

REAL ESTATE

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Co-living buildings — where tenants rent a single bedroom and share a kitchen and living room with other tenants — offer another housing option for young professionals and students in Chicago.



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A+E

Light touch too light?

The Art Institute defends the title of "Gustave Caillebotte: Painting His World." But a catalog contributor remains skeptical.

LIFE+TRAVEL

Kids navigating grief

At a Colorado summer camp, children learn to mourn — and swim, fish and climb.

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Chicago Tribune



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SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



The 6-year-old daughter of Marina Lopez Perez is held by her 13-year-old brother and her father, Marina's husband, as she goes down a slide Friday. Lopez Perez was detained June 4 after she showed up to a check-in with ICE in its South Loop facility. The native of Guatemala spent three days in Broadview before she was taken to a Kentucky detention center where she awaits release or deportation. STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Mayor may be in for fight on tax proposals

Could galvanize base, but also infuriate business opponents

By A.D. Quig Chicago Tribune

By opening the door to a pair of polarizing corporate taxes, Mayor Brandon Johnson could galvanize a progressive base itching to see him deliver on a campaign promise to "make the ultra-rich pay their fair share," but also infuriate business opponents already set on defeating him in 2027.

Facing a more than \$1 billion deficit and having disavowed a property tax hike, Johnson last week said he would consider the return of a per-employee "head tax" on businesses or a much bolder payroll expense tax. Either would be a major shot across the bow of the city's corporate class.

He told reporters Tuesday his administration would take a serious look at how "individuals with means, particularly our billionaires and the ultra-rich who have benefited from a growing economy, can put more skin in the game" by contributing to the city's violence reduction and affordable housing efforts.

Johnson and his allies described both business taxes as just two of the numerous options the mayor is considering that might eventually be included in his budget proposal this fall.

A mayoral working group of business and labor officials, aldermen and administration leaders has been meeting regularly behind closed doors to come up with fresh revenues and efficiencies after Johnson said he won't push a property tax hike for 2026, which had dim prospects of passing the City Council anyway. The mayor's office late last week shared its estimates for what nearly three dozen new or expanded taxes, fees or revenue schemes might raise.

The payroll expense idea emerged from a new think tank with ties to Johnson called the

Turn to Mayor, Page 4

'Dehumanizing'

Inside the Broadview ICE facility where immigrants sleep on cold concrete

By Laura Rodriguez Presa and Joe Mahr Chicago Tribune

The sounds of weeping mothers curled on cold concrete floors echoed through the walls at the federal immigration processing center in Broadview, keeping Gladis Chavez awake for most of the night.

The cries came in waves, she recalled. Quiet whimpers, choked gasps and occasional prayers. About children left behind and fears of what would happen next.

Most of the women who had been detained at a routine check-in June 4 at a U.S. Immi-

gration and Customs Enforcement Office in Chicago now had nothing but each other and a few jackets they shared to fight off the nightly chill that seeped into their bones in a nondescript brick building just off the Eisenhower Expressway.

By day three, Chavez said, her body ached with exhaustion. On day four, she and some of the other women were finally transferred out.

The west suburban processing center is designed to hold people for no more than 12 hours before transferring them to a formal



Chavez

immigration detention facility. It has no beds, let alone any covers, Chavez said. They were not offered showers or hot food. No toothbrushes or feminine products. And certainly, Chavez recalled, those detained had no answers from immigration authorities about what would happen next.

An investigation by the Chicago Tribune found that immigration detainees such as Chavez have been held for days at the processing center, a two-story building that is designed as a temporary way station until detainees can

be transferred to jails out of state. For busier periods in June, data shows the typical detainee was held two or three days — far longer than the five or so hours typical in years past.

The findings, which come from a Tribune analysis of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement data obtained and shared by the research group Deportation Data Project, show that the federal agency has routinely violated ICE's internal guidelines, which say the facility shouldn't hold people for more than 12 hours.

