



# BOUNTY OF LAND AND LAKE

In a rambling road trip across Northern Michigan, sample what the region has to offer. Life+Travel

LINDSEY MAKUWATSINE/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2024

## Key stop on long, strange trip

It's been 30 years since the Grateful Dead's final concerts, a memorable two-night stand at Soldier Field. **A+E**

## Taking a chance pays off

On a whim, a Marine in Ohio bought raffle tickets for a chance to win a house in Ireland. And then she won. **Real Estate**

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# Chicago Tribune



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SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

30 years ago, 739 people died amid an oppressive Chicago heat wave, an event that redefined the city's emergency preparedness. But climate change elevates risks, and threats persist



# 'SILENT KILLER' STILL A DANGER

By **Adriana Pérez and Lily Carey**  
Chicago Tribune

Howard Ehrman has seen his fair share of gruesome sights in his 56 years as a physician. But he'll never forget working at Cook County Hospital 30 years ago when a heat wave sweeping the country settled over northeast Illinois.

"That was the worst experience of our lives, all of us who were doctors, because we literally could step out the door ... and we could see these trucks going

by, and we knew what they were: refrigerator trucks filled with bodies going down the street on Harrison to the Cook County medical examiner," he said.

Between July 12 and July 15, 1995, thousands of Chicagoans sought care at area hospitals. Not all of them made it home.

"We had lots of people who came into the emergency room who were too far gone to save," said Ehrman, who worked at the hospital, now known as Stroger Hospital, for 17 years.

Only many days after the start of the heat wave would the

**Above:** Chicago police squad wagons line up on July 17, 1995, waiting to leave their cargoes of dead bodies from around the city while a body is moved from a refrigerated truck to be processed inside the facility at Harrison and Leavitt streets, the Cook County Institute of Forensic Medicine.

**CARL WAGNER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

magnitude of the tragedy begin to sink in, as newspaper articles and nightly news reports tallied hundreds of deaths across Chicago.

Ultimately, 739 people died, mostly elderly residents, people of color, and those who lived alone and had no one to check in on them. The toll was catastrophic, making it the deadliest weather event in Illinois history and redefining the city's emergency response and disaster preparedness.

**Turn to Heat, Page 4**

## Ruling casts doubt on birthright citizenship

Immigrants uncertain if their children will be American citizens

By **Nell Salzman and Daniel C. Vock**  
Chicago Tribune

Pregnant and living in Chicago without legal immigration status, Daniela Sigala has spent the last several months thinking of names for her soon-to-be-born son and imagining him receiving something she's yet to attain: U.S. citizenship.

But Sigala's hopes for her child became cloudier a little more than a week ago following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that touched on the issue of birthright citizenship. Along with an array of Trump administration measures, the ruling places Sigala and an untold number of immigrants in a world of uncertainty and fear about whether their children will be considered American citizens.

"It makes you feel like there is no safe way to do anything anymore," said the 25-year-old Sigala, whose parents brought her from Mexico to Chicago when she was 2 years old.

The 6-3 high court decision doesn't directly address whether birthright citizenship, which is spelled out in the 14th Amendment, applies to the children of immigrants. But the ruling has opened the possibility that President Donald Trump can fulfill the executive order he signed on

**Turn to Citizenship, Page 6**

### INSIDE

## Making Wrigley Field the special place it is

An impromptu thank-you speech from Pete Crow-Armstrong brings a ballpark community closer.

**Paul Sullivan in Chicago Sports**

## CBOT museum pays homage to trading

Museum is dedicated to preserving legacy of open outcry trading and is part of an effort to revive the structure. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

### TODAY'S WEATHER

High **82**  
Low **65**



Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 18

\$5.75 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
178th year No. 187  
© Chicago Tribune



## Proposed budget guts clean water protections

Federal grants would be cut to \$303.5M, down from \$2.76B

By **Michael Hawthorne**  
Chicago Tribune

President Donald Trump promises clean water for every American, but his latest budget eviscerates federal funding to replace toxic lead pipes, filter out forever chemicals and keep sewage out of lakes and streams.

Clean water grants to states would be cut to \$303.5 million, down from \$2.76 billion set aside in President Joe Biden's last budget. Illinois' share would dip to \$11 million, compared with \$105.5 million this year.

States loan the money to cities and towns at low interest rates, enabling communities to spread out the cost of critical government services people take for granted, such as replacing leaky street mains, maintaining treatment plants and rehabbing water towers.

Principal payments often are waived for low-income municipalities.

Under Biden the government expanded decades-old programs to speed up the removal of lead pipes in older cities like Chicago and begin to protect Americans from forever chemicals — cancer-causing compounds also known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

**Turn to Budget, Page 2**



**JULIO CORTEZ/AP**

## Texas flooding death toll mounts

Rescuers scoured a devastated central Texas landscape of mangled trees, overturned cars and other debris Saturday in a mission to locate survivors, including 27 girls who have not been seen since their camp was slammed with a wall of water. At least 43 were killed in Kerr County, and six more in nearby counties. Above, a sheriff's deputy pauses while combing through the banks of the Guadalupe River in Hunt, Texas. **Nation & World**

**CHICAGO'S 20 BEST RESTAURANTS**

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# Cheese-lover's guide to visiting Europe



**Rick Steves**

When I'm traveling, I become a cultural chameleon. I love a good pilsner in Prague, red wine in Tuscany and a cheese course in France.

