

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

PARIS OLYMPICS



Wrestler Kennedy Blades trains with Rhenzo Augusto for the Paris Olympics on June 19 in Addison. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

‘I KNEW I WAS DIFFERENT’

Wrestling phenom Kennedy Blades, of Chicago, ready to step onto the Olympic mat



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

US takes volleyball bronze

USA volleyball players, including Torey DeFalco and Thomas Jaeshke, celebrate as they win the bronze medal with a 3-0 victory over Italy on Friday at South Paris Arena 1 during the Paris Olympics. **Chicago Sports**

By Stacy St. Clair | Chicago Tribune

PARIS – While still in grade school, Kennedy Blades walked into the Martinez Fox Valley Elite Wrestling Club and immediately started drilling with the boys.

Veteran youth coach Jose Martinez liked what he saw in Blades and her younger sister, Korina. The two had been taking Brazilian jiu-jitsu lessons since preschool and had begun wrestling in recent years.

They were a coach's dream: Disciplined students, quick learners and attentive listeners. Korina was the more technically skilled of the pair, despite being 10 months younger. But skinny, scrappy Kennedy didn't back down from anything.

"Kennedy was just mean out there," Jose Martinez said. "She wanted to win every time she stepped on the mat. I thought that attitude would take her far."

More than a dozen years later, that approach has taken Blades all the way to Paris. The Chicago native will make her Olympic debut Saturday with Martinez's son Israel in her corner as her personal

Turn to Blades, Page 4

Migrant shot as tensions on rise

Day laborers and law enforcement clash outside Home Depot

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Waiting for jobs outside the Home Depot in Chatham is a game of patience. Each morning, day laborers arrive from all over the city to the shopping center's bustling parking lot to compete with one another for the scarce number of jobs offered by contractors who drive by seeking them out. But Tuesday, around 8:30 a.m., the job search took a violent turn when a parking lot security guard shot a migrant outside the store. The guard had been escorting several men from private property when he was punched in the head, a police report said. An off-duty police officer came over to help put the man in custody when a different man approached and pushed the guard to the ground. The guard shot back twice, hitting the 28-year-old man in the ankle and wrist.

Migrants told the Tribune it was a verbal and physical altercation that went too far.

The man shot was not a day laborer, migrants said. Rather, he was one of the various vendors who frequent the migrant gathering spot, in his case to cut migrants' hair, according to several men who knew him. He was transferred to the University of Chicago Medical in serious condition, police said.

"Sometimes it can be hard here," said Andres Hurtado, a 22-year-old from Caracas, Venezuela, who said he comes to the site in Chatham

Turn to Migrant, Page 2

Questions pop up over Trump's tale of ride on helicopter

By David Klepper
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump mixed up two prominent politicians from California when he told a harrowing tale of almost crashing in a helicopter.

During a meandering news conference Thursday riddled with false and misleading statements, Trump recalled riding as a passenger in the helicopter with former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown when it was forced to make an emergency landing.

The comments were in response to a question about a relationship between Brown and Vice President Kamala Harris three decades ago.

But Brown has never shared a helicopter with Trump, the former mayor said. Instead, it was then-California Gov. Jerry Brown who rode with Trump in a helicopter in 2018 to survey wildfire damage, and no emergency landing was reported.

"I know Willie Brown very well," Mr. Trump said about the alleged incident. "In fact, I went down in a helicopter with him. We thought maybe this was the end."

He went on: "We were in a helicopter, going to a certain location

Turn to Trump, Page 6

Dolton trustees get bleak financial report from former Chicago Mayor Lightfoot

By Mike Nolan
Daily Southtown

Dolton has a spending deficit of at least \$3.6 million and is sitting on more than \$6 million in checks owed to village vendors that it can't afford to pay, former Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said Thursday.

Hired by Dolton trustees to investigate village finances and the administration of Mayor Tiffany Henyard, Lightfoot told trustees and residents at a special Village Board meeting that spending and deficits continue to rise and said the village hasn't complied with state law by filing annual financial reports.

She gave a preliminary overview of her findings, which included monthly tabulations of

revenue and expenses by the John Kasperek Co., the village's auditor.

Lightfoot said the village's general fund, used for paying most village expenses, went from a healthy multimillion-dollar surplus a couple of years ago to deficits.

Revenue for the general fund was \$24.6 million in fiscal year 2024, which ended April 30 of this year, and expenses were \$30 million, she said.

Trustees have said Dolton is spending beyond its means and blame Henyard and her administration for driving the village deep into debt.

Trustees offered comments following Lightfoot's presentation to some 160 residents in the

Turn to Dolton, Page 2



Patricia Kennedy, a resident of Dolton for 47 years, listens as former Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot speaks about preliminary findings regarding Dolton Mayor Tiffany Henyard's administration on Thursday. "I've been here since 1977, and this is the worst it's been," Kennedy said. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Slain sheriff's deputy 'was a hero'

Slain Cook County sheriff's Deputy Rafael Wordlaw was mourned at his funeral Friday. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Russia declares emergency

Russia declared a "federal-level" emergency in Kursk following an incursion from Ukraine. **Nation & World**

The great dumping

How does one mark an infamous Chicago potty mess? With a Hideout dance party. **Arts & Living**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 75 Low 58

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
177th year No. 223 © Chicago Tribune

