

CHICAGO SPORTS

STARS ARE SHINING

All-Star Game may not have any Bulls, but there's plenty of Chicago to talk about

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Chicago Tribune

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State review finds 6 of 8 districts had violations

But parents feel probe of seclusion practices did not go far enough

BY JENNIFER SMITH RICHARDS AND JODI S. COHEN

This story is a collaboration between the Chicago Tribune and ProPublica Illinois.

In the first state review of isolated timeout in Illinois schools, investigators found six of the eight districts they examined violated state law by placing children in seclusion for improper reasons, for too long or without properly notifying their parents.

The investigations by the Illinois State Board of Education came after the first part of a Chicago Tribune/ProPublica Illinois series, published in November, found public schools throughout the state overused seclusion, routinely breaking the law that allowed children to be placed in isolated timeout only when there was a safety issue.

Reporters documented more than 35,000 seclusion and physical restraint incidents in a 15-month period in 100 public school districts. The state banned isolated, locked seclusion the day after "The Quiet Rooms" was published and, for the first time, began monitoring schools' use of the interventions by requiring every school district to submit three school years' worth of data.

The state investigations, prompted by complaints filed by Deputy Gov. Jesse Ruiz on behalf of some of the children in the story, were limited to the previous 12 months and did not review schools' use of physical restraint, which the series also examined and found was misused. Investigators looked at whether schools used seclusion for appropriate reasons and removed children from isolation when it was no longer necessary, whether the spaces met physical requirements, whether employees properly documented incidents and notified parents, and whether staff

Turn to ***Seclusion, Page 6***



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Cassandra Tanner Miller's 18-month-old son was shot to death by his father with a gun that he was no longer legally allowed to possess.

Revoked gun licenses slipping past system

Thousands of illegal firearms, like one that shot toddler, still owned

BY STACY ST. CLAIR, CECILIA REYES, ANNIE SWEENEY AND SARAH FREISHTAT

By the time Christopher Miller showed up at his estranged wife's backdoor in September 2019 with a pistol in his waistband, state authorities already had declared him too dangerous to own firearms.

He had lost his gun license 20 months earlier after being charged with aggravated battery for brutally beating a man in a Naperville parking lot. He disregarded orders to relinquish any weapons, and no one made sure he complied.

Miller startled his wife that autumn afternoon as she moved around the kitchen making a snack for her daughter. With cocaine and alcohol in his system, he stared at Cassandra Tanner Miller with hazel eyes so dilated they appeared black.

"Are you all ready to die today?" he asked as he suddenly burst into the Joliet house.



Tanner Miller shows a picture of her son, Colton, who was killed by her estranged husband in September 2019.

Within minutes, Miller had choked his wife until she lost consciousness and fatally shot his 18-month-old son, Colton, with a .22-caliber Ruger — one of at least three handguns in his possession despite orders from the Illinois State Police to relinquish any firearms in January 2018. Miller fired that illicit gun so many times, at least 10, the coroner could not definitively track the bullets that shattered the toddler's skull.

With his son dead, Miller, a captain in the Illinois National Guard, put the Ruger to his head and pulled the trigger.

Turn to ***Gun, Page 10***

To tame coronavirus, China puts 760M in a virtual box

Massive manpower, tech used for varying forms of lockdown

BY RAYMOND ZHONG AND PAUL MOZUR
The New York Times

SHANGHAI — China has flooded cities and villages with battalions of neighborhood busybodies, uniformed volunteers and Communist Party representatives to carry out one of the biggest social control campaigns in history.

The goal: to keep hundreds of millions of people away from everyone but their closest kin.

The nation is battling the outbreak of coronavirus, known officially as COVID-19, with a grassroots mobilization reminiscent of former Communist Chairman Mao Zedong's mass crusades, not seen in China in decades — essentially entrusting front-line epidemic prevention to a supercharged version of a neighborhood watch.

Housing complexes in some

Turn to ***China, Page 26***



GETTY

A man wears a protective mask as he rides a bike over the Yangzi River bridge while snow falls Saturday in Wuhan, China.

'Losing a real gem in the community'

Lee Hogan, owner of Miss Lee's Good Food, a fixture of the South Side's soul food scene, is retiring. She is selling the business many say is one of a kind. **Business**

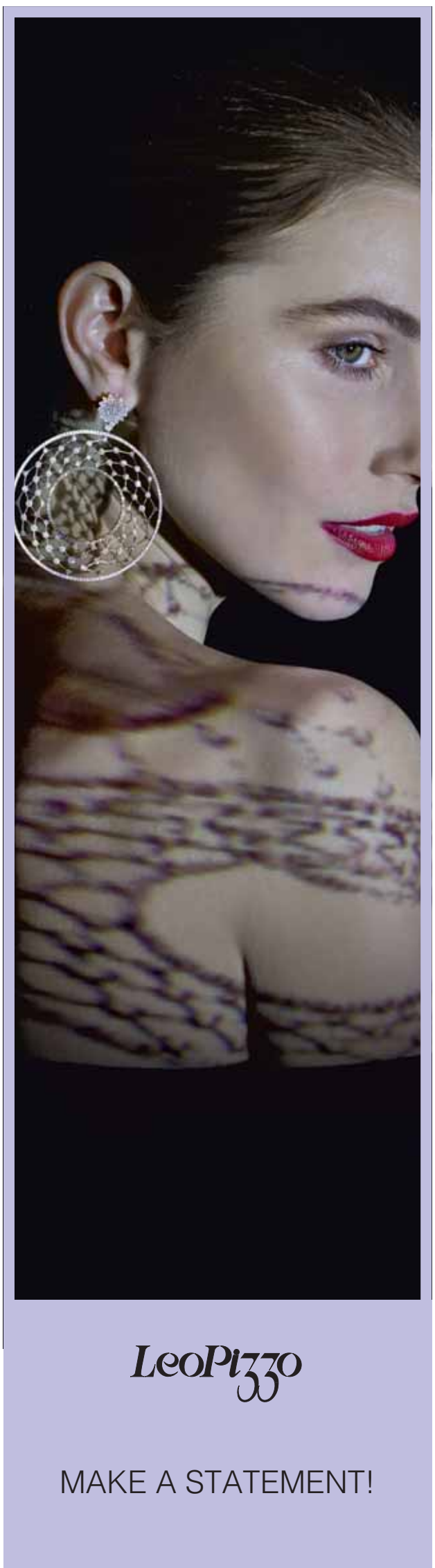
Neon signs disappear from city streetscape

The signs are victims of closing businesses, high maintenance costs and city fees that some companies aren't willing or able to pay. **Chicagoland, Page 4**

Tom Skilling's forecast High 36 Low 27

Chicago Weather Center: Complete forecast in Nation & World, Page 36

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ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In September, FBI agents raided the home of Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski, who is pictured on Jan. 16.



JOHN KASS

What Ill. politicians mean when they talk of ethics

We're in the political season in the broken state of Illinois and the crooked county of Cook.

And as the federal corruption investigations continue, as the big federal bus rolls from Chicago to Springfield and back again, our political class is determined to distract us.

They use fine words with which to assault us daily, like one meaty slap in the mouth after another.

They talk about ethics, fairness, decency. And they toss out mysterious slogans like "restorative justice" that are repeated verbatim in news reports, but whatever that is, exactly, they don't quite say.

What do all these fine phrases mean? I don't think we're supposed to ask. I think we're just expected to nod, approvingly, like 18th century peasants doffing our caps to some great lord.

Illinois' great lord, Gov. J.B. Pritzker, the multibillionaire with his offshore accounts and the nagging toilets scandal, talks of setting an example for the people.

He talks urgently of the need to "root out the purveyors of corruption," and returns to Springfield this week pushing for a whopping tax increase. He'll rely on the purveyors of corruption to get that done.

His tax increase is being sold as a hit on the rich, but once it goes through, the Illinois middle class will find itself in the pot.

Because the middle class is where the meat is. The middle class is where the money is.

So, doff your cap. Bow your head. Smile weakly.

They talk and talk as the taxes go up and property values fall, and the great Illinois Exodus continues, with the middle class and the poor, young and old fleeing as economic refugees to other states in search of opportunity.

Of all the fine words they use, what we don't hear is this:

Why should we stay?

Why should we stay in Illinois?

They don't give us a reason. They just keep talking about what matters to them. And what is most important to them is getting elected.

And the rest of us? Those who aren't connected to a public workers union that gives the politicians muscle to win elections and leverage their office to "legally" make fortunes in the law?

We're just supposed to shut up and take it. You know this is true. It has been the Chicago Way and the Illinois Way for decade upon decade.

Just shut up and take it, my fellow chumbolones.

In this political season full of fine words and endorsements and politicians promising this, that and the other thing, something else is happening.

It's that federal political corruption investigation that keeps snatching aldermen, state legislators and Cook County apparatchiks, all Democrats so far.

That shouldn't surprise you. Democrats run things. And some Republicans just want to get in on it. Then the feds showed up.

The feds got another one the other day. His name is Patrick Doherty, 64, of Palos Heights, chief of staff to Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski, whose offices have also been raided.

Doherty was charged in an alleged bribery scheme involving those government revenue-generating red-light cameras, this time in Oak Lawn.

I know Oak Lawn. I grew up there after we moved out of the city. It was thought of as a suburb to those who were too moronic to understand that Chicago politicians and the Chinatown crew had great influence there.

"Be prudent, stay safe," was the Oak Lawn slogan then. Translation: Don't be stupid, keep your mouth shut.

Red-light cameras are all over the place. The politicos tell us the red-light cameras are there for our own good, but they're installed even where they're not needed, because they bring the cash.

They bring millions upon millions to governments in what should be called a red-light tax. And they generate cash bribes for political weasels.

The feds say Doherty was recorded, allegedly telling an informant he was willing to pay an Oak Lawn trustee a $4,000 bribe.

"I'll just pay it," Doherty allegedly said on the call. "Just make sure we get the, make sure we get the f——-thing, the contract."

Nice, Pat. Nice.

I call the federal bus driver Rico, after the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. With all the politicians nabbed so far, and more to come, I'm going to do something risky.

I'm going to go out on a limb here and suggest that perhaps the feds may think that Illinois politics is a vast criminal racketeering enterprise.

Is that possible?

Stunned? No?

Don't tell me you knew that already.

Rico drives the bus and it is assumed that Mr. Doherty has been invited on to take a seat and sing his pretty head off.

Or he could just stay on the bus as it rolls to federal court, where a jury will again and again hear him say:

"I'll just pay it. Just make sure we get the, make sure we get the f——-thing, the contract."

As they get ready to push the tax increase, and address that federal bus parked out in front, the politicians will tell us they're against corruption.

What they won't tell is why we should stay in Illinois.

And what they're not offering is "restorative justice" to the taxpayers who pay the bills and get slapped in the mouth year after year.

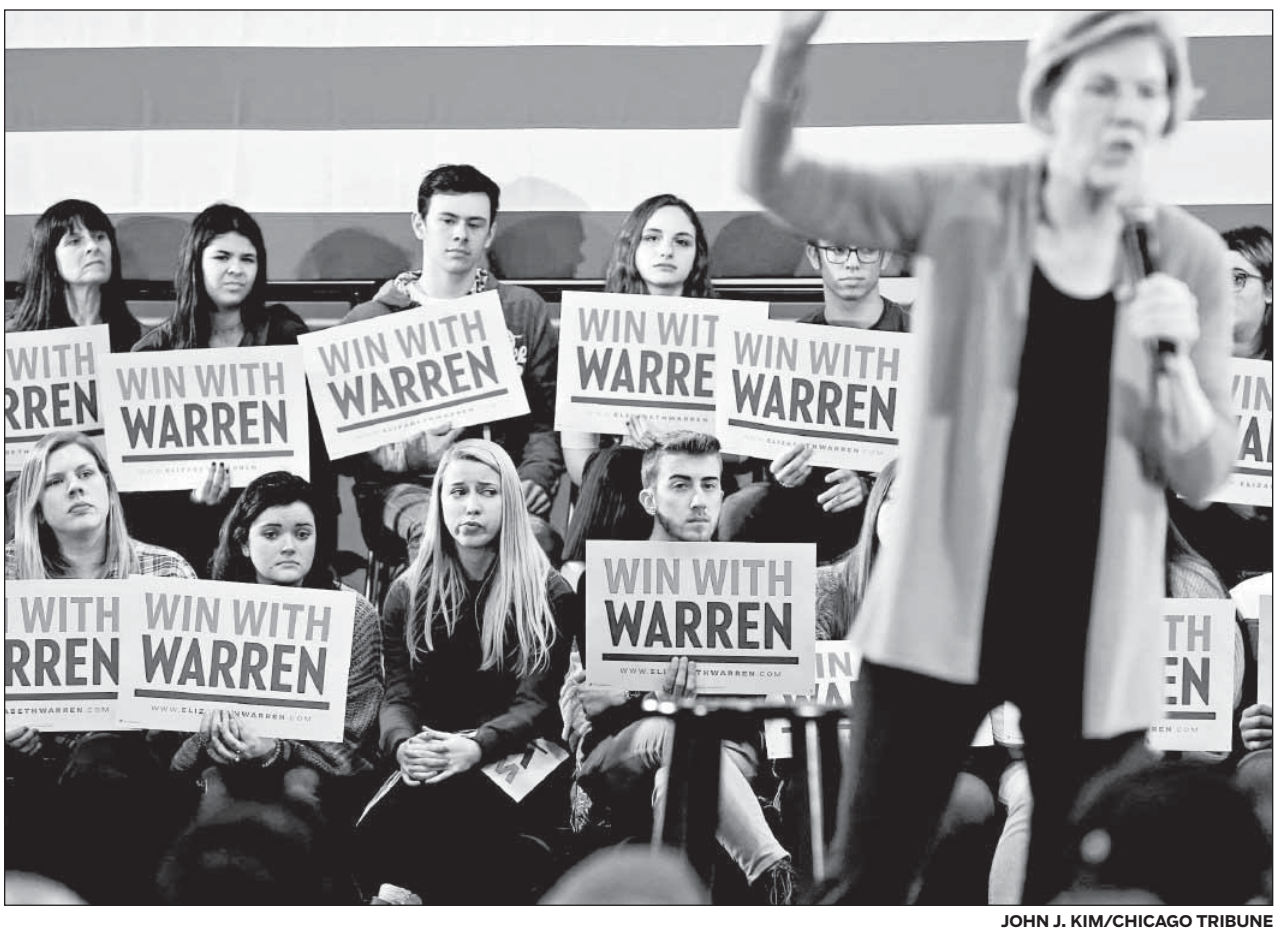
Just shut up and take it.

And don't forget to doff your cap.

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JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Supporters listen as presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren campaigns on Feb. 1 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Warren isn't out of race yet, so stop writing political obituary



MARY SCHMICH

Yoo hoo! Elizabeth Warren fans! Over here!

Yes, we're still here. Gather round. Scooch on in. We've been shoved into this little corner at the edge of the stage, but we're not leaving yet. The pundits' wind is bitter cold, and history is giving us the wary eye, and our friends are sniffing, "Get over it."

Nevertheless, we persist. So does Elizabeth Warren.

It's not that we Warren fans dislike the other Democratic candidates. Or maybe it's better to say that not all of us dislike all of them. Go Amy. Go Pete. Go Anybody Who Can Beat the Foul-Mouthed Autocrat-in-Chief.

What we don't like? It's the way Warren has been written out of the 2020 presidential race faster than you can say "Iowa and New Hampshire."

We all know what happened in Iowa and New Hampshire. Once again, two small, overwhelming white, not-very-urban states cast the first votes in the Democratic primary.

Two states. Out of 50. Two states with a white population above 90%, in a country far more diverse than that. Two states with a combined total population less than half of metro Chicago's. These two states, with unspectacular voter turnouts, have picked their favorite candidates, and Warren wasn't among them.

So R.I.P., Pocahontas!

(May as well get the Pocahontas-Fauxcahontas bit out of the way now and save certain readers the work of pointing it out.)

But here in the chilly sidelines of the political stage, we Warren fans aren't convinced an obituary is in order yet, despite the media dirges.

In many news reports Warren has become a footnote, or has vanished altogether, while the media gaze shifts to exciting new dramas.

Look! It's the "battle" between Sen. Bernie Sanders and Mayor Pete Buttigieg! It's the "surge" of Sen. Amy Klobuchar! And there's "billionaire" Mike Bloomberg "storming" Super Tuesday states!

Former Vice President Joe Biden's name stays in the headlines, too, because his decline from front-runner to laggard has been so tragically stark.

But Warren? Her swift "fall," as it's being called, has been less heralded than Biden's, though in the few days since the New Hampshire primary her name has been resurrected just long enough to bury it.

When the media repeat often enough that a candidate is doomed, the odds increase that they're right. Prophecies of doom sow seeds of doubt.

"What Happened to Elizabeth Warren?" asked The New Yorker.

"Elizabeth Warren faces a harsh reality after disappointing finishes," intoned CNN, which went on to warn that "no candidate in modern political history has overcome such dire finishes in the first two contests."

("Dire" means that she came in third in Iowa, ahead of Biden.)

A New York Times headline noted that Warren "said she did not want to 'burn down the rest of the party' in order to triumph. And then she lost in New Hampshire." The story's tone was elegiac.

All of these reports are based on facts. But truth is more than fact. Truth involves how facts are presented — and how facts are presented can affect what turns out to be true.

When the media repeat often enough that a candidate is doomed, the odds increase that they're right. Prophecies of doom sow seeds of doubt. All of us want to back a winner and when the seeds of doubt grow large enough, it's only natural, sometimes logical, to switch allegiances.

But the alacrity with which Warren has been hustled out of the story should put us on guard. We shouldn't let quickie postelection stories be the sum of what we know and think, or a guide to what we do.

The same is true of polls. According to a couple of polls, Warren faces doomsday again in South Carolina's upcoming primary.

On the other hand, there's a new Yahoo News/YouGov poll that suggests Warren is potentially stronger than it seems. That poll measures how each of the Democratic candidates would fare in a one-on-one contest with Sanders. He handily beats them all — except Warren, who trails him by only two points.

But, again, we should be wary of polls. Like political stories and opinions, they have their place, but they're not the whole truth. We, the people, decide the truth by voting.

Democratic voters in 48 more states will soon get a chance to express their opinion, and the questions we need to ask ourselves as we go vote will, of course, include: Who do I think can beat Donald Trump?

But we also need to ask: Who do I think will make a good president? Who is practical enough, ethical enough, experienced enough, tough enough to guide this big, crazy country? Who works well with others? Who can I trust? Who can I stand to listen to for the next four years?

It's too soon to assume that Elizabeth Warren isn't the answer.

Persist.

Twitter @MarySchmich

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LAST CALL FOR ALGREN CONTEST ENTRIES

OK, writers. This is it: Last call for submitting an entry to the 2020 Algren Awards contest.

Original short fiction must be submitted by 1 p.m. CST on Monday, Feb. 17.

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation has joined with the Chicago Tribune to present this year's contest. Writers are invited to submit their previously unpublished stories; the word limit is 8,000 words.

The grand prize winner will get $3,500. Also, five finalists will be honored.

The contest features a blind entry process, which means that authors' names cannot appear on the stories. This rule ensures that judges are able to evaluate each story on its own merits.

If a writer's name is on any of the entry's pages — including the story title page — it will be disqualified immediately.

For full submission guidelines and to submit your story, visit algren.submittable.com/submit.

— Margaret Holt, Standards Editor

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MARGARET HOLT, standards editor

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Chicago Tribune
CHICAGOLAND



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

An old neon sign stands at the defunct Car Town, a used car shop, in Chicago on Tuesday. Car Town is slated for demolition this week.

Neon signs disappearing from Chicago's streetscape, skyline

Business owners cite high cost of upkeep in phasing out lights

By Sophie Sherry

Neon signage used to adorn many buildings in Chicago's cityscape, from downtown to neighborhood business districts from Howard Street to 111th.

But through the years, many of the signs have disappeared, the victims of closing businesses, high maintenance costs and city fees that some companies aren't willing or able to pay.

With the signs' disappearance, a certain electricity and energy has vanished as well, according to Preservation Chicago Executive Director Ward Miller.

"The signs are really a significant feature of our Chicago skyline, and we've lost quite a few of them over time," Miller said recently.

This week, a large sign that reads "Car Town, Fine Automobiles, OK'd Cars" that has stood alongside a used car shop at 850 N. Western Ave. for decades is disappearing. What's left of Car Town is set to be demolished and the sign carted off to a buyer from California.

The buyer paid $7,500 for the sign itself and $5,000 for its removal, according to Karen Biazar, a real-estate consultant with North Clybourn Group. Biazar said the intention was never to destroy the sign, and it will now be used for a restaurant.

While this fate is far better than a scrap yard, its loss will have an impact on the look and feel of the block.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, used car shops and their signs lined Western and Cicero avenues from one end of the city to another, according to Miller.

"I remember being intrigued by the brightness and cheeriness of the signs," Miller said. "They had a sort of a carnival-like, celebratory atmosphere about them."

Lou Mitchell's, 565 W. Jackson Blvd., installed its neon and overhanging signs in the early 1950s. One of the restaurant's current owners, Nick Thanas, said people come from all over the world to take pictures with their signs.

While they may help attract business, the old signs also require a lot of upkeep.

The restaurant recently replaced 114 lightbulbs on its hanging sign, and the specialty bulbs needed for the sign are not cheap, Thanas said.

During his 30 years as an owner, he has replaced every single one of the transformers in the neon sign, each one the size of a small car battery.

To even get a sign in the first place, business owners must pay for a sign permit and public way use permit.

To get an initial sign permit, you need a zoning review and a review from the Buildings Department. An on-site zoning review costs $200, and the Buildings Department review costs between $50 and $1,000, according to the Buildings Department.

University of Chicago Law professor Beth Kregor said the entire process of permitting signs is incredibly complicated. People will buy a business with a historic sign and learn a permit was never issued for the sign.

In addition, public way permits for any sign that extends beyond the building must be renewed by business owners every five years.

Despite the additional expenses, Thanas said the restaurant has never really considered replacing its signs.

No one makes neon signs like his anymore, and more modern LED lights just do not have the same effect, according to Thanas.

"It's not the same," Thanas said. "It's the difference between vinyl and CDs."

Italian Village restaurant, 71 W. Monroe St., in the Loop, is also the proud owner of a large neon sign.

The Capitanini family opened the restaurant in 1927 and installed its sign in 1962. They wanted a sign that read left to right, like a newspaper, instead of up and down like many traditional neon signs.

This unique shape causes the sign to stick far out from the building, making it visible all the way down Monroe, according to General Manager Joe Deininger

The sign used to turn off after hours, but eight years ago, Deininger convinced the Capitaninis to keep it on all night.

Like Lou Mitchell's, Italian Village has no plans to change its signage.

The real risk of losing iconic signs, like these, comes when owners sell off historic property. Even if the building is protected under a landmark status, the sign may not be, preservationists say. There are two main types of landmark designations in Chicago: landmark buildings and landmark districts.

Landmark district protections could apply to features like signage, but that is not always the case, Miller said.

Sometimes signs are landmarked along with individual buildings, such as the signs on top of the Drake Hotel. Other times, just the building itself is landmarked and not its signs.

The Santa Fe railroad sign that used to sit on top of the Railway Exchange Building, 224 S. Michigan Ave., is an example of the latter.

Preservationists like Miller fought hard for the buildings along Michigan Avenue to be named a historic district.

In 2002, their efforts paid off, and a 12-block span of streetwall was designated the Historic Michigan Boulevard District.

In 2012, it was announced the iconic Santa Fe sign would be replaced with a Motorola sign for the building's new owner.

Miller was shocked to learn the sign was not protected under the landmark district.

The sign is at the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, Illinois, but moving the sign lost part of the city's history and continuity, Miller said.

Chicago needs to do more to encourage owners to maintain old signs, possibly through protections or ordinances if landmarks are not an option, Miller said.

"If there is some way to include these ideas and these features into the broader spectrum of landmarks protections, I think that's worthy of a robust conversation," Miller said.

8 children, ages 8 to 16, wounded in 5 city shootings

3 of them accidental, teenage boy in custody, all in span of 24 hours

By Deanese Williams-Harris and Madeline Buckley

At least eight children were wounded in five separate shootings in less than 24 hours on Friday and Saturday during a long weekend in Chicago, police said.

Police officials said three of the shootings were accidental, prompting a warning for parents to take precautions when they have weapons in the home.

"We've seen time after time how dangerous it is," said Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi.

About 10:20 p.m. Friday, an 8-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl were accidentally shot by a juvenile male relative at a residence in the Bronzeville neighborhood. The relative was playing with a weapon inside the home in the 4700 block of South Forrestville Avenue. The boy was shot in the shoulder, and the girl suffered a graze wound to the arm. Both were taken in fair condition to Comer Children's Hospital.

Guglielmi said the gun was secured in a lockbox, but the child who caused the gun to discharge found the key and took the gun to another house. The family was cooperative, and charges are unlikely, he said.

Earlier, about 8 p.m. on the West Side, a 7-year-old girl gained access to a weapon, and it discharged, striking an 11-year-old boy in the neck. The shooting happened in the 3100 block of West Fillmore Street in the Lawndale neighborhood.

The boy was taken in serious condition to Stroger Hospital.

In that case, family members told investigators that the weapon was in a locked room, according to Guglielmi. They said the key to the room was hidden, but the child was able to find the key.

About 12:15 p.m. Saturday, a 14-year-old girl was with a 15-year-old boy who was handling a weapon when it discharged, striking the girl in the cheek in the 2400 block of South Troy Street in the Little Village neighborhood, police said.

She was taken in fair condition to Stroger Hospital, and the boy was taken into custody.

Police said the shooting was accidental but were investigating to determine the circumstances leading up to it.

Guglielmi cautioned parents to lock away guns when they are in the home with young children, though he noted the parents in two of the cases appeared to have tried to do so. He also said people should take steps to educate themselves on how guns work, including taking classes.

"It's important to train people about how dangerous weapons can be," he said.

A South Side shooting that was not accidental wounded three more girls — two of them 14 and the other 15 — as well as three adults on Friday night, according to police.

They were shot shortly after 9 p.m. at the Parkway Gardens apartment complex in the 6500 block of South King Drive when what appeared to be a Valentine's Day celebration spilled into the hallway.

A 20-year-old man was shot in the face, chest and arm, and was taken in serious condition to the University of Chicago Medical Center. An 18-year-old man, who was shot multiple times in the leg, went to the same hospital, where he was listed in critical condition. The 15-year-old girl, who suffered wounds to a leg and a foot, was also being treated there.

The 14-year-old girl was in good condition with a wound to the leg at Stroger Hospital. The other 14-year-old girl was shot in the back, shoulder, leg and lower backside. She was in critical condition at Comer Children's Hospital.

A 23-year-old woman was also critically injured after she was shot in the back, head, abdomen and shoulder, police said. She was taken to Stroger Hospital.

About 4:52 p.m. Saturday, a 16-year-old boy was walking in the 400 block of East 113th Street in the Roseland neighborhood when shots were fired from a vehicle, and he was struck in the left thigh, police said. He was taken to Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn in good condition, police said. Detectives were investigating.

Tribune reporters Paige Fry, Javonte Anderson, Jeremy Gorner, and photographer John Kim contributed.

Bill would take welfare cases away from DCFS

Freund death prompts lawmaker to propose new McHenry agency

By Amanda Marrazzo

A law that would create an agency in McHenry County to handle local child welfare cases instead of the existing state agency has been proposed by a northwest suburban state representative.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Steve Reick, a Republican from Woodstock, was prompted by the death in April of 5-year-old AJ Freund, of Crystal Lake, who authorities said was beaten to death by his parents. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services came under fire for its handling of calls to AJ's home prior to his death.

The legislation, which would be called AJ's Law, would create a five-year pilot program in McHenry County that could be a model for the rest of the state, according to a news release from Reick's office. It would create an agency in the county that would be given all the powers and duties of the Children and Family Services Act and the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, according to the release.

Reick said that since AJ's death, he has been part of a bipartisan legislative working group examining "the operation" of DCFS.

"During that time one thing has become abundantly clear: DCFS is an agency in need of systemic change," Reick said. "The tragic death of AJ Freund has shined a bright light on the problems which exist in the agency as a whole and the McHenry County office in particular. The goal of this legislation is to create a framework to make this new county agency a model for the rest of the state. Under the jurisdiction of local government, the purpose of this new agency is to provide more responsive, effective and efficient child welfare services to the people of this community."

The agency would employ an executive director appointed by the chairman of McHenry County Board and subject to approval by the full board. The office would also employ 15 caseworkers, said David Kubik a spokesman for Reick's office. Hiring and control would all be handled at the county level, and the state would still provide funding for the employees, operations and the office, Kubik said.

The proposed law follows a letter written in October to DCFS by McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally.

"(T)he primary responsibility for protecting children in a community should belong to the community, not the State," Kenneally wrote.

A spokesman for DCFS referred a request for comment to the governor's office.

Jordan Abudayyeh, a spokeswoman for Gov. J.B. Pritzker, said in a statement that while the governor will work with lawmakers to protect children, the administration is "skeptical" that Reick's bill "would have the intended effect of improving services."

The state in December said two DCFS workers who were recommended for dismissal for their handling of a hotline investigation into AJ four months before his death are no longer employed with the agency. A third worker who also was recommended for dismissal resigned.

DCFS administrators have acknowledged mistakes in some of the agency's contacts with the family, and have since stepped up training and worked to reduce investigator caseloads. The agency hired more than 200 staff members last year after receiving a budget increase.

AJ's mother, JoAnn Cunningham, pleaded guilty in December to murdering her son. She is awaiting sentence.

AJ's body was found about a week after his father, Andrew Freund, made a fake 911 call reporting him missing. The child's body was found wrapped in plastic bags and buried in a shallow grave in Woodstock.

Andrew Freund remains charged with murder and other felonies in his son's death. His next court date is Feb. 27.

Both parents remain in custody in the McHenry County jail.

Amanda Marrazzo is a freelance reporter.

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Seclusion

Continued from **Page 1**



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Darla Knipe, who pulled son Isaiah out of his school, said she is disappointed in the state investigation of the Vermilion Association for Special Education.

were properly trained.

Investigators, at times, focused their inquiry narrowly. In three cases, they examined only the records of a single child and not the schools' overall practices, even though they had received the districts' complete seclusion records. They visited each of the eight school districts but spoke only to school administrators. They interviewed just three parents in all and no students.

In one district, the Eastern Illinois Area Special Education cooperative in Charleston, investigators concluded the law had been violated yet found the violations should not lead to a penalty because the district had improved its practices. The other district where the state found no violations was the Kaskaskia Special Education District, where investigators focused on a single student's experience.

The six school districts in violation were Black Hawk Area Special Education in East Moline, Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District in Frankfort, Northern Suburban Special Education District in Highland Park, the Special Education District of Lake County, Vermilion Association for Special Education in Danville and Tri-County Special Education in Carbondale.

Some districts are required to state, in writing, that they will follow the law, according to reports detailing the findings at each district. All must provide additional training for school employees, and some must regularly meet with state officials about their progress.

The state is not requiring schools to provide services such as counseling or tutoring to children who were mistreated by staff or harmed by seclusion.

Highland Park attorney Micki Moran, who specializes in special education law, questioned the state's decision to require more training for districts that did not follow the law, particularly because the investigation found only one district had failed to train staff properly on isolated timeout rules.

"This wasn't really lack of training. This was lack of following the training. This was going rogue," she said.

But ISBE officials said additional training and regular monitoring by the agency will help prevent misuse of seclusion in the future. School districts that don't comply with the corrective action they were assigned will be issued "additional penalties," an ISBE spokesman said. ISBE can issue sanctions that affect a district's funding, or refer cases to law enforcement or child welfare officials if it finds abuse or neglect.

A spokeswoman for Gov. J.B. Pritzker said the administration filed the complaints with ISBE to "ensure we are keeping students safe and secure" and is working with the General Assembly, where legislation is pending that would ban seclusion and limit physical restraint.

"The Governor believes that instituting stricter rules and upholding stringent standards around the use of seclusion is necessary and the administration continues to leave all options on the table when it comes to protecting our children," Jordan Abudayyeh said.

As part of ISBE's investigations, workers read and analyzed seclusion incidents for the eight districts under review, from November 2018 to November 2019. ISBE officials said they now are going through other districts' records and could open more investigations. As part of new state rules, all Illinois districts were required to submit three school years' worth of records to the state and must alert ISBE within 48 hours of a student being secluded or restrained.

"It's quite fair to say that there is no issue of 'case closed' for any school district in the state of Illinois at this time," ISBE legal officer Trisha Olson said.

State investigators found that at Illinois' largest special education cooperative, the Special Education District of Lake County, half of the 874 incidents of isolated timeout in the one-year period were not prompted by a safety concern, a violation of state law.

Investigators also found that some students were being repeatedly secluded within a short time period, but school workers did not document whether they had considered an alternate strategy. A ProPublica Illinois/Tribune investigation into one of the district's schools, Gages Lake, found child welfare officials had opened at least 21 abuse investigations in the previous year following reports that workers had grabbed children by the wrists, shoved them into walls and thrown them to the ground in the seclusion area.

SEDOL Superintendent Valerie Donnan said the district already had taken doors off the timeout spaces, provided additional staff training and hired more supervisors. "Our focused and collaborative efforts are making our schools a safer, more stable and supportive teaching and learning environment," she wrote in a statement.

At the Northern Suburban Special Education District in Highland Park, investigators found that nearly 44% of the 775 seclusions carried out there in one year had no documented safety reason, among other violations. Superintendent Kurt Schneider said in an email that the district's current practices focus on preventive strategies and meet the requirements of the law.

And at the Tri-County Special Education cooperative in Carbondale, investigators confirmed that students had been forced to perform tasks such as writing sentences or sitting for specified lengths of time to earn release from a seclusion room, a violation of the law exposed in the Tribune/ProPublica Illinois reporting. There, too, school workers had regularly secluded children for reasons other than safety and for longer than necessary — 21.5% of seclusions lasted more than 45 minutes, according to the state report. State rules required seclusion to end no more than 30 minutes after a child's unsafe behavior ended.

Tri-County also was cited for its potentially dangerous timeout spaces; the investigation documented exposed pipes with sharp metal edges and ledges that students could climb. Investigators cited records that questioned whether school workers could see students in seclusion rooms, as required by the law. "Student refused to move where staff could see him," one incident report stated.

Tri-County Director Jan Pearcy said in an email that the cooperative is complying with the corrective action requirements.

The Vermilion Association for Special Education, where investigators focused on the seclusion of one 10-year-old boy profiled in the story, was cited for poor documentation and insufficient parent notification, and told that it had violated the boy's rights under special education law. ISBE said the district must train its staff on the state rules by Feb. 21. The district director did not respond to a request for comment.

