

A+E

# LAUGH FACTORIES

Five new comedy clubs in the Chicago area get in on the funny.



LIFE+TRAVEL

## Pursuit of calm

Methods of meditation, mindfulness seek to give kids a toolbox for life, reinforcing self-regulation and emotional health.

REAL ESTATE

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Buying a home can come with heightened anxiety. There are now more tools than ever to help make the process faster and easier.

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# Chicago Tribune



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SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Broadway upzoning plan divides Edgewater

Change would upend usual procedures, allow developers to build more

By Jake Sheridan  
Chicago Tribune

In the empty sky above a grocery store parking lot, Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth can see the future.

There are more trees, more people walking. Gone is the gray asphalt that sits before her on Edgewater's 6000 block of North Broadway. She imagines a tall building rising in its place, bustling with commercial space at the bottom.

That building in her mind's eye is one of many that could sprout up along a 2.6-mile stretch of the North Side thoroughfare from West Montrose Avenue to West Devon Avenue. That's where she hopes to implement a sweeping "upzoning" plan that would make it easier for developers to build more.

It's a change she thinks will make Edgewater better connected, less expensive to rent an apartment in and more full of life, a model for how Mayor Brandon Johnson wants to spur affordable housing across Chicago. But it's furiously opposed by a group of activists who say it will destroy small businesses and all but ruin the neighborhood's character, a familiar argument when zoning fights have played out elsewhere.

"That could be housing on top, with parking underneath,"

Turn to Edgewater, Page 4

### INSIDE



EILEEN T. MESLAR/TRIBUNE

## Bears practice fields soon to come alive

The synergy between Ben Johnson and Caleb Williams is the top storyline to watch as Bears training camp opens. **Chicago Sports**

## Trump chisels at Congress' power

The Republican-controlled Congress has shown a willingness to cede more of its prerogatives to the presidency. **Nation & World**

## Demand growing at area food pantries

As large cuts to SNAP loom, the task of feeding hungry Illinoisans falls more than ever to nonprofits. **Chicagoland, Page 2**



Pastor Julie Contreras hugs Xally Morales, 13, on July 2 as she and her family leave United Giving Hope Sanctuary in Waukegan. Xally's family received letters from the Department of Homeland Security informing them that their humanitarian parole has been revoked and they must leave the country immediately. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

# Letters tell children to leave the country

Chicago-area kids get deportation notices saying 'the federal government will find you'

By Laura Rodríguez Presa  
Chicago Tribune

Thirteen-year-old Xally Morales stared blankly at a letter she received from the Department of Homeland Security last month. She could not read the dozens of lines in English addressed to her.

She arrived in the country from Mexico a little over seven months ago, crossing the southern border in search of safety. Xally knows very little English.

"They say I have to leave the country immediately," the young teen whispered in Spanish, barely meeting anyone's eyes at a Chicago law firm on a recent Friday afternoon.

No explanation. No hearing. And no time. The night she received the letter, she said, the family went into hiding after her older sister translated the letter for her.

"Trump wants me to go back to Mexico. But how can I do that alone?" Xally told the Tribune.

"I'm scared ICE will come for me."

Xally is one of at least 12 children in the Waukegan area — all unaccompanied minors from Mexico — who received sudden deportation letters from DHS last month, according to advocates. All of the girls legally entered the country within the past year under humanitarian parole as unaccompanied minors and were later reunited with undocumented parents or other family already living in the U.S.

But despite that reunification, the girls are unable to be legally represented by their parents in immigration court due to the way they entered the country.

Immigration advocates warn that these cases are becoming more common, with a growing number of children now receiving letters from DHS ending their humanitarian parole. They say this could signal a troubling shift under the Trump administration.

Turn to Letters, Page 5



Philip Odango, left, and David Charles attend an LGBTQ outreach Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Chicago on July 13. The Mass was organized by the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago's LGBTQ+ outreach ministry, AGLO Chicago. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Will Pope Leo XIV forge greater LGBTQ+ inclusion?

Chicago-area Catholics pray for 'reconciliation rather than division'

By Angie Leventis Lourgos  
Chicago Tribune

With a mix of curiosity and a little apprehension, the man stepped inside Our Lady of Mount Carmel in East Lakeview to celebrate Mass on a recent Sunday.

It was the first time David Charles of Des Plaines had entered a church in roughly 20

years. During college he felt called to ministry, until his on-campus Methodist pastor in another state discovered he'd been secretly dating a man.

"In no unclear terms he said, 'You either stop this now or this is where our road ends,'" Charles recalled. "So I said, 'This is where our road ends.' And that was that. It was devastating ... like a path was taken from me."

Ever since, Charles felt like a nomad without a spiritual home,

Turn to LGBTQ+, Page 6

TODAY'S WEATHER



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Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 20

\$5.75 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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# Cultural treats fill Basque Country



**Rick Steves**

The land of the Basque people, split between Spain and France, is a “nation without a state” — left off the map when they drew Europe’s national borders. Basque Country is often left out of travel itineraries too, and that’s also a mistake. With sunny beaches, spectacular modern architecture, tasty tapas and feisty, free-spirited people, this region is filled with cultural treats.