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INSIDE



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

What we learned in Cubs' eventful week

From the City Series' finale to the showdown with the Brewers to the trade deadline to tributes to Ryne Sandberg on Friday and Saturday, the Cubs went through a whirlwind of emotions over the last week. Paul Sullivan in Chicago Sports

Trump's tariffs leave losers in their wake

Since he returned to the White House, President Donald Trump has demolished the old global economic order. Nation & World

Small religious schools nationwide facing challenges

Chicago's Moody Bible Institute lays off roughly 9% of staff

By Kate Armanini Chicago Tribune

Moody Bible Institute's mission made 26-year-old Jarett Hamby feel grounded in a greater purpose.

Alongside a team of students, Hamby led marketing campaigns for "Today in the Word," the school's monthly devotional publication. It was his passion as much as his job — and a steady paycheck for nearly two years.

He heard rumblings among staff over the past months that the bible college might be tightening its belt. But at employee town halls, leadership assured employees that Moody was in good financial health.

Then, Hamby was laid off in May. "I was gutted," he said. "I was completely caught off guard." Between 8% to 9% of staff were

quietly let go that month as part of a broader restructuring at the River North theological institution. Moody officials say the school's revenue streams remain steady. Its enrollment numbers, though, show a steep drop in matriculating students over the past decade.

Just 141 freshmen attended Moody in 2023 — down from 400 eight years prior.

It's a flashpoint of the challenges facing some small faith-based colleges nationwide, as they grapple with demographic shifts, surging day-to-day costs and a looming enrollment cliff. Many of the schools are in America's heartland, acting as a vital anchor for their rural communities. Still, urban colleges like Moody aren't immune to those stressors.

"There's an arms race in higher ed, and the smaller schools that spend the money often have the house collapse on them, because they just aren't financially able to

Turn to Moody, Page 10



The Moody Bible Institute campus in Chicago on Wednesday. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"They carry a lot of costs to support their students, to educate their students, to provide infrastructure ... but they have very few students to distribute those costs across."

— Ricardo Azziz, higher education consultant on smaller faith-based colleges



Sicily's Palermo gritty yet delightful



Rick Steves

Europe is always changing — and Sicily's capital, Palermo, is a fine example of this. For years, Palermo's touristic reputation was tarnished by labels like gritty, run-down, polluted, traffic-clogged, crime ridden and synonymous with Mafia violence. But those days are long gone. Palermo today is far cleaner, safer and more inviting than it was in years past. But, at the same time, it retains its colorful edge — and that's why I love it.

Over the last two decades, Palermo has reinvented itself with new museums, gentrified neighborhoods, pedestrianized streets, and upscale shops and hotels.

The Mafia's influence has also significantly diminished. Sure, traffic is a free-for-all, and even the city's prettiest public spaces are rough around the edges. It's like Naples in that regard — but most visitors come to appreciate Palermo's grittiness and what locals call its “bella chaos.”

The heart of the city is Quattro Canti (“Four Corners”). It's where two main streets — Via Maqueda and Via Vittorio Emanuele — intersect, dividing the city into four major historical neighborhoods. Between the streets are four Baroque facades, each adorned with three tiers of statues. The bottom statues represent the four seasons, from a young maiden for spring to an elderly woman for winter.

A few steps from Quattro Canti is a trio of glorious churches, facing each other across Piazza Bellini: La Martorana, with gorgeous gilded mosaics; San Cataldo, filling a former mosque; and the high-



Sicily's La Martorana church features high arches and gorgeous gilded mosaics in Palermo's Piazza Bellini. **DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCCELLI**

light — the Church of Santa Caterina, where a simple exterior hides an explosive Sicilian Baroque interior.

Nearby, in Piazza Pretoria, the famous “Fountain of Shame” is one of the few Renaissance works here. Its gathering of marble statues includes gods, goddesses, and grotesques on several tiers, with the virgin goddess of hunt, Diana, presiding above the commotion. The nickname comes from the nude figures — considered quite racy in conservative Sicily.