For a cheese-lover, savoring Europe means savoring its cheeses — they're not only part of the cuisine, they're part of the culture.

Here are just a few tips on how to see Europe as a tasty festival of mold.

## FRANCE

In France, a love for beauty and tradition includes a fondness for artisan cheese that comes in wedges, cylinders, balls and mini hockey pucks; and they're sometimes powdered white, gray or burnt marshmallow. Thankfully for the traveler, I find the cheese mongers of France to be evangelical about their fine and varied products.

Here, the cheese course is served just before (or instead of) dessert. It not only helps with digestion, it also gives you a great opportunity to sample the tasty regional cheeses — and time to finish up your wine.

Between cow, goat and sheep cheeses, there are more than 400 different varieties. Many restaurants offer a cheese platter, from which you choose a few. Whether at a restaurant or cheese shop, try at least four types: a hard cheese (such as Cantal), a flowery cheese (like Brie or Camembert), a blue or Roquefort cheese and a goat cheese.

Be sure to go local. On your way to the châteaux in the Loire Valley, look for signs that say fromagerie de chèvres fermier (farmer's goat cheese). Or head to the Alps with



On Friday mornings between April and August, cheesemakers neatly line up their cheeses for buyers to examine in Alkmaar, Netherlands. CAMERON HEWITT

a cheese map looking for les alpages, where you can taste hard, strong Beaufort or Gruyère-like Comté — and meet cheesemakers proud to show off their traditions.

## NETHERLANDS

The Dutch are probably better known for their cheese than for any other food, and are among the world's top cheese exporters. To sample their cheese culture, visit Alkmaar (and its Friday morning market from April-August) or Edam (Wednesday morning market in July and August). Both cities are a short train ride away from Amsterdam.

Alkmaar is Holland's cheese capital (and, perhaps, the unofficial capital of high cholesterol). This delightful city has a zesty cheese-loving spirit

and is home to what is probably the Netherlands' best cheese museum ... and in this country, that's saying something. The museum is in Alkmaar's biggest building, the richly decorated Weigh House, used since the 16th century for weighing cheese.

Though Alkmaar is enjoyable any time, there's no better time to sample a sliver of this proud wedge of Dutch culture than during market time. Early in the morning, cheesemakers line up their giant orange wheels in neat rows on the square.

Prospective buyers (mostly wholesalers) examine and sample the cheeses and make their selections. Then the cheese is sold off with much fanfare, as an emcee narrates the action in Dutch and English.

During the Wednesday

market in the cheesemaking village of Edam, farmers bring their cheese by boat and horse to the center of town, where it's weighed and traded by Edamers in traditional garb. Edam cheese comes in soft-ball-size rounds covered with red wax, so it travels well without refrigeration. Young Edam cheese is extremely mild, but it gets firmer and more flavorful with age.

## GREECE

Some studies show that Greece has the highest per-capita cheese consumption in the world — more than 60 pounds a year. That's mostly feta, which serves as one of the four "food groups" here, along with olives, tomatoes and crispy phyllo dough. Protected by EU regulations, Greek feta is made

with sheep's milk, although a small percentage of goat's milk can be added (but never cow's milk). As you travel around Greece, you'll notice that feta in the Peloponnese is dryer and crumbly, while feta made in Macedonia is mild, soft and creamy.

Even in big-city Athens, you'll find markets that still sell feta from the barrel — and you'll also find feta in everything from salad and sandwiches to savory pies and dips. A Greek salad, topped with tasty vegetables and an enticing slab of feta cheese, is one Greek treat that never gets old.

Greeks don't live by feta alone. Graviera, a hard cheese made in Crete from sheep's milk, tastes sweet and nutty, almost like a fine Swiss cheese. And kasseri, a mild yellow cheese made from either sheep or goat's

milk, is the most popular Greek cheese after feta.

I was raised thinking cheese was no big deal. It was orange and the shape of the bread ... here's your cheese sandwich. But while experiencing the cultural wonders of Europe, step out of your comfort zone — especially into the more expensive, more stinky cheeses — and you'll be thankful you've appreciated Europe's diverse and wonderful world of fine mold.

*Rick Steves writes European guidebooks, hosts travel shows on public TV and radio, and organizes European tours. This column revisits some of Rick's favorite places over the past two decades. Visit his website at [ricksteves.com](http://ricksteves.com), email him at [rick@ricksteves.com](mailto:rick@ricksteves.com) or follow his blog on Facebook.*

## CELEBRITY TRAVEL

### Cho finds inspiration for Rumi in travels

By Jae-Ha Kim  
Tribune Content Agency

In the animated Netflix film "KPop Demon Hunters," actor Arden Cho ("Partner Track," "Teen Wolf") provides the voice for Rumi, the leader of the girl group, Huntrix. When they're not slaying on stage, they're hunting down demons.

