

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Trump immunity claim meets doubt

Appeals panel seems skeptical of scope ex-president seeks

By **Eric Tucker,**
Alanna Durkin Richer
and Lindsay Whitehurst
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With Donald Trump listening intently in the courtroom, federal appeals court judges in Washington expressed deep skepticism Tuesday that the former president was immune

from prosecution on charges that he plotted to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

The panel of three judges, two of whom were appointed by President Joe Biden, also questioned whether they had jurisdiction to consider the appeal at this point in the case, raising the prospect that Trump's appeal could be dispensed with on more procedural grounds.

During lengthy arguments, the judges repeatedly pressed Trump's lawyer to defend claims that Trump was shielded from criminal charges for acts that he says fell within his official duties as president. That argument was rejected last month by the lower-court judge overseeing the case against Trump, and the appeals judges suggested through their questions

that they, too, were dubious that the Founding Fathers envisioned absolute immunity for presidents after they leave office.

"I think it's paradoxical to say that his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed allows him to violate criminal law," said Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson, an appointee of former President George H.W. Bush.

The outcome could carry enormous ramifications both for the

landmark criminal case against Trump and for the broader, and legally untested, question of whether an ex-president can be prosecuted for actions taken in the White House. It will also likely set the stage for further appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court, which last month declined a request to weigh in but could still get involved later.

A swift decision is crucial for special counsel Jack Smith and

Turn to Trump, Page 5

Sparks fly at meeting of Harvey council

Tensions high after residents get boarded up inside apartments

By **Hank Sanders**
Daily Southtown

Harvey's first City Council meeting following residents being boarded up inside their apartments included impassioned public comments, two aldermen escorted out by police and a request for forgiveness by Mayor Christopher Clark.

The action came after viral videos surfaced on social media over the weekend, drawing attention to at least one senior citizen who was boarded up inside his apartment at 14437 S. Halsted St., after city officials told the property managers the building was uninhabitable.

"There has got to be some kind of procedure put in place, especially when we are talking about seniors and people that are handicapped, when you are getting ready to shut down a facility," said Mauzkie Ervin, a former Harvey Public Library trustee. "There was no sign posted out there saying that this place is being condemned, that everybody was going to have to move."

Harvey's elected leaders also expressed frustration.

"I am shocked and embarrassed on the incident that happened on 144th and Halsted," said 4th Ward Ald. Tracy Key. "Even though I didn't make the call, I didn't make the decisions, even though I wasn't aware, I am still an alderman and that makes me just as responsible too. So I deeply apologize."

One city leader read out the law in an attempt to see if legal action could be taken against the company that boarded up individuals while another alderman blamed the issue on the city's

Turn to Harvey, Page 4



Will Fletcher, inspector general at Chicago Public Schools, is pictured in his office on Tuesday. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Chicago Public Schools told to add more training

Watchdog's ongoing efforts aim to address adult-on-student sexual misconduct

By **Sarah Macaraeg**
Chicago Tribune

In the Chicago Public Schools Office of Inspector General's annual report released Tuesday, the district watchdog urged CPS to adopt new training protocols for volunteers and vendors as part of its ongoing efforts to address adult-on-student sexual misconduct.

And, in light of investigations revealing the district poten-

tially lost tens of thousands of technology devices, cumulatively worth millions, and failed to verify fraudulent requests for extra pay, the OIG recommended expanded oversight.

Among cases closed by the agency's general investigations unit from July 2022 through June 2023, Inspector General Will Fletcher said there's a consistent theme: "Where you find vulnerabilities in management controls (and) exercising oversight — you

will find fraud."

CPS wrote in an emailed statement that the district takes seriously the OIG's findings and recommendations.

"As a District, Chicago Public Schools take seriously our responsibility to protect the safety of our staff, students and families and to serve our CPS community with integrity, and protect our investments and resources," the statement said.

CPS added that it will continue

to ensure "the highest ethical standards and that our employees act in the best interest of our students, the District and our city."

The Office of the Inspector General received 2,075 complaints last school year, up from 1,825 complaints received the year prior, and opened investigations into 685 cases, or about a third, according to the report.

Turn to CPS, Page 4



EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Snow slows pace for many

A pedestrian crosses Marion Street in downtown Oak Park as snow falls Tuesday. The snow caused slick roads and cancellations at O'Hare and Midway. A weaker system will continue through Wednesday night, and meteorologists have "growing confidence" a stronger system will return Friday. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Park District gets big haul from Lollapalooza in '23

Under new contract, fest organizers paid \$9.6 million in fees

By **A.D. Quig**
Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Park District received its biggest haul yet last year from the organizers of Lollapalooza, who paid \$9.6 million in fees to use Grant Park for the annual four-day music festival.

The boosted revenue for the Park District was mostly expected: This was the first year under a new contract that allowed festival organizers C3 Presents to sell tickets to 15,000 additional attendees per day. Headliners last year included Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, Lana Del Rey, Thirty Seconds to Mars and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

The contract also put in place a new revenue-sharing agreement that gave the city a sliding scale portion of total festival revenues. On top of ticket, food and beverage sales, for the first time, the city's cut included merchandise sales, third-party licensing and streaming.

The 2023 total was a nearly \$2 million bump from the second-highest annual take of \$779 million in 2021.

The Park District received 5% of the first \$30 million in festival revenues, 10% of revenue between \$30 million and \$50 million, and then ranges of 5% to 20% for revenue above that.

According to district documents the Tribune received through an open records request, those revenues topped out at over \$85 million. Altogether, C3 paid a total venue fee of \$9,632,475.

Turn to Lollapalooza, Page 2

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 31 Low 26

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
176th year No. 10 © Chicago Tribune

