

## BOY WAS DECAPITATED ON WATERSLIDE AT KANSAS PARK

**KANSAS CITY, Kansas:** The 10-year-old boy killed during a ride on the world's tallest waterslide was decapitated in the accident, a person familiar with the investigation said. Authorities have yet to explain how it happened. The person was not authorized to speak publicly about Caleb Schwab's death and spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity. Caleb died Sunday on the Verruckt raft ride at the Schlitterbahn WaterPark in Kansas City, Kansas. Two women who are not family members were also in the raft at the time and were treated for facial injuries. Caleb's parents - Republican state Rep. Scott Schwab and his wife, Michele - have not spoken publicly since the death. His funeral is scheduled for Friday.

Verruckt - which in German means "insane" - features multi-person rafts that make a 168-foot drop at speeds of up to 70 mph, followed by a surge up a hump and a 50-foot descent to a finishing pool. Since the accident, investigators have removed netting that was held in place by supports above the 50-foot section from the hump to the finishing pool. Riders, who must be at least 54 inches tall, are harnessed with two nylon seatbelt-like straps - one that crosses the rider's lap, the other stretching diagonally like a car shoulder seatbelt. Each strap is held in place by long Velcro-style straps, not buckles. Riders hold ropes inside the raft.

### No lines for other rides

The park reopened Wednesday, except for a large section that includes the waterslide. Although its towering profile greets visitors as they drive through the entrance, access to Verruckt is blocked by a 7-foot-high wooden fence. On a hot, midweek day, the park was doing a steady business although there were no lines for other rides. Schlitterbahn spokeswoman Winter Prosapio told The Associated Press outside the park's entrance Wednesday that the company was not discussing Sunday's tragedy out of respect for the family. She said she could not offer immediate perspective about how Wednesday's turnout compared with typical attendance.

"We didn't know if we'd get five people, 15 people. But this is affirming," she said. Pulling a cooler behind her, 42-year-old Sara Craig said she was a bit uneasy bringing her 14-year-old son, Cale, and one of his 13-year-old friends to the park Wednesday. "I feel guilty having fun when a family is hurting so badly," she said. She said the family rode Verruckt twice in one day a couple of weeks ago. She remembered a short video they were required to watch, though she didn't recall that it included any caveats about peril. Craig said that during her first trip down the ride with her son and one of his friends, her shoulder restraint came off, something she opted not to report to park workers. "I didn't think much about it," she said. "You don't think you're gonna die."—AP



**KANSAS CITY :** File photo shows Schlitterbahn's new Verruckt speed slide/water coaster in Kansas City.—AP



**FORT LAUDERDALE:** Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump holds up a chart as he makes a point as he speaks during his campaign event at the BB&T Center on Wednesday.—AFP

# TRUMP: CLINTON, OBAMA ARE IS GROUP'S 'FOUNDERS'

## 'HONORING PRESIDENT OBAMA'

**WASHINGTON:** Republican candidate Donald Trump roiled the US presidential campaign once again, with the jaw-dropping assertion Wednesday that Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama "founded" the IS group. Addressing supporters at a rally in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the real estate tycoon said the jihadist group is "honoring President Obama."

"He is the founder of ISIS," Trump said, using a term for IS. "He's the founder of ISIS, okay?" he added. "He's the founder! He founded ISIS." "And I would say, the co-founder would be 'Crooked Hillary Clinton,'" Trump shouted, over cheers and applause from the crowd. Growing list of disquieting statements It was the latest disquieting utterance from the bombastic billionaire, who just one day earlier made comments interpreted by many as inviting gun violence against Clinton, the Democrats' presidential nominee.

Trump appeared to suggest on Tuesday, possibly in jest, that Clinton or her Supreme Court nominees could be shot, as a way of preventing her from making judicial appointments if she wins the November presidential election. The former secretary of State on Wednesday sternly rebuked Republican presidential rival's "casual inciting" of violence, saying he had "crossed the line." "Yesterday we witnessed the latest in a long line of casual comments by Donald Trump that crossed the line," Clinton told a rally in Des Moines, Iowa. "Words matter, my friends. And if you

are running to be president, or you are president of the United States, words can have tremendous consequences."

Trump and his campaign had quickly sought to douse these flames, insisting the Republican flag bearer was merely urging gun rights supporters to reject her candidacy at the ballot box. Clinton also warned of the dangers of reckless language during a presidential race. She slammed Trump's "casual cruelty to a Gold Star family," referring to the billionaire's clash with the parents of a Muslim American soldier who was killed in action. "His casual suggestion that more countries should have nuclear weapons, and now his casual inciting of violence," she added.

"Every single one of these incidents shows us that Donald Trump simply does not have the temperament to be president and commander in chief of the United States." With Team Trump seeking to dig the candidate out of a deepening hole, former New York mayor and Trump backer Rudy Giuliani insisted the uproar was triggered by "the Clinton spin machine."

### 'Under siege'

In an unnerving example of campaign security tensions, an animal rights activist appeared to rush the stage as Clinton spoke Wednesday, but was tackled and removed by security. Another attention-seeker dominated cable news Wednesday afternoon when he used suction cups to scale Manhattan's Trump Tower, the Republican nominee's

home and campaign headquarters, before police captured him through an open window. The 20-year-old Virginia resident and apparent Trump supporter wanted to meet the real estate tycoon, police said.

Clinton meanwhile launched an open appeal Wednesday to independents and Republicans repulsed by Trump over his string of controversial statements. The campaign unveiled a new website, togetherforamerica.com, that lists dozens of Republicans and independents who back Clinton, including former director of national intelligence John Negroponte and former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"Regardless of party, voters are increasingly concerned that Trump's tendency to bully, demean and degrade others sends the wrong message to our children," Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said.

Trump has suffered what critics insist is a long string of missteps that have marred his campaign since he officially won the nomination last month. He has clearly roiled the party with his unorthodox remarks, with some Republicans frustrated at his apparent inability to stay on message.

A Reuters/IPSONS poll Wednesday found that 19 percent of Republican voters want Trump to drop out of the race, while 70 percent think he should stay and 10 percent say they don't know. The RealClearPolitics national poll average shows Clinton leading Trump by 48 percent to 40 percent.—AFP