

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## More prep urged for fierce weather

Advocates for homeless Chicagoans say the city needs to do more

By **Sylvan Lebrun**  
Chicago Tribune

Tamala Wilson has spent the past two and a half months living on a grassy stretch of land along Marine Drive in Uptown. She arranges flowers to decorate her tent. She makes her bed. She stores ice and food in a cooler. And she runs her own emergency weather drills to prepare for summer storms.

So on Tuesday, as a heat wave reached its peak with temperatures in the high 90s, Wilson was already bracing herself for the thunderstorms expected that evening.

“Since I’ve been out here, I’ve been doing nothing but trying to practice, just in case something happens,” Wilson said. “If there’s a tornado, you don’t stay in your tent. You run towards that bridge, you run for shelter inside something that’s concrete. ... I got a hard hat. You try to make sure that you have a bag you can run with.”

Advocates don’t think Wilson should be preparing on her own. They say the city of Chicago does not have a sufficient extreme weather plan for those experiencing street homelessness.

As city officials themselves admit, there is no guaranteed 24/7 refuge center for the unhoused in Chicago during the most extreme weather events.

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Joanna Kondracki-Miro on Tuesday pours water onto her dog, Bailey, to cool him off at Wilson Avenue and DuSable Lake Shore Drive on a hot and humid day in Chicago. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

**“If there’s a tornado, you don’t stay in your tent. You run towards that bridge, you run for shelter inside something that’s concrete.”**

— Tamala Wilson, who has lived the last two and a half months on a grassy stretch of land along Marine Drive in Uptown

## Proposal by CPS: 4%-5% raises

Teachers union says that’s just a starting point for negotiations

By **Sarah Macaraeg**  
Chicago Tribune

Chicago Public Schools is offering the Chicago Teachers Union salary increases of 4% to 5% over the next four years, the district announced ahead of a bargaining session with the union Friday.

The district’s proposal comes four months after the 30,000-member teachers union publicly launched its bargaining efforts in April with a demand for 9% annual raises, or compensation equivalent to the consumer price index, whichever is higher. In a message to members Thursday, CTU wrote that while the proposal is welcome, it represents “the beginning, not the end, of the negotiations process.”

Calculated by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the consumer price index tracks changes in the cost of consumer goods and is the most widely used measure of inflation. The most recent Bureau of Labor figures released in July indicate an average increase of 2.9% for urban consumers over the past 12 months.

In an emailed statement, CPS said it is offering the union 4% raises next year, with adjustments of 4% to 5% in the subsequent three years, depending on the consumer price index at the time. “Under the proposal, the District plans to expand health-care and dental coverage without increasing costs for employees,”

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Baraa Abu alroos, 7, center, and his sister, Elaf, 3, play in the backyard at Ameen Musleh’s family home in Palos Park on Aug. 14. Baraa, Elaf and their mother came to the U.S. from the Gaza Strip in July so Baraa could receive medical treatment. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

# ‘YOU’RE LIKE OUR FAMILY’

Chicago community welcomes 7-year-old boy injured in Gaza bombing

By **Molly Morrow** | Chicago Tribune

Their journey across the world had been long and arduous, but the first dinner the Abu alroos family had in Chicago was a reminder of home.

*Maqluba*, which means “upside down,” is a Palestinian dish made of rice, potatoes and vegetables and is flipped upside down when served, hence the name. And its preparation is more than just about cooking food, Haneen Abu alroos told the Tribune through an interpreter.

“The whole process of making it is a labor of love,” Abu alroos said. “It’s a difficult thing to make and it’s a difficult dish to perfect. You can flip it around and it could just flop.”

The Musleh family of Palos Park had prepared it for a special occasion this time: welcoming Haneen Abu alroos, 36, and her children, Baraa, 7, and little sister, Elaf, 3, to Chicago. The family arrived in July from Egypt, where they had fled from Gaza amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Now, nearly two months after the Abu alroos family arrived, they have settled into their new normal. The Musleh family is hosting them while Baraa undergoes months of medical treatment and physical therapy for an arm fracture and leg amputation, injuries he endured after their house in Rafah was bombed in March.

The families cook and eat together and accompany Baraa and Elaf to doctors’ appointments.

Nida Musleh, who is hosting the family along with her husband and children, said they have spent the past weeks reassuring them and helping them to adjust.

“The first day they came it was raining really bad with

thunderstorms,” Musleh remembered. “The little girl hears the thunder and says, ‘Oh, bombing?’ Every time an airplane passes by, ‘Are they gonna bomb here?’ Everything, they tie it with what’s going on there.”

But she said time has helped. “It’s better (now),” Musleh said. “When they hear the thunder, they know it’s thunder.”

Israel launched its bombardment on Gaza after Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, where the group killed some 1,200 people and took 250 hostages. Since then, more than 40,000 people have died in Gaza, according to the Gaza

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### ELECTION 2024

## Trump courting major part of base

But many moderate voters see Moms for Liberty as too radical

By **Ali Swenson**  
and **Will Weissert**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump was scheduled to appear Friday evening at the annual gathering of Moms for Liberty, a national nonprofit that has spearheaded efforts to get mentions of LGBTQ+ identity and structural racism out of K-12 classrooms.

In a “fireside chat” in the nation’s capital, the former president sought to shore up support among a major part of his base. The bulk of the group’s 130,000-plus members are conservatives who agree with him that parents should have more say in public education and that racial equity programs and transgender accommodations don’t belong in schools.

Yet Trump also is running the risk of alienating more moderate voters, many of whom see Moms for Liberty’s activism as too extreme to be legitimized by a presidential nominee.

A year ago, Moms for Liberty was viewed by many as a rising power player in conservative politics. The group’s membership had skyrocketed after its launch

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### Texas A&M football vs. Notre Dame

Notre Dame quarterback Riley Leonard faces his former coach Mike Elko as No. 20 Texas A&M hosts the No. 7 Irish on Saturday. “To be able to play against him, it’s awesome,” Leonard said. Elko said, “It’s interesting and weird.”

**Chicago Sports**



### Pearl Jam at Wrigley: Sharp and vital show

Returning to Wrigley Field for the fourth year and first time since 2018, Pearl Jam opened its two-night stand on Thursday with a 145-minute show packed with fervent emotion, controlled focus and clear undercurrents of resistance.

**Arts & Living**