The boy's mother, Darla Knipe of Danville, said she was upset that a state investigator spoke with her for only about 20 minutes, did not examine the district's frequent use of physical restraints and did not enforce more penalties. "They hurt him during restraints. Nothing was mentioned about that," she said. "The school should be held liable for more."

At the Black Hawk Area Special Education District in East Moline, nearly 23% of seclusions had no documented safety reason, the state review found. Christan Schrader, the district's director, said Black Hawk cooperated with ISBE investigators and already has conducted additional training.

"We are continuing to partner with parents to be transparent about all interventions used to help students manage their emotions and behavior in school," Schrader wrote in an email.

State officials also cited the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education district, in Chicago's southwest suburbs, for unlawfully using seclusion. But the investigation focused only on one child named in the ProPublica Illinois/Tribune article, a boy who had been placed in isolated timeout for many hours at the beginning of this school year.

The state investigation examined records from 41 incidents of seclusion involving the 9-year-old boy and found no documented safety reason in 12 of them. The records, covering five weeks at the start of this school year, showed he was in isolated timeout for a total of 1,140 minutes, or 19 hours, according to the ISBE findings. The district must now provide a written statement that it will follow new state rules and provide staff training by March. A district official did not respond to a request for comment.

The boy's mother, Angie Martin, said the repercussions are too light — particularly since the school already has to follow new rules — and that staff members should be held accountable. She said the state investigator spoke with her for only 10 minutes.

"You're admitting the school isn't doing by law what they are supposed to be doing, but it's like, 'OK, we're just going to move on now,' " she said. "I'm kind of dumbfounded by it. No wonder schools don't follow the rules and regulations — there's no repercussions."

At the Kaskaskia Special Education District, where state officials also looked at one child's records, the investigation found no evidence that the 7-year-old boy had been put in isolated timeout and therefore did not cite the district for any violations. School records showed he had been put in a timeout area within his classroom for behavior including stomping his feet and "pouting," but he wasn't isolated, according to the state report.

Laura Myers, the student's mother, said she spoke with an ISBE investigator for 13 minutes and was disappointed that the investigation didn't examine the use of physical restraint on her son or look into the district as a whole. An ISBE spokesman said officials "comprehensively investigated each complaint and will continue to monitor."

The news organizations' broader review of the district's school, Bridges Learning Center near Centralia, found isolated timeout had been used 1,288 times there in 15 months. The 12,371 pages of records provided to reporters showed children regularly were placed in seclusion because they were disobedient or disruptive, reasons that violated the law.

"It makes me sick that they aren't taking it any farther than this," Myers said. "It was a way for them to say, 'We did something about it,' but they aren't really doing anything about it."

The district told the state investigator the complaint against it was "baseless" and said staff had used the five booths only when necessary. The district director did not respond to a request for comment.

In a response included in the state report, the Kaskaskia Special Education District said: "The District expresses profound disappointment and frustration that its compliance with state regulations — which include documenting each instance of isolated timeout and physical restraint — and baseless speculation by parents and journalists have resulted in it being demonized as an institution that frightens and harms children with disabilities."

ISBE said the state recently opened a second review related to the boy's restraints at school and could pursue a broader investigation. "The remaining records from the District are still under review; therefore, the need to open a systemic review is yet to be determined," an ISBE spokesman said in a statement.

Investigators also found no violations at the Eastern Illinois Area Special Education district in Charleston despite determining that the district had regularly secluded students for an unlawful reason: noncompliant behavior.

The investigator noted that a review of documentation showed that employees had recently stopped isolating children for not following directions and had therefore "addressed the issue." An ISBE spokesman said the agency does not issue violations when no corrective action is necessary. The district director did not respond to a request for comment.

Zena Naiditch, president of disability rights watchdog Equip for Equality, said the organization supports parents' desire to have the state conduct additional investigation into some districts.

"A quality investigation is timely, thorough and objective," she said. ISBE needs to help schools change their culture and ensure that "appropriate consequences are given to noncompliant schools and that schools are ordered to provide help to student victims."

Jennifer Smith Richards is a Chicago Tribune reporter. Jodi S. Cohen is a reporter for ProPublica Illinois.

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ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Laura Myers hugs her son, who does not speak but can sign a few words, before bedtime in their Centralia home. Myers said she spoke with an ISBE investigator for 13 minutes.



TRI-COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION

Tri-County Special Education was cited for its timeout spaces. A space at Jonesboro Elementary is seen above.



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Special Education District of Lake County's Gages Lake serves young students with behavioral disabilities.

Lawmakers hope to garner support for ballot question

Amendment would alter redistricting process in Illinois

By Antonia Ayres-Brown and Dan Petrella

Twice defeated in the Illinois Supreme Court, advocates for stripping lawmakers of the power to draw legislative district boundaries are making a push to put a proposed amendment to the state constitution on the November ballot before the lines are set for another decade.

While the previous efforts aimed to get the issue on the ballot through petition-driven citizen initiatives, the latest attempt is backed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers who hope to gather enough support from colleagues to get the question on the fall ballot.

A proposed state constitutional amendment filed Thursday in the Illinois House and an identical version filed Friday in the Senate would put the power to redraw state legislative and congressional district maps in the hands of an independent, citizen-led commission.

Similar measures are introduced perennially in Springfield but routinely fail to gain the three-fifths majorities needed in each chamber to be placed on the ballot.

"Politicians picking their voters clearly is the epitome of a conflict of interest," said Madeleine Doubek, the executive director of CHANGE Illinois, a nonpartisan organization that advocates for redistricting reform. "When politicians are protected by rigged maps, some of them come to believe they can act with impunity."

Redistricting occurs every 10 years after the U.S. census to account for changes in population, with the next map set to be drawn in 2021. This spring is the last chance for Illinois legislators to put the question to voters before new maps are drawn.

Under the Illinois Constitution, legislative district boundaries are determined by the General Assembly, often behind closed doors. The introduction of the proposed amendment comes two weeks after some legislators criticized Gov. J.B. Pritzker for not discussing the issue in his State of the State address.

Pritzker, who supported taking lawmakers out of the redistricting process when campaigning for governor, has said he'll veto any partisan map that reaches his desk. That's little comfort to Republican lawmakers, who note the Democratic supermajorities in the House and Senate could override his veto.

The state Supreme Court struck down previous petition-driven attempts to change the constitution, saying they failed the limited test for getting a citizen initiative on the ballot to alter the document. Those rulings have basically determined that only lawmakers themselves can change the method for redrawing legislative districts, which would run counter to the self-interest of legislators.

Absent the amendment going through, the next redrawing in 2021 would be done by Democrats, who control the governor's office and the legislature, and can approve a new map through legislation without any Republican input.

House Speaker Michael Madigan, who holds significant control over the map-drawing process and also chairs the state Democratic Party, opposed a proposed referendum in 2016 on the grounds that it could harm minority representation in the General Assembly.

Backers of the latest plan say its language mirrors state and federal voting rights laws.

Democratic Sen. Melinda Bush, of Grayslake, one of the Senate sponsors of the proposal, said it's up to rank-and-file lawmakers to put pressure on leaders to make sure the measure is called for a vote.

"I believe that if we have a mass of legislators that want this amendment to move forward and be on the ballot, that that's the way that leaders are going to pay attention, know we're serious," Bush said. "It has to be bipartisan."

The proposal, co-sponsored in the Senate by Republican Sen. John Curran, of Woodridge, would create a 17-person commission, to be appointed by the state Supreme Court's chief justice and the most senior justice of a different political party.

The commission would consist of three nonpartisan members and 14 partisan members, split equally between the two parties. The proposed constitutional amendment would tackle gerrymandering — the process by which politicians draw districts to their political advantage — by requiring 11 of the 17 commissioners to approve the redrawn maps.

Amid an ongoing federal corruption probe that has resulted in criminal charges against three current and former state lawmakers, the time is ripe for giving voters a say in the redistricting process, supporters say. They argue that allowing the party in power to draw safe districts allows incumbents to become entrenched and stifles competition.

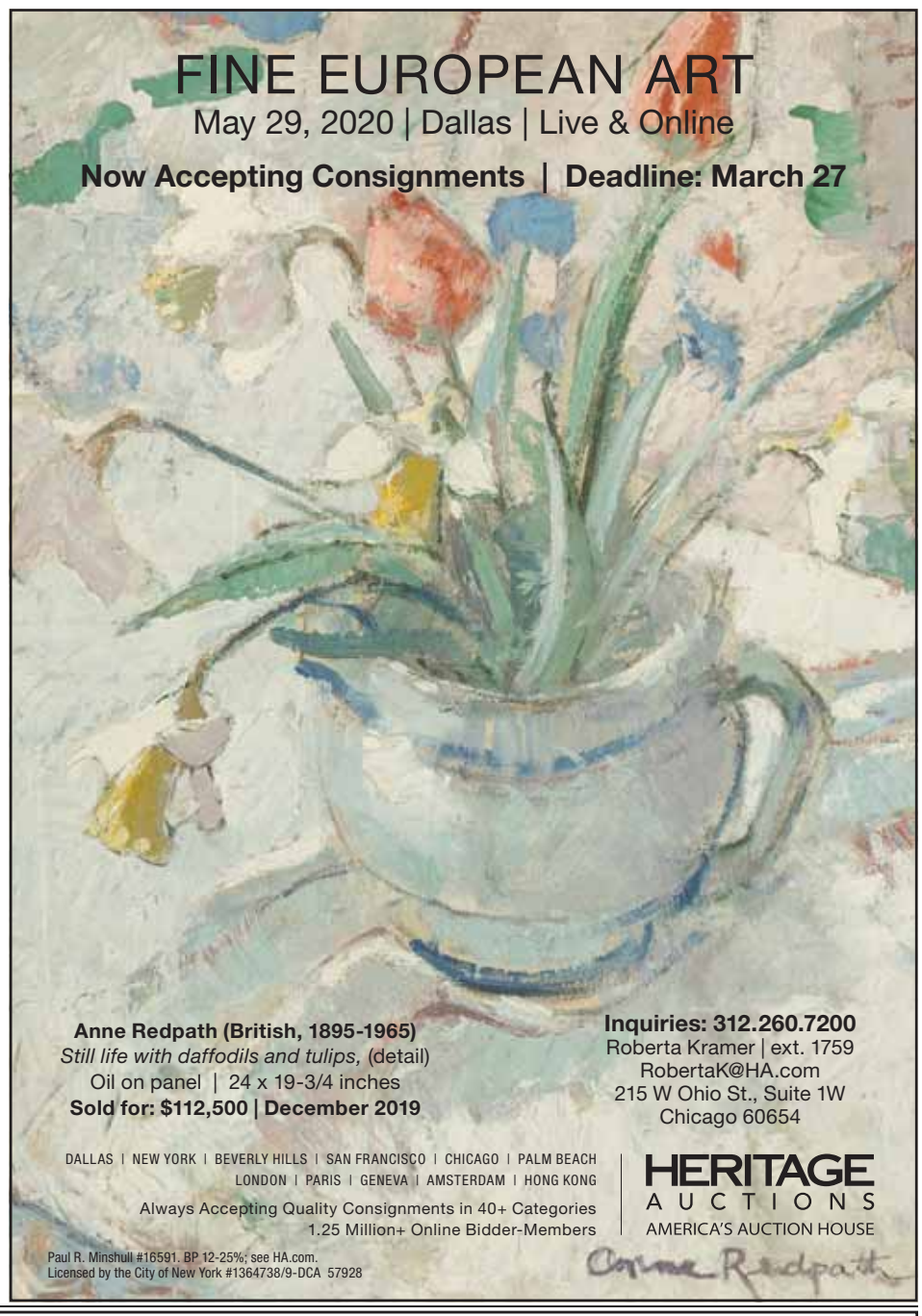
"If you want to root out corruption in this state, this is the place where we need to start," said Republican Sen. Dan McConchie of Lake Zurich.

A poll last year from Southern Illinois University's Paul Simon Public Policy Institute found 67% of Illinois voters supported putting redistricting in the hands of an independent commission instead of the legislature.

The poll of 1,000 voters was conducted March 11-17 for the Simon Institute and had a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points. The sample results skewed to a majority of male voters, and the results were not weighted to reflect the state's racial or ethnic voting population.

Lawmakers have until May 3 to approve the proposed amendment. If the proposal makes it to the ballot, it would need approval from 60% of those voting on the question or a majority of those voting in the election to be adopted.

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The Forefront
HEALTH AND SCIENCE NEWS



Robotic cardiac surgery care team, from left: Rosanna Confessor, Kaitlin Grady, Dr. Husam Balkhy, Leilani Miles, Shaune Sanico, Aileen Gonzalez, Dr. Gianluca Torregrossa and Sylvia Ochoa

CARTER from cover

Tung and cardiac surgeon Husam Balkhy, MD, had recently collaborated on the first totally endoscopic robotic epicardial ablation for a patient with a ventricular arrhythmia.

"Shawn's situation was dire," Tung said. "But we told him we would find an innovative way to take care of him." Carter was airlifted from a hospital in Santa Rosa, Calif., to UChicago Medicine.

Tung's team planned for Carter's two-part ablation treatment. Using a sophisticated mapping system, they created a 3-D reconstruction of his heart detailing the patterns and points of abnormal electrical activity.

In the first procedure, Tung and his team threaded a catheter through a large vein in Carter's leg into his heart and delivered radiofrequency energy to destroy dysfunctional tissue.

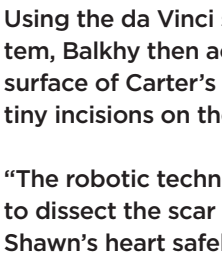
Using the da Vinci surgical robot system, Balkhy then accessed the outer surface of Carter's heart through three tiny incisions on the side of his chest.

"The robotic technology enabled us to dissect the scar tissue surrounding Shawn's heart safely using this least invasive approach," Balkhy said. "Once the heart muscle was exposed, we were able to find and eliminate the sources of arrhythmias on the outside of his heart."

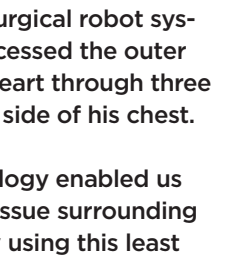
The two minimally invasive procedures were successful and the electrical systems in Carter's heart were stabilized.

Today, Carter, 53, no longer takes cardiac medications. Although he feels an occasional palpitation, none has lasted long enough for his defibrillator to record or treat. He is back to his baseline fitness level, with a regimen of lifting weights and high intensity interval training five days a week.

If Carter's heart needs more treatment in the future, his UChicago Medicine care team will be ready. "Shawn is forever in our family," Tung said.



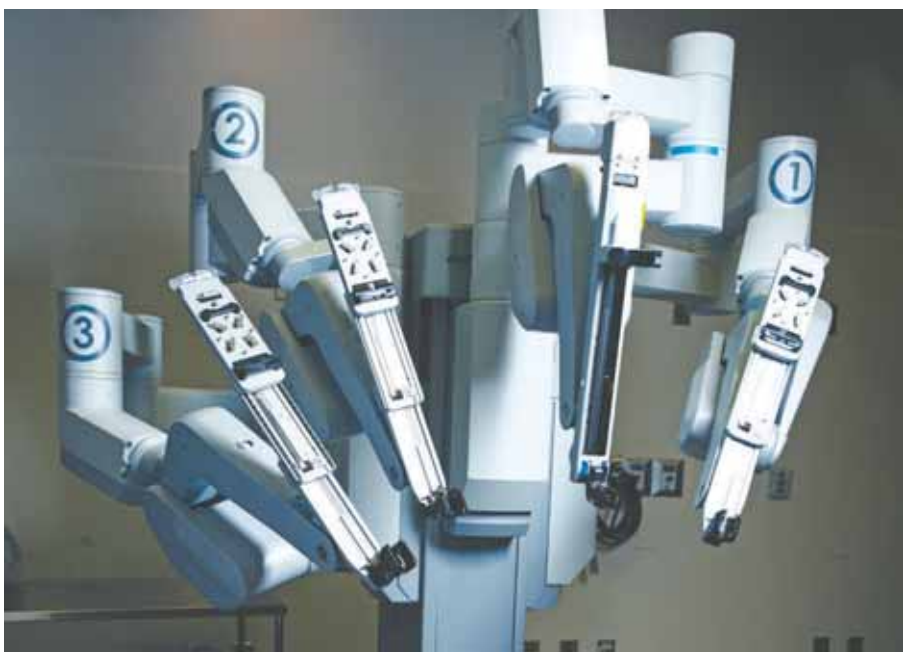
Andrew Beaser, MD



Roderick Tung, MD

AT THE FOREFRONT LIVE

Watch "At the Forefront Live" as heart rhythm specialists Roderick Tung, MD, and Andrew Beaser, MD, join us to discuss the diagnosis and management of heart rhythm disorders, or arrhythmias. **UChicagoMedicine.org/heart-rhythm-live**



Robotic procedures offer several advantages compared to open-chest operations

Hospital stays reduced by about
50%

SHORTER HOSPITAL STAYS

5–7 days with open-heart

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

1–3 days with robotic

Incision sizes reduced by about
90%

SMALLER INCISIONS, LITTLE SCARRING

About 8 inches with open-heart surgery

Less than 1 inch with robotic

Recovery time reduced by about
84%

FASTER RETURN TO NORMAL ACTIVITIES

3–6 months with open-heart

2–4 weeks with robotic

FEWER COMPLICATIONS

The operation is performed without splitting the breastbone, reducing the risk of postsurgical complications and infection.

QUICKER RESOLUTION OF PAIN

Acetaminophen or aspirin is often enough to manage pain after hospital discharge.

MITRAL VALVE from cover

just too hard for me to climb up to the very top," Mowers said.

The Elmhurst resident had already endured two open-heart surgeries since 2008 at another Chicago hospital. The first surgery was to repair his mitral valve, which directs blood into the heart's main pumping chamber. The repair failed a few months later, and Mowers had a second open-heart surgery to replace the diseased valve with a bioprosthetic valve.

Soon after his trip to France, Mowers learned holes had developed around his mitral valve that were leaking blood, causing congestion in his lungs and leading to severe anemia.

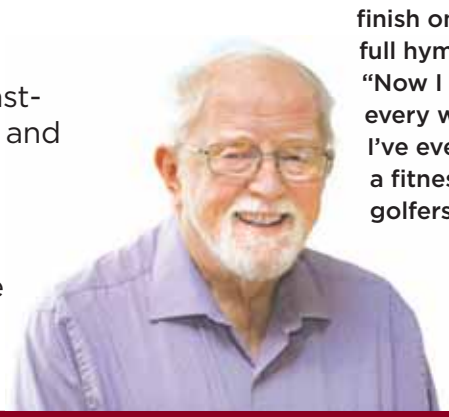
His doctors believed he was too frail to undergo a third open-heart surgery, so they opted for nonsurgical, catheter-based procedures to stop the leaking. But nothing worked for long. Mowers grew increasingly weaker.

In September 2018, Mowers met with UChicago Medicine cardiac surgeon Husam Balkhy, MD, Director of the Robotic and Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery Program, who agreed to take on his challenging case.

"It was a complex surgery," Balkhy said. "We ended up taking out all the old plugs and replacing the mitral valve, and we completely avoided opening up his chest. Everything was done through small incisions, the largest being about 2 centimeters in length, and he recovered beautifully."

For Mowers, this minimally invasive and robotic approach resulted in fewer complications, a faster recovery time and an earlier return to normal activity. "I felt better immediately," he said.

It's been more than a year since Mowers' robotic heart surgery, and he's back to singing and staying active. "I normally sing in the choir, but after the first open-heart surgery, I did not even have enough strength or breath to finish one verse of a full hymn," he said. "Now I exercise every week, and I've even started a fitness class for golfers."



Jim Mowers

Controversy reveals reform divide

Smollett case shows Foxx's efforts fall on racial, class lines

By Lolly Bowean and Gregory Pratt



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, seen on Dec. 31, continues to face criticism for her handling of the Smollett case.

In his Back of the Yards parish, where Father David Kelly and staff work with citizens returning home from prison in need of housing, jobs and a second chance, he says the name Jussie Smollett hardly ever gets mentioned.

So when Kelly and his team at Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation think about Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, he said, they think about restorative justice practices and bail reform — not the case against the former "Empire" actor that is getting much of the attention a month before the March 17 primary election.

"People in my circle and people who are working on the front lines in regards to communities impacted by violence and incarceration, we support her and what she's trying to do," said Kelly, who noted he does not make political endorsements. "No one ever speaks to Jussie Smollett — he's not even an issue here. We are dealing with real issues in regards to young people finding an alternative to carrying guns, young people feeling listened to and supported, young people finding jobs."

He added: "We believe you don't just prosecute because you can."

As the Cook County state's attorney's race kicks into high gear, the Smollett case has revealed a deep divide in Chicago and the region over what criminal justice looks like and just how its principles are applied. That divide often has been along racial and class lines, pitting residents who live in majority white, higher-income communities who say a prosecutor should be tough, against residents in lower-income black and brown neighborhoods where there are calls for the top prosecutor to be fair and forgiving.

The divide over Foxx and what a prosecutor should be was perhaps most visible last spring when the Smollett case sparked dueling protests downtown. But it has resurfaced again just weeks before the election after a special prosecutor had Smollett indicted for allegedly staging a hate crime against himself to boost his acting career, reversing Foxx's decision last year to drop all charges.

Dan Webb, the special prosecutor, said a further prosecution of Smollett was "in the interest of justice" based on factors that included "the extensive nature" of his alleged falsehoods, the time and money police devoted to the initial investigation and the strength of the original case Foxx's office brought against the actor. Webb said in his statement that his investigation into how Foxx's office handled the case was ongoing, but he said that did not necessarily mean anyone committed any wrongdoing.

Still, his office determined that it "disagrees" with how the state's attorney's office handled the case and said prosecutors were "unable to provide" evidence Smollett was treated the same as other low-level offenders.

Foxx was elected in 2016 among a wave of prosecutors who vowed to reform the criminal justice system by placing less emphasis on low-level offenders and working to get wrongly convicted residents their freedom. Now she, along with many of those same prosecutors across the country, is facing backlash from residents and groups who support traditional law enforcement strategies, experts and political observers say.

"Identity politics are very much a part of this," said Lucy Lang, executive director for the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College where Foxx is an advisory board member along with a handful of other prosecutors. "It bears noting that across the country, female prosecutors of color are experiencing a degree of pushback, and even vitriol."

The pushback demonstrates that the two communities experience the criminal justice system in two dramatically different ways.

"This is a prosecutor who ran on a platform of not prosecuting low-level offenses that have been harmful to communities of color across generations," said Lang, a former assistant district attorney in Manhattan. "A decision was made that was consistent with what she said she would do when she was running for office. Folks who don't like it, my suspicion is these are the same people who never shared her vision."

Despite the controversy, Foxx has racked up scores of endorsements from African American ministers as well as high-profile politicians, including Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth and Democratic presidential candidates Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Meanwhile, Foxx's opponents have had to straddle a fine line opposing her office's actions in the Smollett case while still favoring criminal justice policies that go after violent offenders and attempting to appeal to people who will be casting ballots in the Democratic primary election.

In Cook County, voters generally have supported bond reform efforts and measures that increase penalties on violent criminals while taking a more tolerant view on lesser offenses. That's reflected by candidates' stances, which emphasize the need for a "balanced" justice system. Foxx's challenger Bill Conway, for instance, has stressed that the system should "prioritize humane treatment while ensuring dangerous offenders stay in jail."

But some counter that the criminal justice pendulum has swung too far the other way, showing too much leniency to people caught breaking the law.

"Maybe we've been too tough on stuff we shouldn't be so tough on like pot, but she's too soft on hardened criminals," Sposato said. "The Smollett thing was the nail in the coffin."

Former Ald. Joe Moore, who represented Far North Side Rogers Park for nearly 30 years, said many white voters view the Smollett case as "symbolic about what they fear is a softening on prosecutions and a soft approach to crime."

"They're more concerned about just locking up the bad guys — the very traditional view of what prosecutors should do, that prosecutors should prosecute and I think Foxx has a more nuanced view and exercises her discretion to concentrate most of their energy and resources on violent crimes and gun crimes," said Moore, who supports Foxx.

When asked about the Smollett case on Friday, as she was picking up Duckworth's public endorsement, Foxx noted that it was just one of the high-profile cases her office has handled during her tenure. Foxx pointed to her office's work prosecuting singer R. Kelly and taking steps to find potential accusers to come forward, as well as securing convictions against the men responsible for killing 9-year-old Tyshawn Lee and 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton.

Foxx said she'll take the criticism on behalf of prosecutors in her office who work on cases that may not "elevate to the top of a headline."

"We'll also tout the work of the courageous men and women of our office who show up every day and do the work that people don't write about," Foxx said, "and that is an honor."

Foxx and other reform prosecutors have the tough job of challenging a powerful and strong old vanguard that embraces a system that historically has been heavy-handed, said Bruce Western, co-director of the Justice Lab at Columbia University.

The reform prosecutors answer to two very different constituencies, Western said. One constituency hears about crime and violence and tends to think punishment and prison are the way to address it, while another experiences crime and violence but also has to live with heavy policing, intense arrests and the many layers of law enforcement.

"Often the criminal justice system has a very simplistic moral frame — the world is divided into victims and offenders and the prosecutor's job is to keep the victims safe from offenders," he said. "But the way the criminal justice system operates in real life doesn't meet that simplistic frame."

And so Foxx has to reckon with working within a system that upholds the law but also causes damage.

"She is approaching a challenging question: How, as a prosecutor, can you play a positive role in harmed communities, given the history of the position," he said. "For the reform prosecutor at some level ... it's a kind of civil rights activism. Their vision of public safety has to consider that the system they oversee has been harmful to their community."

In Chicago, some advocates for reforming the criminal justice system feel dismayed by the unfolding political campaign.

When she was head of the Black Youth Project, Charlene Carruthers was one of the activists calling for reform at the Cook County state's attorney's office — in part because officials in leadership seemed reluctant to hold police accountable for shooting unarmed black and brown people.

As she's watched the rhetoric around the Smollett case during this campaign season, Carruthers said she has found herself frustrated.

"This is a lot of dog whistling ... it reveals what some people are about," she said. "They care more about this minor case that is riddled with confusion than they care about police corruption, than they care about creating safe communities, than they care about creating a city where our resources are used to strengthen communities rather than jail people.

"It feels so disingenuous."

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Judge: Foxx's office can keep its private lawyers in Smollett probe

By Megan Crepeau

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's office can continue to use private lawyers to represent it in the special prosecutor's investigation of the Jussie Smollett matter, a judge ruled Friday.

In addition, Judge Michael Toomin issued a broad shutdown of Sheila O'Brien, the retired appellate judge who tried to challenge Foxx's use of outside attorneys — saying she could no longer file any paperwork in the Smollett case without his explicit permission.

O'Brien last year successfully argued that a special prosecutor should be appointed to probe the hot-button Smollett case. After Toomin appointed veteran attorney Dan Webb in August, Foxx's office retained ex-federal judge Ruben Castillo's firm to assist it in cooperating with the investigation.

O'Brien filed paperwork last month that the Illinois attorney general's office has a duty to represent state officials in such circumstances.

But the state's attorney has every right to hire outside lawyers in specialized matters or when the office itself doesn't have the manpower to address an issue, Assistant State's Attorney Cathy McNeil Stein argued Friday.

Before retaining Castillo's firm, the office already expended significant resources to cooperate with O'Brien's special prosecutor petition, as well as a separate probe by the county inspector general, she said.

"This office has taken lawyers that are supposed to be doing the good work of the county ... and pulled them away from that," she said.

Webb himself said he saw nothing out of the ordinary about working with Castillo's team, with which he has been communicating for months.

"We found it to be routine and ordinary," he said in court.

Toomin agreed, saying it was a commonly accepted practice to let outside attorneys handle certain matters for county prosecutors, and if anything looked wrong with the invoices, the county board would decline to pay.

And O'Brien, who filed numerous longshot motions leading up to Toomin's appointment of the special prosecutor, can no longer try to intervene in the Smollett matter without the judge's say-so.

"Although Ms. O'Brien did a service to the county in filing the petition she did ... that ended with the order of the court granting parts of the petition," Toomin said. "She does not have the standing here today to bring any other action."

The Smollett case has drawn national attention and continues to fuel criticism as Foxx faces a reelection fight.

Police concluded that the actor staged the attack near his home in Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood last January, hiring two brothers to carry out the hoax while using racist and homophobic slurs and shouting that he was in MAGA country — a reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan.

Smollett was charged with faking the crime, but Foxx's office abruptly dropped all 16 counts of disorderly conduct with little explanation at an unannounced court hearing.

The legal fallout continues to reverberate. In August, Webb — a former U.S. attorney — was named a special prosecutor and given a broad mandate to investigate the case, including looking into if Smollett should again be criminally charged for his actions that night.

On Tuesday, the case took a new twist, as Webb announced that his special grand jury had indeed reindicted Smollett on six counts of disorderly conduct. The actor is expected back in court Feb. 24.

Webb's probe of prosecutors' action in the case remains ongoing.

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Gun

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The Miller murder-suicide serves as yet another indictment of the system's failure to effectively reduce the growing backlog of people deemed too dangerous to possess firearms. The issue first came to light on Feb. 15, 2019, after a convicted felon fatally shot five co-workers and wounded several others, including five police officers, at the Henry Pratt Co. warehouse in Aurora with a pistol he never should have been allowed to keep.

Disgruntled employee Gary Martin had been ordered to relinquish that handgun five years earlier, after authorities discovered he erroneously had been issued a Firearm Owner's Identification Card and purchased the Smith & Wesson despite a felony conviction for beating his girlfriend with a baseball bat. He never complied, and authorities never followed through, leaving the weapon available for him to kill his colleagues before dying in a shootout with police.

The tragedy prompted frightening admissions from police about the depth of the revocation problem and their difficulty addressing it without additional resources. A Tribune investigation in the months that followed found their warnings justified, with about 80% of revoked cardholders failing to account for their guns with local law enforcement.

Since the Aurora shooting and a year after officials sounded the alarms, the number of revoked FOID cardholders who have not accounted for their guns rose 14%, from 26,797 in February 2019 to 30,602 people in December.

This increase means an additional 5,800 firearms may still be in the possession of people ineligible to possess them — a nearly 20% jump over the same time period. All told, at least 36,600 guns remain unaccounted for in Illinois, according to state records.

"We've made minimal progress at best," said Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, an early proponent for revocation reforms. "We need to get very serious about this. ... When you see the numbers we are looking at, the public would be rightfully scratching their heads."

Just as Martin and Miller ignored orders to relinquish their weapons, the Illinois Senate ignored law enforcement's pleas for help enforcing rescinded FOID cards.

And in doing so, those legislators ignored the risk posed to people such as Colton Miller, a little boy who loved monster trucks, Batman and his big sister.

When his mother held his body for the last time at the funeral home, Colton had a prosthetic skull to replace the one his father destroyed with bullets. It's a fate no mother should have to endure, but one that seemed particularly cruel to Tanner Miller, who left her husband a year before so her children could grow up in a home free from domestic violence and drug use.

Five months after Colton's death, Tanner Miller struggles to understand how a system that legally declares people too menacing to possess firearms does so little to ensure that they actually relinquish their weapons.

"A gun didn't kill my son," Tanner Miller said. "A criminal who was not supposed to have a gun anymore killed him."

'It's not all hopeless'

In the wake of the Pratt shooting, Illinois State Police made major changes to how FOID card revocation details are shared among law enforcement, taking the unprecedented step of creating a portal listing every revoked cardholder statewide.

The database, which is accessible to most police departments, includes crucial details about firearms purchasing history for each revoked cardholder and the reason for the revocation. It also states whether revoked FOID holders have turned in their cards and legally transferred their guns to someone else's possession.

The new database has been accessed 13,000 times by some 600 law enforcement agencies, according to Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly, who has made revocation compliance a top priority since taking office shortly before the Pratt shooting.

The state also has led 200 revocation missions since May, Kelly said. The number of returned firearm disposition records — paperwork confirming revoked cardholders have legally transferred any weapons — has doubled in the past year from 2,039 in 2018 to 4,219 in 2019.

The Tribune found the compliance rate among revoked FOID holders improved from to 22% to 27% since the newspaper first reported on the state's backlog in May. The updated records span nearly five years, from March 2015 to the end of 2019.



Miller

"It's not all hopeless," Kelly said. "Since the tragedy in Aurora, there has been real progress made."

While police agencies improved compliance rates on new revocations, there has been little progress on those that existed prior to the Pratt shooting. The Tribune's analysis of once closely held Illinois State Police data — including how often each rescinded cardholder made a serious inquiry about purchasing a gun from a licensed dealer — shows that the ballooning backlog poses a public safety threat to every county in Illinois.

Statewide, about 7 of every 10 revoked FOID cardholders still failed to account for their firearms, the data shows. In some communities, that rate exceeded 90%.

The backlog changes almost daily, but there has never been time when those compliant with their revocation orders outpaced those who flouted them.

Among other findings in the Tribune's investigation:

- Domestic violence-related infractions are still the most common reason for a resident's card to be revoked, followed by mental health concerns and felony convictions.
- The state rescinded more than 3,400 FOID cards for domestic violence-related reasons since the Pratt shooting. Of those former cardholders, 73% have not accounted for any guns.

"The fact is without additional resources to be able to remove illegally possessed (firearms) ... the odds still remain too high that another tragedy will occur," Kelly said. "We have been able to cobble this together but that means we have to sacrifice in other areas. But if we are going to have any chance of reaching anything close to 100% compliance then we have to have additional resources."

To reduce the backlog, state Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Addison, proposed legislation that, among other things, would have raised the FOID application fee from $10 for a 10-year FOID card to $20 for five years. Some of the additional revenue would have funded law enforcement teams to track down revoked cardholders and account for their weapons.

The legislation — which also included a fingerprint requirement for more thorough criminal background checks before applicants obtain a FOID card — sparked heated debate as members of the gun rights community objected to the fee increase as a Second Amendment infringement and vowed to sue if it passed. Many gun advocates told the Tribune they support keeping firearms away from those barred by law, but they object to FOID cardholders bearing the cost alone.

The Illinois House ultimately approved the bill in a 62-52 vote that followed about three hours of impassioned speeches on the House floor.

Despite optimism that it would move through the Senate, it stalled there with Democratic sponsors acknowledging they ran out of time to sway lawmakers who feared curtailing Second Amendment rights.

"I was disappointed it didn't pass in the Senate," said Rep. John Connor, D-Lockport. "There's no guarantee that the legislation would have prevented Colton's murder. But it sure would have put some things in place that could have."