While Palermo can seem a bit ramshackle, behind its gritty walls hide exquisite noble mansions reminding visitors of the island's rich heritage. One of my favorite places to sneak a glimpse of aristocratic life is Palazzo Conte Federico, an elegant and extremely lived-in mansion built upon the city wall. Count Federico's family has lived here for

centuries, and the current count is a race-car enthusiast (though after he flipped his car in a Sicilian road race, the countess said, “No more racing”). Mansion tours are led by the countesses or their sons.

Perhaps the most fascinating sight is about a mile from the center, in a crypt below a Capuchin monastery. The Capuchins, a branch of the Franciscan order, have a passion for reminding people of their mortality. Historically, when their monastic brothers died, their bones were saved and put on display. The Capuchins of Palermo took this tradition a step further, preserving bodies in their entirety.

Inside the Capuchin Catacombs, a maze of corridors contains about 2,000 clothed skeletons and mummies: monks in brown robes, women wearing favorite dresses, priests

in their vestments, soldiers still in uniform, and children looking almost as if they are just taking a long nap.

The oldest body — Brother Silvestro — has been hanging out here since 1599. These “bodies without souls” are meant to remind the living that their time on earth is transitory, and something much greater awaits. If you believe in God, this crypt is actually a beautiful celebration of life. At the very least, it's a thought-provoking reminder of your mortality.

Palermo became a major city after the ninth-century arrival of the Arabs, who were the first inhabitants to spur its development. In the 11th century, the Normans, arriving from northern France, conquered and re-Christianized Sicily. Yet the Arab influence lives on throughout the city.

A great example is at the Palatine Chapel, built in the 12th century inside the Norman rulers' royal residence. The king at the time hired architects and craftsmen from different communities, and together they built a simple Norman structure with Arab-style arches and geometric designs, then adorned the walls and ceiling with shimmering Norman-Byzantine mosaics.

Arab influence is also felt in Palermo's street markets, where merchants retain the tradition of singing their sales pitches. My favorite place to witness this is the Ballarò Market, the city's oldest, most authentic, and liveliest market. And the Vucciria, with a little festival of meat, fish and produce vendors, has one of the city's best street food scenes — a one-stop shop for boiled octopus, spleen sand-

wiches, and Sicily's famous fried rice balls (arancine).

While the Vucciria neighborhood is lively in the morning, it's even better after hours. Make it a point to explore its characteristic back lanes at night, where you'll likely stumble onto a wonderfully convivial scene under the stars — a kaleidoscope of edgy graffiti, cheap plastic chairs, soccer on the big screen, big-eyed kids with gelato and people embracing life with Sicilian gusto.

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.

CELEBRITY TRAVEL

Korean band aims to play at festivals

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

For westerners, K-pop has become the umbrella term for any artist performing songs in Korean. But South Korea has a long history of pop and rock artists who don't adhere to that stereotype.

Catch the Young is the latest band to showcase its musical dexterity as much as its singing. The members punctuate this point on their latest guitar-heavy single “The Young Wave,” a six-minute instrumental that precedes their upcoming studio album.

This interview with Catch the Young members has been translated into English and edited for clarity and length.

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

Kihoon: I would love to watch Lollapalooza while visiting Chicago. It would be a dream come true if Catch the Young could perform there! I also want to attend Glastonbury Festival in England. I want to visit Hawaii! I want to relax with an ocean view and clear scenery.

Namhyun: I want to visit Switzerland, Italy and Bali, Indonesia. Our hope and goal (as a group) is to perform at music festivals in different countries, including the U.S.

Sani: I'm a huge fan of FC Barcelona in Spain, so I'd love to visit Barcelona one day.

Q: Where was a memorable concert that you attended as a fan?

S: Jacob Collier's concert in Seoul, back in 2018. I



The pop-rock group Catch the Young dreams of going to Chicago's Lollapalooza one day. **EVERMORE ENTERTAINMENT**

remember feeling fully immersed in the moment, beyond just listening to the music. I loved that experience.

