

ALL'S WELL, ENDS WELL

Veteran slugger Cody Bellinger, who made his first appearance in Arizona on Wednesday, says he “trusted the process” while waiting out a new deal with the Cubs, writes Paul Sullivan.



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

McConnell to step down from his top Senate role

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Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

Judge orders Trump off Ill. ballot

As legal cases take new turns, US Supreme Court decides it will hear immunity claim in late April

By Michael R. Sisak
and Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two courts weighed in Wednesday on separate legal cases that have enmeshed Donald Trump as he seeks the Republican presidential nomination and a return to the White House.

In Washington, the Supreme Court agreed to decide whether

Trump can be prosecuted on charges he interfered with the 2020 election and set a course for a quick resolution.

Hours earlier, a New York appellate judge refused to halt collection of Trump's \$454 million civil fraud penalty while he appeals, rejecting the former president's request that he be allowed to post a bond covering just a fraction of what he owes.

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WHAT'S NEXT: Cook County Judge Tracie Porter stayed the effect of her ruling in anticipation of an appeal in higher courts and a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in a similar Colorado case. The Trump campaign vowed to appeal the Illinois ruling, and proponents of Trump's removal from the ballot are seeking to get the issue to the state Supreme Court, where Democrats hold a 5-2 advantage.

Cook County ruling claims ex-president engaged in disqualifying act of insurrection in January '21

By Rick Pearson
Chicago Tribune

A Cook County judge ruled Wednesday that former President Donald Trump's name should be struck from the March 19 Illinois Republican primary ballot because he engaged in insurrection in the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol and is disqualified from holding the office of president.

Judge Tracie Porter made

her ruling based on the case law surrounding the Colorado Supreme Court's 4-3 decision in December that removed Trump from that state's ballot based on the “insurrection clause” of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court is reviewing the Colorado decision.

While Porter ruled primary votes cast for Trump should not

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French's partner details injuries

‘I heard gunfire right above me,’ jury told on 2nd day of trial

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

On his last night as a Chicago police officer Carlos Yanez Jr. remembers pulling over an SUV, then nothing more until he was on the ground, struggling to breathe and listening to panicked yells from his partner.

“I heard gunfire right above me, and then I heard Josh screaming Yanez! Yanez! French!” Yanez testified on Wednesday, referring to Detective Joshua Blas.

The trial for a man accused of killing police Officer Ella French and injuring Yanez resumed at the Leighton Criminal Court Building after an emotional start Tuesday, when the jury saw footage from body cameras that depicted the chaotic moments before and after the shooting.

Growing tearful at points throughout his testimony, Yanez described to the jury his injuries and long recovery after he and French were shot during a traffic stop near 63rd Street and Damen Avenue on Aug. 7, 2021.

Emonte Morgan, 23, is charged with murder and other felonies in connection with the shooting. His brother, Eric Morgan, was sentenced to seven years in prison for his role in the shooting in October.

Defense attorneys have contended that the body-camera footage is too close and muffled to ascertain exactly what happened when Yanez and French were shot.

According to prosecutors, French, Yanez and Blas pulled over an SUV occupied by Emonte Morgan, his brother and a woman for expired plates. Eric Morgan handed over the keys when asked, prosecutors have alleged, but Emonte Morgan refused to put down a drink and a cellphone he was holding, leading to a scuffle, prosecutors said.

Blas testified Tuesday that he chased after Eric Morgan while French and Yanez stayed

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Angel Cardena, 25, holds his son Yulian, 3, outside a migrant shelter on the Lower West Side on Wednesday. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When everyday items aren't

Migrants report reusing soiled diapers on babies amid essential goods shortages in city's shelters

By Nell Salzman, Laura Rodríguez Presa and Kate Armanini
Chicago Tribune

Migrant families are reporting a shortage of diapers in the city's shelters, forcing some parents to reuse dirty diapers on their babies, according to migrants and a network of volunteers working closely with those living in shelters.

The desperation of the families has galvanized mutual aid groups to collect diapers, toilet paper and other hygiene products after city officials told them they couldn't keep up with supplies, said Anna Gomberg, a lead volunteer helping migrants on the North Side.

Hygiene products, including diapers and toilet paper, are provided by the city's emergency operations center's logistics section, which was created to coordinate and allocate resources for migrants. The city receives supplies from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and outside vendors.

Mary May, a spokesperson for the city, acknowledged that “supply shortages from IEMA and FEMA can result in tempo-

rary shortages of some supplies” for migrants, but said in the statement last Friday that officials had “received a large delivery of supplies” that included diapers to deliver to shelters.

“Shelter staff can only distribute what they have in supply. If inventory levels of certain items get low, emergency deliveries of the items are made,” May said.

On Wednesday, Esperanza Gil, 39, said she has constantly worried

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INSIDE

Storms leave trail of damage

February made a frigid statement Wednesday morning after a stormy night across portions of northern Illinois, with thunderstorms, reports of multiple likely tornadoes and drastic temperature drops. Devon Billeter, right, looks over damage to her foyer from fallen drywall and a damaged roof Wednesday in Geneva, following those storms that left debris scattered across parts of Chicagoland. **Page 3**



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Soothing blood donors' nerves

From dancing lights to calming voices, immersive mixed reality headsets are designed to help anxious donors in Illinois and elsewhere feel at ease amid one of the most severe blood shortages in U.S. history. The American Red Cross said earlier this year that it was experiencing the lowest number of blood donors in two decades. Only about 3% of the eligible U.S. population donates blood, according to Abbott. **Business**

