

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

French trial ends difficult 1st week

Shocking bodycam footage plays for jury in hearing for man accused of killing CPD officer

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

Throughout the week, Cook County jurors viewed shockingly violent body-camera footage, watching a death happen over and over. They viewed chaotic movements and heard screams as they

watched the shootings of Officers Ella French and Carlos Yanez Jr. during a traffic stop on Aug. 7, 2021. They watched officers carrying their fallen colleagues to police vehicles before racing to the hospital. They saw the blood on the seats of the cars, and doctors rushing to address their wounds. The trial for a man accused of

killing French and seriously injuring Yanez broke for the weekend Friday after a week marked by difficult footage, bringing tears from family and observers in the gallery, witnesses and even jurors. The trial will resume on Tuesday. Emonte Morgan, 23, is charged with murder, attempted murder and other felonies in the slaying of French, injuring of Yanez and of shooting at their partner, Joshua

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Chicago police investigate the scene where two officers were shot at 63rd Street and Bell Avenue on Aug. 7, 2021. Officer Ella French was fatally shot and Officer Carlos Yanez was wounded. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Groups call for ethics reforms

Leaders seeking more transparency from mayor, City Council

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Three of Chicago's most important civic organizations are urging the City Council and Mayor Brandon Johnson to make major ethics changes designed to keep the public informed and engaged with what the council is considering.

The leaders of the Better Government Association, the Civic Federation and the League of Women Voters of Chicago called for more transparency and better public access in the body in a letter shared publicly Thursday to Johnson and the council Rules Committee chair, Ald. Michelle Harris, 8th.

The groups criticized current City Hall leaders for circumventing rules designed to publicize what aldermen are considering and chipping away at public access to meetings in a letter signed by BGA President David Greising, Civic Federation President Joe Ferguson and League of Women Voters of Chicago President Jane Ruby.

"Under the current process, it is difficult even for groups informed on government practices, such as ours, to remain abreast of legislation moving through City Council — a strong indication that the process is opaque to the general public," the letter said.

The letter called for a host of reforms to require the council to share agendas that accurately reflect what aldermen will vote on and debate. State law and city ordinance require the city to share agendas for council meetings 48 hours ahead of time.

However, such rules are often

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BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Early spring for lane closures

Traffic flows Feb. 15 along the Kennedy Expressway. After a shorter-than-usual winter break, lane closures on the Kennedy are set to begin again as the second of a three-year rehab of the highway gets underway this month. Chicagoland, Page 3



Laura Casimiro, left, is handed diapers by Adriana Vargas, a volunteer with Southwest Collective, on Feb. 24 at a "Freebies for Families" drive at Edwards Elementary in Chicago. VINCENT ALBAN/TRIBUNE

State, federal agencies deny role in shortages at shelters

Aid groups respond by collecting diapers, other hygiene products

By Laura Rodríguez Presa and Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency this week issued statements that denied their involvement in how the city

distributes supplies at migrant shelters after the Tribune reported that a shortage of essential supplies was forcing some migrants to have to reuse diapers.

Mary May, a spokesperson for the city, told the Tribune last week that "supply shortages from IEMA and FEMA

can result in temporary shortages of some supplies." But state officials told the Tribune on Friday that while they supply the city with diapers and other essentials, city officials are responsible for identifying shortages and requesting

Turn to Shortage, Page 2

Thousands attend Navalny's funeral

Crowd honors Putin critic in snowy show of dissent in Moscow

By Dasha Litvinova and Katie Marie Davies
Associated Press

Under a heavy police presence, thousands of mourners bade farewell Friday to opposition leader Alexei Navalny at his funeral in Moscow after his still-unexplained death two weeks ago in an Arctic penal colony.

The crowds who thronged to honor Navalny outside a church and cemetery in a snowy southeastern suburb of the capital chanted slogans for him and against Russian President Vladimir Putin and the war in Ukraine, turning the event into one of the largest recent displays of dissent. But police did not act against them.

At least 91 people were detained at events across Russia in Navalny's memory, said OVD-Info, a rights group that tracks political

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MICHAEL HICKEY/GETTY

Williams: Bears are in 'pretty exciting' spot

Speaking at the NFL Combine, the presumptive top pick debunked the notion he wouldn't want the Bears to draft him. Chicago Sports

CDC relaxes COVID isolation guidance

Americans who have COVID need not isolate for five days before returning to work or school. Nation & World

