

Chicago Tribune



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Officers salute as the hearse carrying the casket of former Officer James Crowley drives by during the funeral procession to St. Christina Church in Chicago on Wednesday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

CPD Officer Crowley remembered, laid to rest

Suffered traumatic brain injuries when hit by drunken driver 37 years ago

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Police officers filled the pews of a Mount Greenwood church Wednesday morning to say goodbye to former Chicago police Officer James B. Crowley, who died from traumatic brain injuries he suffered after a drunken driver hit the squad car he was in 37 years ago.

The September sunshine beat down on a group playing bagpipes outside St. Christina Catholic Church, following a service where prayers were offered for the fallen former officer, who everyone called Jim.

“Patrolman James B. Crowley #4169: End of Watch August 22, 2024,” read the program. On the front of the pamphlet was a young, serious photograph of Crowley in uniform — mirrored on the back with a smiling portrait of him years later,



Police Superintendent Larry Snelling presents the Chicago flag to Beth Carter, Officer James Crowley's sister, on Wednesday.

after his injuries. He was lying in the grass, his hands behind his head.

The September 1987 accident killed fellow police Officer William Morrison and left Crowley in a wheelchair, unable

to do many things alone. The injury prompted his younger sister, Beth Carter, to become a nurse.

“Jim didn’t recognize the new version of himself,” Carter said to the crowd Wednesday morning. “I suspect his world suddenly seemed dark and small with little to look forward to.”

Inside the church, dozens of police officers — past and present — were in attendance, including Chicago police Superintendent Larry Snelling, who gave a speech addressing the vicarious trauma that Crowley’s family endured after the accident. Since then, Chicago police have better supported families going through tragedy, Snelling said, adding that he had a conversation with Carter over the phone beforehand.

“There was a level of resilience in the

Turn to Crowley, Page 5

4 dead in Ga. high school shooting

Officials say at least 9 injured; suspect taken into custody

By Jeff Amy
Associated Press

WINDER, Ga. — A 14-year-old student opened fire at a Georgia high school and killed four people on Wednesday, authorities said, sending students scrambling for shelter in their classrooms — and eventually to the football stadium — as officers swarmed the campus and parents raced to find out if their children were safe.

The dead were identified as two students and two teachers at Apalachee High School in Winder, about an hour’s drive from Atlanta. At least nine other people — eight students and one teacher — were taken to hospitals with injuries.

A 14-year-old student at the school told Atlanta News First, a local news outlet, that he was sitting by the door in his classroom when “something told me to look to my left.”

That’s when he saw the shooter “with a big gun” out of the corner of his eye, he said. The student said he ran to the back of the classroom and hid. He estimated the shooter fired about 10 times, making his ears ring.

Sophomore Kaylee Abner was in geometry class when she heard the gunshots. She and her classmates ducked behind their teacher’s desk, and then the teacher began flipping the desk in an attempt to barricade the classroom door, Abner said. A classmate beside her was praying, and she held his hand while they all waited for police.

After students poured into the football stadium, Abner saw teachers who had taken off their shirts to help treat gunshot wounds.

Two school resource officers encountered the shooter within minutes after a report of shots fired went out, Georgia Bureau

Turn to Georgia, Page 10

Judge orders alleged CTA shooter detained

Says defendant ‘defines — defines — violent’; next court date Sept. 27

By Sam Charles
and Caroline Kubzansky
Chicago Tribune

Shackled at the arms and legs and wearing an olive jumpsuit, the suspect accused of killing four people on a CTA train this week grew wide-eyed after seeing nearly a dozen news reporters lined up in a small room in the basement of the Maywood courthouse.

Flanked by Cook County sheriff’s deputies during the brief hearing that followed Wednesday, Rhanni Davis was ordered detained pending trial by a Cook County judge.

Davis, 30, said nothing in court, save being asked how “Rhanni” is pronounced, answering “Ronny.”

Davis is facing first-degree murder charges in the fatal shootings of four people who were sleeping on a Blue Line train early Monday as it passed through the near west suburbs.

“The facts alleged by the state are absolutely horrific and appalling,” Judge Elizabeth Ciacia-Lezza said in making her detention order. “This defendant defines — defines — violent.”

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for Sept. 27.

The hearing provided the clearest outline yet of Davis’ alleged movements the morning of the killings.

Assistant State’s Attorney Eugene Wood said Davis was captured on CTA surveillance video boarding a Red Line train at 3:50 a.m. Monday. About 40 minutes later Davis transferred

Turn to Suspect, Page 6



Safe Passage worker Denise Evans helps people cross Normal Avenue at 124th Street outside Metcalfe Community Academy in West Pullman after school on Wednesday. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Safe Passage workers honored for service

Local officials offer thanks for ‘pouring their hearts out’

By Sylvan Lebrun
Chicago Tribune

Glenda Rivera’s teenage son was shot while walking just across the street from his high school in Hermosa.

Rivera’s son survived. But eight years later, when her daughter enrolled in the same school, Rivera felt that she

needed to do something to protect the children in her neighborhood from violence on their way to get an education.

So she joined her local Safe Passage team, donning a neon vest and standing guard every morning and afternoon as local students walked to and from class. She has now worked for Chicago Public Schools’ Safe Passage program for seven years and counting, she said.

“I felt that the only voice I had was to join Safe Passage and ensure that (students) are safe,”

Rivera said in an interview with the Tribune. “It’s a relief to see parents wave at me and say, ‘Thank you,’ because you feel at ease.”

Standing outside for hours on troubled city blocks during rain, snow or sunshine, Safe Passage workers provide a friendly face for Chicago Public Schools students during their walks back and forth from school. The workers also act as informal security for the students as

Turn to Passage, Page 4

INSIDE

Williams faces his next step

The QB and Bears face some guesswork in preparing for a new-look Titans defense. Plus, why Bears were perfect for ‘Hard Knocks.’ **Chicago Sports**



Williams

Fundraising slows down

Former President Barack Obama’s foundation is still on track to hit its five-year goal, plus a new museum teaser video was released. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

