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SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

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What may lie ahead for Chicago

Trump's takeover of Washington offers insights on what could be in store

By Daniel C. Vock
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — Along the streets of the nation's capital, signs planted in front yards exclaim "Free DC," neighbors keep watch to ensure immigrant children walking to school are protected, and short bike rides are routinely interrupted by sightings of federal agents milling about and troops carrying guns.

The fight for control over Washington's streets these days is not — as President Donald Trump portrays it — much of a clash between law enforcement and would-be criminals. Instead, it's

INSIDE: With a potential federal crackdown becoming more possible, Mayor Brandon Johnson signed a wide-ranging executive order Saturday that includes urging federal law enforcement to not wear masks in Chicago. **Page 2** ■ Will trust be a casualty of federal crackdown? Critics fear agents' actions are eroding gains made by local authorities. **Nation & World**

mostly between the swarms of federal agents and troops disrupting everyday life in the district and the vast majority of city residents who want them to go away.

Now, as the prospect of Trump

sending a surge of federal forces to Chicago rises daily, the Washington occupation provides insights into what a Chicago incursion could entail. What Chicago experiences is unlikely to be exactly like what's happening in Washington and might, in fact, more closely resemble Trump's efforts several months ago in Los Angeles, but there are clear parallels between the Washington takeover and what Trump appears to have planned for Chicago.

The Republican president has repeatedly criticized both Washington and Chicago — Democratic

Turn to Takeover, Page 4



Activists participate in a rally in Washington, D.C., on Thursday. The rally was paired with a march to mark Labor Day and protest the federal law enforcement surge in the nation's capital. **ALEX WONG/GETTY**



Pedro Martinez, from left, Darrin Stoller, 11, and Paul Kilgus talk while milking cows at Kilgus Farmstead in Fairbury on July 31. Kilgus Farmstead is one of 18 farms permitted to sell raw milk in Illinois, but it can only be sold on the farm where it was produced. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Budget passed — future still unclear

Important funding decisions ahead amid \$734 million deficit

By Nell Salzman, Kate Perez and Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

A tense silence hung over the Chicago Board of Education on Thursday night as the roll call vote began.

Just hours earlier, community members had packed the room, urging the board to pass a 2025-26 budget that spared classrooms from cuts.

At the heart of the debate was a \$200 million high-interest loan and a disputed pension payment for nonteaching CPS staff members — both backed by Mayor Brandon Johnson, both left out of the district's proposal.

As Johnson-appointed board members Ed Bannon, District 1A, Anusha Thotakura, District 6A, and Cydney Wallace, District 8B, quietly broke ranks, gasps rippled through the crowded room. The final tally — 12 in favor, seven opposed, and one abstention — drew cheers.

The vote marked a public setback for Johnson, a former Chicago Teachers Union organizer navigating the shift from movement politics to municipal governance. It also exposed the political fragility of the city's hybrid school board — long championed by progressives as a vehicle for equity, now emerging as a challenge to Johnson's authority.

"We have this unrealistic expectation that we'll always agree. And that's not how democracy works," said Bannon in an interview with the Tribune on Friday.

Board members Thotakura and Wallace declined to comment on their votes.

With major funding decisions

Turn to CPS, Page 6



King

Risks of raw milk

Massive Illinois salmonella outbreak 40 years ago highlights perils as nation debates unpasteurized dairy

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

Influencer content promoting the consumption of raw milk has grown prolific online, even as outbreaks of foodborne illnesses linked to unpasteurized dairy have recently sickened consumers across the country.

Social media personas like Ballerina Farm's Hannah Neeleman and Lauryn Bosstick of The Skinny Confidential routinely claim benefits from drinking milk that hasn't been pasteurized. A video of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. doing raw milk "shooters" in the White House with podcaster Dr. Paul Saladino, dubbed the "carnivore MD," went viral in May.

And another popular influencer offers a particularly wild take on pasteurization stemming from a

Chicago-area case of large-scale foodborne illness that plagued the nation 40 years ago.

A raw milk enthusiast known as Gubba Homestead, who has roughly 2 million followers on Instagram, claims in a video that one of the largest salmonella outbreaks in the United States, which originated at an Illinois farm in 1985, actually stemmed from pasteurized milk.

"Not raw milk," the content creator concludes before taking a big gulp from a glass of milk that's presumably unpasteurized.

The brief recording highlighted a scary time in Chicago-area history: Four decades ago, a multistate salmonella epidemic traced to milk from a Melrose Park farm sickened an estimated 168,000 to 197,000 people

Turn to Milk, Page 8



Employees at a Chicago Jewel store dump 2% milk down a drain on April 9, 1985, following a large outbreak of salmonella. **CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE**

Are you ready for some football?

