

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



People gather and look on at the site where a woman was shot and killed by an ICE agent on Wednesday in Minneapolis. **STEPHEN MATUREN/GETTY**

ICE agent shoots, kills woman in Minneapolis

Witnesses contradict feds’ account amid deadly start to Trump’s latest immigration crackdown

By **Tim Sullivan**
and **Giovanna Dell’orto**
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — An Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer shot and killed a Minneapolis driver on Wednesday during the Trump administration’s latest immigration crackdown on a major American city — a shooting that federal officials said was an act of self-defense but that the mayor described as reckless and unnecessary.

The 37-year-old woman was shot in the head in front of a family member in a snowy residential neighborhood south of downtown Minneapolis, just a few blocks from some of the oldest immigrant markets and about a mile from where George Floyd was killed by police in 2020.

Her killing after 9:30 a.m. was recorded on video by witnesses, and the shooting quickly drew a crowd of hundreds of angry protesters. By evening, hundreds were there for a vigil to mourn the death and urge the public to resist immigration enforcers.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, while visiting Texas, described the incident as an “act of domestic terrorism” carried out against ICE officers by a woman who “attempted to run them over and rammed them with her vehicle. An officer of ours acted quickly and defensively, shot, to protect himself and the people around him.”

In a social media post, President Donald Trump made similar accusations against the woman and defended ICE’s work.

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A bullet hole is seen in the windshield as law enforcement officers work at the scene in Minneapolis. **TOM BAKER/AP**

Feds’ claims echo pattern set in Chicago

Local and state officials immediately cast doubt on the DHS narrative, based on bystander videos of the shooting. Contradictory claims echo those from DHS in the aftermath of two federal agent shootings that took place during its operation in Chicago. **Chicagoland, Page 2**

Child care funds at risk

Providers, parents fearing fallout from Trump’s \$1B threat

By **Lisa Schencker,**
Jeremy Gorner
and **Jake Sheridan**
Chicago Tribune

Small Stride Academy has been caring for children in the Beverly neighborhood for about 40 years, but the day care center and preschool isn’t sure how it will keep its doors open if subsidies that help families afford child care in Illinois are cut.

More than half of the day care’s children benefit from subsidies from the Child Care Assistance Program, said center administrator Lisa Griffin. That program is partly funded by federal dollars that President Donald Trump’s administration said Tuesday night it plans to withhold from Illinois and four other states with Democratic governors over concerns about fraud and misuse of the money.

“It is going to be a problem,” Griffin said of the potential loss of dollars. “Families depend on us. Then you’re expecting this to trickle down to the parents’ employment. How could they not be affected if we weren’t open?”

Child care professionals, parents and local elected leaders expressed horror Wednesday after the federal government announced that it would freeze about \$10 billion in funding for child care and family assistance programs in Illinois, California, Colorado, Minnesota and New York. About \$1 billion is being withheld from Illinois, according to Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker’s office.

“Rather than making life easier and more affordable for our families, Donald Trump is stripping away child care from Illinois families who are just

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City, county record fewer deaths from opioids in ’25

By **Sam Charles**
Chicago Tribune

Chicago and Cook County saw another steep decline in fatal opioid overdoses last year, records show, four years after a recent peak in such cases during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2025 brought a 40% drop in deaths attributed to narcotics overdoses from the prior year, according to statistics from the Cook County medical examiner’s office. As of this week, the medical examiner’s office found 683 people died of opioid overdoses last year in Cook County, with 500 of those recorded in Chicago.

Pending toxicology test results in 180 other cases will likely bump the total up more. Three years earlier, in 2022, Cook County recorded 2,001 fatal opioid overdoses, according to the medical examiner’s office.

Public health officials were

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INSIDE



JOHN J. KIM/TRIBUNE

Searching for pass-stoppers

Tyrique Stevenson could get another opportunity to help a leaky Bears secondary in Saturday night’s home playoff game against the Packers. **Chicago Sports**

AI LAWSUIT: Tribune and others seek sanctions over allegations Open AI deleted key evidence. **Business**

‘A different layer to our democracy’

Clerk’s office teams up with Bears for student election judge program

By **Tess Kenny**
Chicago Tribune

At 17 years old, Melissa Loch has never cast a ballot. It’s something the politically minded Arlington Heights student is eager to do for the first time this year.

But she’s not stopping there. Loch is training to become an election judge as part of a new effort by the Cook County clerk’s office to engage more young voters — a historically elusive age group when it comes to turnout — in local politics.

Through the initiative, dubbed “Defenders of DA’mocracy,” students across the county will see the inner workings of the



Ayelech Gray, from left, of Elk Grove High School, and Jonila Ilazi and Nell Krzyszczyk, both of Rolling Meadows High School, receive training to be election judges in Arlington Heights on Tuesday. **CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE**

election system firsthand by becoming official election judges for their own peers ahead of this spring’s primary.

Preparations for the inaugural venture started this week, with some 150 students from two dozen high schools across suburban Cook County learning the ins and outs of running a polling place at a series of training sessions. Students are training to ultimately run early voting sites at their schools for the March 17 election and, if they want, to offi-

ciate future elections, too.

Loch was one of about 40 students who turned out for a night of judge training Tuesday at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights. Hoping to go into law and politics when she’s older, Loch said that when her teacher asked if anyone was interested in piloting the county’s new program, she jumped at the chance.

“I want to get involved, help

Turn to Elections, Page 5

“Strong elections don’t just happen. Like a winning game plan, they depend on people who show up, learn their roles and work together to get it right.”

— Cook County Clerk Monica Gordon, on getting young people engaged in democracy