'It's not about taking away anyone's rights'

Two weeks after Miller's arrest in 2018, Illinois State Police sent a letter to Miller, Joliet police and the Will County sheriff's office informing them that Miller's FOID card was revoked, an ISP spokeswoman said. Joliet police say they have no record of receiving the notification, and Will County had no jurisdiction over the matter because Miller lived in neighboring Kendall County.

Miller told his wife about the revocation notice and promised to take care of it. Tanner Miller, who was eight months pregnant with Colton and struggling in the abusive marriage, assumed police would ensure he complied or arrest him again.

The Joliet Police Department had one of the state's few dedicated revocation compliance teams before the Pratt shooting, but the four-member task force only works on FOID cases about once a week. The bulk of the team's investigations focus on burglaries, robberies and home invasions.

With a current backlog of about 600 rescinded cardholders who haven't accounted for their guns, Joliet currently does not have the money or the personnel needed to clear the list and handle the incoming revocations, a department spokesman said. Most communities wouldn't be able to do it either.

"Having funding for a dedicated multijurisdictional task force — state, county and city — that exclusively focuses on FOID revocations could help address the backlog and address new revocations within a given area," Joliet police Sgt. Christopher Botzum said. "Most departments do not have the manpower to dedicate a person to address the issue."

And that's how Miller ended up armed with a pistol at his wife's backdoor on that warm Saturday afternoon in September.

After barging into the home, he punched Tanner Miller repeatedly in the face, hit her with a 3-foot candleholder and then choked her until she lost consciousness. He also attacked his 9-year-old stepdaughter, biting and pinning her down until she managed to break his hold and pull her mother outside the house to safety.

Tanner Miller and her daughter, Camryn, made it as far as the next door neighbor's garage when they heard gunshots coming from the second story of her home.

"Colton just didn't die that day," she said with a sob that sounded closer to a howl. "We all died in that house."

Tanner Miller, who has a FOID card but does not own firearms, has not read the pending revocation legislation. But she says something has to change, and it need not devolve into a debate over the Second Amendment.

"It's not taking away anyone's rights. It's taking guns away from people who legally shouldn't have them," she said. "It's about addressing the crime of (not complying with) a revoked license before it turns into a crime scene."

The Senate could vote on the so-called Fix the FOID legislation during the current session, with the support of Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park. Pritzker went to Aurora hours after the Pratt shooting and publicly promised change, but instead saw the revocation backlog significantly increase in his first year.

"As we mourn," the governor said in a statement Wednesday, "we must honor the memories of our fellow Illinoisans and do everything in our power to prevent future tragedies and enact common sense reform."

Even still, the legislation likely will face even stronger opposition from gun rights advocates, who are currently suing state police over a backlog of the more than 60,000 FOID applicants who are waiting for approval.

The Second Amendment lobby also questions whether the extra money would go directly to revocation teams. They're skeptical of any additional funding following the release of a Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability document showing that between 2015 and 2018, $13.2 million had been swept from the State Police Firearms Services Fund and into the general fund.

Illinois State Police acknowledge the money was moved under the previous administration to fill budget holes but pledged the FOID fee increase would be used for its intended purpose. The gun advocates remain unmoved.

"You're talking about a fundamental constitutional right," longtime gun rights lobbyist Todd Vandermyde said. "If it's a public safety issue then the state needs to fund it on its own. ... We're not going to pay more for our rights."

Senate sponsor Julie Morrison, D-Deerfield, says the bill remains a top priority, though there is no timetable for its potential passage.

"Sitting around and wringing our hands doesn't do anything," Morrison said. "Feeling sorry for the victims' families doesn't get us anywhere. We need to take action and that's what this bill does. It fixes a major flaw that we have recognized due to that tragedy."

Meanwhile, families of Pratt victims are seeking their own relief, filing lawsuits against the ISP.

The state currently faces two complaints from victims' families and four others from survivors of the Pratt shooting for issuing Martin a FOID card and then failing to enforce its subsequent revocation. The pending suits allege Illinois State Police knowingly created a public safety risk by allowing the revocation backlog to grow so large.

Those killed were union chairman Russell Beyer; human resources manager Clayton Parks; plant manager Josh Pinkard, forklift operator Vicente Juarez and college student Trevor Wehner, who had started his internship that day.

Juarez's family said it would mean a lot to the family to see lawmakers take action.

"Other families wouldn't have to go through what we went through if they (do) this faster and get that settled," Juarez's son, Christian, said.

Several missed opportunities

ISP Director Kelly says the agency has been looking at how other states handle revocations, including California, which resolved 53,000 cases in five years. The effort came after the state legislature earmarked $24 million for the state attorney general's office to manage the list of prohibited gun owners and train law enforcement teams to locate them and account for any weapons.

Dr. Garen Wintemute, an emergency room doctor by training who also researches gun violence at University of California at Davis, said the California approach is the only one of its kind in the country.

But Wintemute said there is no reason Illinois can't take a similar tack.

"It's a big investment, but, yes, it can be done," he said. "They key question is what will it take for Illinois leadership and Illinois citizens to develop a sense of imperative to make this happen?"

Even without the changes to state law, there were several opportunities to force Miller to relinquish his guns. The Tribune could find no record of any public servant trying.

Tanner Miller says she contacted the Illinois National Guard for help after leaving her husband and told them about his arrest, which should have disqualified him from service. Miller, who served for a decade and never deployed, remained with his unit. An Illinois National Guard spokesman declined to comment, citing an ongoing internal investigation into the matter.

When Miller surrendered to the Naperville Police Department on Jan. 10, 2018, following the battery charge, he posted $5,000 and was released with an order to go to the DuPage County courthouse for his arraignment six weeks later.

That less common circumstance — his posting his bond immediately — meant Miller did not appear before a judge at a bond hearing, so no conditions of his release were set. Facing a felony charge, Miller, per the longstanding practice in DuPage, likely would have received an order to turn in his FOID card and account for any weapons.

When Miller appeared for his arraignment, prosecutors did not ask to revisit his bail or consider his revoked status.

More than a year after his arrest, and months after the Pratt shooting, Tanner Miller says she called DuPage County prosecutors as they were prepping for the trial and told them her estranged husband still owned guns despite having a revoked FOID card. She had been listed as a possible

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ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Colton Miller's Batman costume hangs in the laundry room of his mother's house in Joliet. He was shot to death before he had a chance to wear it.



Cassandra Tanner Miller wears a necklace containing a lock of hair from her son, Colton, who was killed by her husband.

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witness and was concerned for her safety if she testified against him.

DuPage County State's Attorney's spokesman Paul Darrah confirmed that Tanner Miller raised this concern, and said prosecutors instructed her to get an order of protection. Darrah said he couldn't "speculate" whether prosecutors should have notified the judge or local law enforcement about Miller's illegal gun possession.

In August 2019, while still out on bail, Miller was arrested for felony cocaine possession in Stickney and booked into Cook County Jail. Police reports do not mention his FOID revocation.

Cook County prosecutors made no mention of possible firearms at his bond hearing — even though every state's attorney's office in Illinois has been given access to the revocation database as part of ISP reforms last year.

A representative of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx said in an email that prosecutors look at FOID revocation status "where it is relevant to the case," including charges that involve guns or violent crimes. Prosecutors knew Miller was facing trial for felony battery in DuPage, but they determined his FOID status was not germane to his drug case and did not check.

Miller was released on a personal recognizance bond and walked out of Cook County Jail, where a defendant's revocation status is not part of the background check conducted prior to release.

In the fierce debate over gun rights, the courts seem to be one of the few places where both sides find common ground. Most agree prosecutors and judges need to be doing more to address FOID revocations, so the burden doesn't rest solely with law enforcement.

"When they're brought into the system with a disqualifying factor, that's the chokepoint," the gun lobbyist Vandermyde said. "The prosecutors in the courtroom and the judges should be cognizant of the role they play."

'A reminder of when my life stopped'

In the five months since the murder-suicide, Cassandra Tanner Miller has become an advocate for both stronger FOID revocation enforcement and domestic violence awareness. She is currently working with state lawmakers on the passage of "Colton's Law," which would create a task force to examine gaps in existing domestic abuse laws.

The work offers a much-needed distraction from the relentless grief she fights. She and her daughter have moved to a different suburb, and she's in the process of selling her Joliet home. It's a necessary part of their healing process, but bittersweet because it means giving up the place where Colton played, sang and gardened alongside her in the final year of his life.

His Halloween costume — a full Batman suit — still hangs, never worn, in the laundry room. He had picked it out at Costco during a regular Monday trip there with his mom a few days before the shooting.

"It hangs there as a reminder of when my life stopped," Tanner Miller said. "We had 56,400 beautiful minutes in this house and 30 minutes destroyed the rest of my life."

Still, she pushes on, advocating for reforms and calling attention to shortcomings in the law. She does it partly to prevent future tragedies and partly to make sure Colton isn't forgotten.

"He doesn't have a voice anymore. The victims of the Aurora shooting don't have a voice anymore," she said. "But I still have a voice, and I need to use it."

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Corruption, lies ... and democracy dies



REX W. HUPPKE

Amid the constant din of Trumpsplosions in Washington and the sound of Michael Bloomberg blowing up the Democratic presidential primary, we learned that Jussie Smollett is still in trouble, winter is still here and the world remains so bananas that we have to ask: "What the (BLEEP) just happened?"

Senate Republicans who acquitted Trump did Nazi this happening: Freed from the chains of accountability — as if they were there in the first place — President Donald Trump spent the week showing that if you give him an inch, he'll take the Department of Justice and turn it into his own strip-mall law firm and start bailing out the crooked goons he calls friends.

Using Twitter to slam the judge who will be sentencing longtime Trump-partner-in-sleaze Roger Stone and to gripe about the prosecution's sentencing recommendations, the president managed to get the four federal prosecutors on the case to step down in protest. It appears those attorneys possess integrity, a trait strictly forbidden under Trump's imperial rule.

Continuing the president's post-impeachment-acquittal, slow-motion Reichstag fire, Jessie Liu, a nominee for a top Treasury Department job, had her nomination revoked because she previously ran the U.S. attorney's office that oversaw Stone's prosecution.

Don't worry, I'm sure this is all very cool and very legal, and there's no reason for Republicans like Sen. Susan Collins and Sen. Lisa Murkowski to feel like their decision to acquit Trump has in any way unleashed a lawless monster who is now coalescing power and casting out any and all who oppose him.

Clearly everything is going to be just fine.

Can't wait for Obamacare to go away so we can have ... nothing: Remember all those times Republicans have complained about Obamacare and how it's just awful and needs to go away?

And you know how President Donald Trump has promised to kill the Affordable Care Act and replace it with something magnificent?

Just last March, Trump said: "The Republican Party will soon be known as the party of health care. You watch."

And last June, he said: "We're going to produce phenomenal health care, and we already have the concept of the plan. We'll be announcing that in two months, maybe less."

A funny thing happened — that announcement never came. And on Thursday we learned why.

Under questioning at a Senate Finance Committee hearing, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told senators the administration doesn't have a plan. A lawsuit seeking to overturn Obamacare is making its way through the courts, and apparently Republicans are just going to wait around for a resolution before coming up with their "phenomenal health care" replacement plan.

Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey said to Azar: "We've been hearing about killing Obamacare since it was created. There have been years to have your own version of what it is. Why would you wait till there's a disaster to then deal with the millions of Americans who have health care insurance?"

Azar's response was that the court case will take a while, so they have plenty of time. An interesting approach by "the party of health care."



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump speaks Wednesday at the White House.

Jussie Smollett back to being charged for making up attack: If you've been following the flummoxing case of "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett, I'm sorry. I wouldn't wish that on anyone.

On Tuesday, Smollett was indicted on six counts of disorderly conduct alleging he lied to police about being attacked by two racist and homophobic Trump supporters in downtown Chicago.

In a statement, special prosecutor Dan Webb said: "Jussie Smollett planned and participated in a staged hate crime attack, and thereafter made numerous false statements to Chicago Police Department officers on multiple occasions, reporting a heinous hate crime that he, in fact, knew had not occurred."

That flies right in the face of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's decision to drop previous charges against Smollett.

Now the question is what will end first: This torturous case, Smollett's career or Foxx's career.

BREAKING: Chicago gets cold during the winter: Ruining Chicago's plans to rebrand itself "the Miami of the Midwest," our relatively mild winter gave way to a polar blast that brought the word "subzero" back into the lexicon.

The late-week cold front required me to finally break out my "warm shorts" — aka, sweatpants — and hide away my finely sculpted man calves for the season. As the old Chicago saying goes, "It ain't winter until Huppke's calves are covered."

Sanders wins New Hampshire, Bloomberg keeps lowering the boom: As the Democratic presidential primary lumbers along and the candidates begin to assemble their circular firing squad, former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg is spending gobs of money, driving his poll numbers up and kicking President Donald Trump right in the you-know-what.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders won Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, but Bloomberg — who wasn't on the ballot in that early state — kept his focus on getting under Trump's skin.

On Thursday, Trump tweeted: "Mini Mike is a 5'4" mass of dead energy who does not want to be on the debate stage with these professional politicians."

To which Bloomberg replied: ".@realDonaldTrump - we know many of the same people in NY. Behind your back they laugh at you & call you a carnival barking clown. They know you inherited a fortune & squandered it with stupid deals and incompetence. I have the record & the resources to defeat you. And I will."

Bloomberg remains a long shot, and there's plenty in his mayoral history that's concerning, but he has bottomless funds and an enviable ability to take the garbage Trump flings and toss it right back on the White House lawn. He may not win, but he will drive the president bonkers along the way.

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Chicago Forward brings together key voices and thought leaders to explore the future of our city. Please join us on Monday, February 24 for the first of our three events focused on Chicago Forward: Young Lives in the Balance.

Chicago Tribune Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Bruce Dold will lead a discussion on empowering Chicago's at-risk youth. The program will be followed by a reception for the speakers and audience. Panelists include:

> **Lori Lightfoot**, Mayor of Chicago

> **Sandra Abrevaya**, President and Chief Impact Officer, Thrive Chicago

> **Alex Kotlowitz**, author, An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago

> **Tom Gilardi**, Vice President of Youth Programs, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls

> **Marcelo Sanchez**, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls alum

Monday, February 24
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Doors Open: 5:30 pm
Venue Six10, 610 South Michigan Ave.
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Obama, Lightfoot meet after NBA panel session

Officials discuss presidential center, love of basketball

By Lolly Bowean

Taking a break from greeting professional basketball players who are in Chicago for All-Star weekend, former President Barack Obama met with Mayor Lori Lightfoot on Saturday afternoon, officials confirmed.

The meeting took place after they both participated in a panel session, and they discussed their love of basketball and issues related to the city "including but not limited to the Obama Presidential Center," a spokeswoman for the mayor said.

Obama also is expected to speak with Ald. Leslie Hairston, 5th, while he's in town, but officials did not release specific information related to that meeting.

Obama is among dozens of national leaders, celebrities and athletes who have descended upon the city for All-Star weekend.

His conversation with Lightfoot comes just days after protesters staged a sit-in at City Hall demanding a meeting with her to discuss ways to protect lower-income residents who live near the site of the proposed Obama Presidential Center from displacement.

The mayor has found herself in the middle of a disagreement between South Side residents who have long been pushing for a community benefits agreement — a binding contract that would guarantee certain amenities such as jobs, the creation of neighborhood assets and affordable housing — and those who say such an agreement would threaten development in low-income communities that need it the most.

Hairston has been a supporter of the presidential center development, but she's also pushing for an ordinance that would guarantee specific benefits to residents. Her ward includes neighborhoods expected to be directly impacted by the new campus.

Since he's been in town, Obama has made a surprise appearance at an NBA Cares service event where he greeted famous volunteers such as Zion Williamson, a small forward for the New Orleans Pelicans, and Trae Young, a point guard for the Atlanta Hawks. Obama peppered his conversation with the players with sports statistics and references about their reputations on the court.

From the time he was elected to the U.S. Senate, Obama made known to the public his infatuation with basketball. While serving in the White House, he was known for his pickup games with staff, some of whom were former college players.

Lightfoot, too, is an avid sports fan and was known as a standout point guard at her high school in Massillon, Ohio.

The Obama Foundation, among other things, is charged with developing the presidential center campus in Jackson Park. The sprawling complex will have a museum, meeting spaces for large public events, a public library branch and offices for the foundation staff. The site will be surrounded with greenery and outdoor meeting spaces. It also will have an athletic center with basketball courts. The project has gained approval by the City Council but has faced opposition from environmentalists who continue to push for it to be moved elsewhere.

Currently, the project is undergoing a federal review process, which has to be completed before developers can break ground. The foundation has not released a new timeline for when they expect construction to start or end.

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JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Former President Barack Obama hugs NBA player Giannis Antetokounmpo at the Marriott Magnificent Mile Saturday.

Obama hosts 'fireside chat' to share basketball stars' service

By Lolly Bowean

In their communities, NBA stars Giannis Antetokounmpo, Kevin Love and Chris Paul all do service work.

But the three players, who normally only see one another on the basketball court, didn't know what the others were doing or how to even support one another, they said on Saturday.

As the three star professional basketball players sat in conversation with former President Barack Obama on Saturday night, they talked about building basketball courts and recreational centers, funding outreach efforts to help people who struggle with mental health issues, and starting their own foundations.

Obama said he decided to host a fireside chat with the three players because he wanted them to share their stories of how they began their service efforts with dozens of unknown residents who do similar work with a lower profile. Obama said the talk reflects the kind of work his Obama Foundation aims to do by bridging a gap between civic innovators around the world.

"The work I'm doing ... focuses on how do we life up, amplify and support the next generation of leaders," Obama said. "Our goal is ... there are a million Michelle and Baracks out there. They just weren't as lucky as us. If we identify them and give them a platform and a voice and train them, that's what's going to save the world.

"The work I'm doing ... focuses on how do we life up, amplify and support the next generation of leaders."

— Former President Barack Obama

"Don't look backward at who was there — look forward to who is coming."

Then he sat down and talked for more than an hour with Antetokounmpo, a forward for the Milwaukee Bucks; Love, a power forward and center for the Cleveland Cavaliers; and Paul, a point guard for the Oklahoma City Thunder.

ESPN sports commentator and former Washington Post writer Michael Wilbon, who grew up on the South Side, helped moderate the conversation.

But much of it flowed naturally, with each man chiming in about his journey without many formal questions.

"They're good people," Obama said of the three athletes. "Each of them are at different stages of their careers. Each of them have shown character on the court, but also off the court."

During their talk, Paul said he became interested in building basketball courts and facilities at under-resourced schools when he was looking for a place to educate his son. He noticed that the schools in wealthier areas had access to tools and technology he never saw in his own schools growing up.

Love discussed experiencing an anxiety attack and how it eventually propelled him to invest in resources to address mental health issues.

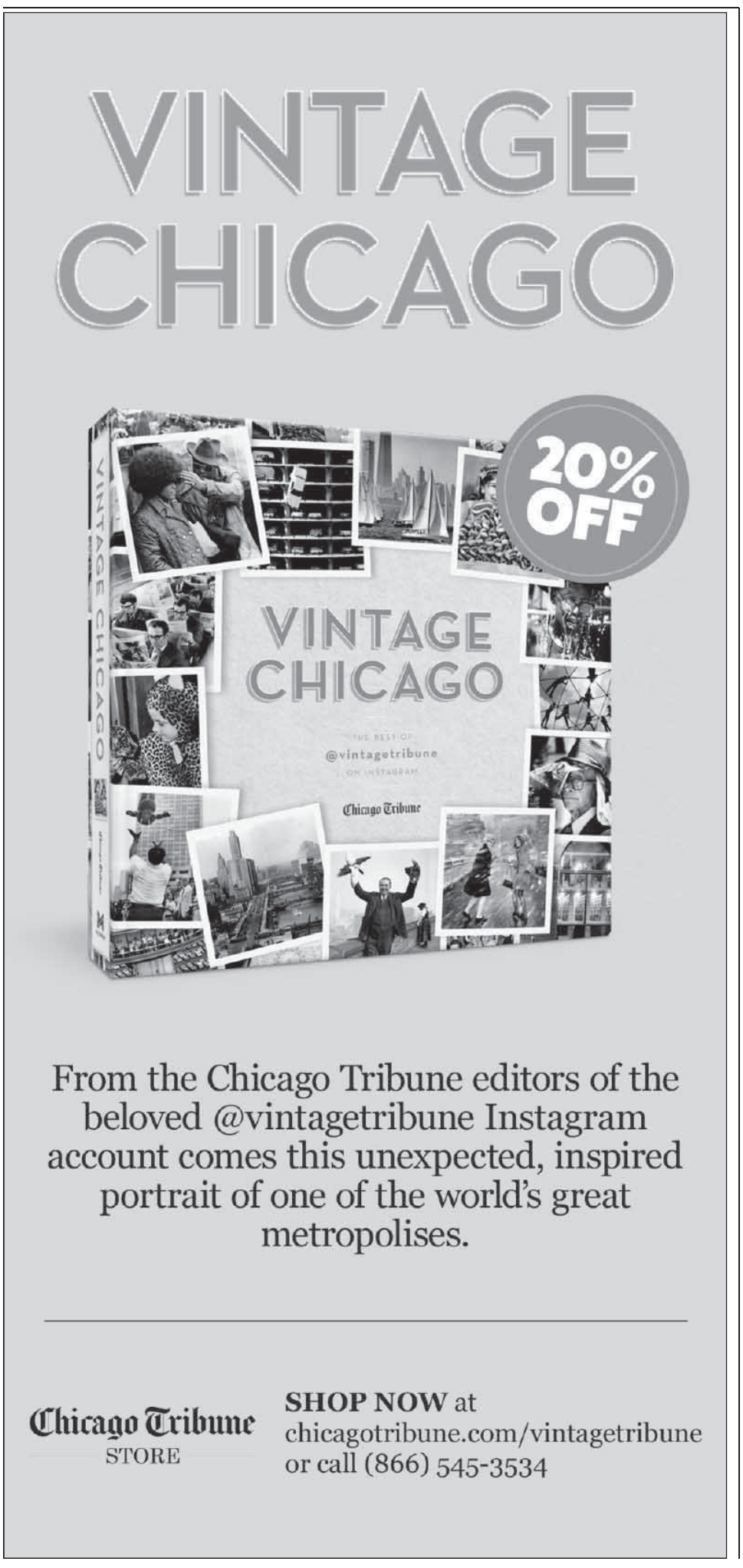
And Antetokounmpo talked about how, when growing up in Greece, his family had to build a small circle of support, because they were undocumented immigrants who lived with a fear of being deported.

"When we were growing up, we had people to help us. We had people who guided us," he said. "We had to have our circle really tight."

When he began playing in Milwaukee, he noticed the poverty and people struggling, and decided he could give back. Not only does he visit prisons and jails talking to the inmates, but he also makes the rounds in the city, giving inspirational talks to school children and amateur athletes, he said.

Obama's gathering took place before a hand-selected group of leaders who participate in the foundation's many programs, such as the Obama Foundation Fellows and Obama Scholars. In the audience were longtime Obama friends and supporters Valerie Jarrett, John Rogers, Tina Tchen, Mark Cuban, Susan Sher and Helene Gayle from the Chicago Community Trust. Obama Foundation Board President Martin Nesbitt was there too.

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Amid stop-and-frisk flap, Rush touts Bloomberg's Chicago office

By Lolly Bowean

As former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg faces criticism for his previous defense of controversial stop-and-frisk policing strategies that disproportionately targeted blacks and Latinos, U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush touted his involvement in the opening of a campaign office to support the embattled billionaire's run for president.

The South Side campaign office for Bloomberg's Democratic presidential campaign is at East 87th Street and South Cottage Grove Avenue in Chatham. Rush was on hand for the formal opening of the office on Sunday, Rush's campaign staff said.

"Yes: Mike has money, but he puts his money where his mouth is," Rush said in a news release.

"I like Mike because Mike stands and works for moving America forward," he said.

Rush announced the new office on Tuesday, the day after an audio recording of Bloomberg firmly defending stop-and-frisk law enforcement tactics began circulating on social media. In the clip, Bloomberg can be heard telling an audience at the Aspen Institute in 2015 that it was sensible to send police to minority communities and "throw them against the wall and frisk them."

"We put all the cops in minority neighborhoods. Yes. That's true. Why do we do it? Because that's where all the crime is," Bloomberg can be heard saying. "And the way you get guns out of the kids' hands is to throw them up against the walls and frisk them."

Bloomberg for years defended the tactic as one way to drive down violent crime. Since he launched his run for president, Bloomberg has apologized for stop-and-frisk tactics.

On Tuesday, Bloomberg said the 2015 remarks "do not reflect my commitment to criminal justice reform and racial equity."

In a statement, Bloomberg said he inherited the stop-and-frisk practice from Rudy Giuliani's administration but had reduced its use by the time he left office in 2013. He said, "I should have done it faster and sooner."

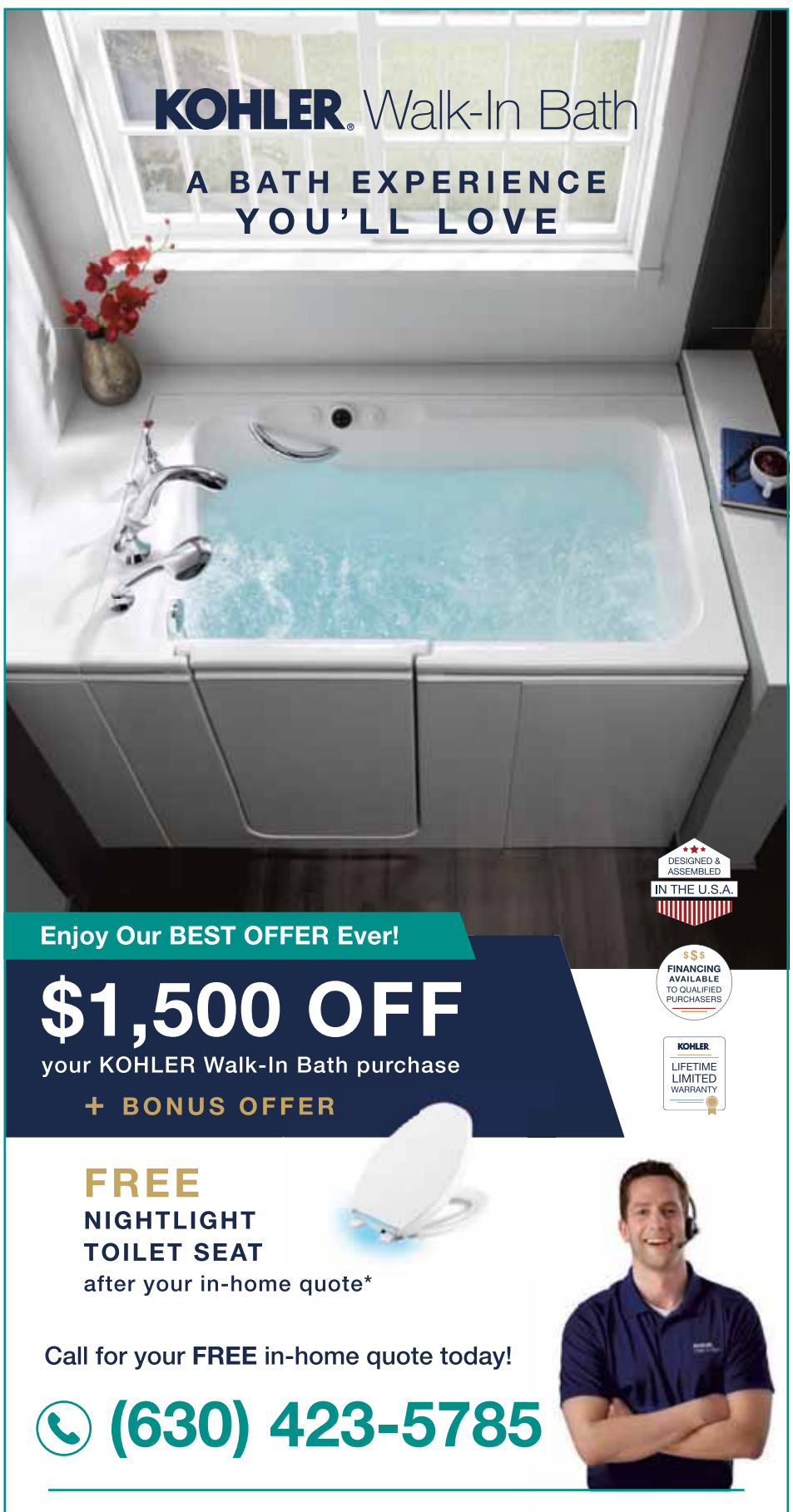
Rush first endorsed Bloomberg last month and became one of his co-campaign managers. In a statement Tuesday, Rush addressed the stop-and-frisk criticism facing Bloomberg by acknowledging that he, too, has made policy mistakes such as supporting the now controversial 1994 Crime Bill.

While stop-and-frisk plagued New York's minority communities, in Chicago, police similarly made street stops that a study by the American Civil Liberties Union found targeted blacks and Latinos in lower-income communities. The 2015 study found that Chicago police made more than 250,000 stops that did not lead to an arrest in mid-2014 — which was much higher than similar stops in New York. The Chicago study and a subsequent lawsuit led to reform measures that are still being worked through.

Rush, 73, has held his congressional seat since 1993. He is facing a challenge in the March 17 primary from three political newcomers: Robert Emmons Jr., Sarah Gad and Ameena Matthews. In his statement, Rush said the former New York mayor has backed nearly two dozen Democratic congressional candidates, and he has a plan to create 1 million new black homeowners and thousands of black-owned businesses over 10 years.

The Associated Press contributed

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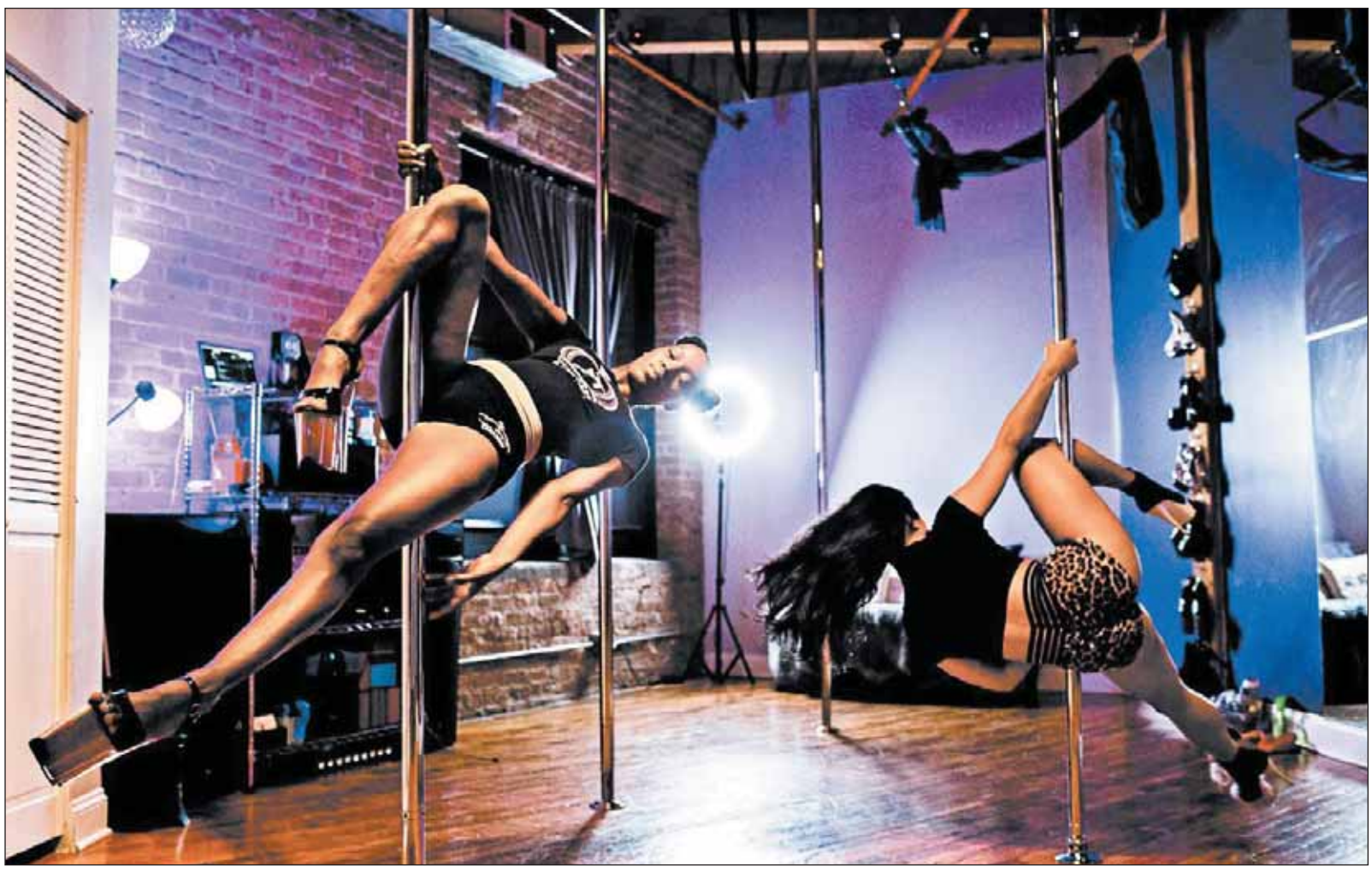
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Pole combines core strength, cardio, sex appeal

J.Lo halftime show inspires women to join dance classes

By Jessica Villagomez



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Instructor Unika Venson, from left, and Cerissa Deocampo practice during an open pole session at Fempress Fit on Feb. 4 in Chicago.

In a small fitness studio in Lakeview last week, Patty Yaconis taught a pole dancing class to a handful of women dressed in metallic booty shorts and crop tops. Wearing a tank top and capri leggings, Yaconis started by instructing women through a series of stretching techniques in a room lined with full-length mirrors. A speaker blasted a sensual song.

Drama and exaggeration are the name of the game in pole dancing. A dancer starts with small, sexy strolls around the pole followed by short spins and the occasional body roll or hip swing. Beginners then complete moves like the fireman, walking around the pole while holding it with their inside arm. Leaning outward and using their momentum, they hook an ankle around the pole, completing a series of spins downward.

"Yes — that's beautiful! Feel the move, keep the posture up!" Yaconis said to the class of beginners.

Coming off this month's Super Bowl performance and sex-positive media like the film "Hustlers," women across Chicago are swarming local pole dancing classes with hopes of mimicking the iconic Jennifer Lopez, fitness club owners said. While pole dancing is often stigmatized for being overtly sexual, dancers are hoping to embrace the sexy while highlighting the physical and confidence boosts that come with swinging on a metal pole.



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Patty Yaconis, left, instructs Mazerati Cevallos during a pole dancing class on Feb. 6 at Pole Appeal in Lakeview.

