

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

\$50M Biden ad blitz targets Trump

Felony conviction highlighted to define choice before debate

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden’s reelection campaign is spending \$50 million through the end of June, a blitz that includes its first television ad playing up former President Donald Trump’s

felony conviction and signals that the Democratic incumbent is seeking to make his Republican opponent’s legal woes a bigger issue heading into November. The advertising push comes with Election Day still months away. But Biden’s campaign says it wants to more clearly define the

choice between the candidates ahead of the first debate between them in Atlanta on June 27. The ad campaign includes more than \$1 million geared toward media reaching Black, Hispanic and Asian American voters and a spot highlighting Trump’s conviction on 34 felony counts in a New

York hush money case. It will air on general market television and connected TV on streaming devices and cellphones in battleground states as well as on national cable. Besides Trump’s criminal conviction, the ad, titled “Character Matters,” notes that the former president also was found liable for sexual assault and financial fraud in separate proceedings. Trump also faces felony charges in

three other criminal cases, none of which may go to trial before the November election. “In the courtroom, we see Donald Trump for who he is,” the ad’s narrator intones. It adds over images of a Trump mug shot and Biden high-fiving supporters: “This election is between a convicted criminal who’s only

Turn to Election, Page 9



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

School board hopefuls turn in their papers

Candidates for Chicago’s elected school board, including Jason Dones, with son Benicio, 6, and Karin Norington-Reaves, left, line up to file paperwork at the Chicago Board of Elections on Monday. **Page 4**

State’s oldest standing bank among ‘endangered’ Illinois sites

By Paul Eisenberg
Daily Southtown

Long before it was washed away by Ohio River floodwaters, there was a metal grate in the floor of the first bank building in Illinois. Really just a log house in Old Shawneetown, owner John Marshall, who’d made some money in the nearby salt mines, dedicated one room to banking operations. “There was a grate in the floor, and the money — gold, silver, paper money — would be lowered into a barrel in the basement,” said Tamara Bridgick, of the Gallatin County Historical Society. “And there was a guard down there who often slept on top of the barrel.” Even as one of the newest American settlements west of the Ohio River, the place was known as Old Shawneetown because it had been a longtime population center of indigenous Shawnee people. The town’s modern history stretches back to the late 1700s, when it was established

Turn to Bank, Page 4



Taylor Swift memorabilia collected by Melissa Sanchez, who recently traveled to Stockholm in an effort to see the star’s concert for much cheaper by flying to Europe. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Chicago Swifties flying to Europe to see Taylor Swift

International travel lets them attend shows for less money

By Alysa Guffey
Chicago Tribune

Courtney Goodman admits she only became a Taylor Swift fan — or “Swiftie” — last summer when her 10-year-old daughter,

Amelia, would sing along to the record-breaking singer-songwriter’s music every chance she could. On Mother’s Day weekend, the 44-year-old from Roscoe Village jetted off with Amelia for a jam-packed 48 hours in Paris, culminating in the duo seeing Swift in concert for the first time. The price tag: a total of \$5,000, including the flights, hotel and

concert tickets. When she bought the tickets, her family said, “This is pretty crazy, Courtney,” she said. “I said, ‘Yeah, it’s crazy, but why not?’ Let’s just do it.” Perhaps even crazier, Goodman and Amelia are not alone. As Swift kicked off the 51-night European leg of her interna-

Turn to Swifties, Page 5

Teen gets 46 years for killing two boys

Victims shot in ’22 outside Benito Juarez Community Academy

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

Destiny Moreno described in court how she pleaded with the lifeless figure of her 14-year-old brother, telling him she needed him after he was shot to death in a broad-daylight attack just outside a Southwest Side high school. “Nathan, please wake up,” Moreno said Monday in a courtroom at the Leighton Criminal Court Building, recounting her words in that desperate moment. Family members of two boys gunned down on school grounds at Benito Juarez Community Academy in 2022 delivered emotional testimony just before a judge sentenced the 18-year-old man charged in the deaths to 46 years in prison. Christian Acevedo pleaded guilty to two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder in the Dec. 16, 2022, slayings of Brandon Perez, 15, and Nathan Billegas, 14. Acevedo, who was previously expelled from Benito Juarez, killed the boys and injured two other students as groups of local students gathered around 2:30 p.m. shortly after dismissal. “To say that this is a tragedy doesn’t even begin to describe the pain that we’re seeing here in the courtroom,” said Judge Mary Margaret Brosnahan as she accepted the plea agreement.

Turn to Sentenced, Page 4

New funding for intervention

Anti-violence advocates, street outreach workers and other community figureheads gathered on the West Side to announce new funding for violence intervention. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Prosecutors: CEO should get 15 years

The former head of the once-prominent startup Outcome Health should serve 15 years in prison, and two other former executives should serve 10 years, after the three were convicted of fraud, government prosecutors told a federal judge. **Business**

Limited pause in Gaza takes hold

Aid workers said they hoped the daily pause in the Israeli offensive would remove an obstacle to delivering aid to areas in central and southern Gaza. **Nation & World**