Much unites the Spanish and French Basque regions: They share a striking Atlantic coastline, with the Pyrenees Mountains soaring high above the Atlantic. They have the same flag, similar folk music and dance, and a common language, Euskara, spoken by about a half-million people. Both, after some struggles, have been integrated into their respective nations but still enjoy significant autonomy.

Wherever you go, your Basque sightseeing should be a fun blend of urban, rural, cultural and culinary activities. Devote at least a day to each country: Sleep in one, then side-trip into the other.

In Spain, San Sebastián is the heart of the tourist’s Basque Country, with its sparkling, picturesque beach framed by looming green mountains and a charming Old Town. On-the-rise Bilbao is worth a look for its landmark Guggenheim art museum (designed by Frank Gehry) — and because it, too, has an atmospheric Old Town.

Compared with their Spanish cousins, the French Basques seem French first and Basque second. My favorite home base here is the central, comfy and manageable resort town of St-Jean-de-



In cities like San Sebastián, bars offer plenty of pintxos — the Basque Country’s version of tapas. **CAMERON HEWITT**

Luz. It’s a stone’s throw to half-timbered Bayonne (with its “big-city” bustle and good Basque museum) and the snazzy beach town of Biarritz.

On both sides of the border, traditional village settings reflect the colors of the Basque flag: Deep-red and green shutters adorn bright white chalet-style homes scattered across the lush, rolling foothills of the Pyrenees. Spared the beach-scene development of the coast, these villages offer a more rustic glimpse of Basque culture.

If you know where to look, Basque customs are strong and lively ... perhaps nowhere more so than in one of their favorite sports, jai alai, where players use long wicker baskets to whip a ball — smaller and harder than a baseball — off walls at more than 150 mph.

Offering less adrenalin — but just as much

Basque culture — are men’s gastronomic clubs. Common throughout the Basque Country, these range from more working-class communal kitchens to highbrow versions with extensive wine cellars and culinary libraries. The clubs serve several functions. They provide a men’s night out in a matrilineal society, where women run the show at home. They’re also a place where friends who’ve known each other since grade school can enjoy quality time together, speaking Euskara and savoring traditional ways in today’s fast-paced world. And they’re where men cook together and celebrate Basque food-related traditions.

Speaking of food: Mixing influences from the mountains, sea, Spain and France, Basque cuisine is reason enough to visit the region. The local food — domi-

nated by seafood, tomatoes and red peppers — offers some spicy dishes, unusual in most of Europe.

On the Spanish side, hopping from bar to bar sampling pintxos (tapas) is a highlight of any trip. Local brews include sidra (hard apple cider) and txakoli, a light, sparkling white wine that’s often theatrically poured from high above the glass for aeration. You’ll want to sample the famous pil-pil, made from emulsifying the skin of bacalao (dried, salted cod) into a mayonnaise-like substance with chili and garlic.

The red peppers (called piment d’Espelette) hanging from homes in French Basque villages give foods a distinctive flavor and often end up in piperade, a dish that combines peppers, tomatoes, garlic, ham and eggs. Peppers are also dried and used as condiments.

Look for them with the terrific Basque dish axoa (a veal or lamb stew on mashed potatoes). Don’t leave the area without trying ttoro, a seafood stew that is the Basque Country’s answer to bouillabaisse or cioppino. To satisfy your sweet tooth, check out gâteau Basque, a local tart filled with pastry cream or cherries from Bayonne.

While their cuisine is easygoing, the independent-minded Basques are notorious for being headstrong. Especially in Spanish Basque Country, demands for freedom once showed up in terrorism with the ETA. But, thankfully, the EU’s policies of giving stateless ethnic groups more cultural respect and support means passionate advocates for Basque freedom now pursue their cause peacefully. As a culturally and

linguistically unique people surrounded by bigger and stronger nations, the Basques have learned to compromise while maintaining their heritage and identity.

Though split between France and Spain, Basques maintain a vital culture, and a visit here provides a vivid look at the resilience of Europe’s smaller ethnic groups and “nations without a state.” Wherever you go, you’ll find the region colorful, fun, welcoming ... and unmistakably Basque.

*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, email him at rick@ricksteves.com or follow his blog on Facebook.*



For the pop group Ateez, traveling around the world is a huge perk. **KQ ENTERTAINMENT**

## CELEBRITY TRAVEL

### Energy from tour inspires group

**By Jae-Ha Kim**  
Tribune Content Agency

The K-pop group Ateez has grown accustomed to breaking barriers. Since launching its career in 2018, the octet has had seven Top 10 albums in the Billboard 200, including two that topped the chart. Its single “Lemon Drop” made its debut on the Billboard Hot 100 in June. And its ongoing world tour includes concerts in stadiums across the United States, as well as ballparks.

All eight members of the group participated from Seoul in this interview that has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q: Do you write or work on songs while you’re on the road?**

**Hongjoong:** I do write while we’re on the road, especially when an idea hits during quiet moments, like late at night in a hotel room. During the European tour, I actually worked on several of the members’ solo tracks in the hotel. Being away from the usual studio setting can help me focus differently. Sometimes, the energy from the tour itself becomes inspiration.