"Everyone is calling me because of J.Lo. If J.Lo can do it, they can too," said Francesca Garcia, owner of Fempress Fit in Pilsen. "This is a skill just like any other, you have to practice it."

Back at the Lakeview class, Yaconis grew tired of demonstrating in slippery leggings, so she took off her pants and continued teaching in a pair of velvet gray underwear. Yaconis said bare thighs grasp the pole best. In pole, only amateurs wear pants.

"Pole dancing is sexy, it's sexy for both men and women, but it is also very fitness driven," Yaconis said. "Pole is a little of everything, if you want to come and dance and have a good time, that's wonderful, but you can become more advanced in moves and build strength."

Yaconis said new clients are often shocked to find out the difficulties of lifting one's body. Pole dancing incorporates cardio and strength techniques combined with dancing and flexibility.

"I emphasize to older women that I'm over 50 and have been doing this for six years," she said. "It's a great workout for building that upper-body strength as we get older. If you aren't doing weights or upper-body strength, women lose that."

Climbing and straddling the pole requires traction and dedication. One participant wore padded kneepads to protect from possible falls. Like football players watching tape, many propped their cellphones along the mirrors to capture video and watch how high they could climb.

Garcia, who has been pole dancing since 2007, is a certified fitness instructor and has a pole dancing certification. Pole dancing became a way out of her corporate job and into a more interesting fitness regimen.

Sarah Abboud started taking classes at Fempress Fit early last fall. Abboud was inspired to start pole dancing because of her academic research on sexual health and health promotion.

"It just combines dancing with a lot of physical activity and strength building," she said. "The space is also very positive and supportive. Over time, it felt like a kind of therapy. There's a focus on enjoying my body and what I want to do."

Dancing in stilettos is the next level of advancement. A beginners heel is about 5 inches with a 2-inch shoe box platform, Garcia said. Like a good pair of snow boots, professional dance stilettos have a ribbed rubber bottom.

One dancer at Fempress Fit, Jade White, has graduated to dancing in red lace-up boots with an 8-inch heel. Each shoe weighs about two pounds.

"I love the shoes," White said. "I love the strength and flow that happens when I dance. It's like a girls club, there's no competition, we're trying to lift each other up as we lift ourselves up."

Formerly in the Navy, White said pole offered her a supportive and predominantly female environment.

"It's not my problem if someone sexualizes my dancing, I'm doing it for me," White said. "I spent a lot of time with beefed-up boys. A male-dominated gym isn't my happy place; this is my happy place."

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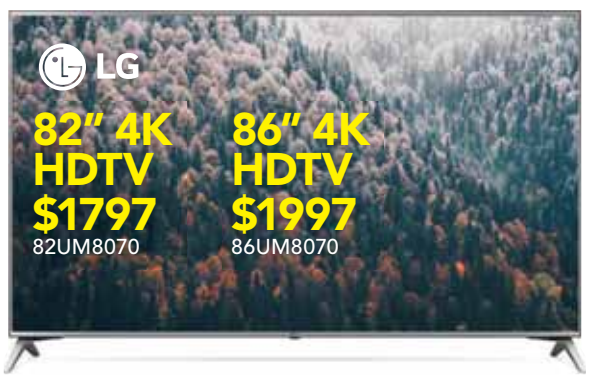
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Mayor calls on well-heeled audience to fight poverty

By Gregory Pratt

Invoking her personal experience growing up poor in Ohio, Mayor Lori Lightfoot on Friday challenged a crowd of well-heeled businessmen and civic leaders downtown to join her administration in addressing Chicago's deeply entrenched poverty.

She also announced plans to introduce several reform proposals around housing. They include a law to ensure renters get more than 30 days to find a new place to live during no-fault evictions, a measure mirroring Cook County's "Just Housing" ordinance aimed at ending housing discrimination against people with arrest records, and a pilot program in Woodlawn giving qualified community buyers the right of first refusal to purchase certain multifamily buildings when an owner puts a building up for sale.

But first, Lightfoot opened her speech before a white tablecloth lunch audience at the City Club of Chicago with a stark declaration: "Poverty is killing us. All of us. Literally and figuratively."

Lightfoot ran through a number of everyday scenes in the city that she said illustrate the problem: children relying on school for food, a life expectancy rate that's 17 years lower for black and brown residents in one neighborhood compared with the life span of other mostly white neighborhoods and the high costs of Chicago's gun violence.

"Am I making you uncomfortable?" she asked. "I mean to."

One of the things that kept her up at night during the Chicago teachers strike was the large number of students who rely on school meals for their food, she told the audience.

At one point, Lightfoot said government and leaders helped shape the problem by using government to create and enforce race-based discrimination.

"We did this by voting for politicians who embraced this ethos and used every tool at their disposal to perpetuate the deprivation and disenfranchisement of people who looked like me solely on the basis of race, ethnicity or national origin," Lightfoot said, adding that government needs to address the problem.

"We the people created this monstrous problem, and we the people must solve it," she said.

During a news conference with reporters after her speech, Lightfoot declined to blame any specific politicians — saying the problems date back to slavery, America's "original sin."

Asked about the housing measures mentioned in the speech and whether they go far enough or can effectively curb the problems she's described, Lightfoot said they're part of a broader wave of changes she wants to introduce beyond the items she mentioned during the speech.

In recent weeks, Lightfoot has made combating poverty and raising awareness a key goal. During the Martin Luther King Jr. interfaith breakfast, she hailed the work her administration has done to address poverty and equity in Chicago while acknowledging there's much more work to do. She plans to host a "poverty summit" next week.

But she's also faced scrutiny from anti-homelessness advocates, who want her to keep a campaign pledge promising an increase on the real estate transfer tax that would go toward fighting homelessness. She's opposed increasing the tax to make a mandated revenue stream to tackle homelessness.

During Friday's speech, Lightfoot also preemptively took a shot at skeptics who would argue that tackling poverty is too big a task, saying she relishes a challenge to prove people wrong and is personally drawn to the cause.

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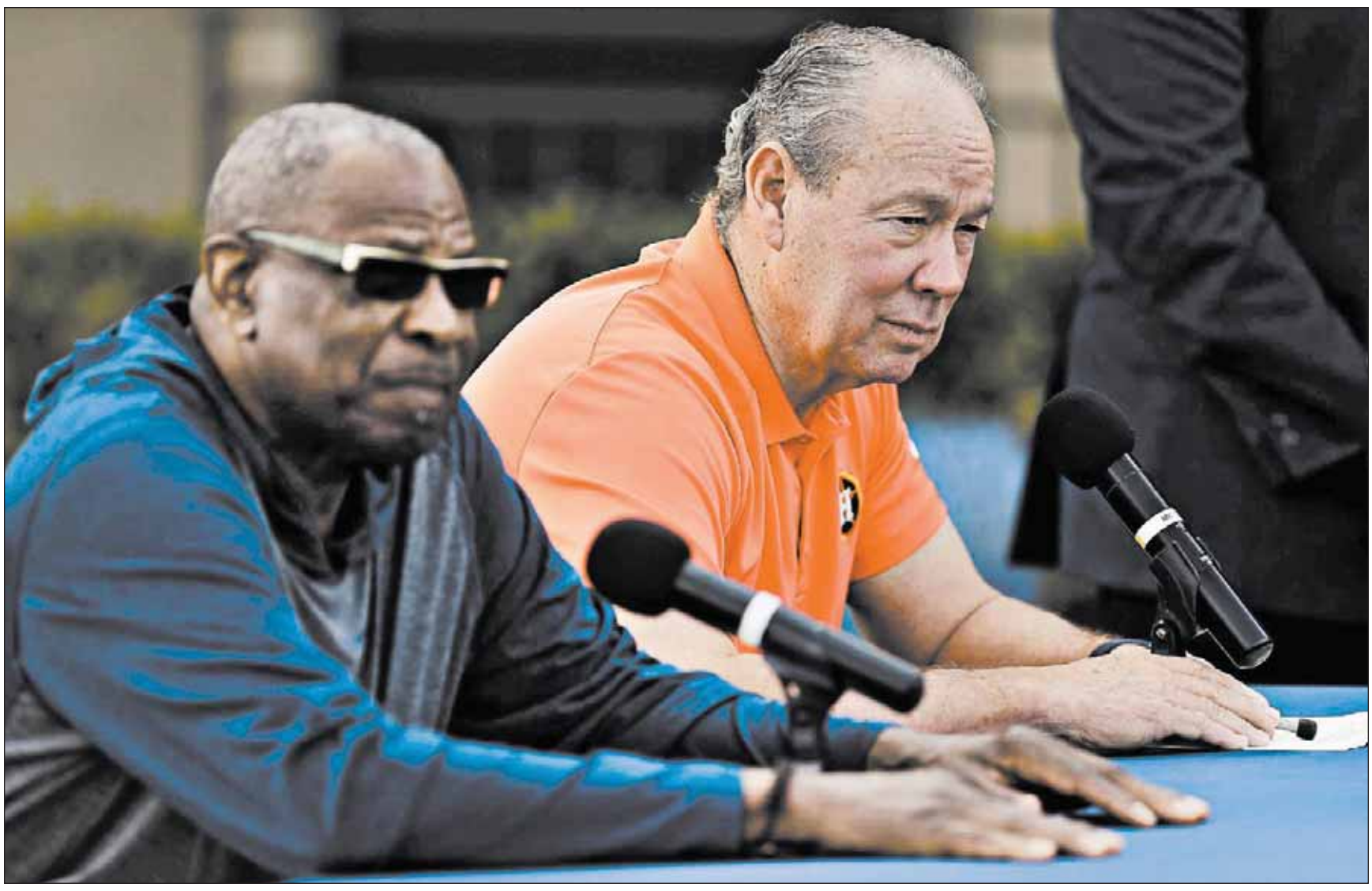
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Chicago Tribune
PERSPECTIVE



MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY

New Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker, left, and owner Jim Crane talk to reporters at FITTEAM Ballpark of The Palm Beaches in Florida on Thursday.

THE ASTROS' APOLOGY? NOT ACCEPTED



STEVE CHAPMAN

The Houston Astros have gotten a lot of criticism lately, but they may also have a business opportunity. They could work out a marketing promotion with Reese's, maker of those peanut butter cups, whose ad slogan is: "Not sorry."

Oh, they say they're sorry, just as losing Academy Award nominees force themselves to smile and applaud for the winners. But their contrition is about as convincing as Pete Rose's hair dye. When Jose Altuve and Alex Bregman stepped forward to apologize at a Thursday news conference, they looked as though they were making a hostage video.

"I'm really sorry about the choices that were made by my team, by the organization and by me," said Bregman. "I've learned from this, and I hope to regain the trust of baseball fans." Altuve assured the audience that everyone in the organization "feels bad about what happened in 2017."

You gotta love their phrasing: "The choices that were made" and "what happened in 2017." The systematic, extended use of electronic surveillance and communication to sabotage opposing teams — well, they made it sound like an unfortunate rain shower that happened to fall on them. "We cheated every chance we got, and the cheating won us a World Series" would have been a more honest formulation.

"I've learned from this" and "feels bad" have a charming vagueness. Did Bregman learn the importance of greater secrecy in foul play? Is Altuve pained that everyone now regards him as a thief? Neither player appeared to be wracked by conscience.

Owner Jim Crane minimized the crime as irrelevant. "Our opinion is, you know, that this didn't impact the game," he said with serene calm. "We won the World Series, and we'll leave it at that."

Yes, we were at the bank wielding guns when it was robbed, and yes, we have bags filled with bundles of cash, but we don't think we owe our wealth to the robbery. And we'll leave it at that.

The cheating involved a mix of modern video and primitive communication, with a TV monitor near the dugout showing the catcher's signs and a guy banging on a trash can to indicate to the batter what pitch was coming. The commissioner's report said the scheme was "player-driven," but an investigation by The Wall Street Journal found widespread guilt: "The Astros' rule-breaking permeated the entire organization, involving executives, coaches and players."

Yes, we were at the bank wielding guns when it was robbed, and yes, we have bags filled with bundles of cash, but we don't think we owe our wealth to the robbery. And we'll leave it at that.

Professional sports teams are results-oriented, so it's safe to say that if this program didn't "impact" games, it would have been scrapped. The obvious reason players were so happy to make use of it is that it made a difference.

The Journal notes that one internal email commended Marwin Gonzalez for doing "the best job with getting this info." The utility player had his best season in 2017. His reward was a $21 million contract with the Minnesota Twins, who might have paid less had they known more.

But don't worry: Gonzalez apologized. "I'm remorseful for everything that happened in 2017," he said Tuesday — though not, perhaps, for what happened in 2019, when the Brink's truck arrived to unload his windfall.

It's plain that if they had the chance to do it over, the Astros would behave differently. They would try much, much harder to avoid getting caught. Since they were caught, they can bring themselves to utter a few banal words of feigned regret. But nothing indicates a willingness to take true responsibility for their transgressions.

Those transgressions rank among the most outrageous and disgraceful in major league history, with immeasurable consequences. They damaged the careers of opposing pitchers whose failures were mistakenly attributed to their inadequacies. They brought hits and money to hitters who were complicit in the crime. And they cost other teams victories they would have had in the absence of the cheating.

So if the Astros are sorry, let them show it. First, by providing a complete account of everything they did. Second, by admitting the obvious fact that they owed much of their success to it. Third, by surrendering the rings and the bonuses they got for winning the Series and renouncing their title.

If the Astros players and staff aren't willing to do any of these, they should take their apologies and throw them in the trash can. I know they have one.

Steve Chapman, a member of the Tribune Editorial Board, blogs at www.chicagotribune.com/chapman.

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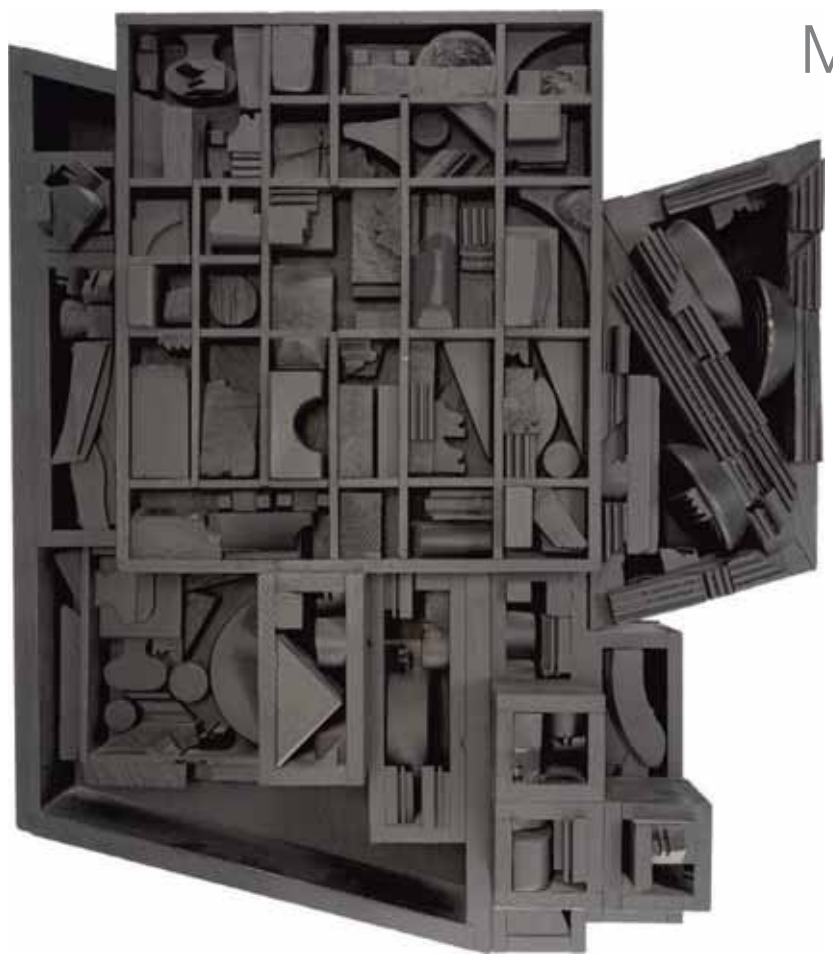
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CHANGE OF SUBJECT

BY ERIC ZORN



An all-star idea for overhauling basketball

The new scoring format for the NBA All-Star Game on Sunday at the United Center hints at a great idea for making basketball much more fun to watch.

The exhibition will be, in effect, four games in one. Each of the first three quarters will start with the score 0-0, and the winning team after 12 minutes will earn $100,000 for a designated charity. For the final, untimed quarter, the starting score will be based on the cumulative score of the first three quarters, and the first team to reach a target score equal to 24 more points than the leading team started the quarter with will be declared the winner of the overall game and earn $200,000 for a designated charity.



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Workers ready the United Center in Chicago on Tuesday for the NBA's All-Star Weekend.

Sounds complicated, but it's really not. The FAQ at the league's website offers this clear example, "If the cumulative score of the first three quarters is 100-95, the final target score would be set at 124 points."

Why 24? It was the number the late superstar Kobe Bryant wore at the end of his career, and, happily, it's similar to the target score you might find at a pickup game at your local gym.

The advantage to the untimed, pickup game format — used in the vast majority of informal basketball contests ever played — is that it eliminates tedious, strategic, end-game clock management that includes repeated deliberate fouling and the calling of numerous timeouts. And, as in untimed baseball games, the format means that no team is out of it until the game is over.

The NBA would do well to experiment with target-score games and the idea of multiple shorter games in the place of single long games.

The first half of a typical NBA game is mostly ground-pawing. Even the third quarter often feels like merely a warm up for the final stanza, when huge leads can vanish as the teams buckle down for the sometimes thrilling conclusion. Games are sprints disguised as marathons. Watch the highlight reel and the last five minutes or so and you've missed nothing, which may be part of the reason the league is experiencing a TV ratings slump this season.

Replacing single games consisting of four, 12-minute quarters with, say, three untimed games up to 40 points (gotta win by 3!) would make for a vastly improved fan experience both in the arena and at home.

Keep the 24-second shot clock so the game doesn't bog down. Two timeouts per game per team. Shoot to see who gets the ball first.

That's basketball as it's meant to be played.

Nevah say 'Ne-vah-da'

Every four years, voters in Nevada caucus to choose a presidential nominee and during the run-up, people all across the country mispronounce the name of the state.

As we approach next Saturday's quadrennial caucus, don't forget that natives say "Ne-*vad*-a," with the short a vowel sound. A good way to remember the correct pronunciation is to think of your dad gambling at Caesar's Palace.

Or instead remember the object lesson provided in 2016 by then-presidential candidate Donald Trump. "Heroin overdoses are surging and meth overdoses in Ne-*vah*-da," he said during an October campaign speech in Reno "Ne-*vah*-da," he repeated. "Nobody says it the other way. It has to be Ne-*vah*-da, right?"

Wrong. He ended up losing the state to Hillary Clinton by nearly two and half percentage points. *Hah-hah.*

Vindman, Yovanovitch and Kravis deserve Presidential Medal of Freedom

On her (or his) first day in office — heck, in the inaugural speech — the next Democratic president ought to drape the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman and Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, both of whom paid a heavy professional price for not enabling Trump's effort to use public money to extort a foreign government for his private political gain..

Both testified against Trump during the House impeachment inquiry. Vindman was recently stripped of his job as director for European Affairs for the United States National Security Council and marched out of the White House, while Yovanovitch had earlier been recalled from her position as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine evidently because she was standing in the way of the Trump administration's corrupt scheme.

At the same time, the next Democratic president should confer the honor on Jonathan Kravis, the assistant U.S. attorney in Washington who resigned as a federal prosecutor Tuesday after higher-ups in the U.S. Justice Department overruled his team's recommendation for a stiff sentence for longtime Trump friend Roger Stone. Stone was found guilty of making false statements, obstruction and witness tampering related to a congressional investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election, and the prosecution team was recommending a prison sentence of from seven to nine years.

Trump tweeted about the "miscarriage of justice," in Stone's case, and shortly thereafter, came word from Attorney General Bill Barr's office that the sentencing recommendation was "extreme, excessive and grossly disproportionate."

All four line prosecutors resigned from the case almost immediately, and all deserve praise. But Kravis, the only one to quit altogether, has earned the Medal of Freedom (even though, admittedly, Trump thoroughly debased the honor earlier this month by awarding it to vicious conservative radio gasbag Rush Limbaugh).

Trump's response to the resignations was predictably splenetic and paranoid. He tweeted, "Who are the four prosecutors (Mueller people?) who cut and ran after being exposed for recommending a ridiculous 9-year prison sentence to a man that got caught up in an investigation that was illegal, the Mueller Scam, and shouldn't ever even have started? 13 Angry Democrats?"

Maybe U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson will also find herself festooned with a medal on that happy Inauguration Day. She'll pass sentence on Stone, and is certainly aware of Trump's ominous interference in the process as well the federal sentencing guidelines that resulted in the seven- to nine-year recommendation.

Duty demands that Jackson, who was appointed to the bench by President Barack Obama, ignore the effort by Trump and his lackeys to minimize the crimes of the oleaginous Stone, even though she knows — don't we all? — that Trump will ultimately pardon him no matter what sentence he gets.

Re: Tweets

The winner of this week's reader poll to select the funniest tweet was "The State of the Union speech is perhaps the greatest example of a meeting that could have been an email," by @ProperlyZuri.

The poll appears at chicagotribune.com/zorn, and you can receive an alert when it's posted by signing up for the Change of Subject email newsletter at chicagotribune.com/newsletters.

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CHICAGO FLASHBACK

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE HISTORICAL PHOTO

U.S. Rep. Oscar Stanton De Priest, of Illinois, hands out pamphlets to supporters in 1930. In 1929, De Priest was sworn into Congress for his first term, serving as its sole black member.

Black America's voice

De Priest served as 1st black Congress member from North in Jim Crow era

By Christen A. Johnson

Oscar Stanton De Priest had presence. Fair-skinned enough to pass for white, and standing at least 6 feet tall with white hair adorning his head, he was distinctly noticeable, "perhaps the most striking Negro in Chicago," one Tribune reporter penned.

But it was his presence as the only black person in national political leadership that provided hope to millions of African Americans who were finding their way in a shifting country.

De Priest, who was born in Alabama to former slaves, became Chicago's first black alderman, and then the first black person from a Northern state to sit in Congress — and the latter he did as the sole black member for three terms.

Despite having no background or training in politics, De Priest boldly took on the responsibility of being black America's voice during the Jim Crow era. He advocated for African Americans to have their inherent rights in a country that wanted to offer them nothing after taking everything.

De Priest and his parents, along with other Mississippi Valley black folks, moved to Kansas before the Great Migration brought an influx of black Southerners to major cities above the Mason-Dixon Line. After finishing school during his younger years in the Sunflower State, he studied business and bookkeeping. Then around age 17, he ran off to Ohio with two white boys, according to Tribune reports.

He clumsily found his way to the Windy City toward the end of the 19th century and began working as a plasterer, painter and decorator, and then later in real estate, according to the White House Historical Association.

Those close to De Priest had tales of how he got started in politics.

"Friends tell the story that shortly after his arrival in Chicago, a friend invited Mr. De Priest to attend a precinct meeting at which he was the only Negro present," the Tribune reported. "At that time, precinct captains were elected, De Priest and his friend abstained from voting, which ended with the two candidates deadlocked. Mr. De Priest bargained with one candidate, offering to swing two votes his way if he would make Mr. De Priest secretary of the precinct. The man agreed, and a political career began."

Despite this legend of savvy, it took De Priest a while to make his name known in the political world; he relied on the Great Migration for help. The stream of black Southerners to the North was exponentially growing Chicago's black population, and De Priest recognized this as an opportunity for political gain, especially since Chicago had little African American political leadership, according to the White House Historical Association.

He started the old-fashioned way: going house to house, knocking on doors and punching doorbells, specifically in the 2nd and 3rd wards on the South Side on behalf of the Republican Party.

It took a few years, but De Priest finally got his first shot in a political position.

"By 1904, De Priest's ability to bargain for and deliver the black vote in the Second and Third Wards gained him his first elected position: a seat on (the) Cook County board of commissioners," according to the Office of the Historian and the Clerk of the House's Office of Art and Archives.

De Priest was warmly regarded by other black people in Chicago.

"He was vastly admired by Negroes for he participated in the political hopes, triumphs, disappointments, setbacks and advancements of his people," reported the Tribune, noting that De Priest "identified himself with the aspirations of the Negro migrant."

After serving as a commissioner for two terms, De Priest lost a chance at a third term but returned to real estate and became even more well-connected and financially successful, owning as much as $100,000 worth of apartment buildings.

De Priest and his wife, Jessie, lived with their two sons, Laurence and Oscar Jr., in the second flat of an eight-flat Bronzeville building complex they owned at 4536-38 King Drive, according to the White House Historical Association. A three-yearlong restoration of the 100-year-old complex, which became a National Historic Landmark in 1975, was completed this past January. Buildings owned by De Priest, including one he was living in at the time, were the targets of bombings in the 1920s.



INTERNATIONAL NEWSREEL

Oscar Stanton De Priest, the first black member of Congress from a Northern state, and his wife, Jessie, are seen in San Francisco in 1929.

In 1914, De Priest earned a place in the city's history book. Having gained the favor of Mayor William "Big Bill" Thompson, another flamboyant mover and shaker, De Priest was elected the city's first black alderman. His time on the powerful City Council — he served two terms from 1915 to 1917 — came to an abrupt halt when he announced that he would not run again.

Some said it had to do with De Priest being "indicted in connection with the graft scandals under Chief of Police Charles C. Healey," as the Tribune reported. "He was charged with receiving something like $3,000 from the owners of vice and gambling dens in the black belt."

De Priest was acquitted of the charges in 1917; he insisted his run-in with the law had nothing to do with his decision to give up on retaining his aldermanic seat.

"There is a possibility that my candidacy might jeopardize the interests of the Republican party and perhaps bring about loss of representation in the city council for my race," De Priest said, according to a Tribune report. Some suggested that Thompson had deserted him.

But the real game-changing role for De Priest came after Martin B. Madden, a Republican U.S. representative from Illinois who had just secured his 13th term, died of a heart attack. Mayor Thompson supported De Priest for Madden's congressional seat.

In the spring of 1929, De Priest was sworn into Congress for his first term after defeating his opponents by a slim margin. He served three terms, and spent each one as the only black person in the House.

During his tenure, De Priest fiercely advocated for civil rights; spoke out against segregation, Jim Crow laws and other injustices harming the lives of black Americans; championed the 14th Amendment; and sought a national anti-lynching law, according to Tribune reporting and the White House Historical Association.

Even when he was given a less esteemed committee assignment such as Post Office and Post Roads, De Priest made the most of it. According to the Office of the Historian and the Clerk of the House's Office of Art and Archives, "The year De Priest first won election to the House, the U.S. Post Office Department employed 45 percent of the federal government's African–American workers."

"De Priest seemed to have made a hit with his Negro constituents," the Tribune wrote.

Like her husband, Jessie De Priest faced discrimination in the capital. When first lady Lou Hoover invited Mrs. De Priest to the White House for tea, as she did all the congressional wives, white Southern members of both chambers erupted into a furor, saying the invitation signified "social equality between the two races," the Tribune reported in 1929.

During a mass meeting of NAACP membership, Oscar De Priest referred to his colleagues as "cowards" for rebuking the first lady for entertaining his wife.

"This is my country and your country," he said. "I've been elected to congress the same as any other congressman, and I'm going to have the rights of every other congressman — no more and no less — if it's in the congressional barber shop or at a White House tea."

De Priest competed for a fourth term in Congress, but was defeated by Arthur Mitchell, an African American Democrat who supported President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal plan.

De Priest returned to Chicago and again served as an alderman, this time for the 3rd Ward. Later, he resumed his work in the real estate business with his son.

While walking home one day, De Priest was hit by a bus near his apartment building and was taken to the hospital. He died months later at Provident Hospital from complications brought on by the accident. He was 80 years old.

"I want to thank the Democrats of the south for one thing," De Priest said at the NAACP meeting. "They were so barbaric they drove my parents to the north. If it hadn't been for that, I wouldn't be in congress today. I've been Jim Crowed, segregated, persecuted, and I think I know how best the Negro can put a stop to being imposed on: it is through the ballot, through organization, through fighting eternally for his rights."

Have a Flashback idea? Share your suggestions with Lara Weber at lweber@chicagotribune.com.

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Rep. Dan Lipinski



MIKE FRICILONE

Mike Fricilone



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Robert Emmons Jr.



NANCY STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2016

Rep. Robin Kelly

Endorsements for the US House: Lipinski, Fricilone, Emmons Jr., Kelly

The Tribune begins endorsements for contested races in the March 17 Illinois primary with these U.S. House recommendations.

3rd District Democrats

In this year's presidential primaries, Democrats are engaged in an intense contest of ideas between centrist and progressive candidates. In the Chicago area, one U.S. House race has the same epic feel: **Rep. Dan Lipinski's** battle to retain his 3rd Congressional District seat.

Strictly speaking, Lipinski is neither centrist nor progressive. His pro-life views identify him as one of the few conservative Democrats in the chamber. But Lipinski plays up his bipartisan bona fides as he faces a nationally prominent progressive challenger, Marie Newman, in a district that's shifted left. That's why this is a hot race.

Lipinski vs. Newman is a rematch of the 2018 primary. Lipinski squeaked to victory in that one. This time there are two more Democrats on the ballot, Rush Darwish and Charles M. Hughes.

Lipinski, of Western Springs, sells himself as a workhorse who pays attention to local issues such as funding for transportation. He says he recently helped deliver $150 million for a rail underpass in Chicago and $6 million for an air traffic control tower in Romeoville.

Seeking his ninth term, Lipinski has been in sync with the district for a long time. But Lipinski warns that Democrats risk a wrenching schism if they swallow the progressive agenda Newman espouses. "We now have a tea party of the left forming, which would be disaster for the party and for our country," Lipinski said at a Tribune Editorial Board forum. A "big tent" is vital for Democrats, he said.

Newman, of La Grange, who is prochoice, retorts, "There's room for everybody as long as your main goal is to create an economy that works for everybody." That's a clue to her more leftward lean: She supports two of the highest-profile, big-scale progressive causes — a switch to government-run health insurance and the so-called Green New Deal environmental agenda.

She supports the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, but ultimately sees Medicare for All as the best option for Americans. It would be paid for, she told us in her Tribune Editorial Board candidate questionnaire, "by raising taxes on ultra-billionaires and appropriating federal funds to ensure the process is administered smoothly." The Green New Deal, Newman said, is "a means to modernize our economy."

We're concerned that such massive government spending programs are unworkable and unaffordable. Lipinski's outlook, which includes participation in the House bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, is both more moderate and realistic. Lipinski is endorsed.

3rd District Republicans

In the Republican primary for the 3rd Congressional District, our full-throated endorsement goes to **Mike Fricilone**, a member of the Will County Board. It's vital Fricilone wins because one of his opponents, Arthur J. Jones, is an odious crackpot.

"We have a white supremacist, a racist, running on the ticket for our party," Fricilone tells us, accurately describing Jones, a Holocaust denier and Nazi sympathizer. "It doesn't do anybody any good for any party to have somebody like that running."

Jones' participation in the race is an abomination and recurring embarrassment to the Illinois Republican Party. In 2018, Jones ran unopposed in the primary, effectively sneaking past sleeping party officials who were so disinterested in competing in this Democratic stronghold that they didn't make the effort to recruit a credible candidate. Nor did they notice that Jones intended to be the GOP candidate. By the time Republicans snapped to attention, it was too late: Jones wound up on the general election ballot.

We imagine Jones likes the notoriety, which we are loathe to advance, because here he is, back on the ballot. The Anti-Defamation League calls Jones a longtime neo-Nazi. "If I really believed the Holocaust had taken place, I wouldn't have joined the Nazi Party," he once said of his past affiliation. On his website, Jones endorses the idea of federally sanctioned, Christian white-only neighborhoods. Enough of him.

We're relieved Jones has credible challengers this time around, including Catherine A. O'Shea, of Oak Lawn. Fricilone, a sales executive from Homer Glen, is most qualified. His original motivation for entering the race was to oppose Jones.

Fricilone is a fiscal conservative who has served on the Will County Board for seven years. "We have way too much government, too much waste," he says. "If we can make services better while not continually increasing taxes, that's the path I want to go down."

Fricilone is endorsed. Please support him and send a message to Jones.

1st District Democrats

Rep. Bobby Rush has served the solid-blue 1st Congressional District since 1993, but frankly, it's been a long time since he's provided constituents with distinguished representation. This South Side/south suburban district, beset by gun violence and economic hardship, needs someone with enthusiasm and energy in Washington. We see strong leadership potential in **Robert Emmons Jr.**

Emmons, a 27-year-old nonprofit executive from Auburn Gresham, has the right motivation. He says his campaign is about ending gun violence. "We need to call out gun violence for what it is: a public health epidemic caused by social and economic instability," he told us in his candidate questionnaire. Emmons says there are violence prevention groups in Chicago neighborhoods that are models for community activism and that deserve more federal support. He's committed to being more accessible to constituents than Rush, whose low visibility in Chicago communities has long concerned us. "I want them to feel that they can touch what we're fighting for and who I am," Emmons says.

Also running are Sarah Gad, a University of Chicago law student, and Ameena Nuur Matthews, an anti-violence activist who was featured in the documentary "The Interrupters."

We favor Emmons, who's respectful of Rush's service but eager to give constituents more energetic service. As Emmons says: "Part of living in my community and respecting my elders is challenging them." Emmons is endorsed. Philanise White is running unopposed in the Republican primary.

2nd District Democrats

Rep. **Robin Kelly,** of Matteson, whose 2nd Congressional District includes southern Cook County, is passionate and pragmatic. It's an approach we appreciate. She has a signature issue — gun violence prevention — but a broad portfolio of interests, ranging from women's health issues and prescription drug pricing to job creation.

We'd rather Kelly *not* spend time promoting a Peotone airport that no longer seems necessary, but even there she's thinking about her district the right way: as a potential engine of Illinois economic growth. Running against Kelly in the primary is Marcus Lewis, of Matteson. Theresa J. Raborn is unopposed on the Republican side. Kelly is endorsed.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Another promising Joe Biden presidential campaign has found another iceberg to ram and, once again, the orchestra's playing "Nearer My God to Thee." ... It also looks like the end of the white ethnic pol. Though Biden is no Kennedy or Daley, he bears many of the identifying traits of a classic Irish American on the hustings. ... Irish-machine politics built New York, Boston, Chicago, Kansas City — the list goes on and on. ...

