

A+E

CLASS AND STATUS
IN ‘THE BEAR’

Hierarchy and economic ecosystems are part of working at real-life restaurants. But how well does that play out in the show?

FX

LIFE+TRAVEL

Stepping into
their shoes

Employers challenged to understand stigmas faced by formerly incarcerated job-seekers to promote fair-chance hiring and retention.

Fiji runs deep: Lush foliage, dazzling beaches, cultural traditions all hallmarks of the islands.



Karina Fuentes looks at the backyard of her home in the New City neighborhood on June 14. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Offered a place to stay, only to find it unlivable

State program designed to house migrants proves costly, ineffective

By Nell Salzman and Joe Mahr
Chicago Tribune

The news last fall couldn't have come at a better time for Karina Fuentes.

For nearly three months, the 42-year-old Venezuelan migrant had been living in a cramped and musty Streeterville hotel room with her husband and two kids. Space was tight even outside her Inn of Chicago room, with hotel common areas often

jammed with hundreds of other migrants from Venezuela, who — like them — had walked roughly 5,000 miles in search of a better life. Shortly before Thanksgiving, Fuentes got the email she had been hoping for. Her family had been approved for a relatively new state program that promised to help migrants find apartments. The state would cover up to six months of rent — a key move to help the city empty its shelters, which had been swelling with migrants.

The family of four could say goodbye to the Inn of Chicago shelter and take one more step toward the American dream. “It was a blessing — the property,” Fuentes recalled in Spanish. “My kids, especially, were so happy.”

The family would soon learn, however, of the program's sluggish bureaucracy and harsh on-the-ground realities. Fuentes, who has both a daughter and husband with serious medical needs, would be offered

a series of apartments they considered unlivable. They were among hundreds of migrants whose leases drew scrutiny from the state, with dozens of cases so troubling the state kicked landlords out of the program. Caseworkers contracted by the state would find themselves at times rushing through paperwork to meet demand from migrants who were desperate to get out of overcrowded shelters in a

Turn to Housing, Page 10

Police helpless to halt stalking

Man uses electronic harassment to frighten his children's mother

By Stacy St. Clair and Joe Mahr
Chicago Tribune

Shortly before Christmas 2022, Dominique Ward made an unplanned stop at Target to do some last-minute shopping with her 3-year-old daughters.

She was miles from her home, in a neighborhood where she didn't know a single person. She assumed no one there knew her or her girls, either — until the following day when someone sent her a screenshot of a Facebook page belonging to the girls' father.

He had posted “an open letter” to his daughters, identical twins he had been barred from contacting without court supervision after multiple allegations of abusive behavior toward their mother.

“I got to see you the other day,” the note stated. “You were in a target shopping cart wearing matching cute outfits. You we're (sic) absolutely gorgeous, the most beautiful little babies I have ever seen. You were sitting next to each other playing with each other as your mom pushed you around. Your smiles were infectious and silliness was so familiar. What you don't know (is) that there is a community of love surrounding you, sending Daddy pictures and videos keeping me updated on your progress.”

The post stopped Ward cold.

She had been locked in a custody and child support battle for years with her ex-partner, a computer whiz with a sizable social media following and a well-documented disregard for court orders. Since moving to Florida in 2021, he

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INSIDE

JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NASCAR race kicks off to cheering fans

Fans flock downtown to watch drivers weave through streets near Grant Park on day one of the NASCAR Chicago Street Race. Chicagoland, Page 4, and Sports

Grads challenge stigma as teen moms

Chicago Public Schools' Simpson Academy for Young Women on the Near West Side is devoted to pregnant and parenting students. Chicagoland, Page 3

A dedicated bus lane on Western Avenue?

Nearby aldermen back proposal to make CTA less 'Loop-centric'

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Chicago's neighborhood-connecting north-south spine, Western Avenue, could be in for major surgery if a coalition of public transit backers have their way.

A push to install the city's first extended bus rapid transit lanes along its longest street is well underway. Its supporters hope a lane on either side of the busy 27-mile street will be carved out exclusively for faster bus travel — a setup they say helps buses function almost like trains.

The proposal will certainly face complaints. A similar idea floated by former Mayor Rahm Emanuel for Ashland Avenue flopped about a decade ago amid opposition, including from drivers who decried the project they said would slow car traffic to a crawl on the major thoroughfare.

But the coalition pushing the

Turn to Western, Page 4



A No. 49 Western bus pulls out of the CTA Western Brown Line station into afternoon traffic as a pair of buses approach in the 4600 block of North Western Avenue in Chicago on June 19. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

“I think it's a way to redefine the way our city operates. We are pivoting in a different direction and really being a city for the future. I think this is a way to get there.” — Ald. Andre Vasquez, 40th, a chief backer of the rapid bus lane push