■ A look at the players who made our Bears All-Quarter-Century Team. **Chicago Sports**
■ NFL preview with scouting reports and more. **Special section in subscribers' copies**

'It was a very messed-up river'

Cleanup efforts on 13 miles of the Grand Calumet River, which meanders across northwest Indiana, are making headway, but more work is needed. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 77 Low 58

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 20

\$5.75 city and suburbs and elsewhere
178th year No. 243 © Chicago Tribune



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Uppsala's vibe complements history



Rick Steves

Uppsala, Sweden's fourth-largest city, is the best day-trip from Stockholm — it's just under an hour away by train. This happy town is Sweden's answer to Oxford, offering stately university facilities and museums, the home and garden of botanist Carl Linnaeus, as well as a grand cathedral and the enigmatic burial mounds of Gamla Uppsala on the town's outskirts.

Almost all the sights are in the compact city center, dominated by one of Scandinavia's largest, most historic churches: Uppsala Cathedral. The Gothic building was completed in 1435, but the spires and interior decorations are neo-gothic, from the late 19th century. The cathedral — with a fine interior, relics of St. Erik, memories of countless Swedish coronations and the tomb of King Gustav Vasa — is well worth a visit.

Inside, you'll find a different take on the Virgin Mary. An eerily lifelike statue from 2005, called Mary (The Return), captures Jesus' mother wearing a scarf and timeless garb. In keeping with the Protestant spirit, this version of Mary is shown not as an exalted queen, but as an everywoman, saddened by the loss of her child and seeking solace — or answers — in the church.

This cathedral likely sees more tourists than worshippers. Before 2000, Sweden was a Lutheran state, with the Church of Sweden as its official religion. Until 1996, Swedes with one Lutheran parent automatically became members of the church at birth. Now you need to choose to join the church,



Visitors to Uppsala Cathedral in Sweden will find a different take on the Virgin Mary with this lifelike statue from 2005 called Mary (The Return). **RICK STEVES**

and although the culture is nominally Lutheran, few people attend services regularly. While church is handy for Christmas, Easter, marriages and burials, Swedes are more likely to find religion in nature, hiking in the vast forests or fishing in one of the thousands of lakes or rivers.

Facing the cathedral is the university's oldest surviving building, the Gustavianum, with a bulbous dome that doubles as a sundial. Today it houses a well-presented museum that features an anatomical theater, Anders Celsius' thermometer and a cabinet filled with miniature curiosities. The collection is curiously engaging for the glimpse it gives into the mindset of 17th-century Europe.

Uppsala was also home to Linnaeus, the father of

modern botany, whose house and garden — now a museum — provide a vivid look at this influential scientist's work. Linnaeus lived here from 1743 until 1778, while he was a professor at the University of Uppsala. It was here that he developed a way to classify the plant kingdom.

Strolling Sweden's first botanical garden, I felt like a child: filled with wonder. Linnaeus ran this garden, living on-site to study plants — day and night, year-round — tracking about 3,000 species. The museum fills his home (which he shared with his wife and seven children) with the family's possessions and his professional gear. You'll see his insect cabinet, herb collection, desk, botany tools and notes — and you can pop into the orangery,

built so temperate plants could survive the Nordic winters.

Just outside town stands Gamla ("Old") Uppsala, a series of mounds where the nation of Sweden was born back in the Iron Age. This site gives historians goose bumps even on a sunny day. It includes nine large royal burial mounds circled by a walking path, all with English descriptions.

Fifteen hundred years ago, when the Baltic Sea was higher and it was easy to sail all the way to Uppsala, the pagan Swedish kings had their capital here. Old Uppsala is where the disparate little Swedish kingdoms came together and a nation coalesced. It was also here where Sweden became Christianized a thousand years ago.

Climbing the burial mounds is a highlight to

visiting Uppsala. From here, you can imagine the scene over a thousand years ago, when the democratic tradition of this country helped bring those many small Swedish kingdoms together. Entire communities would gather at the rock that marked their place. Then the leader of all the clans, standing atop the flat mound, would address the crowd as if in a natural amphitheater and issues of the day would be dealt with.

While no one gathers on these mounds for debates today, Sweden still honors its many traditions — and you'll find some wild ones in Uppsala. Every April 30 (Walpurgis Eve — "Valborg" or "Sista April" in Swedish), champagne-soaked students put on their black-rimmed white caps and run down

a hill toward town while balloons are released and thousands of alumni, families and friends cheer. (The partying then goes on until dawn, illuminated by bonfires.)

This lively college vibe gives Uppsala a fun-loving buzz to go along with its big history, making a day trip here enjoyable and memorable. If you have five days in Stockholm and wonder what to do on that last day, go to Uppsala.

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

Singer brought to tears in Nice

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

Besides spending a week in Michigan visiting family this year, musician Stella Cole said that all of her travels have been for work. It continues in the fall as she kicks off a four-week U.S. tour.

"Then we'll do shows in the U.K., Germany, France and Switzerland, followed by another three-week U.S. holiday tour," Cole said. "We're hitting around 40 cities between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31. At the beginning of 2026, we'll be playing in Japan, China and Hawaii, which I'm really looking forward to. The food in Japan is unreal. I've never been to China before, so I'm really curious about the food there."