"This movie has been one of my absolute favorites, because Rumi is legit the coolest character," Cho said in a Zoom interview from Netflix's Los Angeles office. "If I was a teenage girl, I feel like I would want to be Rumi. I'm still kind of geeking out that I get to be her voice."

This interview with Cho has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q: This film is set in South Korea. When you were voicing Rumi, did you think back to your previous trips there to get the vibe of playing this pop star?**

**A:** Oh, definitely. I love Korea so much and it was really so special to be able to bring this character to life, playing this superstar who has to carry so much weight on her shoulders. But, you know, I have a lot of friends in the music industry as well, so I probably took a little inspiration from everyone.

**Q: What was it like growing up as a visible minority in the United States?**

**A:** I was born in Texas and I am American ... but I'm a sort of immigrants. So I kind of experience the world from both sides. The older I get, I'm always questioning (my identity), too. What does it mean to be Korean American



Arden Cho said that voicing the lead character in "KPop Demon Hunters" was one of her favorite jobs. NETFLIX

or Asian American? So to have a movie like "KPop Demon Hunters," which is really the first big (western) animated film with Korean history or a Korean story in it, and to be a part of it is so special and really kind of epic. Maybe it can open doors for more Asian American stories (to be told).

**Q: After you graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, you went to Kenya for a bit. What were you doing there?**

**A:** It was the summer of 2007 and I was there working with a medical missionary team. I always say mission work is so interesting because we're young and we go there with this idea that we're going to go help people and do all these great things. But it was one of the most life-changing experiences for me.

**Q: How so?**

**A:** I think I gained a lot more than I gave. You go hoping to inspire and be of use to help people, but then you come back with a heart full of wisdom and life experiences. You see so much more than what we grow up with, right?

We don't think twice about running water (generally in the U.S.). I remember when I came home, I was so thankful for clean water, ice cubes and toilet paper.

**Q: Many Asian Americans have moved to Asia to jumpstart their careers, because they say they didn't see themselves in the media. After you won the Miss Korea Chicago contest, did you consider moving to Korea or Japan maybe to model or act?**

**A:** What's so interesting is that I was 18 at the time, and that was when I actually wanted to be a singer. I almost went down that route. But I think there was such a cultural difference where I would have had to try to fit that specific Korean beauty standard, and I was American. I didn't want to do what was sort of done in that system, which was having to lose a ton of weight and getting plastic surgery (to attain) that certain look and vibe. That was a whole other layer of things to battle, and I decided that if I want to tell stories, I want to tell them as me, without changing myself.

For more from the reporter, visit [www.jaehakim.com](http://www.jaehakim.com).

## TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

### Compensation not received for flight delayed by 14 hours

By Christopher Elliott | King Features Syndicate

My wife and I were scheduled to fly from Heathrow Airport to O'Hare International Airport on American Airlines a few months ago. The flight was delayed by 14 hours.

While we waited for the flight, American Airlines provided a hotel room and meals, as well as a pamphlet explaining our right to collect \$652 per person for the delay.

When we returned home, we contacted American Airlines' customer service, and it again confirmed that we would receive compensation.

After not hearing anything, we contacted the airline again, and a representative claimed to have issued checks. We never received them.

The airline has stopped responding to our inquiries. Can you help?

— Joseph Muskovich, Schaumburg, Illinois

**A:** That's some delay you had. American Airlines did the right thing by providing you with food and overnight accommodations, but you should have also received your legal compensation.

American Airlines is obligated to pay you under the Air Passengers Rights Regulation, a European Union law that protects air passengers' rights. Under this regulation, passengers are entitled to compensation for delays of three hours or more, depending on the distance of the flight. Your flight was from the United Kingdom, where the rules are similar to those in the rest of Europe.

Fortunately, you received a promise in writing from American. (By the way, you did a great

job with keeping a paper trail that shows you were owed the money.) When you contacted American, an agent confirmed your request and said that you would receive compensation. Then you followed up, and the agent said the checks were issued, but you never received them. The airline then stopped responding to your requests.

What's going on? Unfortunately, the European consumer regulations have no provision for requiring a timely payout of compensation. So, American could have theoretically waited as long as it wanted to before sending you the checks. I know, it's a big loophole — and the reason God made consumer advocates.

How do you speed

things up? Calling can be helpful, but sending a brief, polite email to one of the American Airlines executive contacts might have done the trick. I list all of them on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.

I contacted American Airlines on your behalf. The airline investigated your case and found that it had made a mistake. The checks were issued but never delivered. American Airlines canceled the old checks and reissued new ones. You received the money a few weeks later.

*Christopher Elliott is the chief advocacy officer of Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps consumers resolve their problems. Contact him at [elliott.org/help](http://elliott.org/help) or [chris@elliott.org](mailto:chris@elliott.org).*