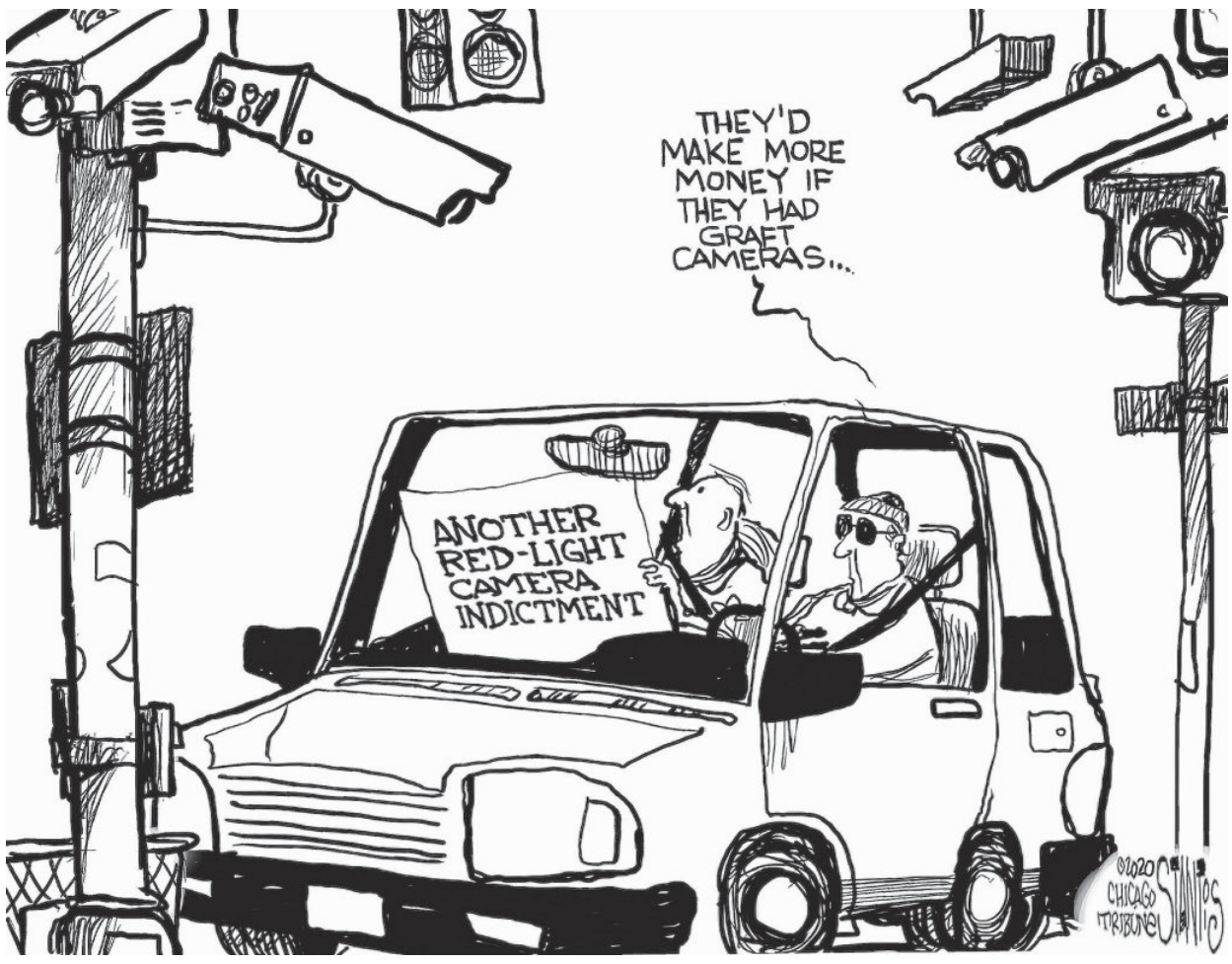
Those pols came from a world in which being white and male was just the beginning of one's identity. In the Chicago of 50 years ago, it mattered whether your name was Rostenkowski, Bilandic, Annunzio or Mikva. The answer told you which ward you were likely to live in and which voters you could count as your base. ...

We've now elevated other identities above place of origin. If Pete Buttigieg should be elected in November, the headlines will say he's the first gay president, not the first Maltese American president. Or if Sen. Amy Klobuchar wins, she'll be the first woman to be elected, not the first Slovenian American.

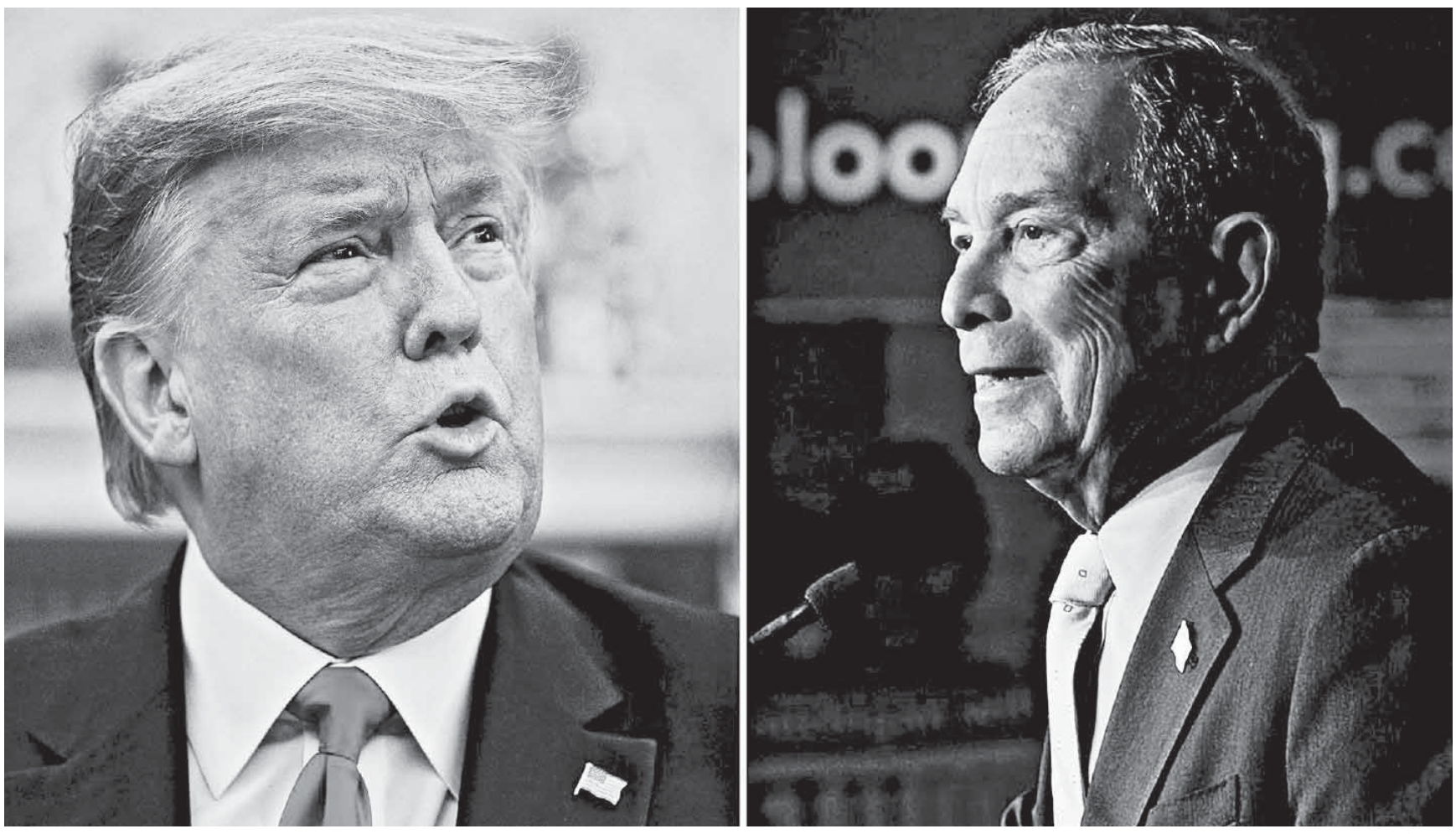
To be straight, white and male is taxonomy enough in today's politics, with no further differentiation required or desired. That's progress of a certain type. ... But progress means leaving something behind, and in this case what's lost is the brawling, bruising, blatant variety of which those SWMs were capable. The young voters who look at Biden and see only a white guy whose time has passed missed the best part.

David Von Drehle, The Washington Post

SCOTT STANTIS



PERSPECTIVE



AP-GETTY

President Donald Trump, left, and Democratic rival Michael Bloomberg have a generous supply of chutzpah that makes their Twitter battle sound like a WWE match.

Trump vs. Bloomberg: More than a Twitter battle



CLARENCE PAGE

President Donald Trump could hardly contain his glee.

"WOW, BLOOMBERG IS A TOTAL RACIST!," he tweeted in all caps to his millions of followers early Tuesday, the day of the New Hampshire presidential primary.

The tweet leaked audio from 2015 in which Michael Bloomberg, former New York mayor and current Democratic rival for Trump's job, strongly defended the city's stop-and-frisk policing policy.

Before it was quickly taken down, the clip was originally posted by a liberal blogger on Monday night, aimed at reviving outrage over the aggressive policing tactics for which Bloomberg later apologized — as he was launching his presidential bid last fall.

In the clip, he can be heard saying that "the way you get the guns out of the kids' hands is to throw them up against the walls and frisk them."

The former Republican also sounded defiant as he explained why the policy targeted minority kids in minority neighborhoods: "Because that's where all the crime is."

Bloomberg continued to defend stop-and-frisk after he left office in 2013. He also continued early last year to attribute a decline in the city's murder rate to the policy, though the number of murders continued to decline despite the reduction in stops.

Bloomberg? A racist? Look who's talking.

As a candidate in late 2016, Trump called for a nationwide stop-and-frisk policy during an interview with Fox News, saying the program "worked very well" for New York City.

"I think Chicago needs stop-and-frisk," he said in a "Fox & Friends" interview, although the more he rambled on about how "Chicago needs stop-and-frisk" and "tough law and order," the more it was apparent to me that he really didn't know much about the subject.

Positions like that begin to explain why a recent Washington Post-IPSOS poll found more than 8 in 10 black Americans believe Trump is a racist. Trump has good reason to try to deflect the racism charge onto Bloomberg or anybody else but himself.

In November, Bloomberg reversed his position, declaring, "I was wrong." Trump has not. Instead, he has repeatedly maligned New York, Chicago and some other cities that have dropped stop-and-frisk, even as they turned to more effective, less-disruptive crime-fighting methods.

Trump calls Bloomberg a racist? Pot, meet kettle.

Trump has reason to feel unsettled by Bloomberg's rise. While Trump's bid to find dirt on previous front-runner Joe Biden led to impeachment, he now faces a potentially bigger threat to his presidency in Bloomberg.

Bloomberg is Biden without the same baggage. He's much wealthier than Trump. Trump knows media as a reality TV star, but Bloomberg founded one of the biggest media companies on the planet, which bears his name. Trump, a child of wealth, presents himself as self-made. Bloomberg really did pull himself up by his own bootstraps.

And both of these sons of Queens, NYC, have a generous supply of chutzpah that makes their Twitter battle sound like a WWE match.

"Mini Mike Bloomberg is a LOSER who has money but can't debate and has zero presence, you will see," Trump tweeted Thursday, bringing to mind his shots at such Republican rivals as Jeb Bush, who Trump maligned as "low energy Jeb."

Layering his insults on thick, Trump called Bloomberg a "5'4" mass of dead energy who does not want to be on the debate stage with these professional politicians." (For the record, Bloomberg is reportedly 5-foot-7, according to his medical records.)

Bloomberg, no slouch at Big Apple audacity, tweeted back: "We know many of the same people in NY. Behind your back they laugh at you & call you a carnival barking clown. They know you inherited a fortune & squandered it with stupid deals and incompetence."

Smack! Twitter fans picked up the theme. "#carnival barking clown" was soon trending.

Students of Trump's style understand how these shenanigans have a purpose. A lot of voters come to the voting booth for the fight as much as for views on issues. They want to know, will this candidate fight for me? Trump wins many votes by standing ready and eager to fight for them. Bloomberg sounds ready and eager to fight Trump for them.

It is the mere prospect of a better president that boosted Bloomberg to third place in a new national Quinnipiac University poll a day before the New Hampshire primary, surging ahead of Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg to third place with 15%. Topping him were Bernie Sanders with 25% support and Joe Biden at 17%. Bloomberg has helped himself with a wave of TV and web advertising.

With hedge fund manager Tom Steyer also in the Democratic race, Campaign 2020 is turning into a battle of the billionaires that reminds me of an old African proverb: When elephants fight, the grass suffers. The grass is us, the voters, unless we hold all candidates to account on real issues, along with our current billionaire president.

Clarence Page, a member of the Tribune Editorial Board, blogs at www.chicagotribune.com/pagespage.

cpage@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @cptime

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Congress, please spare Stars and Stripes

I consider Tribune columnists John Kass, Mary Schmich and Paul Sullivan close friends. I don't know them personally. But I share coffee with them every morning. That was, however, until I deployed to Afghanistan. Thankfully, my family still sends copies of the Tribune in care packages — usually three to four weeks old. But I read them anyway. In fact, David Haugh's "Is next year here? The White Sox are ready to contend again" (Dec. 25) hangs in my room. His column is more than just a piece of pulp — it's a reminder of home.

On the other side of the world, I now read the military newspaper Stars and Stripes. With limited internet, this paper keeps me connected to everything going on back home. Its independent reporting informs me about the policies and decisions that directly affect me in Afghanistan. It helps me stay abreast of current events around the world. For us deployed overseas, the Stars and Stripes serves as a vital link to our lives back home. But the Pentagon plans to cut its funding.



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

U.S. soldiers sit beneath an American flag on Sept. 11, 2011, at Forward Operating Base Bostick in Kunar province, Afghanistan. A soldier deployed there asks for support for the newspaper Stars and Stripes.

Elaine McCusker, the Pentagon's acting undersecretary of defense, said "that newspaper is probably not the best way we communicate any longer." She is right. But the Stars and Stripes is an independent newspaper, not the Pentagon's soapbox. My leadership tells me everything I need to know — the Stars and Stripes tells me everything else. In a $705 billion budget, cutting the paper's allotment of $7 million will rob America's fighting men and women far more than it will save the Pentagon.

If you support our men and women overseas, tell Congress to fund the Stars and Stripes. Our very own Sen. Tammy Duckworth sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the body responsible for forwarding the Pentagon's budget. Tell her that the Stars and Stripes offers our deployed servicemen and women more than just the news — it's a piece of home we can hold in our hands.

— Kevin D. Ryan, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

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A Christian's case against the president

My 35-year-old daughter outed me (with permission). She posted a photo of me, a born-again pro-life Christian, campaigning for a Democratic presidential candidate. I thought about my dear friends and relatives who support President Donald Trump — they love their families, their country and God. But I believe they have not thought deeply about supporting this immoral president.

Although I believe people can repent and change, and be forgiven, Trump has not admitted any wrongdoing now or in the past. He continues to be a president I am ashamed of and who acts in a way contrary to my beliefs. I believe if Christians use their God-given research and reasoning powers, they will come to the conclusion I did. President Trump has got to go. Here's why.

Abortion: Trump's anti-abortion stance garners him Christians' support. And I am pro-life: I have supported women to carry their babies, even though the pregnancy was unplanned or they were economically unstable. I have fostered children. I have adopted children. Children are my delight. But we can make abortion rare without supporting Trump. Most developed nations provide universal health care to women and children. Let's support a presidential candidate who will help women in crisis by supporting universal health care. We can also prevent abortions. Long-term contraception provided cost-free through Obamacare is part of the solution to reducing abortions. Trump is trying to get rid of that.

Misogyny and credible claims of sexual assault: Research the number of women with claims of sexual assault and rape against President Trump. This behavior breaks our laws and breaks my heart. Can you as a Christian tolerate a leader who dishonors women?

Anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies: Our Bible mandates treating immigrants with love. Research Trump's rhetoric and treatment of immigrant adults and children. Both go against our values.

Racism: He inflames divisions. He defended white nationalists in Virginia as "very fine people." There is statistical evidence of an increase in hate crimes in cities where he holds his rallies.

Bullying: Our children hear him mock people from John McCain to Greta Thunberg, and others.

Climate change: Would God want us to follow a leader reversing years of progress on pollution, to our children's detriment?

It's time for Christians to be true patriots and stop supporting Trump.

— Margaret Palmer, Ingleside

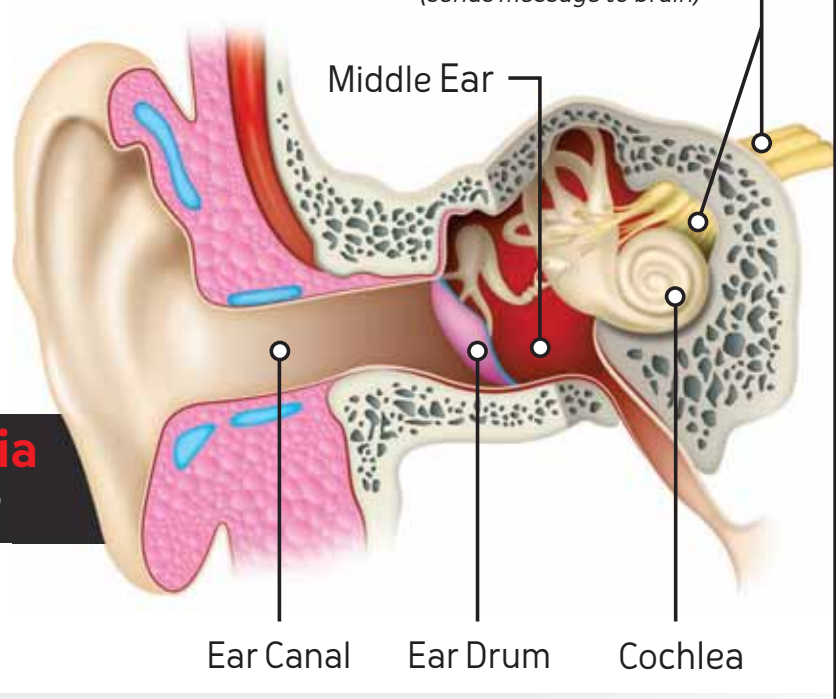
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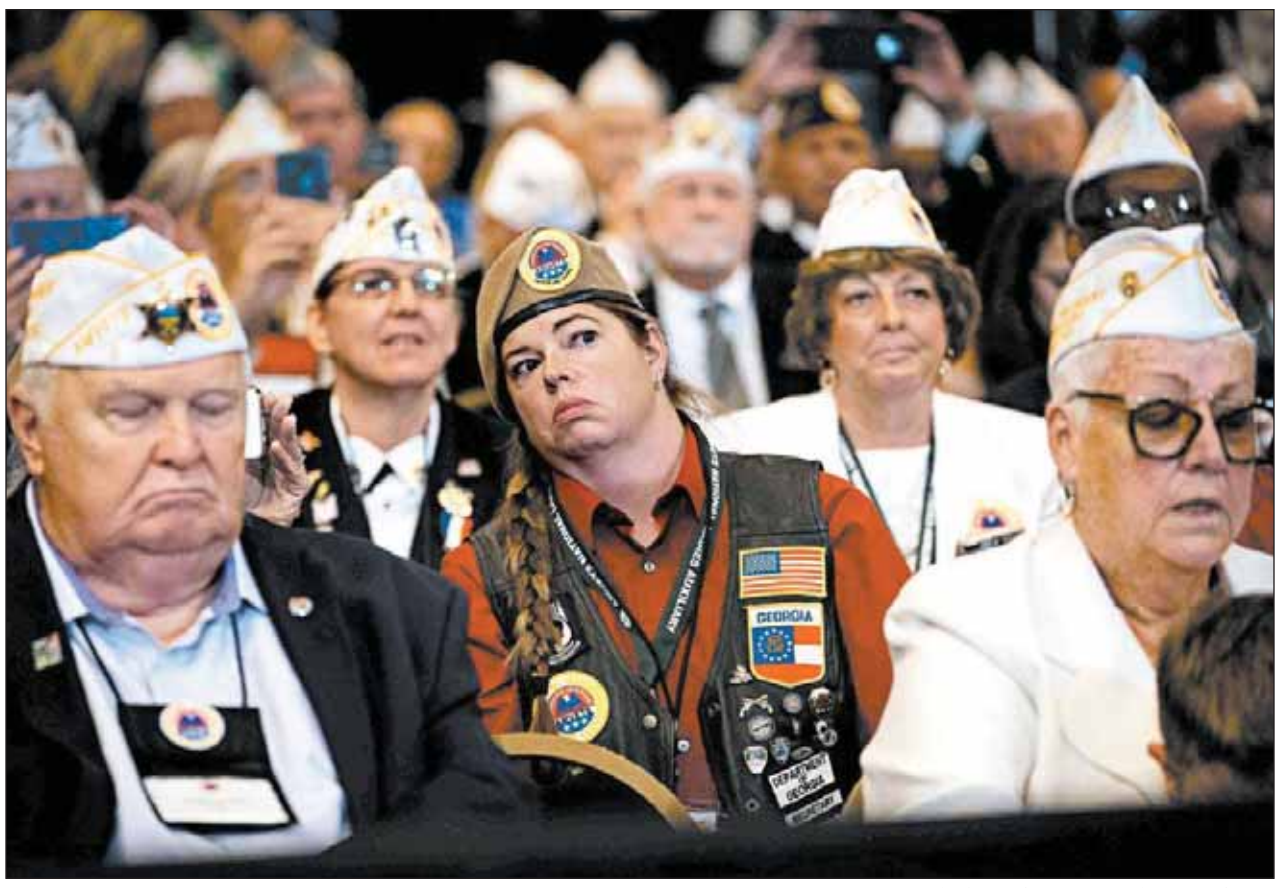
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Chicago Tribune
NATION & WORLD

Veterans Affairs faces turmoil again

Firing of deputy secretary latest in string of incidents

By Jennifer Steinhauer
The New York Times



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2019

Veterans listen to President Donald Trump at the American Veterans national convention last August in Louisville, Ky.

WASHINGTON — As President Donald Trump enters his reelection year, his administration's focus on the nation's veterans has emerged as a centerpiece of the campaign. But the agency tasked with caring for more than 9 million former service members, a department he claims to have transformed, is showing signs of disarray.

The mysterious firing this month of the deputy secretary of veterans affairs was only the latest in a string of incidents that have shaken the second-largest Cabinet agency in the government as it embarks on ambitious changes to veterans health care.

The department's secretary, Robert Wilkie, got into an unusual public confrontation last month with a senior House policy adviser on female veterans issues who said she was sexually assaulted at the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Washington. That led the House Veterans Affairs Committee to file a complaint with the department's inspector general, charging that Wilkie tried to dig up dirt on the woman, a former reserve Navy intelligence officer. Last fall, that same inspector general reported that a new office formed to protect whistleblowers often retaliated against them instead.

A health program central to the Trump administration's aggressive expansion of care outside the department's health facilities, known as the Mission Act, has hit snags right out of the gate. Congressional officials were told that millions of dollars more would probably be needed to meet the plan's coverage goals. Department officials admitted to lawmakers that they had no clue how much the outside care was costing or how many were seeking it.

Finally, a $16 billion overhaul of the veterans medical records system has been delayed amid technical and training glitches.

Several who work inside or closely with the department attributed some of the issues to Wilkie's inattention to the herculean tasks he was supposed to carry out at the long-troubled department, as he is seen to be lobbying for other jobs in the administration, most notably secretary of defense, or ponders an eventual career in politics.

The perpetual turmoil has agitated members of veterans' service organizations, which have sparred with Wilkie as their influence has waned.

"There is a leadership challenge going on over there," said Randy Reese, the executive director of Disabled American Veterans. "The fault of not changing the culture rests on his desk."

More ominous for Wilkie is the increasing impatience at Concerned Veterans for America, a conservative organization with substantial backing from the billionaire Charles Koch that has had enormous influence on the Trump administration's veterans policies. That influence is especially evident in the new program allowing veterans to seek health care outside the department's traditional medical centers.

Leaders of Concerned Veterans for America, like many current and former Veterans Department officials, fear the problems could presage the return to a dark era when inattention to veterans' health care led to scandals and tragedies.

"We are going to be really watching over the next six months," said Dan Caldwell, the group's senior adviser and former executive director. The organization was instrumental in ousting the last secretary, David Shulkin, who was dismissed in 2018 by presidential tweet.

While the department is second only to the Defense Department in size and budget, it operates with far less oversight of its spending and activities. And while the mission of the Pentagon is higher in profile, lawmakers are loath to cut services for veterans or lose facilities in their districts, and they rarely suggest cuts to the department, regardless of its inefficiencies or problems.

The department has suffered decades of scandals, and in 2014 investigators found patients waiting an average of 115 days for appointments at the Phoenix medical center, where workers fraudulently reported far shorter waits. The department has subsequently endured a variety of intrigue and political infighting and has had four secretaries over five years.

Last fall, Andrea Goldstein, a Navy veteran and the senior policy adviser for the Women Veterans Task Force on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, told The New York Times that she was assaulted while buying a snack at the medical center's cafeteria in Washington. After investigating, the veterans department's Office of Inspector General declined to bring charges.

Wilkie, against the advice of his staff, three people said, then sent a letter to Rep. Mark Takano of California, the committee's chairman, denouncing the claim as "unsubstantiated" and chastising Takano for bringing it to the fore.

In an unusual rebuke, Michael Missal, the inspector general, wrote to Wilkie to say that characterizing Goldstein's allegation as unsubstantiated was incorrect.

Four people with direct knowledge said that Wilkie and his senior aides also embarked on a campaign to discredit Goldstein's claims by suggesting that she had made similar accusations many times before. Takano received complaints about those efforts and referred the matter to the inspector general.

Senior aides to Wilkie flatly denied that he had orchestrated any effort to discredit Goldstein.

"The secretary is the most ethical, decent, honorable man I have ever known," said Pam Powers, Wilkie's chief of staff. "At no time did the secretary ever direct, discuss or insinuate that somebody should investigate Ms. Goldstein's background."

The dispute has surfaced as the department is aggressively seeking to increase the number of women, who are a growing percentage of veterans overall, using its medical centers. It also comes amid reports from female patients and staff members — in at least one case a medical director — of harassment and assault by male veterans at the centers.

A week ago, the deputy veterans affairs secretary, James Byrne, was asked to remain behind after a morning meeting. Wilkie then told Byrne that he had "lost confidence" in his No. 2 and that he needed to resign.

"For 2½ years I had the privilege of working with dedicated professionals at the VA providing care benefits and services to deserving veterans," Byrne said.

No further explanation has been publicly offered by department officials for his dismissal.

"The second-highest person in the second-biggest agency in the federal government got fired, and no one knows why," said Kristofer Goldsmith, the chief investigator for Vietnam Veterans of America. "It is mind-blowing."

Gold panning in Mali's north puts silver in militants' pocket

By Baba Ahmed
Associated Press



BABA AHMED/AP

Gold panners break stones in Kidal, Mali, amid a gold rush in northern Mali in an area where al-Qaida-linked militants operate. A coalition of rebels oversees the gold panning.

KIDAL, Mali — A gold rush is underway in an area of northern Mali where al-Qaida-linked fighters are active, raising concerns that profits from artisanal mining could benefit not only the local economy but also Islamic extremists.

A coalition of armed Tuareg rebels known as the CMA controls the Kidal region and its leaders oversee the gold-panning activities. Some CMA members are believed to have close ties to the local al-Qaida affiliate known as JNIM. It is considered the most active of the extremist groups in the West African nation where deadly attacks against the military and communities have soared.

"It cannot be excluded that individuals belonging to terrorist groups — in this case the JNIM — in the area play a role not only in securing the sites but in the collection of taxes, too," said Ibrahim Maiga, a researcher with the Institute for Security Studies in Mali's capital, Bamako.

CMA officials declined to talk about the presence of al-Qaida-linked fighters in their ranks. Residents were fearful of discussing it, saying the extremist group has intelligence agents everywhere in town.

A United Nations panel of experts report in August found that the CMA was receiving income from checkpoints and taxation related to the gold rush but that several mining operators had "yet to comply with regulations." It said the gold rush began "initially in almost complete anarchy."

The report said experts had been gathering "evidence of collusion between individual members of compliant armed groups and terrorist armed groups." The CMA is considered a compliant group because it signed a peace accord with Mali's government in 2015. Many difficulties have faced the agreement's implementation.

Ties between Tuareg rebels and Islamic extremists are complex and evolving. The rebels have long sought to create an independent state known as Azawad, and some signed on to the agreement with the government. Others including former Tuareg rebel leader Iyad Ag Ghaly have gone the way of extremism, starting a group known as Ansar Dine and later joining forces with others to form JNIM.

The gold panning began in Kidal in 2016, not long after the CMA signed the peace accord. About 1,000 people are currently panning for gold, according to Attayoub Ag Battaye, who leads a local non-governmental organization. In addition to Malians, there are also believed to be workers from Niger, Chad, Sudan and Algeria.

The gold can go for up to 1,300 CFA ($2.19) a karat in Bamako, providing an economic lifeline for a region whose economy has been decimated by conflict dating back to 2011 — before a coup that allowed the extremists to seize control.

While concerns remain about oversight, local leaders insist that the gold rush has brought much-needed prosperity.

"Before the discovery of gold in the Kidal region, there was so much banditry that thieves even entered the courtyard of private houses, of NGOs. There were robberies all the time," said Attouyoub Ag Intalla, who leads another civil society organization. "Since the discovery of gold, young people have been busy with gold panning."



BEN BIRCHALL/AP

Rough seas pound against the harbor wall at Porthcawl in Wales as storm Dennis sweeps the country Saturday.

2 dead as Britain braces for 2nd big storm

By Pan Pylas
Associated Press

LONDON — Rescuers pulled two male bodies from rough seas off the coast of southeast England and military personnel mobilized to help build flood barriers Saturday as Britain braced for a second straight weekend of stormy weather.

The fourth named storm of the season, dubbed Dennis by Britain's Met Office weather service, prompted widespread travel disruptions and had the potential to cause more damage than last weekend's Storm Ciara.

The body of one man was pulled out of the sea by a lifeboat from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and followed a seven-hour search that involved a Royal Navy vessel. The search commenced before dawn after a distress call came from the B Gas Margrethe, a Maltese tanker that had been anchored off the coastal town of Margate.

In a separate incident, the body of a second man was pulled from the sea.

The Met Office had 31 flood warnings in place around England. Another 26 were issued in Scotland and six in Wales.

The storm was expected to deepen late Saturday and Sunday. The storm could produce winds of up to 98 mph and monster waves above 100 feet high, according to the U.S. National Weather Service's Ocean Prediction Center.

Much of the concern about storm dangers focused on northern England, which suffered during Storm Ciara. At least eight people were killed across Europe during that storm.

On Saturday, around 75 British army personnel and 70 reservists were helping out stretched communities in the flood-hit Calder Valley region in West Yorkshire, constructing barriers and repairing damaged flood defenses.

"Our armed forces are always ready to support local authorities and communities whenever they need it," Britain's Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said.



JIM WEBER/DAILY MEMPHIAN

Wendy Kerley gives Ethan Getman a shot of the flu vaccine last year in Memphis, Tenn. The CDC estimates 26 million Americans have gotten sick with flu in the fall and winter.

Amid fears of coronavirus, second wave of flu hits US

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A second wave of flu is hitting the U.S., turning this into one of the nastiest seasons for children in a decade.

The number of child deaths and the hospitalization rate for youngsters are the highest seen at this point in any season since the severe flu outbreak of 2009-10, health officials said. And the wave is expected to keep going for weeks.

Experts say it is potentially a bad time for an extended flu season, given concerns about the coronavirus out of China, which can cause symptoms that can be difficult to distinguish from flu without testing.

If coronavirus were to begin spreading in the U.S., there could be confusion about whether people are getting sick with it or the flu, said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious-diseases expert at Vanderbilt University.

This flu season got off to its earliest start in 15 years, with surges of flu-like illnesses seen in parts of the South as early as October. Most cases were caused by a type of flu that usually causes substantial infections only in the spring, at the tail end of the flu season.

That wave peaked in late December and dropped steadily for weeks afterward.

But a second surge began in late January.

The first week of February saw another rise in the percentage of doctor's office visits that were due to flu-like illness, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We have not yet peaked for influenza. We are still on our way up," Dr. David Weber, a University of North Carolina infectious-diseases specialist, said of the patient traffic in Chapel Hill.

Overall, the CDC estimated that 26 million Americans have gotten sick with flu this past fall and winter, with about 250,000 flu-related hospitalizations and around 14,000 deaths.

The overall death and hospitalization rates this season are not high "because we haven't seen the elderly as involved in this flu season," said the CDC's Lynnette Brammer.

But 92 flu-related deaths have already been reported in children, a higher total at this point of the year than in any season in the past decade. And the hospitalization rates also are far higher than what's been seen at this point.

The CDC said the reason is that two strains of the flu that are tough on children are spreading in the same season.

The health agency is expected to release an estimate this week of how effective the flu vaccine has been.

So far, only 15 U.S. cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed, and no deaths. All but two of the cases were in people who had traveled to Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the international outbreak.

It's possible that concern about the coronavirus has led some people with flu symptoms to go to the doctor for testing this year, whereas they might have just stayed home in other years, Brammer said. But there is nothing in CDC data that shows that's been happening, she added.

Still, it's OK if it does happen, said the CDC's Dr. Nancy Messonnier. "People being a little worried and seeking care doesn't especially worry me, because that's the point. We're looking for broader spread within the community."

China

Continued from ***Page 1***

cities have issued the equivalents of paper hall passes to regulate how often residents leave their homes. Apartment buildings have turned away their own tenants if they have come from out of town. Train stations block people from entering cities if they cannot prove they live or work there. In the countryside, villages have been gated off with vehicles, tents and other improvised barriers.

Despite China's arsenal of high-tech surveillance tools, the controls are mainly enforced by hundreds of thousands of workers and volunteers, who check residents' temperature, log their movements, oversee quarantines and — most important — keep away outsiders who might carry the virus.

Residential lockdowns of varying strictness — from checkpoints at building entrances to hard limits on going outdoors — now cover at least 760 million people in China, or more than half the country's population, according to a New York Times analysis of government announcements in provinces and major cities. Many of these people live far from the city of Wuhan, where the virus was first reported and which Beijing sealed off last month.

Throughout China, neighborhoods and localities have issued their own rules about residents' comings and goings, which means the total number of affected people may be even higher. Policies vary widely, leaving some places in a virtual freeze and others with few strictures.

China's top leader, Xi Jinping, has called for an all-out "people's war" to tame the outbreak even as authorities acknowledged for the first time Saturday that Xi was aware of the epidemic nearly two weeks before he first spoke publicly about it — and while officials at its epicenter in the city of Wuhan were still playing down its dangers.



