

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Before Joliet killings, signs of trouble

Man accused of slaying 8, including 7 relatives, 'got mad super easily,' had early 2023 road rage arrest

By Caroline Kubzansky
Chicago Tribune

When Andre Shorter saw a TikTok about an eight-person shooting in his hometown of Joliet, he didn't expect to recognize the suspect.

"Usually you don't see anything for Joliet on TikTok," said Shorter, 22. "And then I saw Romeo's face

and was like, 'What the... oh my God, Romeo?'"

Romeo Nance, 23, is accused of killing eight people in a Jan. 21 shooting spree that officials later called a "reign of terror" over Illinois' third-largest city. He died the next day of a self-inflicted gunshot wound during a standoff with U.S. marshals in Texas.

Will County officials identified

seven of the dead, found in two homes on either side of West Acres Road, as Nance's mother, aunt, uncle, brother and three sisters. Authorities identified the eighth victim, who died in unincorporated Joliet Township, as Toyosi Bakare, 28. Joliet police said one of Nance's sisters is still alive.

Also alive is Nance's 3-year-old son. The boy's mother and Nance's girlfriend, Kyleigh Cleveland-Singleton, 21, faces three charges of obstruction of justice for allegedly making false statements to officials

in the wake of the shootings.

Police records, court records and interviews with those who knew Nance and his relatives reveal he came from a tightly knit, protective family that had lived in the southwestern suburb for more than a decade.

But they also disclose Nance's troubled past, including a road rage confrontation where he shot at another driver multiple times and a fight in a jail breakfast line that left Nance's cellmate with a broken collarbone because he allegedly

hadn't washed his hands.

Shorter said he and Nance played football together at Joliet West. He remembered him as a loner and as "an overly aggressive dude" who "got mad super easily." He recalled Nance getting into only one physical confrontation — on a bus with other players on the way home from a game. But he insisted there was something about his teammate that made people wary of saying the wrong thing to him.

Turn to Shootings, Page 4

Lobbyist reform effort gets new push

Giannoulis-backed proposal comes in wake of corruption trials

By Ray Long and Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

Illinois laws regulating lobbyists and their influence on state government have long been criticized as being too weak, especially for a state with a history of influence peddling and corruption.

As the Illinois General Assembly begins its spring session, among the mountain of legislation being proposed is a bill that aims to tackle two key issues around lobbying — requiring statehouse lobbyists to report the compensation they receive from their clients and giving the secretary of state's office the power to boot bad actors.

Pushed by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulis, the legislation could face an uphill climb in Springfield, where former lawmakers often become lobbyists and work hard to have their interests protected. But following a string of corruption trials — including persistent headlines of a bribery scandal involving Commonwealth Edison and lobbyists trying to influence now-indicted ex-Speaker Michael Madigan — Giannoulis said, "The timing is ripe for this legislation to be acted on and passed."

The proposal could strengthen a feeble state lobbying law that generally focuses on requiring the secretary of state to do little more than act as a repository for the registration of lobbyists, their client names and their basic expenses like the cost of wining and dining lawmakers.

Requiring state lobbyists to report how much they are compensated by clients would follow similar lobbying requirements at Chicago City Hall, a place not known for the highest ethical standards.

"To me, it's a matter of uniformity," said Giannoulis, a first-term Democrat. "In the city ... you have to disclose it. Why not the state?"

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ABBIE PARR/AP

First responder, two officers fatally shot

Two police officers and a first responder were shot and killed and a third officer was injured at a suburban Minneapolis home in an exchange of gunfire while responding to a call involving a man who had barricaded himself inside with family. **Nation & World**



EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dancing in the Chinatown streets

A lion dance is performed at the end of the Lunar New Year Parade on Sunday afternoon in Chinatown. Hundreds of people filled the streets for the parade, which featured dragon puppets, marching bands and chains of red lanterns along the sidewalks. **Chicagoland, Page 3**



Luis Cedeno, right, with the Community Affairs Department at the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago, provides information Tuesday to Chicago resident and Mexican citizen Salvador Hernandez, 64, about how to vote in person at the consulate for the Mexican presidential election in June. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Mexicans in Chicago get ready to vote for homeland's president

Ballots can now be cast in person at consulate; woman the front-runner

By Laura Rodríguez Presa
Chicago Tribune

For the first time, Mexican nationals living in Illinois and northern Indiana can cast a vote in person at the Consulate General of Mexico of Chicago for the country's presidential election that could elect its first-ever

female president.

The historical election on June 2, along with the move by the National Electoral Institute to provide in-person voting for Mexicans at consulates in the U.S., Canada and France, has inspired thousands to register to vote from abroad for the first time.

More than 150,000 Mexican nationals have registered to vote in person, online and through mail to cast a ballot for either front-runner Claudia Sheinbaum, 61, of Morena, the candidate of the

country's current ruling party, or her opponent, Xóchitl Gálvez, 60, of the Partido Acción Nacional or Pan. A third, less popular candidate, Jorge Álvarez Máynez of Movimiento Ciudadano, is also running.

Mexican nationals make up more than half the voters who registered to vote from abroad in the Mexican presidential elections in 2018, according to Arturo Castillo, electoral adviser of the

Turn to Mexico, Page 2

Israel vows to 'finish the job'

Top military leader threatens Ramadan deadline for Rafah

By Wafaa Shurafa,
Kareem Chehayeb
and Melanie Lidman
Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu brushed off growing calls to halt the military offensive in Gaza, vowing Sunday to "finish the job" as a member of his War Cabinet threatened to invade the southern city of Rafah if remaining Israeli hostages are not freed by the upcoming Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Israel's government has not publicly discussed a timeline for a ground offensive on Rafah, where more than half of the enclave's 2.3 million Palestinians have sought refuge. Retired Gen. Benny Gantz, part of Netanyahu's three-member War Cabinet, represents an influential voice but not the final word on what might lie ahead.

"If by Ramadan our hostages are not home, the fighting will continue to the Rafah area," Gantz told a conference of

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