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Palladium-Item

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Heat waves turn homes dangerous for all ages



If you can't access cooling in a heat wave, drink water constantly to stay hydrated and regulate your body temperature. GETTY IMAGES

Most heat-related deaths occur indoors; learn how to reduce risk

Zoltan Nagy
Eindhoven University of Technology
THE CONVERSATION

Most people know that heat waves can be dangerous. What they may not realize is that the heat indoors can be much worse than outdoors. When the power goes out and air conditioning stops, a house starts to function like a greenhouse. Heat enters through windows and walls and has nowhere to go. Air stagnates. Within hours, indoor temperatures can climb well above what the thermometer shows outside, especially on upper floors and in rooms with south-facing windows. Over longer periods, especially if temperatures don't cool off overnight, conditions can become lethal. Most heat-related deaths occur indoors. When a heat dome sent temperatures soaring in the Pacific Northwest



People and their dog sit under cooling tents in Austin, Texas, during a heat wave in 2023. Climate projections for Austin show that heat waves will double in frequency by the end of the century. SUZANNE CORDEIRO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

in 2021, 98% of the more than 600 deaths in British Columbia happened inside homes. Washington and Oregon also saw high numbers of deaths in homes that lacked air conditioning.

In Europe, where only 1 in 10 households have air conditioning, heat waves killed an estimated 60,000

See HEAT, Page 2A

He survived a genocidal regime – and died in an IN prison

Kristine Phillips
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lorth Sim was just 9 when radical communists captured the Cambodian capital city of Phnom Penh, setting off four years of genocidal rule that led to millions of deaths. After the brutal Khmer Rouge regime ended in 1979, thousands of Cambodian refugees fled to the United States and other countries.

Sim was among them. He arrived in the U.S. in the early 1980s, when he was in his teens, and became a lawful permanent resident a few years later. Slowly, he restarted his life. He obtained his GED and bounced from state to state as he looked for work, said his oldest son, Viccheat Sim. He first lived in Utah and then in Minnesota, where he met his wife. The couple settled in New England, residing in the Boston and Providence areas as they raised four American children. On Jan. 5, as federal agents swarmed cities across the country, Sim found himself detained in one of the largest immigration detention centers in the Midwest, 900 miles away from his family. Six weeks later, on Feb. 16, the former refugee who lived through a violent regime was found dead inside an Indiana prison cell. His death was later ruled natural, caused by heart complications tied to diabetes.

An IndyStar investigation – based on interviews with two dozen people, including eight current and former healthcare staffers – found that Sim's death is the result of significant and systemic failures to provide adequate medical care at Miami Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison that has been partially turned into a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center. Centurion Health, the Indiana Department of Correction's for-profit medical contractor, has long struggled to meet the medical needs of inmates at the prison. Current and former staffers point to severe understaffing and a revolving door of employees – problems that were exacerbated after the arrival of hundreds of ICE detainees last fall.

See LORTH SIM, Page 2A

Richmond man charged with sexual battery over alleged assault

Douglas Walker
Richmond Palladium-Item
USA TODAY NETWORK

RICHMOND, IN — A Richmond man has been accused of groping a local woman as she walked down a sidewalk. Josue Olivares-Quiroz, 25, is charged in Wayne Superior Court 1 with sexual battery, a Level 6 felony carrying up to 30 months in prison, and two misdemeanors, driving while intoxicated and driving without ever receiving a license. According to court documents, a

woman said she was walking in the 100 block of South Ninth Street on the evening of Saturday, June 28, when a man later identified as Olivares-Quiroz approached her from behind and grabbed her right breast and buttocks. The woman, described by an officer as being in "emotional distress," said she was "screaming" and holding onto the column of a nearby porch as the incident took place. She reported her assailant then ran down the street, entered a vehicle and drove away quickly, running a red light

at Ninth and A streets, an affidavit said. Olivares-Quiroz, who police said matched the description provided by the woman, was arrested in a traffic stop in the 1400 block of Chester Boulevard. The woman, who was examined at Reid Hospital, identified Olivares-Quiroz as her attacker in a digital lineup, the court document said. Police said the Richmond man showed signs of intoxication, and a breath test measured his blood-alcohol content at 0.188. In Indiana, motorists with a BAC of 0.08 or higher are consid-

ered intoxicated. Olivares-Quiroz reportedly told an officer he had consumed five bottles of beer. He said he was on his way home from a soccer match in Union City at the time he was pulled over. He was released from the Wayne County Jail after posting a \$50,000 bond. Olivares-Quiroz's trial has been scheduled for Oct. 12. Douglas Walker is a news reporter for The Star Press. Contact him at 765-213-5851 or at dwalker@muncie.gannett.com.