NOEL CELIS/GETTY-AFP

A couple wearing protective face masks walks along a Shanghai street on Saturday.

In a newly released internal speech that Xi delivered on Feb. 3, when the epidemic had already spiraled into a national crisis, the Chinese president said he had "issued demands about the efforts to prevent and control" the coronavirus on Jan. 7.

But the restrictions have prevented workers from returning to factories and businesses, straining China's giant economy. And with local officials exercising such direct authority over people's movements, it is no surprise that some have taken enforcement to extremes.

Li Jing, 40, an associate professor of sociology at Zhejiang University in the eastern city of Hangzhou, was almost barred from taking her husband to a hospital recently after he choked on a fish bone during dinner. The reason? Her neighborhood allows only one person per family to leave the house, every other day.

China has raised its infection total to 66,492 and death toll to 1,523.

Meanwhile, an 80-year-old Chinese tourist died in France of the coronavirus, the French health minister said Saturday, becoming the outbreak's first fatality in Europe and outside Asia.

China's prevention efforts are being led by its myriad neighborhood committees, which typically serve as a go-between for residents and local authorities. Supporting them is the government's "grid management" system, which divides the country into tiny sections and assigns people to watch over each, ensuring a tight grip over a large population.

Zhejiang province, on China's southeastern seaboard, has a population of nearly 60 million and has enlisted 330,000 "grid workers." Hubei province, whose capital is Wuhan, has deployed 170,000. The southern province of Guangdong has called upon 177,000, landlocked Sichuan has 308,000, and the megacity of Chongqing has 118,000.

Authorities are also combining enormous manpower with mobile technology to track people who may have been exposed to the virus. China's state-run cellular providers allow subscribers to send text messages to a hotline that generates a list of provinces they have recently visited.

With large numbers of new infections being reported every day, the government has clear reasons for minimizing human contact and domestic travel. But experts said that in epidemics, overbearing measures can backfire, scaring infected people into hiding and making the outbreak harder to control.

"Public health relies on public trust," said Alexandra Phelan, a specialist in global health law at Georgetown University. "These community-level quarantines and the arbitrary nature in which they're being imposed and tied up with the police and other officials is essentially making them into punitive actions — a coercive action rather than a public health action."

Associated Press contributed.

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Sanders attacks rivals as early voting starts in Nev.

By Steve Peoples and Michelle L. Price
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Progressive firebrand Bernie Sanders jabbed his more moderate rivals on Saturday for taking campaign cash from billionaires as Democratic officials at some sites across Nevada were overwhelmed by long lines on the first day of early voting in presidential caucuses.

Sanders, who has emerged as a front-runner in the 2020 nomination fight after strong finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire, went on the offensive during a rally at a suburban Las Vegas high school.

"Democracy is not candidates going to the homes of billionaires raising money," he charged in a thinly veiled attack against competitors like Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, who have aggressively courted wealthy donors over the past year. Buttigieg met with donors behind closed doors in Seattle at roughly the same time Sanders made the comments.

While Nevada's formal presidential caucuses are still a week away, Democrats began casting votes at more than 80 locations across the state on Saturday. Nevada Democrats are hosting four days of early voting for its caucuses, the first test of a candidate's appeal before a diverse population with strong labor unions.

In northern Nevada's Washoe County, a line of more than 300 people snaked through aisles of book shelves at a public library as another 100 queued up at the county party's headquarters. Dozens left without voting.

A spokeswoman for the Nevada Democrats, Molly Forgey, downplayed any concerns related to the large early turnout.

"We are happy to see the number of energized Democrats participating in our first ever early voting period," she said, noting that early voters have four days to participate.

Early votes cast on paper ballots will be added to in-person caucus votes made Saturday, when Democrats will attend about 2,000 precinct meetings around the state.

This year, with the results of Iowa's caucuses muddled by technology and reporting problems, Nevada is under heavy pressure to pull off a problem-free caucus. The Nevada State Democratic Party abandoned its plans to use an app like the one that caused trouble in Iowa and has scrambled to come up with a new system to tabulate results.

Amid heightened concern over the process, several candidates were making urgent get-out-the-vote pushes with rallies and town halls ahead of a fundraising gala for the Las Vegas-based Clark County Democratic Party to feature a half-dozen White House hopefuls.

Biden, looking to Nevada's diverse electorate to help revive his campaign after weak finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire, seized on President Donald Trump's hard-line policy and incendiary rhetoric on immigration as he courted voters.

"Everybody knows how Donald Trump is. We gotta let him know who we are," Biden said, drawing a roar from about 100 campaign volunteers gathered at a Las Vegas middle school gymnasium for a Latino organizing event.

Biden thanked the volunteers, emphasized the importance of the Latino vote and touted his relationships with unions. He later told reporters that he didn't need to win Nevada's caucuses to mount a comeback.

Former Sen. Harry Reid, an icon in Nevada's Democratic politics, told reporters that "people should not be counting Joe Biden out of the race yet," but also offered warm words for Sanders' candidacy. When asked he downplayed concerns from some Democrats that Sanders might hurt other candidates should he become the nominee.

"I care a great deal about Bernie Sanders. And he has gotten where he has by having people support him," said the 80-year-old Reid. "And so I'm not going to be critical of Bernie Sanders."

Elizabeth Warren, meanwhile, also reeling after a weak performance this month in New Hampshire, looked to Nevada's women for momentum.

The Massachusetts senator pitched her universal child care plan as she addressed about 30 people, mostly women, at a downtown Las Vegas reggae and cocktail bar. Warren said her child care plan would be paid for by a wealth tax of 2 cents on every dollar for fortunes of more than $50 million.

"It's good for our babies," Warren said. "Think about what it means for every mama. Every mama who can now finish her education, even if she's just had a baby. Every mama and every daddy who could take a job."

Bloomberg, who isn't competing in Nevada as part of a strategy to skip the first four states voting for a nominee, was on the cusp of qualifying for Wednesday's presidential debate in Las Vegas. He's increasingly become a target of the Democratic Party's far-left wing as national polls show suggest he is on the rise.

Both Warren and Sanders criticized the role of big money in politics and billionaires seeking the presidency. Bloomberg and Tom Steyer are in that category.



ALEX WONG/GETTY

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks Saturday in Las Vegas.

Wanted in husband's death, US woman arrested in Rome

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

ROME — An American woman wanted in her husband's 2002 murder was able to stay at the Rome hotel where she was arrested for nearly two weeks before an international arrest warrant turned up in the system identifying her as a murder suspect, Italian police said.

Beverly McCallum, 59, was cooperative when she was arrested last week in a hotel on the northwest outskirts of the Italian capital, officials said.



PAOLO SANTALUCIA/AP

An American woman sought in the 2002 death of her husband in Michigan was arrested at this Rome hotel.

While she had been staying in the small-business hotel since early February, her arrival from Pakistan via Saudi Arabia did not raise red flags because no international arrest warrant had been issued, the head of the Rome police rapid reaction unit said.

The date of her arrival was not clear.



Caraballo

McCallum, who has Italian heritage, appeared to be looking into whether she could remain in Italy, Marco Sangiovanni said.

She was arrested on an Interpol warrant.

In Italy, hotels are required to submit identities of guests taken from their official travel documents to local police offices. The hotel, Papillo, which features Italian and European Union flags, is in a shopping mall in a nondescript area overlooking Rome's main ring road.

U.S. authorities had been seeking to extradite McCallum from Pakistan, where she was believed to be living, to stand trial in the slaying of her husband, Robert Caraballo.

In 2002, he was beaten and suffocated, and his body was dumped and burned in a blueberry patch in Michigan.

Police said McCallum was being held at Rome's Rebibbia prison.

Caraballo's badly burned remains were found in a scorched footlocker in a wooded area in Ottawa County, Michigan, in the days following his death.

The identity of the victim was unknown until police received an anonymous tip in 2015.

In the years after the slaying, McCallum reportedly met a man from Pakistan over the internet and moved there.

Rome police said she had fled to Pakistan after learning police were on her trail.

Murder charges were announced last year against McCallum, her daughter Dineane Ducharme, and Christopher McMillan, of Grand Rapids. The three also were charged with conspiracy, and disinterment and mutilation of a body.

McMillan pleaded guilty to second-degree murder. He had been expected to testify against the other two.

Ducharme was also in custody.

McMillan, a friend of Ducharme, told investigators that the slaying was planned and a "test run" was performed before killing Caraballo, Eaton County sheriff's Detective James Maltby testified at a hearing last year.

According to the Lansing State Journal, Maltby said McMillan told investigators that McCallum pushed Caraballo down the basement stairs of a home, then beat him with at least one hammer.

McCallum wrapped a plastic bag around the head of the still-breathing Caraballo, Maltby testified.

Ducharme, who was 21 at the time of the slaying, told police her mother killed Caraballo and that she helped dispose of her stepfather's body, according to Maltby.

McCallum also has two younger daughters, who were 9 and 11 at the time. Maltby testified that McCallum brought the two younger girls with her when she burned Caraballo's body.

Maltby said one of the two younger daughters later questioned her mother about what happened and said that McCallum told her she killed Caraballo in self-defense.

Sometime after the killing, Ducharme and her mother moved to Pasadena, Texas.

McCallum subsequently moved to Pakistan after learning that the investigation into the slaying was progressing, Maltby said.

Taliban deal looks promising despite the risks, Esper says

By Robert Burns and Matthew Lee
Associated Press

MUNICH — U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Saturday that a truce agreement between the United States and the Taliban that could lead to the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan is not without risk but "looks very promising."



JENS MEYER/AP

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper asserted Saturday that it's time to "give peace a chance" in Afghanistan.

Ahead of a formal announcement of the seven-day "reduction in violence" deal, Esper said it was time to give peace a chance in Afghanistan through a political negotiation. He spoke a day after a senior U.S. official said the deal had been concluded and would take effect very soon.

Expectations are that agreement will be formally announced Sunday and that the reduction in violence will begin Monday, according to people familiar with the plan.

"So we have on the table right now a reduction in violence proposal that was negotiated between our ambassador and the Taliban," Esper told an audience at the Munich Security Conference. "It looks very promising."

"It's my view as well that we have to give peace a chance, that the best if not the only way forward in Afghanistan is through a political agreement and that means taking some risk," he said. "That means enabling our diplomats and that means working together with our partners and allies on the ground to affect such a thing."

Esper and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met on Friday in Munich with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who has been skeptical of the scheme, which, if successful, would see an end to attacks for seven days and then the signing of a U.S.-Taliban peace deal. All-Afghan peace talks would then begin within 10 days as part of the plan, which envisions the phased withdrawal of U.S. forces over 18 months.

In remarks later to a group of reporters, Esper declined to say whether the U.S. had agreed to cut its troop levels in Afghanistan to zero. He said if the seven-day truce is successful and the next step toward Afghan peace talks begins, the U.S. would reduce its troop contingent "over time" to about 8,600. There currently are about 12,000 U.S. troops in the country.

Ghani also refused to comment on many specifics of the plan but said the time had come "find a political solution to stop the war."

He said it was impossible to know whether the Taliban might take advantage of a drawdown in American military power in Afghanistan to reassert its own presence, but said the only way to find out was to "engage in the peace process."

"The critical test is going to be: will the Taliban accept an election?" Ghani said.

The president rejected the idea that the Taliban could be granted greater influence in certain regions of Afghanistan, saying it was "antithetical to the Afghan vision because we are a unified country."

"The scope of the peace must be national. It cannot be subnational because otherwise it will be a recipe for another round of conflict," he said.

The United States has not agreed to suspend or end its counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan, which have been focused mainly on an Islamic State affiliate, known as ISIS-K, and al-Qaida, said Pentagon spokeswoman Alyssa Farah, who was traveling with Esper.

"Under any agreement, General Miller retains the authorities necessary to protect U.S. national security interests, including the authorities and capabilities to strike ISIS-K and al-Qaida," she said, referring to U.S. Gen Scott Miller, the commander of American and coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Separately on Saturday, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg told the security conference that he also supported the plan but stressed that the alliance's mission in Afghanistan would continue in the short- and medium-term.

"We are not leaving Afghanistan but we are prepared to adjust our force level if the Taliban demonstrates the will and the capability to reduce violence and make real compromises that could pave the way for negotiations among Afghans for sustainable peace," he said.



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/GETTY-AFP 2019

Dorian killed dozens of people, leveled communities and destroyed about 30% of the coral reefs in the Bahamas.

Report: Dorian razed 30% of reefs in Bahamas

By Shola Lawal
The New York Times

When Hurricane Dorian slammed into the Bahamas in September, it not only leveled entire communities and killed dozens of people, it also destroyed about 30% of the coral reefs around the islands, according to a report issued by the Perry Institute for Marine Science.

"We saw on several reefs that a significant amount of corals were broken, rolled around on the bottom and killed, or just smashed up to the point that the actual structure of the reef itself was reduced to rubble," said Craig Dahlgren, lead researcher at the Perry Institute, which has been examining effects of the hurricane since October.

Reef structures the size of small cars were dislodged or buried in debris, mud and sediment several feet deep, in some instances, Dahlgren said.

Reef diving and snorkeling are an important part of the country's tourism industry, which accounts for some 50% of its gross domestic product.

Even before the Category 5 storm, the reefs were in jeopardy. In 2016, the Perry Institute, based in Waitsfield, Vermont, found reefs in the Bahamas to be under stress and classified them as impaired, the category just above poor.

Healthy reefs are vital to marine ecosystems in the area, and the storm damage appears to have hit the country's fisheries as well.

Dahlgren's team reported a significant decline in fish populations linked to habitat damage. In addition to extremely turbulent waters, Dorian brought a surge of rainwater that changed sea salinity. The storm also caused water temperatures to fluctuate rapidly — both conditions that quite likely shocked the corals, according to researchers.

But the report's news was not all bad.

"We did see some areas that came out of it looking almost untouched, amazingly," Dahlgren said.



DAVID MAURICE SMITH PHOTOS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Zookeeper Claudia Bianchi looks for a platypus Jan. 30 at Taronga Zoo in Sydney. Seven wild platypuses were brought to the zoo amid drought conditions and wildfires in Australia.

Plight of the platypus

Australian wildfires, drought add new threats to mammal already on the brink

By Helen Sullivan and David Maurice Smith
The New York Times



Robert Dockerill, a senior zookeeper, handles a rescued platypus named Annie. "I don't care what the zoo says, she's mine," he says, smiling.

SYDNEY — Early on the morning of Dec. 27, Phoebe Meagher, a wildlife conservation officer at Taronga Zoo in Australia, set off on a rescue mission with colleagues from the zoo and academics from the University of New South Wales.

Several platypuses were trapped in quickly shrinking bodies of water in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve in the Australian Capital Territory, and wildfires were fast approaching.

There was a window of a few days before the park would be entirely closed off to the public and two weeks until the bodies of water would be completely dry.

A five-hour drive brought the team to what was once a lake. Now, it was mostly deep, sucking mud. The air was hot and smoky.

"Initially we thought we weren't going to be trapping until the evening," Meagher said.

Platypuses are nocturnal, usually waking up around sunset.

But these platypuses were already active, which, while concerning, meant the team could see where they were.

"There was hardly any water there," Meagher said. "So they couldn't duck down and hide and be cryptic like they usually are."

Platypuses are difficult to catch; they are fast, slippery swimmers and desperately shy.

The males also have a sharp, venomous spur behind one of their hind feet. The venom is not lethal to humans, but there is no antidote, and the pain can last months.

The scientists dragged a net through the remaining water in four areas of the reserve.

With the help of a small aluminum boat and a pool scooper, they caught two males and five females. The animals were placed into cotton pillowcases, then given health checks — while suspended upside down by their tails — and driven to the zoo in Sydney, where they will probably remain for months, until enough rain has fallen to replenish Tidbinbilla's supplies.

One of the biggest issues facing the zoo was that other reserves were asking them to rescue their platypuses, too, but Taronga didn't yet have the space.

"I don't think drought and bushfires are going away," Meagher said. "We have to prepare for these types of climatic disasters moving forward more and more."

She was spending her days asking, "How do we have the resources to be able to say, 'All right, let's go rescue 50 platypus?' "



A male platypus swims in a zoo tank. Males have a venomous spur behind one of their hind feet. The venom is not lethal to humans.

Tracking the decline

The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists the platypus as near-threatened.

In January, a study by scientists from the University of New South Wales and the University of Melbourne estimated that climate change could lead the number of platypuses to decline by as much as 73% in the next 50 years. In October, scientists from the University of New South Wales published a study in Global Ecology and Conservation showing that for the last decade there had been no records of platypuses in 41% of their previous range.

December was Australia's hottest and driest December on record; 2019 was its hottest and driest year on record; and the country has been experiencing a severe drought for three years, a key factor in why the ongoing wildfires have been so severe.

Platypuses are found mainly along the east coast of Australia, which has been the area worst affected by the fires. The eastern states are also home to 80% of Australia's human population.

In January, Aussie Ark, an animal welfare organization, discovered two dead platypuses in dried up waterways. The group relocated four others and took five more into their care. Platypuses are also threatened by pollution, land clearing and predation from invasive species, including foxes and feral dogs and cats — especially when platypuses choose to travel over land to seek out new bodies of water. They can retract the webbing on their feet to walk with their claws.

In the 19th century, tens of thousands of platypuses were killed for their thick pelts, which were turned into slippers or rugs.

Gilad Bino, a researcher at the University of New South Wales and the lead author on the January platypus study, said that old newspapers and studies described seeing "a dozen platypus in a pool, and using words that we would never use now, like 'platypus migration.' "

Today there are nothing like those numbers. Australia has the worst mammal extinction rates in the world.

In 2018, scientists at Monash University estimated that some platypuses could be ingesting half a human dose of antidepressants from aquatic insects in streams near Melbourne, which have been shown to have high levels of these and other drugs.

'Dr. Frankenstein's first attempt'

An aboriginal dreamtime story about the platypus (one indigenous name for the animal is Dharragarra) explains its origin as the product of a courtship between a water rat and a duck.

Platypuses have fur, bills, webbed feet and a beaverlike tail, and they lay eggs. The only other egg-laying mammal is the echidna, also endemic to Australia.

Young platypuses live with their mothers for up to four months, suckling on milk released through pores on the mother's chest. They evolved 120 million years ago and offer insight into the link between mammals and reptiles.

Platypuses may be of value for human medicine.

Their milk contains a unique antibacterial protein that could lead to new, superbug-resistant antibiotics, according to scientists at Deakin University in Australia. Their venom might help fight Type 2 diabetes; in 2016, scientists at Flinders University and the University of Adelaide discovered that platypus venom contained a long-lasting hormone that promotes the release of insulin.

Robert Dockerill, a senior keeper at Taronga Zoo, describes platypuses as "Dr. Frankenstein's first attempt."

He likes to joke that platypuses and echidnas are the only animals that can make custard because they produce both eggs and milk.

Forty years ago, he said, he watched platypuses swimming at his great-uncle's farm in Armidale, on the North Coast of New South Wales. The town has been hit particularly hard by the drought. Then, in January, rain washed soil and ash from the bushfires into the Macleay River, causing thousands of fish to die.

As he spoke, Dockerill stood in front of a tank at Taronga Zoo that held one of the rescued platypuses, a male.

"He's pretty much done nothing but eat since he got here," he said.

He noted that one way to tell the health of a platypus was to use the "tail volume index."

Platypuses store fat in their tails; the more a tail can bend, the less fat it holds. When the male had come in, he had a TVI of four, five being the worst. He was now almost a one.

The room housing the platypuses was dark, so that they would be active, thinking it was nighttime. Their tanks, decorated with fresh eucalyptus branches and fern fronds, glowed faintly. The rescued platypus dove through the leaves, wriggling its head as it searched the small pebbles in the tank floor for food.

Platypuses use their bills to detect the electric fields emitted by their prey, which consist mostly of invertebrates. They are particularly fond of "yabbies," small blue freshwater crayfish.

Yet another threat faced by platypuses are yabby traps, also known as Opera House traps because of their shape.

Platypuses need to surface in order to breathe, but the traps keep them underwater, and they drown. Opera House traps are illegal in Victoria, parts of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

A refuge at the zoo

As the rescued male dived, a steady stream of bubbles emerged from his body. The effect, actually caused by air trapped in their fur, gave rise to an early misconception about platypuses, that they "breathed through their butts," Dockerill said.

The male climbed onto a platform and changed positions like a swimsuit model posing for a photograph — at one point pressing his belly against the glass.

In a nearby tank, Annie the platypus, a longtime Taronga resident, rolled onto her back, scratching herself with a webbed foot.

Dockerill raised Annie by hand after she was brought into the zoo with injuries inflicted by a dog.

"I don't care what the zoo says, she's mine," he said, smiling. Often, he gives her a scratch in the mornings, but that day he could not visit any of the zoo's platypuses; he had already worked with the wild ones, which were under quarantine, which meant he was too.

Through a private door leading away from the public exhibit, and up narrow metal stairs were two more tanks — and the opening above the rescued male's tank, into which Dockerill scattered live beetle larvae and fly pupae.

The other tanks each held a rescued female and several bright blue yabbies, which appeared to wait nervously on branches of eucalyptus floating in the water. Suddenly, one of the females caught a yabby and proceeded to roll and shake it to death, like a tiny, furry crocodile.

Richard Kingsford, an aquatic ecologist at the University of New South Wales and another author of the recent study documenting the decline in platypus numbers, also grew up watching platypuses in the river, in his case the Abercrombie River, west of Sydney.

He described their courtship ritual.

"They seem to do this weird tumble turning, where they sort of go around in circles within the water, chasing each other," he said.

During the ritual, the male and female nip at each other's tails.

Australia is the world's driest inhabited continent.

Man-made dams, and the diversion of water to irrigated agriculture, have had a significant effect on biodiversity, Kingsford said.

Earlier this month, fires flared up again in the Australian Capital Territory, moving closer to Tidbinbilla. Rangers at the reserve began catching and relocating other species, including brush-tailed rock wallabies, Northern Corroboree frogs and bettongs (also known as rat-kangaroos), the Canberra Times reported.

On Jan. 31 the government declared a state of emergency in the territory.

Bino, the lead author on the paper published in January, said that the current trajectory — "if we continue to clear land and not improve the habitat, and if you're assuming that demand for fresh water is going to increase over time, and then you add climate change" — will only further the disappearance of the platypus.

As local populations fragment and grow ever smaller, he said, "it becomes quite easy for us to drive a species to extinction."

Serbia struggles against steep population decline

Ongoing reduction poses challenges to economic growth

By Jovana Gec
Associated Press

BLAGOJEV KAMEN, Serbia — Uros Trainovic remembers when his small mining village in eastern Serbia was a vibrant home to 200 families, had a school of its own, a doctor and a shop.

Now, 60-odd years later, it's a ghost village with just eight residents.

The transformation of Blagojev Kamen is not unique in a country that experienced years of war and sanctions in the 1990s following the breakup of Yugoslavia. In a twist of irony, one of the causes behind those years of war was the idea of creating a Greater Serbia out of the former Yugoslavia.

Near-empty villages with abandoned, crumbling houses can be seen all over Serbia — a clear symptom of a shrinking population that is raising acute questions over the economic well-being of the country. The decline is happening so fast it's considered a national emergency and the United Nations has stepped in to help.

"This village used to be full of people, I used to go to school here," the 71-year-old Trainovic recalls.

"It is such a pity and so sad that everybody left now there are only few of us and there are no young people any more."

However it's measured, the numbers look stark.

According to the World Bank, Serbia's population of just below 7 million is projected to fall to 5.8 million by 2050. That would represent a 25% fall since 1990.

The Serbian government says the Balkan country is effectively losing a town each year, and that as many as 18 municipalities have fewer than 10,000 people: "We are 103 people less each day."

Population changes are a fact of life across Europe, but the problem is acutely different in Central and Eastern Europe where the low fertility rates that are commonplace in developed countries combine with high migration rates and low immigration more akin to developing nations.

The economic knock-on effects on a country striving to join the European Union are evident and amount to billions of dollars in the short term. In the longer run, there are also costs related to the fact that a smaller population of working age will have to contribute more to support the ranks of those of pensionable age.

The U.N. Development Program and the U.N. Population Fund have assembled a group of seven international experts of different backgrounds and specialties to help out. The members visited Serbia last month for a fact-finding mission.

Wolfgang Lutz, an Austrian expert in demographics at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, or IIASA, said the main problem is related to the makeup of those leaving Serbia rather than the overall population decline.

"We see that it tends to be the better-educated, the more highly skilled, the more highly motivated mobile people who are leaving and that is certainly a drain of the human capital," he told The Associated Press in an interview.



DARKO VOJINOVIC/AP

Uros Trainovic stands in front of his house in the village of Blagojev Kamen, Serbia, a once busy mining town with 200 families is now home to eight residents.

Reflecting the decades of crisis are villages like Blagojev Kamen. It had flourished when a nearby gold mine kept the area alive before and after World War II, but its fortunes have sunk as the mine closed down in the mid-1990s.

Trainovic said there are still gold and other minerals in the mine but that it needs investment and hard work.

"One of my sons is in Germany and the other one is in Austria," he said. "They visit often but they have nothing to return to."

Serbia's government has tried to buck the trend, offering financial benefits for couples with multiple children, state-backed IVF, the renovation of schools and day care centers, aid to families in rural areas or backing for businesses in villages.

Ruth Finkelstein, an assistant professor from Columbia University who is an expert on aging and its social implications, said Serbia should also strive to find a role for its growing elderly population.

It's not only Serbia that is worried.

Serbia's neighbor Croatia, which currently holds the European Union's rotating six-month presidency, has made the "pressing issue of demographic challenges" a priority. Croatia's rural areas have been emptying at an alarming rate while more than 15% of Croatia's 4.2 million people are living and working abroad.

Lutz, who directs the World Population Program for the IIASA, said small countries can have a competitive advantage.

"I've seen a lot of pessimism, I've seen a lot of panic even about what is happening," he said. "The challenge is to convert this into some action that is positive, making this a more revitalized, more vibrant society again, that looks into the future."

Homicides in Brazil shrink to lowest level in at least 12 years

By Marcelo De Sousa
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is celebrating after a crime index showed homicides fell to their lowest level in more than a decade during the first year of his term.

Brazil had 41,635 killings in 2019, down 19% from the prior year and the least number of homicides since 2007, when the so-called Violence Monitor index was launched.

It is a partnership between the nonprofit Brazilian Forum of Public Security, the University of Sao Paulo's Center for the Study of Violence and news website G1, which published the data last week.

"IN OUR GOVERNMENT HOMICIDES, VIOLENCE AND FALLACIES FALL!"Bolsonaro wrote on his Twitter account, sharing the G1 news report. "Our government extends a strong embrace to all the security agents of the country. Brazil continues on the right path."

Bolsonaro, a far-right politician, made fighting crime and violence one of his signature campaign issues that swept him to the presidency in a country where people had grown weary of rising insecurity. He has deployed rhetoric that encourages violence against crime, including saying police officers who kill should be awarded medals rather than slapped with lawsuits.

In 2016, the most deadly year in the Violence Monitor's records, Brazil had nearly 60,000 homicides.

Robert Muggah, co-founder of security think tank Igarape Institute, said the fall in homicides was indeed "stunning," but questioned the government's claim about its cause.

He said crimes began to fall early in 2018, before Bolsonaro won the presidential election, and noted that the leader signed an anti-crime bill to tackle violence just at the end of 2019.

"Although Bolsonaro and his supporters have sought to own recent improvements in public security, there are other factors at play that have little to do with their efforts," Muggah said.

He and other security experts don't agree that more aggressive policing is responsible for better security indicators. They have offered other theories for the national improvement: individual states adopting new security policies, easing conflict between rival drug factions, demographic shifts, the transfer of gang members to federal prisons, stronger economic activity, and even proliferation of smartphones keeping young people off the streets.

Muggah said the various factors have influenced events in different degrees, but the impact of each is not clear.

Former police and military officers who mimicked Bolsonaro's rhetoric also rode his coattails to office in the nation's Congress and state assemblies.

In Rio and some other states, the decrease in homicides has been accompanied by a jump in killings by police. Those are rarely investigated.

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

UN official says airstrikes kill dozens of civilians in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen — Airstrikes killed at least 31 civilians and wounded 12 others in a mountainous northern Yemeni province, Lise Grnade, the U.N. humanitarian chief for the country, said Saturday, calling the attack "shocking."

The Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, accused the Saudi-led coalition of launching retaliatory airstrikes, after they shot down a warplane for the coalition over the province of Jawf.

Saudi Arabia's state-run news agency quoted Col. Turki al-Maliki, a spokesman for the coalition, as saying it was investigating "possible collateral damage" from a rescue operation in the area after the downing of the Tornado warplane Friday. The pilots ejected safely, he said.

Youssef al-Hadri, a spokesman of the Houthi-run health ministry, said the airstrikes killed 32 people.

FAA allows US civilian flights to resume over Persian Gulf

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The Federal Aviation Administration said Saturday that U.S. civilian flights can resume operations over much of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman region, loosening restrictions announced five weeks ago amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

The FAA said it made the decision because Iran has de-escalated its military posture, reducing the danger to U.S. civil aviation operations.

The FAA had barred U.S. pilots and carriers from flying in areas of Iraqi, Iranian and some Persian Gulf airspace since early January. Those areas cover much of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE and Oman.

The move was precautionary in nature to prevent civilian aircraft from being confused for ones engaged in armed conflict.

Egypt sentences ex-minister's brother for smuggling artifacts

CAIRO — An Egyptian court Saturday sentenced the brother of a former finance minister to 30 years after his conviction in two separate cases of trafficking antiquities out of the country.

The Cairo Criminal Court also fined Raouf Boutros-Ghali, who is an actor, $382,000 after he was convicted of smuggling artifacts to Italy.

Boutros-Ghali is the brother of former finance minister Yousef Boutros-Ghali and a nephew of former U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Meanwhile, a court rejected the appeal of a critic of President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi for release from detention, his lawyer said.

Police detained Patrick George Zaki, 28, an Egyptian student at the University of Bologna in Italy, after he arrived in Cairo last week.



CAM BONELLI/HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

Residents use a boat to reach flooded homes Saturday in Northeast Jackson, Mississippi. Gov. Tate Reeves declared a state of emergency amid fears the Pearl River, which runs in the area around the capital, could burst its banks and spark widespread flooding.

Teen charged in fatal stabbing of college student in NYC park

NEW YORK — A 14-year-old boy has been arrested in the fatal park stabbing of a Barnard College student during a robbery Dec. 11, a crime that rattled New York City residents, authorities said Saturday.

Rashaun Weaver has been indicted by a grand jury and was taken into custody Friday night without incident, New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said.

Weaver, charged with second-degree murder and robbery, is the second teen to be charged in the attack on Tessa Majors, 18, of Charlottesville, Va. A 13-year-old was arrested Dec. 13 and charged as a juvenile.

"We are confident that we have the person in custody who stabbed her," Shea said of Weaver.

The Associated Press is naming Weaver because of the seriousness of the crime and because he has been charged as an adult. Weaver's attorney, Elsie Chandler, did not return a call seeking comment.

"He's a 14-year-old child and he's presumed not guilty," Chandler told the New York Post after Weaver's bail hearing Saturday, at which he was ordered held at a juvenile facility until his arraignment Wednesday.

Majors was stabbed as she walked through Morningside Park. She staggered up a flight of stairs and collapsed in a crosswalk.

Weaver said Majors was "hanging onto her phone" when he tried to take it, according to a criminal complaint.

The attack troubled residents because of its proximity to campus and its apparent randomness. Barnard is part of the Ivy League's Columbia University.

Third teen runner hit by pickup dies in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY — A third member of a suburban high school cross-country team who was struck by a pickup this month died Saturday. Kolby Crum, 18, died at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, said hospital spokeswoman April Sandefer.

Crum was among seven members of the Moore High School team who were hit while running on a sidewalk Feb. 3. Police said the driver, Max Leroy Townsend, 57, was going 79 mph in a 25 mph zone when he crossed two lanes of traffic and struck the students.

Rachel Freeman, 17, and Yuridia Martinez, 16, died earlier.

Townsend was charged last week with multiple counts of manslaughter, driving under the influence and leaving the scene.

The day before the crash, Townsend's son, 28, died in a multi-vehicle accident.

Police accuse mother, teen of trying to steal baby

TACOMA, Wash. — A Washington state woman and her teenage daughter are suspected of drugging a new mother after posing as photographers in a plot to kidnap the mother's newborn, authorities said.

Detectives for the Pierce County Sheriff's Department believe the woman wanted to steal a baby to raise as her own, The News Tribune of Tacoma reported Saturday.

On Friday, sheriff's deputies arrested a 38-year-old woman who lives in suburban Spanaway and reportedly goes by several names, including Juliette Parker, and her 16-year-old daughter on suspicion of attempted kidnapping and assault.

The investigation began Feb. 5 after the victim called 911 and told dispatchers she believed she'd been drugged.

The two women met on a newborn baby Facebook group.

'Sex and the City': Lynn Cohen, an actress best known as the plainspoken housekeeper and nanny Magda in "Sex and the City," has died. Cohen, 86, died Friday in New York City, said her manager, Josh Pultz.

Cohen, a native of Kansas City, Mo., had a long career as a stage, film and TV performer. Her credits ranged from "Nurse Jackie" and "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" to feature films "Across the Universe" and "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

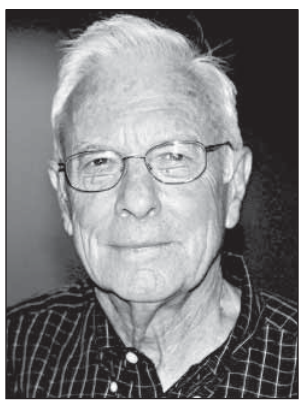
In HBO's "Sex and the City," Cohen's character was employed by attorney Miranda Hobbes, played by Cynthia Nixon. Magda was featured in the TV and movie versions of the show, which also starred Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall and Kristin Davis.

OBITUARIES

DON CHURCH 1934-2020

Longtime Wheaton College track coach led mission trips

By Bob Goldsborough



FAMILY PHOTO

Don Church was head track coach at Wheaton College for close to 40 years.

Don Church taught physical education at Wheaton College, where he was head track coach for close to 40 years and an assistant football coach for two decades.

Known as "Bubba," Church also led numerous mission trips overseas, often with athletes.

"He was probably the greatest encourager I've ever met in my life. He brought out the best in people," said the Rev. Paul Atwater, who ran track and played football at Wheaton College in the late 1970s and early 1980s. "I'm a pastor today and I was probably encouraged more spiritually by Bubba Church and some of the coaches in the track and football programs, and I was discipled to a certain degree by him more than I was by my professors in the biblical studies department."

