

# Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Aid trucks roll across US-built floating pier

Israeli military says troops found bodies of 3 captives in Gaza

By Lolita C. Baldor and Jon Gambrell  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trucks carrying needed aid for the Gaza Strip rolled across a newly built U.S. pier and into the besieged enclave for the first time Friday as Israeli restrictions on border crossings and heavy fighting hindered the delivery of food and other supplies.

The shipment is the first in an operation that American military officials anticipate could scale up to 150 truckloads a day, all while Israel presses in on the southern city of Rafah in its seven-month offensive against Hamas.

At the White House, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said “more than 300 pallets” of aid were in the initial delivery and handed over to the U.N., which was preparing it for distribution.

Kirby said the U.S. has gotten indications that “some of that aid was already moving into Gaza.”

But the U.S. and aid groups warn that the floating pier project is not a substitute for land deliveries that could bring in all the food, water and fuel needed in Gaza.

Before the war, more than 500 truckloads entered the territory on an average day.

The operation’s success also remains tenuous because of the risk of attack, logistical hurdles and a growing shortage of fuel for the aid trucks due to the Israeli blockade of Gaza since Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack. Combatants killed some 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage in that assault on southern Israel. The Israeli offensive since has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians in Gaza, local health officials say, while hundreds more have been killed in the West Bank.

The Israeli military said Friday its troops in Gaza found the bodies of three Israeli hostages killed during the Oct. 7 attack, including German

Turn to Gaza, Page 6



Daibelys Benitez, 24, right, from Peru, looks down at her plate while eating lunch and feeding her child Erianyelyz Gonzalez, 1, with other migrants outside a shelter on North Ogden Avenue in Chicago on Thursday. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Miscommunication in shelters leads to worry

Amid confusion, families reach out for help after being told stays were ending

By Nell Salzman  
Chicago Tribune

Gladys Heredia, a 58-year-old diabetic grandmother from Peru, said city officials told her Wednesday that after June 10, she could no longer stay at a migrant shelter in Streeterville because it is shutting down. She said she’s worried about how her family will be able to survive.

Heredia, her daughter, and her daughter’s 4-year-old arrived in Chicago in early May. They were

at a migrant shelter at the Inn of Chicago for 10 days before being told they had to leave, Heredia said.

“I’m going to live on the street with a baby,” said Heredia’s daughter, Lizbeth. “People could violate her, or do something bad to her,” she said.

The uncertainty this family of three went through this week is consistent with the experiences of dozens of others, who reached out to volunteers for help after being told in meetings with city

officials that their shelters would close June 10.

When city officials announced the looming eviction day, it set off a wave of worry and panic among people living in the shelters. Many come with little means, can’t work legally, don’t have family in Chicago and don’t know where to go.

Dozens of migrants interviewed by the Tribune at four migrant shelters around the city say they are unclear about where they will live and what will happen to them on the day of the deadline.

City officials said they have no plans to close shelters on June 10, but provided no other information

about how that information was communicated.

“The policy has not changed since the City publicly announced it out on March 15th,” said Cassio Mendoza, Mayor Brandon Johnson’s deputy press secretary.

Because the tens of thousands of migrants coming to Chicago are fleeing political persecution, famine or economic disaster, they carry that trauma with them, according to immigration experts and advocates. They say messaging from the city needs to be especially thoughtful and consistent.

“They say we are going to be put

Turn to Migrants, Page 4

*“I walk around all the time and see people living on the street. This is a rich country with such high potential. They should help indigent people.”*

— Bleidys Bonolli, who arrived in Chicago two months ago after traveling with her three kids from Colombia



Attorney General Kwame Raoul speaks in Chicago on May 23, 2023. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Spending at Cook County Health Foundation probed

AG’s office seeks info, documents on possible conflict of interest

By A.D. Quig  
Chicago Tribune

The Illinois attorney general has launched an inquiry to probe “allegations involving serious governance issues” at the Cook County Health Foundation, requesting a raft of documents or

correspondence dating back four years.

The request from the AG’s Charitable Trust Bureau follows this month follows Tribune reporting last month about a potential conflict of interest and spending issues at the nonprofit foundation while it was pursuing an expanded partnership with the county’s public health system. In the process, foundation leaders spent nearly \$80,000, entered into contracts and hired attor-

neys with ties to one of the board’s leaders, at times without the rest of the board’s approval, according to a memo prepared for the board by the law firm Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila.

A spokesperson for Attorney General Kwame Raoul said the office does not comment on potential or pending investigations.

But in a letter dated April 29

Turn to Foundation, Page 4

## Police officer charged with murder testifies

Chicago cop accused of killing girlfriend claims self-defense

By Madeline Buckley  
Chicago Tribune

A jury late Friday was deliberating the fate of a Chicago police officer accused of killing his girlfriend, with the jurors to decide whether they believe the inactive officer’s claim that he killed the mother of his child in self-defense.

Pierre Tyler, who joined the Chicago Police Department in 2016, took the stand in his own defense on Friday, arguing that Andris Wofford, 29, pointed a gun at him before she was shot and killed in a struggle over the gun.

The jury took the case around 5 p.m. after attorneys delivered closing arguments.

During his testimony, Tyler stood up in the witness box and mimicked for the jury the series of events that he said led to the shooting death of his girlfriend in December 2021.

Wofford pointed a gun at him,

he testified, her finger on the trigger, hands slightly shaking and eyes darting. Showing the movements to the courtroom, Tyler said he grabbed her in an attempt to disarm her, but instead, her hand went backward and the gun fired. Wofford was shot in the face.

“As her arm goes up, the fire-arm goes off,” he said. “Her body fell.”

Tyler, 32, is charged with murder. He took the stand on Friday at the Leighton Criminal Court Building following a week of testimony and claimed self-defense.

In an aggressive line of questioning, prosecutors weren’t having it. Assistant State’s Attorney Michelle Papa asked Tyler to describe each movement of his body during the shooting.

“It makes no sense, I agree,” Papa said in one instance when Tyler struggled to describe his stance.

“Objection,” Tyler’s attorney Tim Grace said loudly, which Judge Mary Margaret

Turn to Officer, Page 2

### TODAY’S WEATHER



High 84 Low 66

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
176th year No. 139 © Chicago Tribune

