

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

MIGRANTS IN CHICAGO

A long road to workers' comp

One immigrant's effort to claim his legally entitled compensation shows how big dreams can start to fall apart after an accident at the workplace

By **Nell Salzman**
Chicago Tribune

Jose Antuna fell through a drain at a west suburban car wash where he worked and tore his meniscus in mid-November. The 40-year-old from Venezuela didn't have a work permit at the time and was making \$10 an hour.

But after being injured for a

second time in May while working at a flea market — this time as an innocent bystander when a woman allegedly attempted to run her car into her adulterous husband — he can barely walk around his apartment.

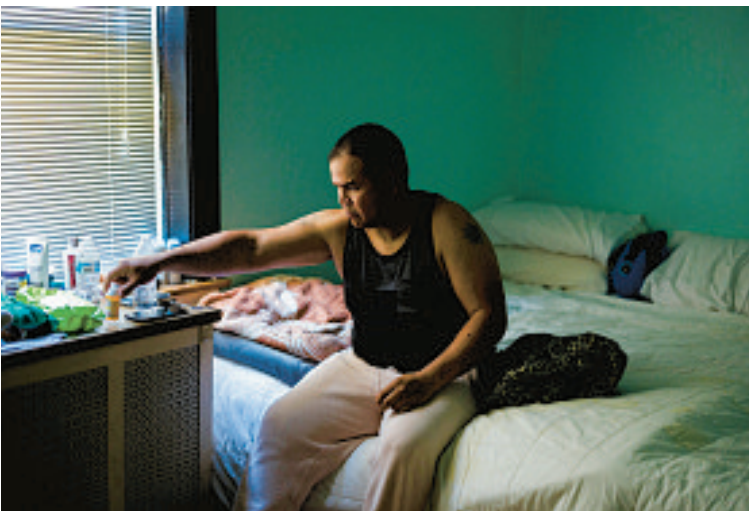
He struggles to load himself onto CTA buses for his physical therapy appointments. He spends his days sitting or sleeping, watch-

ing his 3-year-old daughter, Luz, run around his apartment.

In Illinois, it is illegal under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 to knowingly hire workers who are in the country without legal permission. However, these workers are as entitled to workers' compensation benefits when

Turn to Migrants, Page 4

Jose Antuna, 40, a migrant from Venezuela, takes medication for his injuries on June 11, at his home in Chicago. After tearing his meniscus in November while working at a car wash in Melrose Park and being hit by a car in May at a Swap-O-Rama, Antuna has been unable to work. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Chicago's Bike Whisperer is paid for his patience. He takes kids who are scared of balancing, scared of falling. And with steady guidance and a secret that isn't really a secret at all, he has coached more than 400 of the city's children how to feel like they're flying on wheels.

He's got it handled.

By **Christopher Borrelli** | Chicago Tribune

The Legend of the Bike Whisperer of Beverly began four years ago, during quarantine.

A mother was trying to teach her child to ride a bike, but the lessons were not sticking. Frustrated, she posted a note to a Facebook group for moms of the South Side of Chicago: Did anyone have advice on how to teach her kid to ride a bike? Or know anybody who could?

Heidi Burrel saw the message and wrote back immediately: Louie, her husband, could do it. He taught 12th grade physical education at a Gage Park high school, he coached girls' volleyball and boys' basketball, and he had earned a reputation for possessing remarkable amounts of patience with young people attempting new skills.

That patience had been a surprise to even Louie Burrel.

Louie Burrel, 45, teaches 6-year-old Alex White how to ride a bike in a parking lot on June 2 in Chicago's Morgan Park neighborhood.

ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When he taught his son, Brayden, to ride a bike, he let him crash a few times. He was more of a "boy dad" back then, he explained. He wanted his son to fall and pick himself up and all that.

"I wanted him to learn the hard way, which is not always the best way," Burrel said. When bicycling became one of the few outlets for his kids in the early months of the pandemic, his younger daughter, Nia, was still using training

Turn to Bike, Page 5

More kids exposed to edible cannabis

State poison center reports an increase for youths under 5

By **Robert McCoppin**
Chicago Tribune

A crying 6-year-old was brought to an emergency department after being found sluggish and cold to the touch. The parents had been at work when the babysitter gave several cookies from the kitchen to the child as a snack. Each cookie contained several adult doses of THC, the part of marijuana that gets people high. The child was admitted to the hospital overnight and recovered.

This was just one of 244 cases of cannabis edible exposures among children 5 and younger reported in 2023 to the Illinois Poison Center.

The number of such cases has risen sharply since state legalization of marijuana in 2020, the center reports. In 2019, the year before legalization, there were only 37 such cases. Once licensed weed edibles became widely available, that number more than tripled to 147 in 2020, rose to 206 in 2021, dipped slightly to 184 in 2022, and reached 244 in 2023.

Dr. Leslie Mendoza Temple, a member of the state Medical Cannabis Advisory Board, advocates for the medical use of marijuana, but warns strongly against unauthorized use by kids.

When Mendoza Temple was 3, she got into her mother's purse and ate her medication, prompting her mother to stick her finger down her child's throat to induce vomiting, so the doctor knows first-

Turn to Cannabis, Page 5

Climate change adds to widespread heat wave, study says

Scientists calculate human effects on current weather pattern baking parts of the continent

By **Seth Borenstein**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Human-caused climate change dialed up the thermostat and turbocharged the odds of this month's killer heat

that has been baking the Southwestern United States, Mexico and Central America, a new flash study found.

Sizzling daytime temperatures that triggered cases of heat stroke in parts of the United States

were 35 times more likely and 2.5 degrees hotter because of the warming from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, World Weather Attribution, a collection of scientists that run rapid and non-peer-reviewed climate attribution studies, calculated Thursday.

"It's an oven here; you can't stay here," Margarita Salazar Pérez,

82, of Veracruz, Mexico, said in her home with no air conditioning. Last week, the Sonoran Desert hit 125 degrees, the hottest day in Mexican history, according to study co-author Shel Winkley, a meteorologist at Climate Central.

And it was even worse at night, which is what made this heat wave so deadly, said Imperial College of London climate scientist Frie-

derike Otto, who coordinates the attribution study team. Climate change made nighttime temperatures 2.9 degrees warmer and unusual evening heat 200 more times more likely, she said.

There's just been no cool air at night like people are used to, Salazar Pérez said.

Turn to Heat, Page 9

Lincoln Park project moves ahead

Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration broke a taboo Thursday, advancing a massive housing development despite opposition from the local alderman. **Page 4**

Bulls trade Caruso to Thunder

The Bulls made their first move of a crucial offseason, trading defensive star Alex Caruso to Oklahoma City in exchange for guard Josh Giddey. **Chicago Sports**

A 10th life for reimagined 'Cats'

In New York, "Cats: The Jellicle Ball," is a ballroom-fueled extravaganza that refreshes 1980s musical-theater kibble, writes Tribune critic Chris Jones. **A+E, Page 4**

