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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Hunter Biden jurors deliberating

Defense rests, but doesn't call son of president to testify

By Claudia Lauer, Michael Kunzelman and Randall Chase
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Jurors in Hunter Biden's gun trial began deliberating Monday to decide whether the president's son is guilty of federal firearms charges over a revolver he bought when prosecutors say he was addicted to crack cocaine.

Biden is charged with three felonies stemming from the purchase of the gun in 2018. Prosecutors say he lied on a federal form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs.

Jurors deliberated for less than an hour before leaving for the day. Deliberations were to resume Tuesday.

Since the trial began last week in Delaware's federal court, jurors have heard emotional testimony

from his former romantic partners, read personal text messages and seen photos of him with drug paraphernalia or partially clothed.

He has publicly detailed his struggle with a crack cocaine addiction before getting sober more than five years ago. But the defense sought to show he did not consider himself an "addict" when he filled out the form.

It's the first of two trials that Hunter Biden faces in the midst of

his Democratic father's reelection campaign. The younger Biden is also charged with failing to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes in a case set to go to trial in September.

In closing arguments on Monday, the prosecutor told jurors to focus on the "overwhelming" evidence against Hunter Biden and pay no mind to members of the president's family sitting in the courtroom, including first lady Jill Biden.

"All of this is not evidence," Wise said, extending his hand

and directing the jury to look at the gallery. "People sitting in the gallery are not evidence."

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell countered that prosecutors have failed to prove their case. He told jurors the fact that his client has a famous last name does not change the fact that he is presumed innocent — like any other defendant — until proven guilty.

"With my last breath in this case, I ask for the only verdict that will

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ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

OBAMA MARKS MUSEUM REACHING FULL HEIGHT

Former President Barack Obama talks with workers while visiting the site of the Obama Presidential Center to sign a metal beam as the concrete infrastructure of the museum building reaches its full height on Monday in Chicago. The 19-acre museum campus will house a building for community events, a Chicago Public Library branch, an athletic center, outdoor play areas, walking trails, and a garden and sledding hill integrated into the surrounding park, in addition to the Obama museum itself, showcasing the president's legacy. The presidential center was originally slated to open at the end of 2025, but recently the opening date has been pushed to sometime in 2026.

Council looking at historic payout

\$50M would settle allegedly forced false confessions to police

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Chicago aldermen are set to consider the city's largest police misconduct settlement ever: a \$50 million deal for four men imprisoned after detectives allegedly forced their false confessions as teens.

The hefty sum would go to four men who were originally convicted in a 1995 double murder. The men were arrested and tried as teens and spent half their lives in prison, but were exonerated in 2017 and certified as innocent after new fingerprinting technology did not connect them to the scene.

The council Finance Committee unanimously approved the settlement recommended by city attorneys Monday, setting it up for a final vote by the full City Council on Wednesday.

The four men — Lashawn Ezell, Charles Johnson, Troshawn McCoy and Larod Styles — were accused of robbing and murdering Khaled Ibrahim and Yousef Ali. They were coerced to give false confessions by Chicago Police Department detectives, their

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Judge allows prosecutors to use video interview of victim's 5-year-old brother

Ex-boyfriend allegedly 'savaged' pregnant mom, stabbed Jayden Perkins, 11, to death

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

Cook County prosecutors will be allowed to present statements made by the younger brother of Jayden Perkins hours after the 11-year-old boy was brutally stabbed, a judge ruled Monday, bringing into the trial that the 5-year-old boy told a child advocacy interviewer his mother's ex-boyfriend "savaged" his mother and brother.

The video-recorded interview captured heartbreaking statements from the boy on the day his brother was killed and his pregnant mother was seriously injured in their Edgewater apartment, according to court filings, offering more details about the attack that drew sympathy and outrage for the family and raised questions about the handling of domestic violence cases. The alleged attacker was released from prison just a day before the killing.

Crosetti Brand, 37, an ex-boyfriend who had a documented history of violence against

Jayden's mother and other women, is charged with murder, attempted murder and other felonies in the March attack he allegedly perpetrated weeks after going to the family's home and threatening Jayden's mother.

"I loved him so much ... I was crying," the boy said of his older brother during the interview, according to court documents.

Family members gathered in the courtroom at the Leighton Criminal Court Building for the hearing, which took place under elevated security. They at times grew emotional hearing the boy's words and Brand's arguments, as he is representing himself.

Brand acting as his own attorney has sped up the proceedings, as he is seeking a quick trial date as soon as this summer.

Prosecutors sought to admit the interview given by the 5-year-old boy, referred to as K.M. in documents, to a forensic interviewer at the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center, arguing it met the standards for exceptions to

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EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Red carpet night at James Beard Awards

Chef Sujan Sarkar of Indienne walks the red carpet while attending the James Beard Foundation Awards at the Lyrical Opera House on Monday. The awards ceremony has been held in Chicago since 2015.

