

LIFE+TRAVEL

Miles of beaches

Las Terrenas, a beach town on the north shore of the Dominican Republic's Samana Peninsula, features whale-filled bays, waterfalls and secluded beaches. And the ceviche practically swims into your bowl.

REAL ESTATE

Gain confidence

Inspectors help buyers avoid surprises and make good decisions with a thorough review of a prospective home.



LOLLAPALOOZA 2025  
OUR PICKS FOR BEST MUSIC BY DAY AND WHICH ARTISTS NOT TO MISS. A+E

WINNER OF 28 PULITZER PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

Final

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Immigration crackdown felt in Chicago's suburbs

Factories, on federal orders, fire those without legal documentation

By Nell Salzman and Talia Soglin  
Chicago Tribune

Armando Gambino Hernandez was laid off in early April after 17 years working at the same pizza factory in the western suburbs.

He learned of his termination from several co-workers, who said owner Nestlé was acting on federal orders to fire all employees without legal documentation. Hernandez, 51, originally from Durango, Mexico, does not have legal status to be in the United States.

After almost two decades of steady work, he was suddenly forced to start over from scratch. He said more than 600 employees received notice of termination. Hernandez was given no compensation, he said, and wasn't even allowed to retrieve his belongings from inside his locker.

"I loved my job," said Hernandez,

**Above:** Cristobal Cavazos, co-founder of Immigrant Solidarity DuPage and the Casa DuPage Workers Center, says goodbye to a young boy and his mother residing in the Elm Court Apartments on July 21 in Bensenville. The community has had numerous ICE raids over the last several months, with dozens of people detained. STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

who used to leave his house on the North Side of Chicago before 3 a.m. to make it on time to Schaumburg to prepare the pizza mix.

"It's been difficult since then. The little money we had saved — all of it ran out," the father of four said.

Hernandez is one of thousands of factory workers who commute to or live in the suburbs west of Chicago and have felt the economic effects of immigration enforcement intensify since President Donald Trump began his second term in office. Labor organizers in the area say the layoffs are just the beginning.

"Maybe right now it's not very noticeable, but this financial impact will be seen," said Gaby Hernandez Chico, a coordinator at the Casa DuPage Workers Center. "These

Turn to Suburbs, Page 10

"Maybe right now it's not very noticeable, but this financial impact will be seen. These families consume, buy food, buy things."

— Gaby Hernandez Chico, a coordinator at the Casa DuPage Workers Center

Historic ties still propel violence in Cabrini-Green

Old relationships persist in changing Chicago neighborhood

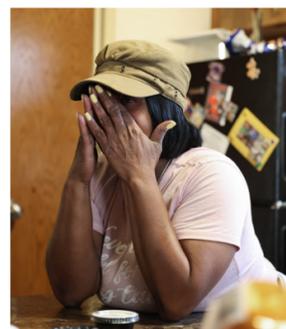
By Caroline Kubzansky and Sam Charles  
Chicago Tribune

Julia Tate was headed to bed a few weeks ago when her daughter burst into their rowhouse screaming. Tate's cousin, Devon LaSalle, had been shot.

The family had urged LaSalle to not come around the neighborhood so much, but he grew up in a now-closed part of the Cabrini-Green rowhouses. He still spent a lot of time there in spite of how much had changed since he was a kid on Mohawk Street.

At 41, LaSalle was one of many people who stuck around the rowhouses even as development exploded around the now-vacant lots where the infamous high-rises once stood.

Old relationships persisted too, for better or worse. When LaSalle and another man were killed days apart on the same block in what's left of the original public housing development, authorities said both had known their alleged shooters for years.



Julia Tate becomes emotional while talking about her cousin, Devon LaSalle, at her home in Cabrini-Green on Wednesday in Chicago. LaSalle, 41, was fatally shot nearby on July 13. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It's been two decades since there were slayings so close together in the Cabrini-Green rowhouses, a patch of 146 public housing units ringed by new construction in the well-heeled River North area. Chicago Police Department sources and neighborhood violence interrupters say the killings likely came from personal history and were not

Turn to Cabrini-Green, Page 4

Transit cuts in Philly may offer lessons for Chicago

Both cities' systems facing massive deficits, plus end of some routes

By Talia Soglin  
Chicago Tribune

The rhythmic rumble of the "L" isn't a death rattle — yet.

But Chicago's public transit systems are set to get gut-punched early next year by a funding deficit in the hundreds of millions of dollars. If state lawmakers don't agree to allocate more money to public transit, branches on half of the CTA's "L" lines could go silent. So many bus routes would get slashed that Chicago would have fewer of them than Kansas City. Metra trains could be spaced one or even two hours apart, depend-

ing on the day of the week. Chicagoans don't yet know which train stations would close, which bus lines would stop running or how much longer, exactly, it would take them to get to work and school each morning.

That clarity isn't expected to come for months. The cuts themselves wouldn't start until January at the earliest.

But 700 miles to the east, in Philadelphia, one potential version of Chicago's future is coming into focus.