Church, 85, died of complications from Alzheimer's disease Jan. 16 at the Auberge memory care community in Naperville, said his son, David. He had been a longtime Wheaton resident.

Donald Lee Church was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and moved with his family to Kansas as a child. He received a bachelor's degree in botany in 1957 from Wheaton College, where he played on the football team.

After graduating, Church was hired by Wheaton as a coach and began teaching physical education. He soon was promoted to assistant professor.

In 1959, Church became Wheaton's head track coach. He also started coaching running backs on the football team.

Church left Wheaton for one year to get a master's degree in education from the University of Northern Colorado in 1970. He returned to the college in 1970 as an associate professor of physical education, and he continued coaching track and football.

"He tried to do a really good job wherever he was, but he wasn't a person who looked to receive credit for anything he'd done," former Wheaton basketball coach Dick Helm said.

Amy Sandberg, a member of the women's track team at Wheaton in the mid-1990s, said that "as much as he loved track, I think he loved the athletes more than the coaching itself."

"He genuinely cared about you as a person, about your hopes, your dreams, your struggles, your joys," she said. "He wanted you to reach your potential as an athlete, but he cared more about who you were as a person. Track was just the vehicle through which he got to connect."

Sandberg said Church related to students by noting his own academic struggles at Wheaton in the 1950s.

"Wheaton was a hard school and he was so humble and encouraging for kids who might be great athletes but for whom the academic part was hard," Sandberg said. "Also, he was a safe person — whatever your issue, whether it was a family issue or a school issue, you knew you could drop by his office and he would drop everything to talk to you."

In 1968, Church began bringing track team members overseas to compete against runners from other countries and also to share their Christian faith. Starting with a trip to Mexico, Church brought athletes both from Wheaton and from other colleges to Africa in 1972 and to Eastern European countries in 1978, 1983 and 1986.

"Dad knew all these Division I coaches, because he was always trying to get kids into meets and invitationals," David Church said. "He'd call Missouri's coach and say, 'Do you have any athletes for me? I'm going to Africa this summer.' And coaches would say something like, "Yes, I have this athlete who's a really strong Christian and who's an 18-foot pole vaulter.' It was that kind of thing."

Church later organized mission trips without an athletic component.

"The mission trips really stemmed from a desire to share the gospel but also his role as a connector — he loved to connect people's gifts with a problem that needed to be solved," David Church said.

Church formed Wheaton College's Faculty Missionary Project in 1983.

Wheaton College Chaplain Emeritus Stephen Kellough recalled seeing Church with a student, faculty member or staff person, "and you could be sure that in such meetings Don would be offering a word of encouragement."

Church was named Wheaton College's Alumnus of the Year in 1986.

After retiring from teaching and coaching in 1997, Church continued going on mission trips, mostly to Eastern Europe. He also had a talent for construction — and in fact, built his own house on Wheaton's north side — and spent time during retirement continuing more than 40 years of volunteering on charitable construction projects undertaken by Chicago's Lawndale Community Church, including a health center and a recreation center.

"He was there for spiritual guidance, and he didn't shy away from getting his hands dirty," said Wayne Gordon, Lawndale Community Church's pastor. "He built a lot of things. He worked a lot with our Hope House, which is men just getting out of prison and men just getting out of drugs. Don built their kitchen tables, he helped build some of their beds, he helped build their bathrooms."

Church's wife of 57 years, Ann, died in 2015. Survivors also include two other sons, Andy and Tom; a sister, Leota Mayer; a brother, Allen; and three grandchildren.

There will a memorial service at 1 p.m. March 21 at College Church, 332 E. Seminary Ave., Wheaton.

Bob Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON FEBRUARY 16 ...

In 1740 Giambattista Bodoni, a printer who designed several typefaces, including one that bears his name, was born in Saluzzo, Italy.

In 1862, during the Civil War, about 14,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered at Fort Donelson, Tenn. (Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant.")

In 1873 a republic was proclaimed in Spain.

In 1918 Lithuania proclaimed its independence. **Also in 1918** England's port of Dover was bombarded by German submarines in World War I.

In 1923 the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt.

In 1937 Dr. Wallace Carothers, a research chemist for DuPont who invented nylon, received a patent for the synthetic fiber.

In 1945 American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II. **Also in 1945** massive U.S. air raids on Tokyo began during World War II.

In 1959 Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1968 the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated, in Haleyville, Ala.

In 1986 Philippine presidential candidate Corazon Aquino called for nonviolent protests against Ferdinand Marcos, a day after Marcos was declared the winner of a presidential election tainted by charges of fraud.

In 1989 investigators in Lockerbie, Scotland, said a bomb hidden inside a radio-cassette player was what brought down Pan Am Flight 103 the previous December, killing all 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground.

In 1999 testimony began in the Jasper, Texas, trial of John William King, charged with murder in the gruesome dragging death of James Byrd Jr. (King later was convicted and sentenced to death.)

In 2003 Eleanor "Sis" Daley, widow of Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley and mother of Mayor Richard M. Daley, died; she was 95.

In 2018 special counsel Robert Mueller indicted 13 Russians and three Russian companies, accusing them of using stolen identities, fake campaign events and hundreds of social media accounts while spending millions of rubles to interfere in the 2016 presidential election in a secret effort to aid the Trump campaign.

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS
Feb. 15
Powerball ..... **16 32 35 36 46 / 03**
Powerball jackpot: $40M
Lotto ..... **11 13 28 29 31 43 / 21**
Lotto jackpot: $2.25M
Pick 3 midday ..... **102 / 4**
Pick 4 midday ..... **4440 / 0**
Lucky Day Lotto midday **16 25 28 33 40**
Pick 3 evening ..... **891 / 2**
Pick 4 evening ..... **2068 / 8**
Lucky Day Lotto evening **08 11 17 29 38**
Feb. 14
Mega Millions ..... **10 32 48 54 55 / 18**
Mega Millions jackpot: $40M
Pick 3 midday ..... **728 / 6**
Pick 4 midday ..... **2190 / 9**
Lucky Day Lotto midday **05 06 11 12 45**
Pick 3 evening ..... **756 / 7**
Pick 4 evening ..... **9706 / 4**
Lucky Day Lotto evening **01 05 09 13 29**

Feb. 18 Mega Millions: $45M

INDIANA
Feb. 15
Lotto **02 05 09 22 28 40**
Daily 3 midday ..... **781 / 8**
Daily 4 midday ..... **0120 / 8**
Daily 3 evening ..... **942 / 5**
Daily 4 evening ..... **6701 / 5**
Cash 5 ..... **04 13 14 30 42**

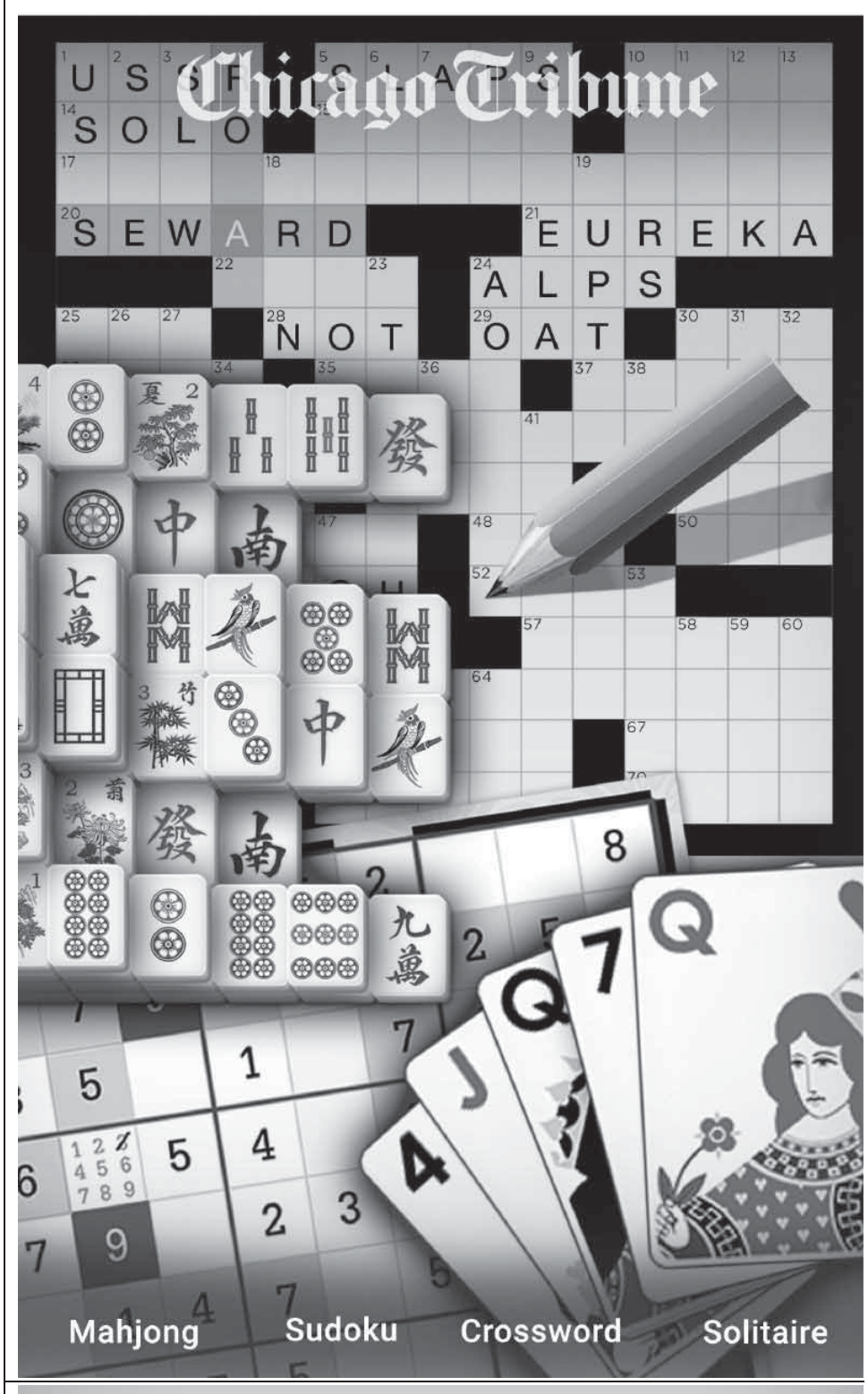
MICHIGAN
Feb. 15
Lotto **03 09 16 28 31 37**
Daily 3 midday **073**
Daily 4 midday **7075**
Daily 3 evening **534**
Daily 4 evening **4407**
Fantasy 5 ..... **02 07 17 24 27**
Keno **02 04 08 10 12 14 16 18 41 42 43 44 46 50 52 58 61 64 65 71 72 73**

WISCONSIN
Feb. 15
Megabucks **01 05 10 13 38 43**
Pick 3 ..... **194**
Pick 4 ..... **8374**
Badger 5 ..... **08 18 23 27 28**
SuperCash **06 15 20 26 27 32**

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Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Death Notices

Abernathy, William J

William J. Abernathy, age 91, formerly of Waukegan, Northbrook and Evanston, IL passed peacefully in Carrollton, TX on February 6, 2020. He was the son of Charles and Pauline Abernathy (Evanston); Loving father of Rob (Maria) of Carrollton, TX and Peter Abernathy (San Diego, CA), beloved grandfather of Taylor and Ryan; dear brother of Peggy (Clarence) Deigel, late Donald (Carol) Abernathy and Rosemary (Dick)Koessler; fond uncle/great uncle of many. William served his country in the United States Marine Corp. Memorial Visitation Thursday February 20th 3-8 pm at **Kolssak Funeral Home**, 189 S. Milwaukee Ave. (2 Blocks South of Dundee Road) Wheeling and will continue at church one hour prior to his Life Celebration Mass Friday February 21st at 10am at Our Lady of the Brook Catholic Church, 3700 Dundee Road Northbrook, IL followed by a procession to Fort Sheridan Cemetery with Military honors. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org greatly appreciated. To leave a condolence or for more information visit www.funerals.pro or call 847-537-6600

Kolssak Funeral Home Reminisce

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Acevedo, Manuel F.



Manuel F. Acevedo, CPD, retired, 63, February 13, 2020, dearly beloved husband of Veronica Mancilla Acevedo; devoted father of Jason (Danielle) Acevedo, CPD, Aaron (Emily) Acevedo, CPD, Manuel Acevedo, Jr., Karyn Acevedo, and Miranda Acevedo; proud grandfather of Christian, Aubrey, Caleb, Cuyler, and Mandy Acevedo, Helen, Gabriel, and Rosina Acevedo, and Adonis Acevedo; fond son of the late Joe D. and Helen Acevedo, Sr.; loving brother of Joe (Susan) Acevedo, Felix (Margie) Acevedo, Darlene (Pete) Gomez, Roseann (late Tom) Sroor, Eddie Acevedo, State Representative-2nd District-retired, CPD retired, Debbie (Ray) Warfield, Cindy (Lou) Perales, Martin (Nancy) Acevedo, CPD, and the late Roy (Sally) Acevedo; dear brother in law, uncle and friend. Manny served for 24 years as a Chicago Police officer, then for 6 years as Supervisor of the Gang Investigation Unit of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Memorial Visitation Thursday, February 20, 2020, from 3 to 8 p.m., at CENTRAL CHAPEL, 6158 S. Central Ave., Chicago, IL. Memorial Mass Friday, February 21, 2020, 10 a.m., at St. Paul Church, 2127 W. 22nd Place, Chicago, IL. Private graveside burial, Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Please visit MANUEL ACEVEDO BOOK OF MEMORIES. To express your thoughts or memories in the online guest book, visit www.chapelc.com or www.facebook.com/central-chapel. Info., 773-581-9000.

CENTRAL CHAPEL

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Albert, Donald G.

Donald "Don" G. Albert, 77, of Bloomingdale died February 14, 2020. Don was the beloved husband of Mary (nee Duffy) for 54 years; cherished son of the late George and Anna (nee Steinmacher); loving brother of the late James (Marilyn) Albert; dear brother in law of Colette Stoll, Maggie Sotola and Al (Betty) Duffy; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Don was an avid fisherman. In lieu of flowers donations to National Kidney Foundation of Illinois www.nkfi.org would be appreciated. Arrangements by Countryside Funeral Home. Info. (630)529-5751.

Countryside Funeral Homes & Crematory

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Alvin, Tollestrup Virgil

Alvin Virgil Tollestrup, age 95, of Warrenville, Il, formerly of Altadena, CA. Retired physicist at Fermi Lab. Passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at home. He was born on March 22, 1924 in Los Angeles. Only son of the late Albert Virgil Tollestrup and late Maurine Peterson Tollestrup. Survived by loving wife Janine (nee Cukay) of 35 years. Loving father to four children with Alice Hatch Tollestrup: Kristine (Floyd Frost) Tollestrup, Kurt (Darlene) Tollestrup, Eric (Karen) Tollestrup, Carl (Jan) Tollestrup. Cherished grandfather of Christopher (Kara) Frost, Elizabeth (David) Frost-Savage, Kyle Tollestrup, Sara Tollestrup and Michael Tollestrup. In lieu of flowers, donations to Fermilab Friends for Science Education (https://ed.fnal.gov/ffse) or American Cancer Society are appreciated. Interment will be private. Memorial plans are pending. Arrangements by **Dupage Cremations, Ltd. and Memorial Chapel** (630) 293-5200.

DuPage Cremations, Ltd. and Memorial Chapel

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Batka, Jr., Frank J.



Frank J. Batka, Jr., age 86 of Dubuque, IA, and formerly of Des Plaines, IL, and Chicago, IL, completed his earthly journey on February 9, 2020 at Luther Manor Grand Meadows in Asbury, IA, with his loving wife by his side. To celebrate Frank's life, a Celebration of Life will be held from 1 until 4 pm on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020 at the Grand Meadows Clubhouse, 5300 Grand Meadows Drive in Asbury, IA, with a memorial service being held at 2 pm with Rev. Dianne Grace officiating. There will also be a Celebration of Life held from 1 until 4 pm on Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020 at the Lone Tree Manor, 7730 North Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL, which includes a memorial service being held at 2 pm followed by a traditional Polish meal. Burial will be in the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

Frank was born on Nov. 12, 1933 in Chicago, IL, a son to Frank and Anastazia (Jerka) Batka, Sr. He graduated from Lane Tech High School and went on honorably serve his country with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Frank was united in marriage to Patricia Schmalz on May 17, 1958 in Chicago and the 2 were blessed with 3 children and 62 years together. Frank spent over 40 years with Zack Heating and Ventilation before retiring in the early 90's. He enjoyed spending time with the Boy Scouts and the Cavalier Drum and Bugle Corps in his free-time. Frank had an incredible work ethic, a wonderful sense of humor and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Those left behind to cherish the memory of Frank include his beautiful bride, Patricia "Pat" Batka, Asbury, IA: his 3 children, Kim (Steve) Myers, West lake, OH, Dan (Kari) Batka, Batavia, IL, and Jeff (Diane) Batka, Glenview, IL; his 5 grandchildren; his sister, Dorothy (Bob) Fey; along with numerous extended family and friends.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, his twin sons in infancy, his grandson and 10 siblings.

Online condolences may be shared with Frank's family at www.tristatecremationcenter.com

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Brickman, Trina A.

Trina A. Brickman, nee Schneider, of Chicago, a dedicated math teacher and advisor at Roycemore School; beloved wife and best friend of Jerry Gleicher and the late Harry Brickman, Jr.; loving mother of Dennis (Wendy) Brickman, Sheri (Mark) Styles, and Robert Brickman; adored Grandma Trina of Jocelyn, Jason, Ilana, Henry, and Zachary; devoted daughter of the late Dr. Morris and the late Irene Schneider; dear cousin of Dr. Marvin (Gloria) Fishman and also survived by Jerry's children Hope (Andy Burness) Gleicher, Karen (Larry) Heisler, David (Tatijana Roesch) Gleicher, and Rachel (Jeremy) Blaine. Service Monday, 1:00 p.m. at The Chapel, 8851 Skokie Blvd., Skokie (at Niles Center Rd.). Interment Westlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions to Misericordia, www.misericordia.com or Roycemore School, www.roycemoreschool.org. Info: The **Goldman Funeral Group**, www.goldmanfuneralgroup.com (847) 478-1600.

Goldman Funeral Group

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Bruno, Sr., Antonio S.

Antonio S. Bruno, Sr., beloved husband of the late Diana (nee Arquilla). Loving father of Lucia (Leroy) Hadding, Antonio Bruno Jr. and Achille (Jodi) Bruno; devoted grandfather. All services are private. For information **RICHARD J MODELL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES**, 708-301-3595 or rjmodellfh.com.

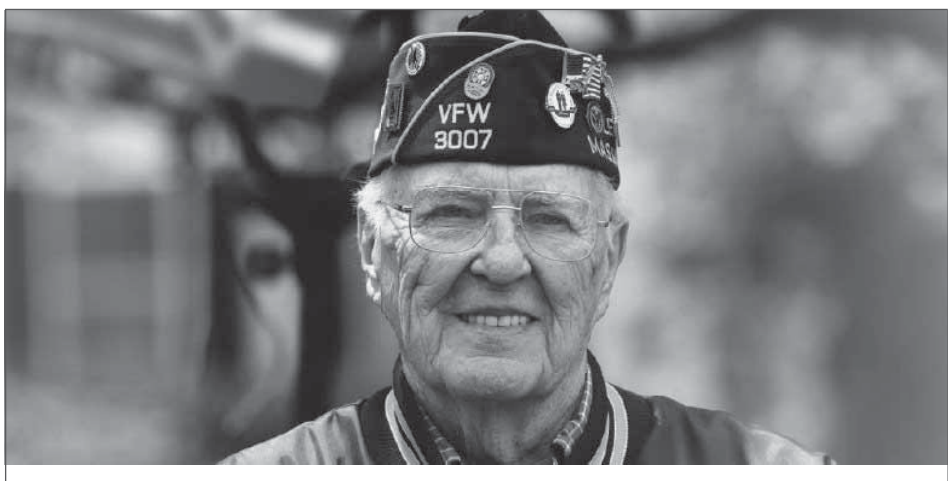
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Callahan, William M. ''Billy''

Age 76. Beloved husband of 48 years to Patricia (nee Aubin). Devoted father of Kari Callahan, and William Jr. (Rachel) Callahan. Proud Papa of Annie, Molly, Matthew, William III "Trip", and Lux. Cherished son of the late Eugene and late Dorothy Callahan. Loving brother of the late Jack (Nancy) Callahan, Gene (Kay) Callahan, late Jerry (Peggy) Callahan, James (Katee) Callahan, and Kathy (Phil) Mikaitis. Special uncle of many nieces and nephews. Great friend of the Highlanders. Proud 50 year member of International Union Operating Engineers Local 150. Visitation Monday 3-9 p.m. at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 9525 S. Lawndale, Evergreen Park, IL. Family and friends to gather Tuesday for Mass of the Resurrection, 10:30 a.m., Most Holy Redeemer Church. Interment private at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to the 100 Club of Chicago, 875 N. Michigan Avenue, #1351, Chicago, IL 60611 would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to **Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home**s. www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878

Robert J. Sheehy & Sons

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Chicago Tribune

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Clohisy, Daniel Joseph

Daniel Joseph Clohisy age 60 of Wilmette. Cherished son of the late Warren A. Clohisy Jr. M.D. and the late Marguerite Clohisy nee Sweeney; loving brother of Warren (Jeanne), Celagrace (Mark McGuire), Denis (Mary), Cathreen (Edward Fay), John (Mary), Marguerite (Dean Vitulski), Maryruth (Michael Kerns), Thomas (Rosemarie) and Terese (Ryan Hendrickson); dear uncle of 27 and great uncle of 17; beloved nephew and cousin to many in Pittsburg and Chicago. Visitation Wednesday February 19, 2020 9:30 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass 10:30 a.m. at Saints Faith, Hope & Charity Catholic Church, 191 Linden Street Winnetka, IL 60093. Interment All Saints Cemetery, DesPlaines, IL. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Carmelite Monastery, 949 N. River Road DesPlaines, IL 60016. Info: (847) 675-1990 or www.donnellanfuneral.com.

Donnellan Family Funeral Services

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Cohen, Barbara Lee



Barbara Lee Cohen, President of Productions USA, Inc. passed away 1/26/2020. Barbara was a beloved friend to many and a philanthropist for numerous charities especially for children and animals. Memorial service will be on Sunday, April 26th at Gibsons Chicago 1028 N Rush St at 2pm. Please send donations to Anti-Cruelty Society or Special Children's Charities. Funeral Arrangements handled by **Cremation Society of Illinois** 773 281 5058

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Colan, Estelle

Estelle Colan, nee Hershman, 107, beloved wife of the late Dr. Hyman Colan; loving mother of Shari (Jerry) Noskin and the late Carole Horwitz; cherished grandmother of Gary Noskin (Cori Levinson), Diane (Steve) Miller, Randi (Russel) Miron and Marc (Lynda) Horwitz; adored GG Estelle of Jeremy and Matthew Noskin, Rachel and Alyssa Miller, Andrew and Leigh Miron and Ava and Claire Horwitz. Chapel service Monday 10 AM at **Shalom Memorial Funeral Home**, 1700 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights. Interment Shalom Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to North Shore Congregation Israel or JourneyCare. For information and condolences, (847) 255-3520 or www.shalom2.com.

Shalom Memorial Funeral Home

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Corsini, John

John Corsini, age 81, of Lombard. Beloved husband of Carol Corsini, nee Strzelecki; loving father of Charles "Chuck" (Toby) and Roman (Jeannie) Corsini; devoted grandfather of Mark, Alexi, Katie, and Anya Corsini; fond brother of Andrew (Carol) Corsini, the late Violet (Anthony) Lamantia, Gino (Patricia) Corsini, Grace (Joe) Marzullo, and the late Frank Corsini; dear brother in law, uncle of many nieces and nephews, and good friend to all. John was a member of Teamsters Union Local 726, an avid Chicago sports fan, and a member of the Chicago Ave. "Get Together" Gang. Visitation Tuesday, February 18, 3-8 PM at **Knollcrest Funeral Home**, 1500 S. Meyers Rd. (3 blks. S. of Roosevelt Rd.) Lombard. Funeral Wednesday, 9:45 AM from the funeral home to St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1025 E. Madison, Lombard. Mass 10:30AM. Interment Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery. Memorials to St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1025 E Madison St, Lombard, IL 60148, are appreciated. Funeral Info: www.knollcrest.net or 630-932-1500.

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Cronin, Mortimer

Moritmer Cronin, 84, native of Clooneygorman Bantry Co. Cork, Ireland, beloved husband of Eileen (nee Gibbons); loving father of Mary Schlitter, John (Kim) Cronin, and Sharon (Greg) Korb; cherished papa of Brian (Kara) Schlitter, Kelly (Dan) Colonna, Kevin (Lindsey) Schlitter, Kaitlyn Schlitter, Brendan Cronin, Meaghan Cronin, Aidan Korb and Liam Korb; great grandfather to Adeline and Anthony Colonna; beloved son of the late John and Angel (nee Keohane) Cronin; dear brother of Donie, Mick (Sheila) Cronin and the late Sean, Tim (the late Margaret) Cronin; fond uncle and friend to many. Visitation will be held Tuesday Feb. 18, 2020 from 3:00-9:00 p.m. at **Cooney Funeral Home** located at 625 Busse Hwy in Park Ridge. Funeral Mass will be held Wednesday Feb. 19, 2020 at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Park Ridge at 10:00 a.m. Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations to St. Patrick's Missionary Society. Info 847-685-1002 www.cooneyfuneralhome.com

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Denlinger, Catherine M. ''Kay''

(nee Martin). Age 98. Beloved wife of the late John "Ken" Denlinger. Devoted mother of Carol (John) Foley, and John (Laura) Denlinger. Proud grandmother of Timothy Foley and Catherine Foley. Loving sister of the late Margaret, Peter, Herbert, Evelyn, Jackie, and Frank. Dear aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Monday 9:00 a.m. until time of Service 11:00 a.m. at the **Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home**, 9000 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL. Entombment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878

Robert J. Sheehy & Sons

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Dick, Azile Vera

Azile Vera Dick was born August 5, 1932 in Chelsea, MA. She passed away peacefully in Chicago on February 1, 2020. Azile was devoted daughter to the late Rev. Cato Dick and the late Edna Kuehner Dick; loving sister of the late Carol (Dick) McDermott and the late Dr. Edna Claire Dick; aunt to Margaret Fischer and cousin to Marilyn Beutin-Bauer. Azile worked in various medical records department throughout her career and retired as Chief Medical Records Librarian from Children's Memorial Hospital (presently known as Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago). Azile was a dedicated patron of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chicago Symphony; she was exceptionally knowledgeable about opera and traveled to opera houses throughout Europe and the United States.She was also a most loving caregiver to her pets - especially later in life to her "boys" Tucker, Taffy, Peter and Paul. Funeral service and interment are private. Funeral Info: (847) 675-1990 or **www.donnellanfuneral.com**

Donnellan Family Funeral Services

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Dietz, Helene W

Helene W. Dietz, nee Wadstrom, age 98, of Prospect Heights, formerly of Chicago, passed away Feb. 9, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Joseph R. Dietz (CFD); loving mother of Michael (Sue) Dietz and Susan (the late Gerald Gallagher) Dietz; cherished grandmother of Joseph, Paul (Stefanie) and Andrew (Robyn) Dietz; adoring great-grandmother of Theodore Dietz. Services will be private. Memorial donations in Helene's name to The EMWQ Retirees', Widows' and Children's Assistance Fund of the Chicago Fire Department, 20 S. Clark St., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60603-1896 are appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to Neptune Society, 2380 Hicks Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL.

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Drap, Joseph A.

Joseph A. Drap, age 77, born on July 23, 1942 returned to heaven on February 9, 2020 after a short illness. Beloved son of the late Andrew and Mary Drap nee Kennedy and beloved nephew of the late Anna C. Murray. Loving and caring husband of Sandra Lyn nee Pavlik; daddy to Rainbow and Buttercup; brother-in-law of Dennis (Mary) Pavlik, Joyce Good, Cynthia Kutschke, Deborah Pavlik, Janice (Thomas) Vanacora, Joel (Cathy) Pavlik and Elisa (Harold) McMullin; uncle to 14 nieces and nephews and 6 great-nieces and nephew. Joseph graduated from St. Theodore Grade School in 1956 and St. Rita High School in 1960. He worked for City of Chicago forestry division, as a Wal-Mart people greeter and played Santa Claus to many children from many years and really enjoyed bringing smiles to children's faces. He also ushered at many churches including St. Theodore, St. Rita Shrine Chapel, St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Rita Church, St. Gall, St. Thomas More, St. Odilo and a church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He enjoyed fishing, traveling, slot machines, bingo calling, playing with his dogs and watching sports games. Joseph was loved by all and will be truly missed. Visitation Monday, February 17th from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Lack & Sons Funeral Home, 9236 S. Roberts Rd. Hickory Hills. Friends will gather Tuesday, February 18th at 9:00 a.m. at St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel, 7740 S. Western Ave., Chicago to be followed by 10:00 a.m. Mass. Entombment Good Shepherd Cemetery.

Lack & Sons Since 1916

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Einbecker, Maureen Ann

Maureen Einbecker, 89, of Dolton, IL passed away Feb. 11, 2020 after a short illness. She is preceded in death by her parents Denis & Mary Sullivan; her husband of 27 years Robert Allen; her son Kurt William; and a brother John Joseph Sullivan. Maureen is survived by four children Jean Criddle of CA, Stephen Becker of NM, Robert (Lisa Miller) Einbecker of OH, Mark (Janet) Einbecker of KY; two grandchildren Brett Einbecker, Katherine Garrett both of FL; and five siblings Denis Sullivan, Eileen Frasier, Kitty Shannon, Patty O'Brien, Gerri Popper. She was Aunt & Nana to many special children. A memorial will be at a later date.

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Ellison, Wayne Lester



Wayne Lester Ellison, 86 of Oswego, IL. passed away peacefully on February 13, 2020. Beloved husband of Linda (Heinking) Ellison (deceased), loving father of David Ellison, Linette Ellison (deceased), Patricia (Ellison) Charapata, Victoria (Ellison) Simmons; cherished grandfather of Michael, Matthew, Melissa, Mark, Amanda, Susan (Nicholas), Benjamin (Ruth), Joseph and great grandfather of Amori. Born and raised in Berwyn, IL. Wayne graduated from Proviso High School in 1951. He proudly served with distinction in the U.S. Navy from 1952-1956. He was assigned duty aboard USS LAWS (DD-558) and was stationed at the Naval Communications Station, Guam, serving as a Petty Officer Second Class. He was a small business owner. He cherished time spent with his family, greatly enjoyed traveling and ocean cruises, was a loyal White Sox and Bears fan and an avid dog lover. His laughter and smile were contagious to all those that were blessed to know him. Respecting Wayne's wishes, no funeral services will be held. Memorial donations in Wayne's memory can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/

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Epperly, Phyllis D.

Phyllis D. Epperly, 72, of Wheaton, passed away February 12, 2020. Beloved wife of Dean Epperly; loving mother of Andrew Epperly; dear sister of Rita (Steve) Crick of Louisville KY and Allen (Terry) Moore of Rock Island, IL. Visitation Monday February 17, 2020 from 4 to 8 p.m. at **Williams-Kampp Funeral Home** 430 E. Roosevelt Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187. Funeral Service Tuesday 10 a.m. at River Glen Presbyterian Church 1140 Raymond Drive Naperville IL., 60563. Please meet at church. Interment Assumption Cemetery Wheaton, IL. Info @ www.williams-kampp.com or (630) 668-0016.

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Epperson, Agnes

Agnes Epperson, 91, nee Thingwold of Bartlett and formerly of DesPlaines; wife of the late Royle II; mother of Valerie (John) Janicki and the late Royle III; grandmother of Jason (Aleytha), Eric and Rachel; great grandmother of AJ; sister of the late Harold (late JoAnn); aunt of Bill. Memorial visitation Saturday, February 22nd, 3:00 pm until time of service 7:00 pm at the Countryside Funeral Home and Crematory 950 South Bartlett Rd. (at Stearns Rd.) Bartlett. Cremation private at the Countryside Crematory. In lieu of flowers donations to Elara Caring Home Health 11753 SW Hwy. Palos Heights,Il. 60463. 630-289-7575 or www.countrysidefuneralhomes.com

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Flynn, Scott A.

Scott A. Flynn, age 68 of La Grange Park. Beloved son of Marilyn J. Flynn, nee Basak and the late Robert E. Flynn; fond brother of Robert Flynn, Candace (Larry) Ferries and the late Jon Flynn; uncle and great uncle of several nieces and nephews. Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs, 1106 Chestnut Street, Western Springs, IL 60558. Arrangements entrusted to **Hitzeman Funeral Home & Cremation Services**, 9445 W. 31st Street, Brookfield, 60513. In lieu of flowers, memorials appreciated to the American Cancer Society, 225 Michigan Ave #1200, Chicago, IL 60601. Information 708-485-2000 or www.HitzemanFuneral.com

Hitzeman Funeral Home & Cremation Services

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Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Fuelling, Anne R.

Anne R. Fuelling nee Ripley, age 82
Beloved wife of Thomas
Devoted mother of Christina and Keith (Yesenia Robles. Cherished grandma of Ryan & Riley. Loving sister of James (Lury) Ripley & sister-in-law of Laurel (the late Gordon) Johnson. Fond aunt of 3 nieces & 4 nephews. Family and friends will gather on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at the **Schmaedeke Funeral Home**, 10701 S. Harlem Ave, Worth, IL. from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers donations to a charity of your choice appreciated. For information 708-448-6000or www.schmaedekefuneralhome.com

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Fuschetto, Michael Anthony



Michael Anthony Fuschetto age 74; Beloved husband of Joan Dienst Fuschetto; Loving father of Amy (Kevin) Gradley, Kevin (Linda) and the late Brian; Cherished stepfather of Lisa (Kevin) Dienst-Thomas, Jaynelle (John) Then and Laurence Dienst; Devoted Grandpa of Benjamin, Chloe, Dylan, Jesse, Hailey, Jake, Luke, Jackie, Abbey and Caitlyn. Michael proudly served in the U.S. Air Force and upon discharge, joined United Airlines where he was employed for nearly 40 years. He loved restoring antique toy trains, traveling and most of all, spending time with his family. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Arrangements were entrusted to **The Oaks Funeral Home** 630-250-8588 or www.oaksfh.com

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Gignac, Robert

Bob Gignac, age 92, of Deerfield, IL passed away Tuesday, February 11, 2020 of heart failure. Beloved husband to Jean, nee, Frett for 64 years, devoted father to the late Bill (Nancy Keder), Jeanne, Suzanne (Hans Drexler), Lynne, Karen (Guy Vuckovic), Michelle Schultz and Jennifer Michel (Christopher), cherished grandpa to Corey, Amanda, Emily, Emma and Stephen, dear brother to Roy and Ken, loyal and kind friend to many. Bob was a lifelong Cubs' fan, proud World War II veteran and respected CPA, spending his entire 39-year career with Arthur Andersen & Co. A visitation will be held Friday, February 21, at **Kelley & Spalding Funeral Home**, 1787 Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. The funeral mass will be Saturday, February 22, at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 724 Elder Lane, Deerfield, IL at 10:00 AM. For more information please call 847-831-4260 or visit Bob's memorial at www.kelleyspaldingfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Bernie's Book Bank, 917 N Shore Drive, Lake Bluff, IL 60044, www.berniesbookbank.org, or an organization that supports children.