**Q: What can you share about “In Your Fantasy,” the new all-English track from “Golden Hour: Part 3 ‘In Your Fantasy Edition’?”**

**Yunho:** We want (our fandom) Atiny to be surprised for sure, but since this is just before the release (on July 11), we

can give a little hint! “In Your Fantasy” is a track that shows a very different energy from “Lemon Drop.” It’s got a more mature and intense vibe — something that really comes alive on stage. **Wooyoung:** If “Lemon Drop” was yellow and fresh, “In Your Fantasy” is definitely red. It’s sexy, bold and made to heat up the tour stages. We can’t wait for everyone to see and hear this new side of us.

**Q: How do you stay in shape while touring?**

**Yeosang:** I try to keep a consistent routine even when we’re moving around a lot. I take vitamins regularly and make time for light workouts or stretching. But I think mental care is just as important. Having moments to rest, reset and talk with the members helps a lot. Staying healthy means we can give more to the fans (when we’re) onstage.

**Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?**

**Wooyoung:** Anywhere I can ride a bike and take photos freely — maybe somewhere with nice weather and wide open skies. I like places that feel peaceful, where I can relax without thinking too much.

**Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been?**

**Yeosang:** There are so many places I’d love to see,

but one of them is Greece. I’ve always imagined what it would be like to see the ocean there, walk along the white buildings and take photos of the scenery.

**Q: When you go away, what are some of your must-have items?**

**Wooyoung:** No matter where I go, I always pack Korean snacks or ramyeon! It just makes me feel at home.

**Q: What was a trip you took as a child that stands out?**

**San:** What stood out wasn’t the place we went to, but the fact that we were all together. We laughed, played around and shared more conversations than usual. Even now when things get tough, I find comfort in thinking back to those memories.

**Q: What’s the most important thing you’ve learned from your travels?**

**Seonghwa:** How precious each moment is, because it never comes again. Being in unfamiliar places, meeting new people and experiencing different cultures teaches you a lot in ways you don’t expect.

**Q: Would you prefer a food truck or fine dining?**

**Jongho:** It doesn’t really matter. ... Simple street food or a fancy meal, I just want to enjoy delicious food and the moment that comes with it.

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

## TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

### Error in airline’s system means passenger must pay \$550 extra

**By Christopher Elliott** | King Features Syndicate

I recently flew from Amsterdam to Cape Town, South Africa, on KLM. When I arrived at the gate, an agent took my boarding pass and reassigned my seat. During the flight, attendants interrupted me three times, asking for my passport and ticket to confirm that I was in the correct seat. It was clear there was an error in their system.

To make matters worse, the vegan meal I had preordered wasn’t available, and I was served a meal with meat and dairy.

When I tried to check in for my return flight from Cape Town to Amsterdam, KLM told me that my ticket was “out of sequence.” They said I needed proof that I was on the outbound flight, like a baggage tag or ticket stub. I didn’t check a bag and hadn’t kept my boarding pass. KLM demanded I pay \$550 to board the flight. I had no choice but to pay.

I contacted KLM’s customer service when I got home and explained the situation. KLM insisted that I didn’t board the first flight and refused to refund the \$550. So I sent the airline my digital boarding pass, proof of an in-flight Wi-Fi purchase and a time-stamped photo of me on the plane. I even escalated the matter to my credit card company and the European Commission. But still, nothing. Can you help me get my money back?

— Lauren Stokowski, Utrecht, Netherlands

**A:** I can’t believe KLM refused to acknowledge that you were on the flight after you provided so much proof. Did they even read what you sent them?

This is an obvious error. KLM switched your seats on the outbound flight to South Africa but then somehow lost the record of your seat reservation. This is likely why the flight attendants kept interrupting you and asking for your ID.

The problem is, this meant that the airline had you as a “no show” for your outbound flight. KLM, like other airlines, automatically cancels your return flight when you miss the first leg of your flight.

You should never have been forced to pay for a new ticket. If you’d shown a ticket agent the digital boarding pass and a

picture of you on the flight at the airport in Cape Town, KLM might have been able to fix it. Better yet, you might have called the airline before your return flight left to ensure that all was well with your tickets.

You could have also appealed to an executive at KLM once you returned. I list their names, numbers and email addresses on my consumer advocacy site, [elliott.org](http://elliott.org).

Regarding your missing vegan meal, I recommend that you bring snacks in case the airline does not have the vegan meal you ordered. Airlines often forget their meal orders.

KLM didn’t want to talk about your case. “This file will now be closed,” a customer service representative told you in an email.

“Any further correspondence will be filed and will remain unanswered.”

This was the wrong answer. I reached out to my contact at KLM and asked them to have another look.

“After extensive investigation, we have come to the conclusion that we charged Ms. Stokowski erroneously,” a representative told me. “Our customer service department has contacted her and will reimburse the \$550 that she was charged.”

*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).*