

Chicago Tribune



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“July Fourth is always going to be a day of mixed emotion. Having that opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate this great nation, we’re looking forward to that. But first, we need to remember what this community has been through and remember those lives that we lost.”

— Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering



Municipal leaders, including Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering, center, walk in Thursday’s parade. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

HIGHLAND PARK MARCHES, REMEMBERS

2 years after shooting, residents take part in city’s Fourth of July parade

By Olivia Olander
Chicago Tribune

Highland Park residents on Thursday took a major step in the city’s collective grief: They gathered wagons, ribbons and flags for a Fourth of July parade.

Two years after a gunman killed seven people and injured dozens more at Highland Park’s Independence Day parade, the North Shore suburb is continuing to reckon with how to both honor the victims and celebrate the holiday.

“July Fourth is always going to be a day of mixed emotion,” Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering told reporters early Thursday. “Having that opportunity to come together as a community to

celebrate this great nation, we’re looking forward to that. But first, we need to remember what this community has been through and remember those lives that we lost.”

Highland Park planned a series of events Thursday that encompassed both memorial and celebration, including a parade along a new route and a festival in a local park.

At the morning remembrance ceremony, attendees wore mostly casual, red, white and blue wear in step with a traditional holiday celebration, as law enforcement, police dogs and therapy dogs roamed the campus alongside them.

Family of victims, survivors and other

community members gathered for words from Rabbi Michael Schwab of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El and Deacon Louie Vignocchi of Christ Our Hope Parish, along with string music, poetry and other presenters.

“If we allow it, this one evil act can change how we live,” Vignocchi said. “We can’t allow that to happen. No one person or event should dictate how we live our lives, who we trust, who we respect, who we love and honor.”

The 45-minute ceremony had Spanish translations and was not live-streamed for security and privacy reasons, according to the city. Former Chicago Mayor

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Discipline for CPD officers on hold

16 of 19 cases stalled amid disputes over holding public hearings

By Sam Charles
Chicago Tribune

For the second time this year, the majority of serious Chicago police misconduct cases are on hold as attorneys for the rank-and-file CPD officers’ union prepare to submit a challenge to a Cook County judge’s order that mandated those hearings be publicly accessible.

There are 19 pending cases currently before the Chicago Police Board, the body that’s meted out discipline in the most serious cases for six decades. But as of early July, at least 16 of those cases are halted because the city and union have yet to agree on a new structure for the yet-to-be-held arbitration hearings.

Last March, Cook County Judge Michael Mullen ruled that Chicago Police Department officers accused of serious misconduct may have their disciplinary cases adjudicated by a third-party arbitrator or the Chicago Police Board. Mullen also ruled that officers facing the most serious disciplinary charges — those that call for an officer to be fired or suspended for at least a year — be placed on inactive, no-pay status.

“The restriction of public access to arbitrations for serious police discipline is a direct contravention of the well-defined and dominant public policy of accountability and transparency of the government services in general and the Chicago Police Department specifically,” Mullen said in his order.

Now, though, 16 of the 19 officers currently facing disciplinary charges have signaled that they want an arbitrator to decide their cases instead of the Police Board, records show. But those cases can’t yet be heard or decided because,

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INSIDE



JAMIE SABAU/GETTY

Happ comes to the Cubs’ rescue

Ian Happ nearly single-handedly ensured the Cubs would avoid being swept by the Phillies. He tallied a career-high six RBIs by slugging a three-run homer from each side of the plate in a 10-2 victory. **Chicago Sports**

Age question dogged Reagan

President Ronald Reagan answered it with a pledge to resign if he became impaired and later with a clever joke at a debate. President Joe Biden seeks a similar redemptive moment. **Nation & World**

In Beverly Hills, heat is (back) on

Eddie Murphy returns in “Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F,” the fourth installment of the film franchise now showing on Netflix, as the Detroit detective goes to L.A. when his daughter’s life is threatened. **Review in A+E**

Historic changes shaping up in Britain

Exit poll signals vote likely to oust Sunak’s Conservative Party

By Brian Melley and Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain’s Labour Party was headed for a landslide victory in a parliamentary election Thursday, an exit poll suggested, as voters punished the governing Conservatives after 14 years of economic and political upheaval.

The poll released moments after voting closed indicated that center-left Labour’s leader Keir Starmer will be the country’s next prime minister. He will face a jaded electorate impatient for change against a gloomy backdrop of economic malaise, mounting distrust in institutions and a fraying social fabric.

The historic defeat for the Conservatives leaves the party in disarray and will likely spark a contest to replace Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as leader.

“Nothing has gone well in the last 14 years,” said London voter James Erskine, who was optimistic for change in the hours before polls closed. “I just see this as the potential for a seis-

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A police officer talks with residents while working the scene of fatal shooting in the 7100 block of South Woodlawn Avenue in Chicago on Thursday. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

2 killed, 3 kids hurt in shooting

Gunmen target home in Grand Crossing in morning attack

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

Michael Lemon woke up in his home early on the July Fourth holiday to the sound of what he thought were firecrackers. Instead, he found his mother, brother and cousins bloodied and bullet holes in the front windows.

“Ran out my room, seen my little brother bleeding. I just seen

bloodshed. Once I saw blood, I didn’t know what to do,” he said. “Took an innocent woman’s life, took two innocent women’s lives. ... Chicago ain’t got no remorse.”

Three children in the Grand Crossing home were critically injured and two women were killed when gunmen got out of cars in the 7100 block of South Woodlawn Avenue and sprayed the house with bullets, Chicago police said.

Officers responded to calls and a technology alert of shots fired at around 6:15 a.m., CPD said, and found five people with gunshot wounds.

A 42-year-old woman was pronounced dead at the scene and a 22-year-old woman died at University of Chicago Medical Center, police said.

Three boys, ages 5, 7, and 8, were all in critical condition at Comer Children’s Hospital, according to police.

The 42-year-old was Lemon’s mother, Nakeeshia Strong, a “loving, fun person” who raised a big, happy family, he said. Her nickname was Keshia Boo, and she was letting her niece stay in the home. Family identified

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