 Chicago Marathons and was runner-up last year.

The Chicago Marathon is a place where runners are known to fly. After Sunday's race, three of the four fastest women's times recorded have been on Chicago streets. Kenyan runner Kelvin Kiptum, who tragically died in a car crash in February, also broke the men's world record last year.

Many credit it to the city's flat terrain, but the crowd's infectious energy and encouragement may help runners keep pace too.

Icona Pop's "I Love It" blasted from the speakers in the Northalstead neighborhood. The intersection of Belmont and Melrose was transformed

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## NASCAR a cash winner for city

2024 race garnered more benefits than 2023, records show

**By A.D. Quig**  
Chicago Tribune

NASCAR's second year in Chicago came with slightly sunnier skies, slightly fewer critics and an ad hoc deal that helped the city's bottom line improve slightly, ending the big downtown race weekend a few hundred thousand dollars in the black.

That was an improvement over 2023, when critics not only ripped the inconvenience of closed roads and limited access to Grant Park, but said the overall cost to host it wasn't matched by the benefits: The city spent nearly \$4 million that year but received just \$620,000 in direct payments from the racing company.

This time, the city shelled out \$2.44 million in overtime, roadwork and payments to the company that runs Chicago's parking meters for taking spaces offline this summer for the race, according a Tribune analysis of documents obtained from open records requests. NASCAR made \$2.77 million in direct payments to the city in return.

What changed? City costs for roadwork tumbled. And to assuage critics, NASCAR promised a \$2 million payment to help the city recoup overtime

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## Valparaiso cop: 'It was too much'

Officer says she left Indiana task force because of on-the-job sexual harassment

**By Amy Lavalley**  
Post-Tribune

Whatever the Valparaiso police officer expected when she walked into a room for an interview with the Porter County Multi-Enforcement Group, it wasn't what she got.

The officers conducting the interview, representing police departments from throughout the northwest Indiana county, asked her whom she would kill; have sexual relations with, though her interviewers used an expletive; and marry if given the choice between the sheriff and the Valparaiso and Portage police chiefs.

They asked her whether she had ever filed a sexual harassment lawsuit and what type of porn she watched.

She said in an interview with the Post-Tribune that she was told not to tell anyone about the interview questions and she complied at the time, figuring they were all part of the process to test her mettle while working

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A Valparaiso, Indiana, police officer who received \$160,000 in settlements over sexual harassment speaks Aug. 5 about her experience. **KYLE TELECHAN/FOR POST-TRIBUNE**

## President surveys Milton damage

Biden touts unity in disaster, presses for quicker US aid

**By Aamer Madhani and Josh Boak**  
Associated Press

ST. PETE BEACH, Fla. — President Joe Biden saw firsthand Sunday some of the devastation that Hurricane Milton inflicted on Florida's Gulf Coast, including piles of water-logged debris outside almost every home in a beach community and the torn-up roof of Tropicana Field, home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team.

After an aerial tour and a briefing, Biden said he was thankful the damage from Milton was not as severe as officials had anticipated. But he said it was still a "cataclysmic" event for the people in the storm's path and that many lost irreplaceable items when their homes were flooded.

The president praised the first responders who came from as far as Canada.

"It's in moments like this

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### INSIDE



**CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

### Bears triumph in London

Bears quarterback Caleb Williams celebrates as he heads to the locker room after Chicago's 35-16 victory over the Jaguars at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on Sunday. **Coverage in Chicago Sports**

### Group blasts Illinois Beach park restoration

Water-safety nonprofit says recently installed breakwaters have increased danger to swimmers. **Page 2**

### Fatal Hezbollah drone strike in Israel

The drone attack on an army base killed four soldiers and severely wounded seven, the military said. **Nation & World**

### New production of Salem-set play has a lot going on

Sarah Ruhl's "Becky Nurse of Salem" at Shattered Globe Theatre is interesting but overstuffed. **Arts & Living**

