

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Sticky air and hotter nights

Climate change is subtly shifting the Midwest's summers

By Adriana Pérez  
Chicago Tribune

As heat waves around the globe break records month after month, climate change is manifesting in more nuanced ways across the Midwest. Summertime feels stickier, and humid nights offer little relief from the oppressive daytime heat.

"It starts to feel like you're walking through soup," said Trent Ford, the Illinois state climatologist. "And it's really, really gross, but also dangerous."

But summer highs in recent years are rarely record-breaking for Chicago, unlike periods with severe droughts such as 1988 and 2012, when dry air drove up temperatures.

Climate change is accumulating humidity in the region — between 1895 and 2019, average precipitation in Illinois increased by 15%. A moist atmosphere ramps up heat indexes, meaning the weather feels worse to the human body than it would during drier conditions.

Nights are also hotter when it's humid, which can have serious health implications because that extends exposure to uncomfortable temperatures.

"It's not just the peak warmth, but the duration that it lasts," Ford said.

In Chicago, overall summer average temperatures have warmed by 1.5 degrees between 1970 and 2022, but that's not the whole story: Average lows on summer nights have increased by 2.2 degrees in that same time.

During the heat wave in mid-June, Chicago set a record high of 97 degrees for June 17, according to National Weather Service records dating back to 1871. But low temperatures the next night broke a record,

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### ELECTION 2024

# TRUMP APPEARANCE TURNS CONTENTIOUS

In Chicago, ex-president baselessly questions Harris' racial identity at Black journalists' event

GOP presidential nominee elicits gasps, shouts during 34-minute session hosted by panelists



Former President Donald Trump answers a question while participating in a question-and-answer session with Rachel Scott, correspondent for ABC News, during the National Association of Black Journalists convention in downtown Chicago on Wednesday. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

By Olivia Olander,  
Rick Pearson  
and Nell Salzman  
Chicago Tribune

Former President Donald Trump questioned the racial identity of Vice President Kamala Harris in her historic candidacy as his Democratic challenger and told an audience of Black journalists in Chicago on Wednesday that he was "the best president for the Black population since Abraham Lincoln."

In a 34-minute appearance before the National Association of Black Journalists, cut short from a scheduled hour, a feisty Trump came out on the attack. He criticized ABC News congressional

correspondent Rachel Scott for her first question, in which she recited a list of his past disparaging comments about his political opponents of color, calling it "disgraceful," "rude" and "nasty."

"Are you with ABC? Because I think they're a fake news network and terrible," he told her. "I think it's disgraceful that I came here in good spirits. I love the Black population of this country. I've done so much for the Black population of this country."

Asked if he believed Harris, the first Black and Asian American female to become a major party candidate for the presidency, was on the Democratic ticket only because of her race, Trump said he hadn't always

known she was Black.

"So I've known her a long time indirectly, directly not very much. And she was always of Indian heritage and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black and now she wants to be known as Black. So I don't know if she's Indian or is she Black?" Trump said.

Born to a Jamaican American father and an Indian American mother, Harris has run as a Black and Asian candidate throughout her political career in California, from her days as a district attorney, attorney general and

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### FALLOUT FROM INVITATION:

Former President Donald Trump's visit prompted turmoil within the Black journalists organization, including the resignation of the convention's co-chair. Trump has a history of making comments that some considered racist in tone and has also voiced disparaging views toward the media, attacking Black female White House correspondents during his presidency. NABJ officials have featured several presidential candidates in the past. Trump declined a similar invitation in 2016.

## A rower who gets down to business

Winnetka's Chatain took a high-tech job while pursuing Paris

By Stacy St. Clair  
Chicago Tribune

PARIS — Peter Chatain had all the qualifications for the job.

A master's degree in computer science from Stanford University. Deft coding skills. A deep appreciation for artificial intelligence ethics.

Chatain thought he'd be a great fit for the machine learning engineer position at Ello, a San Francisco-based startup that produces an AI-powered reading app that listens and engages with children as they read out loud from books. He had proved as much during an



Team USA's Peter Chatain competes with his teammates in a men's eight rowing heat Monday at Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium during the Paris Olympics. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

internship there in 2022.

There was just one thing, the Winnetka native told his prospective employers:

He hoped to make the U.S. Olympic rowing team in 2024, so he would need some flexibility in his schedule.

Catalin Moreno Voss, Ello's co-founder and chief technology officer, had heard a lot of interesting stories and codicils from job applicants in his career. But someone asserting their intention

of becoming an Olympian was a first.

Conventional wisdom told Voss to take a pass. Given the demands of startups, it didn't make sense — for the company or for Chatain — to hire someone who planned to moonlight as a world-class athlete.

"I generally think those setups are a terrible idea," Voss said. "The general startup rule of thumb is

Turn to Rower, Page 2

## Maduro asks court to audit election victory

Pressure building as observers pan move

By Regina Garcia Cano  
and Gisela Salomon  
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Nicolás Maduro on Wednesday asked Venezuela's Supreme Court to conduct an audit of the presidential election after opposition leaders disputed his claim of victory, drawing criticism from foreign observers who said the court is too close to the government to produce an independent review.

Maduro told reporters Wednesday that the ruling party is also ready to show all the vote tally sheets from Sunday's election.

"I throw myself before justice," he said to reporters outside the Supreme Court's headquarters in Caracas, adding that he is "willing to be summoned, questioned,

investigated."

This is Maduro's first concession to demands for more transparency about the election.

However, the Supreme Court is closely aligned with his government; the court's justices are proposed by federal officials and are ratified by the National Assembly, which is dominated by Maduro backers.

The Carter Center criticized Maduro's audit request, saying the high court wouldn't provide an independent review.

"You have another government institution, which is appointed by the government, to verify the government numbers for the election results, which are in question," said Jennie K. Lincoln, who led the Carter Center's delegation that monitored the election in Venezuela. "This is not an independent assessment."

The Atlanta-based group said Tuesday night that it was

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### US men's basketball team avoids repeat of near-upset

The U.S. clinched a trip to the quarterfinals at the Olympics by beating South Sudan 103-86 on Wednesday night — a game against a team that nearly beat the United States during an exhibition a couple weeks ago. Bam Adebayo scored 18 points and Kevin Durant had 14 for the American squad. **Chicago Sports, Page 6**

■ Trinity Rodman and Korbin Albert both scored and the U.S. women's soccer team remained undefeated at the Olympics with a 2-1 win over Australia on Wednesday to conclude the group stage. **Chicago Sports, Page 6**

### TODAY'S WEATHER



High 86 Low 70

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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