

Chicago Tribune



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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

‘Knowledge is free’

Students without permanent legal status navigate Illinois in-state tuition changes

By **Kate Perez and Laura Rodríguez Presa**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Karla Leon knew something was wrong when she couldn’t log into her financial aid portal.

For the past three years, the University of Illinois Chicago accounting major had checked her financial aid package well before classes resumed, confident that her scholarship and tuition costs would remain relatively steady.

Her education has been supported in part by tuition assistance available to Illinois students, including those without legal status.

But last month, Leon, 21, slowly pieced together that her usual college costs would more than double this semester.

She is among thousands of students across Illinois who lost access to in-state tuition rates and financial aid after a federal judge appointed by President Donald Trump ruled in August that the

state’s residency requirement cannot apply to students without permanent legal status.

The decision left Leon scrambling to figure out how to pay for her final semester instead of looking forward to it.

“I remember not being able to sleep for, honestly, a good three weeks, just because I was so stressed trying to figure out what I was going to do, and my mind jumping to the worst possible scenarios,” Leon said. “It was impossible for me to think that I would not be able to come to school.”

See **STUDENTS** on Page A5



Karla Leon stands in front of a mural about immigrants obtaining access to higher education on the UIC Latino Cultural Center at the University of Illinois Chicago campus on Aug. 31. Leon is an undocumented senior at UIC majoring in accounting. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Law targets wrongful claims of child abuse

Safeguards follow years of debate between advocates and doctors

By **Jeremy Gorner**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Starting next year, Illinois will have new safeguards in place to prevent parents from being wrongly accused of child abuse or neglect when their children visit a doctor or hospital emergency room for unexplained injuries or ailments.

For advocates, the law speaks to the horrific circumstances families can endure when a medical issue is misconstrued as abuse.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the bill in July after it passed the Democratic-controlled General Assembly without opposition — 110-0 in the House and 59-0 in the Senate, with three Senate Republicans from the legislative supermajority among its co-sponsors. But behind that vote was a yearslong debate between family-rights advocates and doctors that had exposed hard feelings on both sides.

Family rights advocates, including the Family Justice Resource Center, which pushed for the law, were perceived by some as not taking a strong enough stand against child abuse, while the medical community was tagged as requiring families to prove their innocence from the outset.

For Tara Crady and her husband, that scare happened more than a decade ago. Crady said courts ordered their then-infant son temporarily placed with her parents after she had medical personnel examine a spot on his ankle that turned out to be from healed fractures.

Crady, who has a background in child advocacy, said she and her husband eventually learned their son had a metabolic bone disease. But a child protection case was filed, and it took well over a year for them to be cleared of wrongdoing by child welfare officials.

“I fought against child abuse. So the fact that anybody would look at us like we would hurt our child

See **LAW** on Page A2



EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Holiday grilling at Obama Center

Vivaswat Shastry, foreground, and Vikram Ramesh, center, check their charcoal fire in a public grill on the Obama Presidential Center campus in Jackson Park on the Labor Day holiday on Monday. Ramesh said it was more convenient using the grills than lugging his grill to the park.



Yohei Yamada emerges from the water after searching for a lost boat anchor in the Playpen in Lake Michigan on Aug. 27. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Inch by inch, this diver scours Lake Michigan for our lost stuff

By **Evgenia Anastasakos**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Mike Lang was mid-high-five when he heard a faint ping against the bow of his boat.

Then came a clunk, as his wedding ring dropped 27 feet to the bottom of Lake Michigan.

Lang, 44, had been watching the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds perform in last month’s Chicago’s Air and Water Show from

his boat, anchored about a mile and a half off Northerly Island. He and a friend were celebrating a particularly impressive flyover when the ring flew from his finger.

“As soon as I did that, I knew there was one person who could ever give me any type of fighting chance of it being found,” Lang said.

After recording his coordinates and dropping a glass

bottle in the water to mark the spot, Lang called his longtime friend and dock neighbor, Yohei Yamada.

Yamada — a professional diver and boat captain — has developed a reputation for finding what other people can’t: rings, watches, keys and phones lost deep beneath the surface of Lake Michigan.

See **DIVER** on Page A5

Feds examine Amazon jet’s crash

5 killed in 2 vehicles that were struck by cargo plane in Miami

By **David Fischer, Marc Levy and Jeffrey Collins**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — The five people killed when an Amazon cargo jet ran off a runway at Miami International Airport were all inside a van carrying seven people from a cleaning company, and an SUV that was hit outside of airport property, National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy said Monday.

Homendy called the scene of Sunday’s crash “utter devastation.” She didn’t detail how many people were in the SUV or where the dead were located.

Homendy walked the route the Boeing 767 followed, noting tire marks from the pavement into the grass, the destroyed van carrying the cleaning crew, torn fencing, navigational equipment, and the crushed SUV outside airport property.

The debris included vehicle

See **CRASH** on Page A9

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WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY H: 86 L: 72
WED. H: 82 L: 64
THU. H: 80 L: 59
FULL WEATHER REPORT, PAGE A12

INDEX

Almanac A9
Arts & Living B7
Business B1
Comics B10-11
Crossword B11
Editorials A6
Horoscope B10
Nation & World B4
Television B9

179th year No. 251
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