

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Hackers target Trump campaign

Microsoft blames
Iranians for breach
of website, account

**By David E. Sanger
and Michael Gold**
The New York Times

For the third presidential election in a row, the foreign hacking of the campaigns has begun in

earnest. But this time, it's the Iranians, not the Russians, making the first significant move.
On Friday, Microsoft released a report declaring that a hacking group run by the intelligence unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guard had successfully breached the account of a "former senior adviser" to a presidential campaign. From that account, Microsoft said, the group sent fake email messages,

known as "spear phishing," to "a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign" in an effort to break into the campaign's accounts and databases.
By Saturday night, former President Donald Trump was declaring that Microsoft had informed his campaign "that one of our many websites was hacked by the Iranian Government — Never a nice thing to do!" but that the hackers had

obtained only "publicly available information." He attributed it all to what he called, in his signature selective capitalization, a "Weak and Ineffective" Biden administration. The facts were murkier, and it is unclear what, if anything, the Iranian group, which Microsoft called Mint Sandstorm, was able to achieve.
Trump's campaign was already blaming "foreign sources hostile

to the United States" for a leak of internal documents that Politico reported Saturday that it had received, although it is unclear whether those documents emerged from the Iranian efforts or were part of an unrelated leak from inside the campaign. The New York Times received what appears to be a similar if not identical

Turn to Hackers, Page 5



Keant'e Boyd Jr., 6, races sister Emari Reed, 3, assisted by grandmother Donna Pearson-Simmons, on July 26 in Back of the Yards. Keant'e and Pearson-Simmons drew Trees of Life at a Chicago Survivors summer camp to honor Keant'e's late mother, Erica. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

HELPING KIDS HEAL

Chicago Survivors' Storytellers
Camp brings support to
children after violent loss

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

At summer camp, Keant'e "KJ" Boyd Jr., like any 6-year-old, ran in circles, played with other boys and girls, and clung to his grandmother's side when she came to get him. But one activity made this summer camp different. KJ painted a stone and placed it in a garden, in memory of his mother.
Erica Reed was killed in a shooting in Chicago in May of last year. Her son participated this summer in Storytellers Camp,

where kids who have lost loved ones to violence gathered to play while also trying to make sense of their loss.
The camp is run by Chicago Survivors, a group that reaches out to crime victims after a homicide, offering therapy and support. The effort is a small beginning to address the trauma suffered every year by the more than 500 homicide victims and their families in the city.
The camp lets youths share their stories — if they want to — about their loved ones and what happened to them. They get an understanding support group from friends who've been through the same type of trauma.
Telling stories about our loved ones is "essential to the mourning process," the Center for Loss and Bereavement says, by

exploring what's been lost, how things will be different, and how to survive and reinvest in life. Generally, storytelling reduces stress, elicits support and empathy, and strengthens bonds with the living and the deceased.
But children may not have the capacity or aren't ready to put their experience into words. That's why the Storytellers Camp helps kids age 5-18 express themselves through activities such as arts and crafts, dance, tai chi and drumming. A Brain Break room offers a timeout for anyone who gets overwhelmed. And a licensed social worker and counselor are on duty for whoever wants to talk about it.
The camp, which ended earlier this month, was held three times a week, for three weeks,

Turn to Storytellers, Page 2

Housing providers feel insurance hike squeeze

Rents driven up, and
unlike other states,
Illinois can do little

By Lizzie Kane
Chicago Tribune

Stuart Handler runs a company that owns and manages 47 properties, with a total of 6,000 apartments throughout the Chicago area. For 2024, the insurance premium on his portfolio of properties increased about 150%, and his deductible climbed from \$100,000 to \$1 million.
The jump in insurance costs came even though Handler's record of filing claims related to damage at his properties — an action which can cause rates to increase — has been "extremely low" over the past 10 years, he said.
"We are in a crisis mode with insurance," said Handler, who is CEO of TLC Management

and declined to share the dollar amount by which his premium increased. "It used to be that insurance was a stable, inconsequential line item on an expense summary for a management company. Now, it has become so large, it is having an impact on ... affordability and will lead to higher rents."
Rents for some of Handler's units have increased as much as 20%, while other rents have stayed the same or declined as much as 10%. His firm sets prices using a rent optimization tool — one created by Yardi Systems, a company facing a class-action antitrust lawsuit for allegedly conspiring to fix rent prices with the tool.
Although Handler's heard from his provider that his insurance costs won't increase in 2025, he's one of numerous housing providers speaking out about skyrocketing insurance premiums and the need to raise rents because of them.



A person walks past a three-flat apartment on South Oakley Avenue in Chicago's Lower West Side neighborhood on July 22. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Most publicly available data on insurance rate increases focuses on homeowners' insurance policies, and not the premiums that owners of multifamily buildings pay. But insurance experts say many rental building owners have seen their insurance costs increase 10% to 20% in recent months and years, and property owners interviewed by the Tribune reported increases ranging from 11% to 150% between 2023 and 2024.

Insurance groups acknowledge having to boost prices, saying it is necessary to cover rising expenses tied to the greater volume of climate-change-induced natural catastrophes and high building and reinsurance costs. And while housing providers want recourse, the Illinois Department of Insurance's hands are tied as insurers raise rates, because it does not have the authority to approve or

Turn to Insurance, Page 5

CTA up to task of DNC crowds?

Amid high stakes,
concerns voiced for
safety, effectiveness

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

The upcoming Democratic National Convention has Paige Weaver bracing for her CTA commute.
She usually heads downtown two or three times a week to her marketing job. But, anticipating crowds on transit during the convention, she plans to shift her workday to arrive at her office early in the morning.
"I feel like the CTA doesn't tend to rise to the occasion for events as we just saw with Lollapalooza," she said, referring to her experience waiting for trains around the city while the crowded music festival took place downtown. "So I'm very concerned about how it'll be able to handle a rush of people into the city."
The CTA plans to add some additional "L" runs to handle the influx of convention visitors, though the agency provided few specifics about the service. CTA riders will contend with bus reroutes around security perimeters surrounding the convention sites. The agency is also preparing for some equipment to go to DNC use, though CTA President Dorval Carter has promised aldermen the transit agency would be able to run buses and trains during the convention with minimal effects on everyday passengers.
The stakes will be high for the CTA and the embattled Carter as an expected tens of thousands of politicians, dignitaries, protesters and media descend on Chicago for the convention and the city looks to put its best foot forward. After years of complaints about lagging transit service, ridership and concerns about

Turn to CTA, Page 4



ADAM HUNGER/GETTY

**INSIDE
Bronx Bombers
bring big mismatch**

Aaron Judge, above, and the AL East-leading Yankees bring some David-vs.-Goliath energy to Guaranteed Rate Field against the White Sox, Paul Sullivan writes. **Chicago Sports**

**'44' a hilarious spoof
of Obama and others**

Political satire musical at the Epiphany Center for the Arts has plenty of laughs, ambition and higher-end production values, theater critic Chris Jones writes. **Arts & Living**

