

Chicago Tribune



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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Jurors see harrowing cam footage

Man on trial accused of killing Chicago Officer Ella French

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

The traffic stop started like most others: Lights and sirens were activated, the police cruiser slowed to a stop and Officer Ella French and her partners walked to the vehicle.

Jurors on Tuesday watched footage from police body cameras that showed a relatively normal traffic stop devolve into stunning

violence. They saw and heard frenzied movements, a battery of gunshots, then a brief silence.

French's body camera caught a sliver of her face as she lay on the ground. Her partner's camera showed trees and the night sky.

"Because of body worn camera, you will have a front row seat to the absolute carnage this defendant unleashed on those police officers," Assistant State's Attorney

Scott Clark told the jury in opening statements Tuesday at the trial of the man accused of killing French, which is expected to last about a week.

Emonte Morgan, 23, is charged with killing French, injuring her partner, Carlos Yanez Jr., and shooting at a third partner, Joshua Blas. His trial got off to an

Turn to Trial, Page 4



Elizabeth French, mother of slain Chicago police Officer Ella French, arrives for the murder trial for her daughter Tuesday at the Leighton Criminal Court Building in Chicago. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



People take advantage of the unseasonably warm weather to exercise on the 606 in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood on Tuesday.

CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Near record-breaking temps draw out crowds

February may be warmest on record, even with Wednesday's cooldown

By Deanese Williams-Harris,
Rebecca Johnson
and Kate Armanini
Chicago Tribune

Temperatures in Chicago climbed to more than 70 degrees Tuesday afternoon, nearly breaking a decades-old record. But the unseasonable weather turned into what meteorologists called a "dramatic" cooldown as thunderstorms, hail and high winds crossed the Chicago region in the evening.

Thunderstorms moved into the region around 7 p.m. Tuesday. Weather officials predicted "destructive" hail up to 2 inches

UPCOMING FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 32 Low 21	High 48 Low 32	High 54 Low 40	High 64 Low 48

Complete Chicago forecast on Page 14

in diameter. There was a threat of winds up to 60 miles per hour and tornadoes in portions of north central and northeast Illinois, and northwest Indiana.

Meanwhile, temperatures reached 74 degrees just after 3 p.m. Tuesday at O'Hare Interna-

tional Airport, the city's official recording site, missing out on the record by one degree. David King, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Romeoville, said the daily record for Feb. 27 was in 1976, when temperatures topped out at 75 degrees,

also marking the warmest day in the entire month of February on record.

But if current warming trends continue, weather officials predict this month may also become the warmest February on record.

And for some Tuesday, the nice weather meant getting outside and seeing animals at the Lincoln Park Zoo. Crowds gravitated toward the seal enclosure as employees fed the seals snacks, while young kids peeked outside their strollers to catch a glimpse.

Carla Canteli, 24, landed in

Turn to Weather, Page 4

President takes aim at logjam in Congress

Speaker Johnson implored to act on Ukraine aid, budget

By Colleen Long,
Kevin Freking
and Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders emerged from an "intense" Oval Office meeting with President Joe Biden on Tuesday speaking optimistically about the prospects for avoiding a partial government shutdown, but with new uncertainty about aid for Ukraine and Israel as the president and others urgently warned House Speaker Mike Johnson of the grave consequences of delay.

Biden called the leaders to the White House in hopes of making progress against a legislative logjam on Capitol Hill that has major ramifications not just for the U.S. but for the world as Ukraine struggles to repel Russia's invasion with weapons and ammunition starting to run short.

"The need is urgent," Biden said of the Ukraine aid. "The consequences of inaction every day in Ukraine are dire."

Biden hosted Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., in the Oval Office along with Johnson, R-La., and Vice President Kamala Harris. After the more than hourlong meeting, Biden pulled Johnson aside for a private conversation.

Democratic leaders upon exit-

Turn to Biden, Page 11

INSIDE

An eventful day at Camelback Ranch

The White Sox get the first look at Shohei Ohtani on Tuesday — who homers in his spring debut for the Dodgers. **Chicago Sports**

CTA president grilled at council meeting

Dorval Carter outlines bullish vision for the future of the agency after years of complaints over service and safety. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Patrons lining up at South Side bakery

Restaurant news: Pookie Crack Cakes in Bronzeville is among eight notable openings in Chicago and the suburbs. **Food & Health**

5 killed in spate of mass shootings in Chicago

Boy, 14, aspiring paramedic on visit among the dead

By Caroline Kubzansky
Chicago Tribune

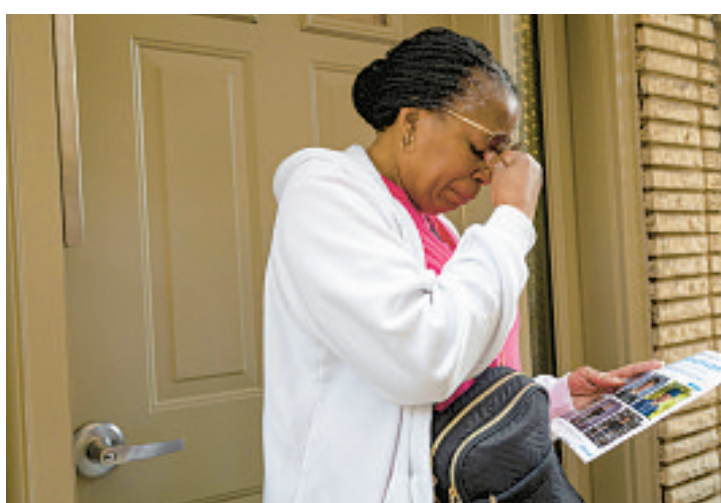
Cynthia Jones shook her head as a neighbor screamed and fell to his knees in front of her fiancé. News that her grandson had been killed hadn't yet gotten far around their South Shore neighborhood.

"He must have just told him," Jones said as she watched the man crying on their lawn. Jones' grandson, Amere Deese, 14, was the youngest of five people killed in three mass shootings in Chicago on Sunday and Monday.

Amere died Sunday night in an attack that killed two others and left a teenage boy with a gunshot wound to the leg in the Chatham neighborhood. Earlier that afternoon, a shooting on the Far North Side cut short a trip by two sisters to Chicago, leaving one of them dead. The next night, a dispute near the Dan Ryan Expressway in Grand Crossing escalated to a shooting that left one dead and three more wounded, Chicago police said.

The separate mass shootings on consecutive days occurred during an unseasonably warm February several months earlier than the traditional start of the city's typically higher crime

Turn to Shootings, Page 6



Cynthia Jones becomes emotional while holding pictures on Tuesday that she was going to order of her 14-year-old grandson who was killed in a shooting Sunday in Chatham. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

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and elsewhere
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