Jungmo: I truly enjoyed performances by Turnstile and Jack White, headliners for the 2024 Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival in Korea. It motivated me to dream of a day when we perform as a headliner at major festivals.

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

N: For me, the most memorable trip was to the Philippines with my parents when I was in high school. I can still picture the sunset over the sea and the beach party full of people and music. It was so fun!

Junyong: I traveled to four countries in Europe in 10 days when I was young, and it was an unforgettable experience for me, as I didn't know much about foreign countries back then. However, I also remember that I had a bit of a hard time because I wasn't used to some of the food there.

Q: Have you been somewhere that was so inspirational you included it in your music?

S: I love the sea, and I find a lot of inspiration for writing the lyrics when looking at the horizon from the beach. Our song, “Voyager,” was inspired by looking at the sea.

N: I think I find the most inspiration when I take a walk by myself after wrapping up a day's schedule.

Junyong: I tend to find inspiration from my daily life and experiences. I am currently in high school, and I get a lot of ideas by talking with friends instead of actual experiences.

Q: What are your favorite cities you have been to?

Junyong: Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch, Rome, Paris, Sapporo and Boracay.

K: Seoul, Busan, Kangwon-do, Jeju Island and Osaka, Japan.

N: My hometown Gangneung, Busan, Phuket in Thailand, Tokyo and Boracay in the Philippines.

Q: Have you had the opportunity to travel more since you've been in Catch the Young?

N: I love traveling, but I hadn't had many chances to travel. As a member of Catch the Young, I got to visit many places I've never been to, so it's very exciting and amazing to me.

S: For Catch the Young's activities, we visited Japan twice. Since we were not on vacation but visited the country to perform as a band, we did not have a lot of free time. But it was a great opportunity.

Junyong: I have traveled overseas often, but I got to stay in a foreign country for a long time for the first time as part of Catch the Young promotions. It is great to experience new things.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.

TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

Customer waiting on refund for replacing flat tires on rental car

By **Christopher Elliott** | King Features Syndicate

I rented a car from Sixt in Texas recently. While driving in Big Bend National Park, I got two flat tires and had to replace them.

Sixt told me they would reimburse me \$385 for the new tires. I sent them receipts and my bank information. They emailed back saying the wire transfer had been processed and that I should receive the money in three to 15 business days.

More than a month later, I still hadn't received my refund, so I emailed them again. They sent another email saying the refund was being processed.

Weeks went by and still no refund. I emailed and called repeatedly, and each time, they asked for my bank information again. Then they asked for my credit card number. I even provided the details for a second bank account.

My bank confirmed that my account information was correct, but the money never arrived.

I filed a complaint with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but they didn't take any action.

I'm at my wits' end. Can you help me get my \$385 back?

— *Ray Cook, Invercargill, New Zealand*

A: This is a classic case of a company giving a customer the runaround. Sixt made a promise to refund you — a promise it should have honored.

Before we figure out what happened to your refund, let's rewind to the national park where you had your flat tires. You called Sixt, which couldn't switch out your vehicle because of your location. Big Bend is beautiful, but it's in the middle of nowhere.

The next best option was to get you to repair the tires and send Sixt the bill, which is what Sixt asked you to do. It promised you

a refund in writing, and to your credit, you kept the email. Nice work!

What went wrong? As I read between the lines, here's what might have happened: You were renting a car from a German rental company in the U.S., but you're based in New Zealand. Somewhere along the way, Sixt might have confused some of your banking codes. It probably should have just credited the money back to your card instead of trying to do a bank transfer.

If you ever run into a problem with Sixt again, you can also escalate your case to a manager. I list

the names, numbers and email addresses of the Sixt customer service executives on my consumer advocacy site, elliott.org.

I contacted Sixt on your behalf. A representative said they would review the case. A few weeks later, you received an email from Sixt, and after eight months, Sixt finally refunded your \$385.

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 or chris@elliott.org.