The city is facing up to its own massive transit deficit, caused in large part, like Chicago's, by the expiration of federal pandemic aid and exacerbated by ridership numbers that simply haven't

Turn to Transit, Page 6

INSIDE

Kinder, gentler City Series? Say it ain't so

On Saturday at Rate Field, no one seemed to care which side you were on, a departure from heated series of the past. **Chicago Sports**

Protesters criticize Trump's golf visit

The president played golf at his course in Scotland while protesters took to the streets to decry his visit. **Nation & World**



Young Cubs and Sox fans watch before the game at Rate Field on Saturday. CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 90 Low 75

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 18

\$5.75 city and suburbs and elsewhere 178th year No. 208 © Chicago Tribune



# Adapt to driving in Britain, Ireland



**Rick Steves**

While most first-time visitors to Europe choose to travel by train, consider the convenience of driving. Behind the wheel you're totally free, going where you want, when you want.

Driving in the British Isles is wonderful — once you remember to stay on the left and after you've mastered the roundabouts. But be warned: Every year I get some emails from traveling readers advising me that, for them, trying to drive in Great Britain and Ireland was a nerve-wracking and regrettable mistake.

Of course, in Britain and Ireland you'll be driving on the left-hand side of the road. Why that side? Originally, it was in order for you to drive defensively ... with your "sword hand" on the inside to protect you against oncoming traffic.

Many Yankee drivers find that the hardest part isn't driving on the left, but steering from the right. Your instinct is to put yourself on the left side of your lane, which means you may spend your first day or two constantly drifting off the road to the left. It can help to remember that the driver always stays close to the center line.

Not only will you be driving on the left, but you'll be using roundabouts, where traffic continually flows in a circle around a center island. These work well if you follow the golden rule: Traffic in roundabouts always has the right-of-way, while entering vehicles yield.

For some drivers, roundabouts are high-pressure traffic circles that require a snap decision about something you don't completely understand: your exit. To replace the stress with



Pulling over to let vehicles pass is common on the narrow roads in Britain and Ireland. **DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCCELLI**

giggles, make it standard operating procedure to take a 360-degree, case-out-your-options exploratory circuit. Discuss the exits with your navigator, go around again if necessary, then confidently wing off on the exit of your choice.

Whenever possible, avoid driving in cities. London even assesses a congestion charge — about \$20 a day — to drive in the city center. It's best and less stressful to begin your driving experience away from big cities, so try renting your car in a smaller town. A pleasant scenario for a Britain itinerary would be to start your trip in a small town like Bath, rent a car when leaving Bath, explore

Britain at your leisure by car, then drop off the car in York and take the train into London, where you can rely on the excellent public transportation system.

Outside of the big cities and the motorways (freeways), British and Irish roads tend to be narrow. Adjust your perceptions of personal space. It's not "my side of the road" or "your side of the road." It's just "the road" — and it's shared as a cooperative adventure.

In towns, you may have to cross over the center line just to get past parked cars. Sometimes both directions of traffic can pass parked cars simultaneously, but frequently you'll have to take turns — follow the locals' lead and drive defensively.

On rural roads, locals are usually courteous, pulling over against a hedgerow and blinking their headlights for you to pass while they wait. Return the favor when you are closer to a wide spot in the road than they are. Things go much better if you're not in a hurry.

Do some homework before getting behind the wheel. If you'll be traveling without cell service, buy good maps and consider downloading an app like Google Maps so you can use it offline.

You'll notice some differences between driving in the Republic of Ireland versus the United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland). In the Republic of Ireland, the

speed limit is in kilometers per hour, signs are usually bilingual (but not always — géill slí means yield in Irish), and roads are more likely to be bumpy and poorly maintained. In the United Kingdom, the speed limit is in miles per hour, signs are in English (except in Wales, where they're bilingual), and roads are generally in better condition.

Even if you don't drive, as a pedestrian you'll have to remember that, among our British and Irish cousins' many unusual habits, traffic comes from the opposite direction — so look both ways before crossing any street.

Horror stories about British and Irish traffic abound. They're fun to tell,

but driving there is really only a problem for those who make it one. The most dangerous creature on the road is the panicked American.

Drive defensively, observe, fit in, avoid big-city driving when you can and wear your seat belt. And if you're in a near head-on collision, you're probably the one on the wrong side of the road.

*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

### Actor says relaxing in nature lifts spirit

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

Emmy-nominated actor Shannon Purser is best known for her work in "Stranger Things" and "Riverdale." But she's also a talented musician who pens contemplative songs like her latest, "Leave (Good Ending)." More recently, she was part of the cast of the stage production "La Cage Aux Folles." "I had the best time," said Purser, 28. "It was my first experience doing professional theater and I'm desperate to do it again. That show was up at the Pasadena Playhouse, which is a beautiful historic theater."

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

**Q: Do you have a preference as to working on location versus on a set?**

**A:** Shooting on location is very exciting because film productions have access to such interesting and unique places. I've shot in abandoned mental hospitals, historic homes, various high schools and incredible nature. Filming on a set is also such a cool experience. It's amazing what a film crew can build — entire homes and worlds in a sound stage in the middle of nowhere! That's genuine movie magic to me and it never gets old. So much detail goes into every single location you see on screen.