Cole's tour follows the recent release of her album "It's Magic," which features her takes on classic love songs.

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

Q: What are some places that are on your must-go-to again list?

A: Tokyo, Osaka, Stockholm and Nice are at the top of that list because I played shows in all of those cities, but I had a painfully short amount of time to explore. I think I was only in Nice for something like 36 hours, but it was one of my favorite places of all time. I woke up at the crack of dawn the day of the show so I'd have a chance to explore the town and swim in the Mediterranean sea. I think I cried while I was swimming



"It's Magic" vocalist Stella Cole says she is looking forward to her upcoming tour. **LUKE ROGERS**

because it was so beautiful and pristine, and I wanted to stay forever.

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

A: Croatia! I keep seeing videos everywhere and it looks absolutely unreal.

Q: What is your best and/or worst vacation memory?

A: I think to this day, my best vacation memory was going to Nepal my senior year of high school. I went with a group of childhood best friends, one of (whom) is Nepali. We stayed with my friend's family in Kathmandu, and then we did a six-day trek on the Annapurna Circuit, staying at tea houses along the way and eating the most amazing dal bhat every night after walking 20,000 steps. I will never forget the taste of the fresh mangoes. I must have eaten six or seven mangoes in one sitting that summer. Amazing.

Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: I've taken the first vacation I just been on in years to the Algarve in Portugal. We stayed at this beautiful little boutique hotel in the middle of an orange grove, right outside of this fishing town called Tavira. We took a little boat to the beach every day and drank fresh orange juice every morning. That was some of the greatest food I've ever had. The A Cataplana

is a new favorite of mine. Everything was so fresh and light. I could have stayed there forever.

Q: How much of a city do you get to see on tour?

A: When I first started touring, I was able to spread the shows out because I didn't have that many gigs. I probably lost money on those first tours, but getting to spend five days between shows hiking in Norway or exploring Paris for a week was so much fun. Now the schedule is a lot more hectic, so sometimes I only have a few hours in a city. We were just in Prague this spring, and we had lunch, walked around for 30 minutes, then had to get to soundcheck. I sometimes only see the airport, the venue and my hotel room. Whenever I can, I'll add on four or five days before or after a tour to relax and actually explore a city.

Q: How do you separate work from vacation trips?

A: Sometimes work feels a lot like vacation. I just got back from two weeks in Tuscany and Sardinia, mostly doing private concerts for a jazz retreat while staying in a beautiful villa outside of Cortona. It definitely didn't feel like I was working, more like drinking a lot of wine and eating a lot of pecorino cheese and singing a few songs at night.

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

TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

Frontier charges flyer again for prepaid checked luggage

By **Christopher Elliott** | King Features Syndicate

I was flying from Denver to Orlando on Frontier Airlines. I prepaid for my checked luggage. I only had one carry-on bag and a small personal item, both of which were within the size limits.

But when I checked my bags, Frontier charged me an extra \$220. I had to pay twice for the same bags.

I requested a refund, but Frontier will only give me a credit that expires within a year.

I don't want a credit with Frontier; I want my money back. This is horrible customer service!

I should be able to get a refund, right? Can you help me with this?

— *Allison Sanders, Hannibal, Missouri*

A: Frontier should have honored its agreement with you. You prepaid for your luggage through your online travel agency, but for some reason, the ticket agent charged you for it again. And it looks like Frontier charged you the more expensive rate for checking luggage on the same day, but it discounts its luggage rates if you prepay.

Frontier incentivizes its agents to collect as many luggage fees as possible (to enhance the airline's profits), but sometimes they take it too far. In this case, it appears that the agent didn't see your prepaid luggage and charged you again.

Based on the correspondence between you and Frontier, it looks like the airline found the error, then offered you a credit.

This is standard operating procedure at Frontier Airlines, particularly budget carriers like Fron-

tier, avoid giving you a refund. They would prefer to offer you an expiring ticket credit. Why? Because they know that there's a chance you won't use it. But I digress.

It looks like you were going back and forth with Frontier's online customer service agents. It's fine to do this to start, but when you keep getting the same answer over and over again, you have to appeal. You can find the contact information for Frontier Airlines executives on my consumer advocacy website, elliott.org. A brief, polite email to one of them would have helped. (I know that the CEO answers his emails personally.)

Your case illustrates the problem with these so-called ultra-low-fare carriers. They charge you less up front but make it up later with extra charges. And as you now know, they're not shy about bill-

ing you — or about keeping your money when they make a mistake. Interestingly, these discount carriers are fighting for survival as people start to understand that the prices they're being quoted are not the prices they end up paying.

If Frontier had not been able to help, you could have disputed the charges with your credit card company. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, your credit card can refund you for an item you paid for but did not receive.

You contacted Frontier on your behalf. A representative acknowledged the error and agreed to issue a full refund of \$220.

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.