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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Officials promise city ready for DNC

Amid rising concerns, assurances given for safety, preparedness

By Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

A little more than a month before the Democratic National Convention arrives in Chicago, one of Mayor Brandon Johnson's top deputies on Thursday assured a roomful of business and civic leaders the city is ready for its moment in the international spotlight and that the impact of the historic event will be felt long after the expected 50,000 visitors leave town.

Concerns about potential unrest in the streets, including planned protests over the Biden administration's support for Israel in its war against Hamas in Gaza, have shifted and in some ways been overshadowed in the past two weeks as Democrats find themselves divided over whether President Joe Biden should remain the party's nominee. The concerns were significantly heightened after Biden, 81, gave a listless debate performance late last month that caused many Democrats to worry he could not defeat former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, in November or serve as president

Turn to Convention, Page 4

President insists he'll 'complete the job'

Press conference tries to show Biden is up for 4 more years

By Seung Min Kim, Zeke Miller, Lisa Mascaro and Colleen Long
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden used his highly anticipated news conference Thursday to deliver a forceful defense of his foreign and domestic policies, and batted away questions about his ability to serve another four years even as he flubbed a reference to Donald Trump in one of his first answers.

"I'm not in this for my legacy. I'm in this to complete the job I started," Biden said as he insisted his support among the electorate was strong and he would stay in the race and would win.

Fumbles notwithstanding, the president pushed back at every suggestion that he was slowing down or showing noticeable signs of decline. But he was facing a growing chorus of calls from lawmakers, celebrities and other prominent Democrats to step

Turn to Biden, Page 9



CTA President Dorval Carter speaks during a quarterly hearing on service at Chicago City Hall on May 30. CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

After years of cuts, CTA ups 'L' service

Adding back trains first step for beset CTA president's efforts

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

After years of service cuts and rider complaints, the CTA has begun adding back scheduled trains, marking the first step toward delivering on a promise to restore service on the "L."

The service increases mark a key effort for embattled CTA President Dorval Carter, who has repeatedly said he would return

rail service to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year. But efforts to add back trains in the first months of the year moved slower than riders and city aldermen had hoped, one more challenge for the CTA and Carter as criticism mounted.

Now, the CTA says it has boosted scheduled service by 9% since April — most of that in recent weeks — including more trips on every line except the

Yellow Line. The most recent service increases are expected to affect the Red, Blue, Brown and Purple lines on weekdays, and the Blue Line on weekends.

They include wait times of 4.5 to 8 minutes during morning rush on the busy Red Line, 7.5 minutes in the middle of the day and evening on the O'Hare branch of the Blue Line, and 15

Turn to CTA, Page 4



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Rallying for a safe return

Deborah Slowe, sister of missing person Taylor Casey, smiles as bubbles are released outside Chicago City Hall on Thursday in celebration of Casey's birthday. Family members and friends held the rally for Casey, who disappeared in the Bahamas in June. **Chicagoland, Page 4**

Needing new wheels, family opts for cargo bike



Kevin Dekkinga rides his cargo bike with sons Willem, 10, left, and Pouwel, 7, along Eddy Street in Chicago on July 3. ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE

Vehicles prove functional, gaining popularity

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

Kevin Dekkinga's son was going to elementary school and the family faced a decision: buy a second car, or buy a new cargo bike.

His son would attend a Chicago Public Schools magnet school in a different neighborhood. His wife worked in the suburbs. And with CPS facing a bus driver shortage after the pandemic that left school bus service uncertain, the family felt they needed another reliable option to get around.

Dekkinga's dilemma marked a quintessential issue for families: with more people in the household going more places, parents

need a dependable way to get to work, run errands and get their kids to school and activities. For many, upgrading the family car seems a logical option.

But Dekkinga chose a second cargo bike, this one with electric assist. He has racked up miles in the years since, and in the last year he estimates he put more miles on the bike than on the family car, taking his sons from their Avondale home to school in Lakeview or to their two separate summer camps. He makes grocery runs. He hauls home 50-pound bags of feed for the backyard chickens.

Cyclists commuting to work,

Turn to Bikes, Page 5

IRS official warns of tax scams

Commissioner Danny Werfel reminds taxpayers to be vigilant as shams on the rise. **Business**

A tinny hunk of speculative fiction

Scarlett Johansson can't fully rescue the space rom-com "Fly Me to the Moon." **Michael Phillips' review in A+E**

Summer heats up for Bulls

What to watch for as summer league play opens, including Matas Buzelis' pro readiness. **Sports**

TODAY'S WEATHER



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Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

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