

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



SOUNDING OFF

Neighbors frustrated as ticketed events such as Lollapalooza, NASCAR Street Race close parts of downtown's Grant Park for more than 70 days

By **Karina Atkins** | Chicago Tribune

After the conclusion of Grant Park's 20th Lollapalooza, the festival name still hung in red bubble letters Monday morning above Ida B. Wells Drive. Security guards lined the path to Buckingham Fountain and traffic patrols stood in the middle of major intersections, directing traffic around road closures.

Some neighbors say they are unhappy with the increase in private events that limit access to the public park during the prime summer months.

Downtown will be affected by Lollapalooza-related closures for 26 days this year, according to the Chicago Park District. The four-day music festival, plus the addition of NASCAR's Grant Park 165 street race last year and Sueños Music Festival in 2022, will make varying sections of Grant Park and surrounding streets inaccessible to the public for over 70 days from May 15 to Aug. 11.

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Tourists and motorists move along South Michigan Avenue on Monday as they navigate closed roadways and entrances into Grant Park near East Ida B. Wells Drive in Chicago. Parts of the park will remain closed until Sunday. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Fewer arrests

The number of arrests at this year's Lollapalooza music festival dropped to the lowest in the last five years, city emergency officials said Monday. Between Thursday and Sunday, police made nine arrests and issued seven citations or tickets, according to information from the Office of Emergency Management and Communications. There were 63 ambulance transports during the event, officials said. **Page 8**

Contractor's bribery case heads to jury

Businessman allegedly offered county officials free golf at exclusive country club in exchange for property tax relief

By **Jason Meisner**
and **Madeline Buckley**
Chicago Tribune

A federal jury began deliberating Monday and will resume Tuesday in the trial of a suburban fencing contractor accused of bribing employees of the Cook

County assessor's office with free rounds of golf at an exclusive country club in exchange for saving him tens of thousands of dollars on commercial property taxes.

Robert Mitziga, 66, of Dyer, Indiana, is charged with bribery and conspiracy in an indictment that was part of a larger investigation that so far has netted charges against

seven people, including three assessor's office employees and one former Chicago buildings inspector.

Mitziga is accused of paying for food, drinks and rounds of golf at the private Lost Dunes Golf Club in Bridgman, Michigan, for three assessor's office employees who helped steer commercial properties for Mitziga's company, Fence Masters Inc., through the appeals system and ultimately

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Stocks plunge around globe

After Tokyo losses, S&P 500, Dow Jones tumble as fears worsen over US economy

By **Stan Choe**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A scary Monday that started with plunging stocks abroad reminiscent of 1987's crash swept around the world and pummeled Wall Street with more steep losses, as fears worsened about a slowing U.S. economy.

The S&P 500 dropped 3% for its worst day in nearly two years. The Dow Jones Industrial Average reeled by 1,033 points, or 2.6%, while the Nasdaq composite slid 3.4% as Apple, Nvidia and other Big Tech companies that used to be the stars of the stock market continued to wilt. The drops were the latest in a global sell-off that began last week. Japan's Nikkei 225 started the wariness by plunging 12.4%, its worst day since the 1987 Black Monday crash.

It was the first chance for traders in Tokyo to react to Friday's report showing U.S. employers slowed their hiring last month by much more than economists expected. That was the latest piece of data on the U.S. economy to come in weaker than expected, and it has all raised fear the Federal Reserve has pressed the brakes on the economy by too much for too long with high interest rates to stifle inflation.

Professional investors cautioned that some technical factors could be amplifying the fall, and that the drops may be overdone, but the losses were still neck-snapping. South Korea's Kospi index fell 8.8% lower, and bitcoin dropped below \$54,000 from more than \$61,000 on Friday. Even gold, known to offer safety, slipped about 1%.

That's in part because traders began wondering if the damage has been so severe that the Fed will have to cut interest rates in an emergency meeting, before its next meeting on Sept. 18. The yield

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12.4%

Japan's Nikkei 225 started the wariness by plunging 12.4%, its worst day since the 1987 Black Monday crash. American stocks plummeted, but not nearly as dramatically, and some experts wonder if the declines may simply be air coming out of a stock market that romped to dozens of all-time highs this year.

At a tense time in politics, hospitals prepare for DNC

By **Lisa Schencker**
Chicago Tribune

Each summer, Rush University Medical Center holds a drill to make sure it's prepared for disasters — events such as mass shootings and chemical attacks.

The focus of this year's drill? An explosion at a political convention in Chicago.

"Sitting on the doorstep of the United Center, we have to be on edge and on guard, and really be prepared," said Dr. Nick Cozzi, EMS and disaster medical director at Rush University Medical Center.

Leaders and organizations across the city have spent months excitedly preparing for Chicago to host the Democratic National Convention, which starts Aug. 19 at the United Center and McCormick

Place. It's an event that will draw national attention, fill hotel rooms and bring dollars to the city.

Chicago's hospitals, however, have simultaneously been planning for a potential darker side to the convention. They've been developing plans and practicing for influxes of patients should violence erupt or disaster strike at the convention during this time of political anxiety — a mood exacerbated by the attempt to assassinate former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden's withdrawal from the race.

In some ways, preparing for the convention has been like readying for other large events, such as the NASCAR Chicago Street Race, the Chicago Marathon and

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"We always try to prepare for the worst but hope for the best. We almost never know what the world is going to throw at us so we constantly need to be kind of stressing things."

— *Craig Williams, Cook County Health chief administrative officer*

INSIDE



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

'Redemption Tour' ends with two more medals

Team USA's Jordan Chiles and Simone Biles celebrate as they see the judges' scores that secure their bronze and silver medals, respectively, in the individual floor routine on Monday at Bercy Arena during the Paris Olympics. It was the first time in her career that Biles did not win floor exercise at a major competition, but the greatest gymnast of her generation is leaving Paris with four more medals to her name. **Olympics coverage in Chicago Sports**