**Q: Where are some locations you've worked in?**

**A:** I enjoy traveling for work, as well, but it's sometimes destabilizing. It's nice to have a familiar



Actor and musician Shannon Purser has Japan and Nordic countries on her travel bucket list. **SHANNON PURSER**

routine when you work near home. I've also done a lot of work in Georgia, which is where I grew up, and in Canada — specifically Vancouver and Toronto. I'd love to work internationally again in the future.

**Q: If you could pick a location to film a project at, where would it be and why?**

**A:** I recently went to Scotland and I absolutely loved it there. I'd love to shoot a period piece on the Isle of Skye or in Edinburgh.

**Q: Have you written or worked on any songs while you were on the road?**

**A:** I love road trips. I do a lot of my best thinking in the car. I remember writing some music on the way to and from set in Vancouver.

**Q: Does the music you hear in a particular city or country inspire your own work as a musician and actor?**

**A:** Definitely. I often find myself writing things that remind me of whatever I'm listening to at the time. And I associate a lot of music with particular places. Lorde's album "Melodrama" will always feel like New York City to me because I listened to it all the time while I lived there.

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

**A:** I love going to a cabin in the mountains. My family

and I often stay in one in the Georgia or North Carolina mountains around the holidays, and I really cherish those trips. As much as I enjoy visiting a city, being in nature is so relaxing and good for my spirit. All I need for a good vacation is a beautiful view and good company.

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

**A:** Avoid tourist traps as much as you can. The places the locals love are almost always better. And do your best to respect the land and culture of wherever you're visiting. We're guests in these spaces.

**Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways?**

**A:** One of my favorite things about living in Los Angeles is that you can drive an hour or so and be at the beach, mountains or desert. I've mentioned that I love the mountains. Big Bear is such a beautiful spot. I can't wait to go back.

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

**A:** I'd love to visit Japan. I think the variety of nature, the cultural and spiritual history and the cuisine would be incredible to experience. I'd also love to visit a Nordic country like Sweden or Norway. From what I've seen, the views are incredible.

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

## TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

### Flight changes create woes for family with child in wheelchair

By **Christopher Elliott** | King Features Syndicate

My family and I booked flights from Berlin to Seattle on Lufthansa using United Airlines miles. Our initial itinerary had us flying from Berlin to Munich to Seattle. Lufthansa canceled the Munich to Seattle flight, rebooking us on a flight from Berlin to Frankfurt, Germany, then to Seattle, with a stopover in Frankfurt of only 1 hour and 25 minutes.

My daughter requires a powered wheelchair and a ventilator. This connection time was not enough time to make our flight. I contacted United, and they rebooked us on a flight from Berlin to Frankfurt, with an overnight stay in Frankfurt to ensure that we had enough time for our connecting flight from Frankfurt to Seattle.

But then United changed the flight, this time booking us with connecting flights from Frankfurt to Washington Dulles to Seattle. This is a much longer flight duration — at least five hours longer than the direct flight — and adds an extra connection, which would be difficult for my daughter.

When I contacted United to complain, an agent who had rebooked our flights had mistakenly canceled the Lufthansa direct flight, and because there were no more award seats available, United rebooked us on the connecting flights. When I asked United to fix the problem, the airline only offered us a \$75 voucher per person, which is unacceptable.

We need United to either book us on the direct Lufthansa flight or provide us with adequate compensation for this mistake.

— *Brian Landmann, Woodinville, Washington*

**A:** When an airline makes a mistake, the airline must fix it, not you. This was quite a mistake — and an insensitive one at that. I can't even make an international connection in Frankfurt in less than 1.5 hours (at least I couldn't the last time I tried). How do they expect someone in a wheelchair to make it?

Your case raises several questions. For example, are you considered a second-class citizen if you are redeeming miles for your flight? You probably felt this way, but actually the opposite should be true. Your airline should be treating you better because of your loyalty. Someone should have ensured that you were booked on flights with reasonable connection times; after all, you're one of United's best customers.

Another question:

Should United have gone the extra mile for a passenger with a disability? Clearly, yes. United has a dedicated department for special-needs passengers that should have been able to help. I didn't see any correspondence with this department in your paper trail, but it might have been a shortcut to a solution.

You might have also tried reaching out to one of the United executives. I publish their names, numbers and email addresses on my consumer advocacy site, [Elliott.org](http://Elliott.org). Ultimately, when I look at your itinerary, I might have gone with an Icelandair flight with one stop in Reykjavik, Iceland, which would have gotten you to Seattle in about 12 hours. You could have saved your points for another flight.

I contacted United on your behalf. After review-

ing your case, the airline agreed to rebook you on a flight from Berlin to Newark, New Jersey, with a two-night layover in Newark, followed by a direct flight from Newark to Seattle. This new itinerary allows enough time for your daughter to comfortably transfer between flights. The airline also issued you a \$350 voucher per person as compensation for the inconvenience caused by the changes to your itinerary.

While the new itinerary may not be perfect, it allows your family to travel comfortably and safely.

*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](mailto:elliott.org/help) or [chris@elliott.org](mailto:chris@elliott.org).*