KELLEY & SPALDING
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

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Gilson, Jamie Marie



Jamie Marie Gilson, 86, of Wilmette, died on February 11 after a long illness. Born on the 4th of July 1933, in Beardstown, Illinois, to James and Sallie Chisam, Jamie spent her childhood in small towns around the Midwest. She later attended the University of Missouri, where she met her husband-to-be, and graduated from Northwestern University's School of Speech with a degree in communications. Jamie wrote and performed in radio shows for WBEZ, wrote radio commercials for WFMT, films, film strips, and many, many columns for Chicago magazine. She was featured in Life Magazine as a junior winner of the 1954 Pillsbury Bake-Off. Jamie wrote twenty-one books for children, starting with Harvey the Beer Can King in 1978. Her best-seller was Thirteen Ways to Sink a Sub, about a fourth-grade class and their substitute teacher. She was especially proud of her historical novel for kids, Stink Alley, about young Pilgrim Lizzie Tinker getting up to mischief in Holland in 1614. Her final book, My Teacher is an Idiom, was published in 2015, when she was eighty-two. She listened intently to kids, often at Wilmette's Central School, and wrote about what she heard. Her books spanned a huge breadth of topics, including bats, catfish, soccer, baking contests, archeology, chess, and dyslexia. She received many awards for her books, including the Carl Sandburg Award, the Charlie May Simon Award, the Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children, the Society of Midland Authors Award for Children's Fiction, the Buckeye Children's Book Award, the Pacific Northwest Young Reader's Choice Award and the Sequoyah Book Award. She also taught kids how to write poetry. Jamie loved words and was good at them. She is survived by her devoted husband Jerry of 64 years, kids Tom, Matthew and wife Holly, Anne and husband Martin, and grandkids Sam, Griffin, Noah, Tess, Henry, and Beatrix. Memorial Service Sunday, February 23, 2020, 3:00 p.m. at Michigan Shores Club, 911 Michigan Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091. Info: www.donnellanfuneral.com or (847) 675-1990.

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Visit: chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Goldstead, Eric Robert



Eric Robert Goldstead, age 27, of Wheaton, IL, beloved son of Gail Ann J. Goldstead and Robert W. Goldstead, dear brother of Catherine L. Goldstead (Steven T. Gillmeister), nephew and cousin to many, grandson of the late Robert T. and Ann P. Johnson, and the late Warren J. and Shirley P. Goldstead. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to NAMI DuPage, 115 North County Farm Rd., Wheaton IL 60189. Service information available from **Hultgren Funeral Home** 630-668-0027.

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Guillard, Sr. Mary Alfred



Guillard, Sr. Mary Alfred, IBVM died on February 13, 2020 at Casa San Carlo, Northlake, IL and was a member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 75 years. Sr. Mary's ministries included teaching and care of the sick in her birthplace, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, Joliet, Marquette and Wheaton. Mary was the beloved daughter of the late John and Beatrice La Montague Guillard and preceded in death by her siblings, Anthony, Charles, Alfreida, Henry, Julian, Edward, Clarence and Sr. Rebecca, IBVM. Mary is survived by her sister, Gertrude Wedding and by many nieces, nephews and their children.
Funeral Services will be February 20, 2020 at Our Lady of the Angels Chapel, 26W171 Roosevelt Road, Wheaton, IL 60187. Visitation from 10:00 am until Liturgy at 11:00 am, followed by refreshments. Burial will be at 2:00 pm at St. Michael Cemetery, Wheaton, IL. Memorial donations may be made to the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary at www.ibvm.us or PO Box 508, Wheaton, IL 60187. Arrangements by Williams-Kampp Funeral Home. Funeral information at (630)668-0016 or www.williams-kampp.com.

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Hicks, Dan L.

Dan L. Hicks, 85, of Glenview, passed away February 9, 2020. Beloved husband for 64 years of Kathleen "Kay" Hicks nee Schmidt; loving father of Debra (Kevin) Kroger, Andrea "Wendy" Hicks and Karen (David) Nelson; cherished grandfather of Tracy (Don) Wilson and Leslie Dalton; proud great grandfather of 5; dear brother of Betty Hill, Patricia Marr, and Fen Hicks; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Dan was a proud graduate of Michigan State University and an avid golf and tennis player for over 60 years. Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131. (www.parkinson.org).

N.H. Scott & Hanekamp
FUNERAL HOME

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Hill, A. J.

A.J. Hill, 67, of Buffalo Grove; loving husband of 38 years to Ellen (nee O'Harra); loving father to Virginia and August John Norris (Hannah) Hill, IV; beloved brother to Skyring (David) Price, and Thorne Hill. Mr. Hill worked as an operations manager for G-Cor Automotive Corporation in Elk Grove Village, and previously worked for American Automotive Parts (AAP) in Niles. Visitation will be Monday, February 17, 2020 from 4 pm until the 7 pm Memorial Service at Glueckert Funeral Home Ltd., 1520 N. Arlington Hts. Rd. (four blocks south of Palatine Rd.), Arlington Hts., IL 60004. Interment is private. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to Lambs Farm at lambsfarm.org. Funeral Information and condolences can be given at www.GlueckertFH.com or (847) 253-0168.

Glueckert
Funeral Home Ltd.

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Hitt, Patricia Sullivan 'Patti'



Patricia "Patti" Sullivan Hitt, 82 of Glenview, passed away February 5th, with her family by her side. She was born to the late John Patrick and Elizabeth Shea Sullivan, on November 1 1937, in Chicago, Illinois. Patti graduated from Woodlands Academy in 1955 and received a BA in in Philosophy from the Manhattanville College in 1959. She married John Hitt in 1964, and they lived together in Winnetka, IL for thirty-five years before relocating to Glenview. Patti is survived by four children: John Hitt, Jr. (Stephanie), of Evanston; Elizabeth Raudat (Charles), of Johnson City, Tennessee; Patrick Hitt (Bernadette), of Narberth, PA; and Kathleen Hitt (Tristan Behm), of Mt. Shasta, CA. She is also survived by ten grandchildren, her brother John P. Sullivan, Jr. (Kathleen), and her cousin Mary Catherine Hughes.
Patti was a lifelong supporter of the arts. She attended operas for many years in New York and Chicago and was a season supporter of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as well as member of the Art Institute of Chicago. Patti also immensely enjoyed travel. She took Europe and traveled with her daughters to Africa and Australia, and was looking forward to dining in Italy this summer. Her most precious time was spent with family. She loved playing tennis with friends or golf with John Sr. and the children and never missed an opportunity to break bread with her family, especially as the children got older and had grandchildren.
Visitation Friday, February 21, 2020, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at **Donnellan Family Funeral Home,** 10045 Skokie Boulevard, at Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL. Funeral Mass Saturday, February 22, 2020, 10:00 a.m. at the SS. Faith, Hope and Charity Church, 191 Linden Street, Winnetka, IL 60093. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Road SW, Lilburn, GA 30047 or The Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022 or the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60603.
Info: www.donnellafuneral.com or (847)675-1990.

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Jessup, Carolyn Sue

Carolyn Sue (Heiny) Jessup died peacefully from complications of Leukemia on February 13, 2020, surrounded by her loving family. She was 87 years old. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Talbert Jessup. She is survived by her children James (Nan) LoBue of Statesboro, GA and Grandchildren Ernie and Audrey, Robert (Tina) LoBue of West Chester, PA and Grandchildren Peter and Monica, Steven (Gail) LoBue of Wheaton, IL and Grandchildren Mark (deceased), Kari, Katrina, and Eric, and Sharon LoBue of Norridge, IL; and brother William Heiny of Tucson, AZ. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Leigh School, Norridge, IL. All services will be private. Info: www.cumberlandchapels.com

CUMBERLAND CHAPELS

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Karp, Doris E.

Doris E. Karp, née Emalfarb, 95, beloved daughter of the late Harry and Rose Emalfarb; devoted wife and best friend of the late David Karp; loving mother of Andy (Danny) Rudenberg, Charna (Allen) Nissenson, and Harriet (Paul) Wiedner; proud grandmother of Ariel Nissenson, Beth Wiedner (Faiz Razi), Katie Wiedner, Annie Wiedner, Maggie Wiedner, and the late Jimmy Wiedner; dear sister of the late David (the late Jeanette) Malfar and the late Seymour (the late Gloria) Emalfarb; cherished sister-in-law of Charles (Shari) Karp, the late Anne (the late Philip) Fields, the late Faye (the late Milton) Liss, and the late Razel (the late Seymour) Schlegman; adored aunt and great-aunt of many. Doris was a passionate lover of literature. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Children's Literacy Initiative, https://cli.org OR a charity of your choice. Funeral services: Monday, February 17th at 12:00 pm at **Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home**, 111 Skokie Blvd., Wilmette, IL. Interment to follow: Westlawn Cemetery, Norridge, IL. For info: 847-256-5700.

WEINSTEIN & PISER FUNERAL HOME

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Kilroy, Michael

Michael Kilroy, 87, native of Ballygar, Co. Galway, Ireland; beloved husband of Susan nee Laird; loving father of Patrick (Lynn), Michael and the late Susan; cherished grandfather of Erin, Megan, Caitlin, Sarah and Jessie; fond uncle of many; Visitation Monday 3-8 PM at **Gibbons Family Funeral Home** 5917 W. Irving Park Rd.(1/2 Block East of Austin) and Tuesday AM until Mass of Christian Burial, 10 AM at Our Lady of Ransom Church, 8300 N Greenwood Ave, Niles, Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Patrick Fathers. For info 773-777-3944 or www.GFFH.com

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Leveille, George



George Leveille, age 73, lifetime resident of Elmhurst, Vietnam Army Veteran in the 1st Air Cav; retired Elmhurst Fireman; former owner LaVell Electric; beloved husband of Catherine "Cathy", nee McJohn; loving father of Denise (Scott) Turner, Mary Kay McCann and George "Geo" (Jen) Leveille; proud grandfather of Aurora, Callie and Paxtyn Turner, Morgan and Katie McCann; cherished great-grandfather of Lennox Turner; dear brother of Margaret Ann (Mick) Gley, James (Diane) Leveille, Marilyn (Dominick) DiBella, Forrest (Cindy) Leveille and the late Nancy (the late Mike) Cahill, the late Barbara (Joseph) Slama and the late Michael (Karen) Leveille; cherished son of the late George and the late Margaret; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. George loved to spend time in the outdoors - whether it was fishing in Canada, Wisconsin or Florida or in his own backyard caring for the Koi pond and garden railroad. He maintained his support of the Packers and the White Sox even though he found himself in a family full of Bears and Cubs fans. After retirement, he took care of others through his volunteer ministry at Meals on Wheels. George was a loving and beloved man whose devotion to friends and family will be missed. Funeral Services are Private. Memorial contributions in George's memory may be made to Meals on Wheels America, 1550 Crystal Drive, Suite 1004, Arlington, VA 22202. Arrangements handled by **Gibbons Funeral Home**, Elmhurst. 630-832-0018 or www.gibbonsfuneralhome.com

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Madden , Kathleen



Kathleen Madden, nee Connor, age 84, of Evanston, formerly of Hinsdale. Beloved wife to the late Joseph Madden. Loving mother to Eileen, Francis (Brenda), Nancy, James Madden and the late Brian Madden. Dear Grandmother to Lily Kathleen, Joseph, Nicholas, Sean, and Patrick. Kind sister to Vincent (the late Sheila) Connor, Marian (the late Jack) Harrington, Ann (the late Tom) Conway, Patrick (Linda) Connor, Julie (the late Jim) Flaherty. The late Thomas (the late Mary) Connor, the late Michael (Mae) Connor, the late Kevin (Sandy) Connor and fond sister in law of Mary (the late Jim) Garrity, Geri (the late Lawrence) Kidd, and Theresa Madden. Fond aunt and godmother and friend to many.

Visitation Saturday, February 22, 2020, 12:30 pm until time of Funeral Mass 1:00 p.m. at **Saint Gregory The Great Catholic Church,** 5545 North Paulina Street, Chicago, Illinois 60640.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Misericordia Home, 6300 Ridge Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660.

Info: www.donnellanfuneral.com or (847)675-1990.

Donnellan Family Funeral Services

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Margolis, Edith

Edith Margolis nee Greben, 94. Beloved wife of the late Irving Margolis. Loving mother of Jeremy (Wendy) Margolis, Toby (Raj) Singh and Jordan Margolis. Cherished grandmother of Laura (Gary) , Shana, Adam (Emily), Lindsay (David), Eric (Katie) and Jori. Great-grandmother of Jackson, Derek, Tyler, Quinn and Dylan. Fond aunt and great aunt to many. Guests are asked to please limit use of perfumes and colognes while in attendance due to allergies. Service Monday, 10:00 am at **Chicago Jewish Funerals**, 8851 Skokie Blvd., (at Niles Center Road) Skokie. Interment Westlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Edith's name to NA'AMAT USA 10024 North Skokie Blvd., Suite 226, Skokie, IL 60077 www.naamat.org would be appreciated. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals** – Skokie Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjfinfo.com

CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS

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McMahon, Robert Patrick

Robert Patrick McMahon, age 72, of Las Vegas, NV passed away February 4, 2020. Born February 17, 1947 to the late William Thomas McMahon (1989) and Catherine A. Rice McMahon (1993); former husband of the late Kathleen Hughes; father of Christopher Todd and Jacob; grandfather of Nicholas Liam; brother of William (Patt), James (Susan), Catherine (Howard), Tish, Mary (John) and Margaret (Frank); loving uncle, grand uncle and great-grand uncle to many. All services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to Fenwick Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, 505 Washington Blvd., Oak Park, IL 60302. Info - **Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest**, 847-234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com.

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Misiurak, Cynthia M.

Cynthia M. Misiurak, nee Connell, passed away February 11, 2020. Beloved wife and best friend of the late Leo; loving mother of Katy; beloved grandmother of Stella and Lucy; sister of Mark (Corrine) Connell; aunt of Jeff, Greg and Kaylie; second mom to Jenny, Jeremy and Bradley; best friend and long lost sister of Sharon and dear friend to Henry, Laura and many others. She was preceded in death by her loving parents Marge and Sandy Connell. Cindy took great pride in her work and the many friendships that have developed over the years. She will be greatly missed. Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, PO Box 4527, New York, NY 10163 (https://www.nationalmssociety.org/).

N.H. Scott & Hanekamp Funeral Home

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Motisi, Joan Cathryn

Joan Cathryn Motisi (nee Hanley), age 69. Beloved wife of the late Leonard Motisi. Loving mother of Michelle (Linda), Scott (Rachel) and Kelly (Eric) Gawron. Cherished Grandma of Emily, Gabriella, Hailey, Ryan, and Quinn. Dear sister of Dorothy (George) Lipkie. Preceded in death by her parents Frank and Helen (nee Hickey) Hanley. Aunt and friend to many.

Visitation will be Monday, February 17, 2020 from 3:00 pm-9:00 pm at Andrew J. McGann Funeral Home (10727 South Pulaski Road; Chicago, IL 60655). Prayer services will begin at Andrew J. McGann Funeral Home on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 9:30 am, going DIRECTLY to Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am. She will be laid to rest in Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery.

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Mrakava, Terrence R. 'Terry'

age 74, best friend and companion of Janice Rigan. Husband of the late June A., nee Johnson. Loving father of Anthony E. (Carolyn Nowakowski) Caciopo. Fond brother of Carol (Donald) Birmingham and Thomas (Madeline) Mrakava. Grandfather of Karla and Katarina Rigan. Uncle of nieces and a nephew. Preceded in death by father Frank and mother Florence, nee Kowolsky. Services private. Info. 773-767-9788. Arrangements by Kowske-Wolowiec Funeral Directors, Inc. Online tributes www.parksidechapels.com

PARKSIDE CHAPELS & CREMATION SERVICES Kowske • Wolowiec Funeral Directors, Inc.

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Murphy, Michael F.

Michael F. Murphy, 66, of Harvard, IL and formerly of Chicago. Beloved son of the late John B. Murphy M.D. and Dorothy Murphy. Dear brother of (the late) Jay Murphy, James (Patt), Patrick (Lynda) and Richard Murphy. Fond uncle of six. Mike was a graduate of Loyola Academy and Loyola University where he was a coach for the men's golf team for several years. Mike was an avid golfer, great cook, and all-around good guy. Donations in Mike's name may be made to Lambs Farm, 14245 Rockland Road, Libertyville, IL 60048. For more information, contact **Saunders & McFarlin Funeral Home**, at 815-943-5400.

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Nockels, Mary M.



Mary M. Nockels, nee Devaney, of Elmhurst formerly of Westchester, age 84. Beloved wife of the late Captain Daniel Nockels CFD Truck 58, LODD; loving mother of Russ, Paul (Sharon) and the late Patrick and the late infants Kathleen and Margaret; proud grandmother of Daniel, Emma and Colin; dear sister of the late Patricia and the late Elizabeth; preceded in death by her parents Patrick Devaney and Elizabeth Flanagan. Family and friends will be received at the **Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home**, 10501 W. Cermak Rd., Westchester (2 blks West of Mannheim Rd.) on Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. All to meet Friday at Holy Family Church, 1080 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago for 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass. Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials made to the CFD Gold Badge Society are deeply appreciated. For info 708-F-U-N-E-R-A-L.

Conboy – Westchester Funeral Home
www.ConboyWestchesterfh.com

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Novak, Bonnie

Bonnie Novak, nee Dolinka, 73. Beloved daughter of the late Daniel and Lillian Dolinka; devoted mother of Jennifer (Ben) Riback and Philip Novak; proud "Nonnie" of Ava, Ella, and Jacob Riback; dear sister of the late Carla Dolinka; and cherished friend to all who knew her. Bonnie will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Jewish Child and Family Services, www.jcfs.org. For info: 847-256-5700.

WEINSTEIN & PISER FUNERAL HOME

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O'Toole, Kathleen L.

Kathleen L. O'Toole beloved daughter of the late Thomas and Patricia O'Toole; loving sister of Margaret (James) Maloblocki, Peach Eileen O'Toole, Kerri O'Toole and the late Michael O'Toole and Mary Ellen (Richard) Umgelder; devoted sister-in-law of Terri O'Toole; cherished aunt of Patrick O'Toole, Brian (Karen) O'Toole, Christopher O'Toole and the late Nicholas Umgelder; dearest God mother of Kyle Gill; Visitation Tuesday 3-9 P.M. Funeral Service Wednesday 10:00 A.M. at **Lawn Funeral Home** 17909 S 94th Ave Tinley Park Il 60487 Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Funeral info (708) 532-3100.

Lawn Funeral Home

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Pechous, Donald



Donald E. Pechous, 86, of Quincy, Illinois and formerly of Berwyn, Illinois passed away peacefully on February 10, 2020 after a brief illness.Don is survived by his son Donald J. Pechous (Cynthia Schnaitmann). He was preceded in death by his wife Carla (nee Zourek), his parents John M. Pechous and Frances A. (Seidel) Pechous, and his five brothers Roy (Vera), John (Nancy), Vernon (late Carole), Kenneth (Pam), and his twin brother Robert (Elizabeth).Born in Berwyn on August 24, 1933, Don attended Morton High School. Don enlisted in the US Marine Corps and served from 1952-1955 attaining the rank of Sergeant. He was a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where he received a degree in Finance.After briefly serving as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, Don spent most of his career in law enforcement. He was an investigator with the Cook County Sheriff's Police, internal investigator for the Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services, Security Supervisor for the Illinois Industrial Commission and Chief Investigator for the Illinois Dept. of Registration and Education. In addition to working as an investigator, Don was heavily involved in City of Berwyn politics and government serving as the First Ward Alderman for 22 years, as City Clerk for 6 years and as Township Committeeman for 4 years. Don was also the former Commandant of Marine Corp League Detachment 1057 based in Murrieta,California.Don was an avid dog lover adopting numerous dogs that had been abused or abandoned. Don enjoyed travel with his wife Carla having visited numerous European countries, South America, India and China. He made friends quickly, having many close friends not only in his hometown of Berwyn, but also gaining friends wherever he lived such as Naples, FL, Murrieta, CA, and Quincy.Donald E. Pechous leaves an exemplary legacy of public service and of unwavering devotion to the Pechous Family, the City of Berwyn and the US Marine Corps.Cremation rites will be accorded, and no formal services are planned at this time. Inurnment in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA. Funeral arrangements are in care of **Duker & Haugh Funeral Home**. www.dukerandhaugh.com

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Peterson, Richard Gunthorp 'Dick'

Richard Gunthorp Peterson (Dick), age 88, passed away peacefully on February 10 after a full life. He leaves behind his wife of 35 years, Karen Flora Peterson. Dick was born March 24, 1931 to Herbert and Geraldine Peterson. Dick is predeceased by his first wife, Dorothy Harriss Peterson, to whom he was married for 26 years and the mother of his 2 children, along with his only brother, Herbert. Dick is survived by his daughter Jenny Hill (Jon), his son Doug Peterson (Margot) and step daughter, Margot Boyer (Bob) and five grandchildren, Max Hill, Dan Peterson, Maria Peterson, Rose Peterson and Julia Peterson. Join us in celebrating his life Sunday, February 23 at the Episcopal Church of St James the Less, 550 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield at 2:00 PM followed by a reception from 3:00-5:00.

DuPage Cremations, Ltd. and Memorial Chapel

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Pierce, Daniel M.

Former Highland Park Mayor Daniel M. Pierce, age 91 passed away on February 13, 2020. Beloved husband for 39 years to Rhoda Ann Pierce, nee Kaplan; father of sons Andrew (Margalynne), Anthony (Teresa) and Theodore (Anne) and of stepsons Eric (Blake) and Peter (Katie), grandfather of Rebecca, Catherine, Oliver, Martin, Ellen, Phoebe and Roscoe, loving brother of the late Ellen (Gardner) Grant and of Susan (Louis) Axelrod. Dan graduated from New Trier High School, Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He was a partner in the law firm of Altheimer, Gray, Naiburg, Strasburger & Lawton. He served in the Illinois legislature, was Mayor of Highland Park and President of the North Shore Water Reclamation District President. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at Congregation Makom Solel Lakeside at a date to be determined.

Preibis, Gloria Mae



Gloria Mae Preibis, 95, retired legal secretary, of Chicago's Old Town neighborhood, formerly of Marquette Park; passed away peacefully February 4, 2020. Gloria was generous and a friend of nature. She loved painting, crossword puzzles and all of her cats and dogs over the years. Devoted mother of Glenn Preibis and Gloria (Thomas) Sampson; proud grandmother of Cole Thomas Sampson; dear aunt of Bill "Billy" (Kathy) Bower. Faithful companion of Sammy the black and white cat, who preceded her in death by one month. Also preceded in death by husband of 65 years, Albert G. Preibis, sister Lois (the late Andrew) Bower, nephew Frank (Virginia) Bower, and parents Frank Conrad Smith and Sylvia Äström Smith. Services are private. Contributions may be made in her name to the Anti-Cruelty Society, https://anticruelty.org/. Arrangements by **Cremation Society of Illinois**, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com.

Cremation Society of Illinois

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Quinn, John Francis

John Francis Quinn, 91, of Wadsworth, IL, formerly of Lindenhurst, IL, passed away on Thursday, February 13, 2020. Loving husband of Betty Ann. Devoted father of John Quinn, Julie (Mark) Puro, Barbara (Tim) Verbeke, and David (Kimberly) Quinn. Grandfather of Jonathan (Molly) Quinn, Caitlyn (Kyle) Tielens, Miles (Heather) Quinn, Keith (Erin) Puro, Dawn (Drew) Puroway, Scott Puro, Tim Verbeke, Michael Verbeke, Kelly Verbeke, Julie Quinn, Grace Quinn, Jenna Quinn, and Emily Quinn. Great-grandfather ten. Brother of the late Mary Ellen Quinn, Rita Pizzillo, Sally Detry, and Barbara Wermeling. Visitation will be 4 – 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at **Ringa Funeral Home**, 122 S. Milwaukee Ave. Lake Villa, IL 60046. Additional visitation will be 10 – 11 a.m. at Prince of Peace Church Wednesday, February 19, 2020 followed by a Mass at 11 a.m. Entombment will follow at Warren Cemetery in Gurnee, IL. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in John's memory to the charity of your choice.

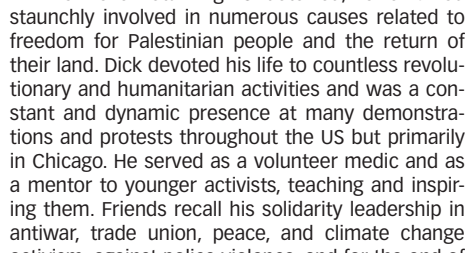
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Reilly, Richard



Palestine solidarity activist and humanitarian Richard (Dick) Reilly has died after a long illness. Dick was born November 21, 1952 in Los Angeles to parents Scott Reilly and Catherine Freeman (both predeceased). He is survived by his sisters Susan and Molina and his brother Lance, and by his wife Christine Geovanis. Dick grew up in many places around the US, attending schools in California, Maine, and Alaska, and finally settling in Chicago, where he worked for decades as a compassionate and beloved psychiatric social worker at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, all while maintaining a full-time schedule committed to social justice, especially for the Palestinian people. During the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, he was involved in launching widespread media, political and popular campaigns to defend Beirut within the United States. In 1988, during the first Intifada, he led a solidarity delegation that joined a march in Ramallah organized by Palestinian women's organizations on the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. After that protest, the occupation forces deported him from Palestine and prevented him from ever returning. Undeterred, he remained staunchly involved in numerous causes related to freedom for Palestinian people and the return of their land. Dick devoted his life to countless revolutionary and humanitarian activities and was a constant and dynamic presence at many demonstrations and protests throughout the US but primarily in Chicago. He served as a volunteer medic and as a mentor to younger activists, teaching and inspiring them. Friends recall his solidarity leadership in antiwar, trade union, peace, and climate change activism, against police violence, and for the end of mass incarceration. Dick was a founding member of Chicago Action Medical in 2001 and an IWW member in Maine and Chicago. He was a Conscientious Objector to the Vietnam war for which he spent three months in jail. He also spent time as a labor organizer for Central Valley farm workers in California and for healthcare workers in Chicago. And he led in Chicago's opposition to the Iraq war as a member of the Chicago Coalition against War and Racism. Christine Geovanis, his soul mate of 27 years, shared his love of the outdoors. Together they spent many months exploring the waters of British Columbia, where they loved to kayak, and in the Canadian Rockies, where they loved to hike and outsmart bears. Chris was also his ever-present companion in their combined passion for liberation for working people the world over. The two of them formed their own team of freedom fighters. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 16 from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. with a service at 7:00 p.m. and on Monday, February 17 from 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. with a service at 8:00 p.m. at **Cooney Funeral Home** located at 3918 W. Irving Park Rd. in Chicago. The funeral is Tuesday, February 18, with a 10:30 a.m. gathering at **Cooney Funeral Home**, followed by a short service. Interment at Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park immediately after. For information please call 773-588-5850 or visit www.cooneyfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dick's memory are being accepted by the Middle East Children's Alliance, www.mecaforpeace.org. A GoFund me page (Dick Reilly) has been established to assist with raising money to cover his medical expenses.

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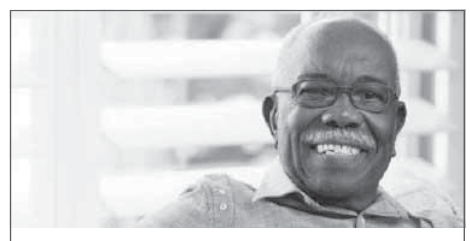


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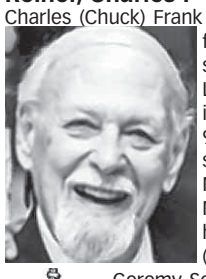
Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Reiner, Charles F 'Chuck'

Charles (Chuck) Frank Reiner passed away peacefully with his family at his side on February 8, 2020 at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Chuck was 91. He is survived by his sons, Van of Santa Fe, New Mexico and Roger of Mount Prospect, Illinois, his daughter-in-law Wendy (Roger), four grandsons, Geremy, Seneca, Cortland and Matthew Reiner and granddaughter-in-law, Emily (Matthew) as well as two great grandsons, Reece and Royrie (Seneca). His wife of 54 years, Lorna, and son, Scott preceded him to Heaven.



Chuck was born March 21, 1928 at the home of his parents, Frank and Lorena Reiner in Natoma, Kansas. He had one sister, Doris, who preceded him in death. Chuck graduated in 1950 from the University of Kansas with a degree in journalism. He married Lorna Kaiser in 1953 in Chicago. He spent over 40 years working at Penton Publishing where he retired as a Senior Regional Manager in 1999.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 22 at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 260 North Northwest Highway in Park Ridge, Illinois. Visitation with family will precede the service and begin at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Park Ridge where the Reiner family were long time members.

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Renk (Rockcastle), Renee

Renee Renk of Wheeling, IL passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends February 12th. Survived by her longtime companion Laurence T. Stiles, former husband James (Rocky) Rockcastle and Nancy, children Curt, Mark and Sheri Rockcastle, daughter-in-law Kris, Grandma to Nisi, Josh, Nicole, William and Caleb, Great Grandma to Arlo and Mason, and long time friend Diane Moser. Preceded in death by son Bret Rockcastle, daughter-in-law Lynn Rockcastle, companion Bert Wiese and husband William Renk. She was Larry's soul mate and love of his life. She was also a pillar of strength for all her children and grand children; never judging, always loving. She lived a long and fulfilling life of travel, happiness, friends and family. She kept her kindness and sense of humor until the end. She will always be loved and never forgotten. "How lucky we are to have someone that makes saying goodbye so hard." A gathering for family and close friends will be held at Renee's home on Sunday, February 23rd anytime between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm. 847-520-3535



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Reynolds, Doris J.

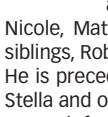
Doris J. Reynolds, nee Dyckman, 90, of Wilmette, February 13, 2020. Wife of the late Vincent. Loving mother of Ed (Annie) Reynolds, Susan (Steven) Collins, and Michael (Jamie) Reynolds. Step mother of Barbara Thorson. Grandmother of Ed (Jen), Scott (Shoshanna), Jim (Meghan), Katie (Luke), Michael, Kevin (Kirsty) and Colleen. Great Grandmother of eleven. Visitation Sunday, February 16, 2020 10:00 am to time of funeral service, 12:00 pm noon at **Wm. H. Scott Funeral Home**, 1100 Greenleaf Avenue, Wilmette, IL, 60091. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Respiratory Health Association, 1440 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago, IL, 60607. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery, Skokie, IL, 60076. Info: 847-251-8200

Dignity Memorial Wm H. Scott Funeral Home

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Rood, Vinson "Albert"

Vinson "Albert" Rood, 84, of North Fort Myers, Florida, formerly of Fox River Grove, Illinois; passed away February 9, 2020 at Hope Hospice, Cape Coral, Florida. He was born January 27, 1936 in Elmhurst, Illinois. Memorial service and interment will be held in June, 2020 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, Illinois with military honors. He was the beloved husband of Alyce M. Rood (nee Pruyn); loving father of Victor Rood, Larry (late Deanna) Pruyn and Karen (Chris) Cubr; loving grandfather of Bryan Mayo (Victor's son), Melissa (Paul) Grysh and Allyson (Brad) Coyne; loving great-grandfather of Paul Jr., Kayleigh, Leah and Emma; dear son of the late Victor and Mary (nee Mae Hottinger) Rood; brother of Helen Rood, Theodore (Sandy) Rood, Shirley (Edwin) Brztowski, Douglas (Mai) Rood, Darlene Rood and the late Katherine Rood, late Lulu (late Chester) Bucknell, late Josephine (late Frank) Jacobs, late Harold Rood, late Victor Rood Sr. (and his son, late nephew Victor Rood Jr.), late Frank Rood and the late Roy Rood; also surviving many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, great great nieces and nephews, cousins (preceded by late cousins Theodore Hottinger and Cathy Lopez) and nephew, David "Rocky" Rood who he was so very fond of and always a tremendous help. Albert worked as a painter, builder and remodeler contractor. He was in the US Army 82nd Airborne and then the 101st Airborne Stationed in Germany. Vinson loved fishing and in the early years hunting and trapping. He and his wife spent their summers in Michigan and the winters in Florida. For information, call the **Ahlgrim Family Funeral Home**, Palatine at 847-358-7411, or visit www.ahlgrimffs.com



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Salinas, Jr., Adolph

Adolph "Ace" Salinas Jr., age 83, passed away February 12, 2020.



Survivors include his loving wife Arlene Salinas (nee Hughes); children, Michael (Dianna) Salinas, Jay (Donna) Salinas, and Lisa Bryan; grandchildren, Jonathan, Nicole, Matthew, and Luke; 7 great-grandchildren; siblings, Robert, Chipper and Karen.

He is preceded in death by his parents Adolph and Stella and one sister Dolores.

Funeral from THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY will be Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 10:00am to St. Rita of Cascia Church at 10:30am. Fr. Robert Wilhitte will officiate with interment following at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at 1:30pm.

Visitation will be held Monday, February 17, 2020 from 3:00pm until 7:00pm, with a liturgical wake service at 6:00pm, at THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora, 630-631-5500. Please visit our interactive website at www.daleidenmortuary.com where you may leave condolences for Adolph's family.

The Daleiden Mortuary

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Sayles, Sr., John Austin

John Austin Sayles, Sr.; age 87, formerly of Burr Ridge; beloved husband of the late Sandra J. Sayles; loving father of Norma (Jim) Schnabel, Jay (Therese) Sayles, Donna (Rob) Schmidt, and preceded in death by infant daughter Joanne Sayles; proud grandfather of Amanda & Kyle (Jamie) Schnabel, Chelsey & Isabella Schmidt; dear great-grandfather of Finnegan, Brooklyn, & Brynn; preceded in death by sister Mary (the late Lawrence) Blaida. Memorial service at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the First Congregational Church of LaGrange, 100 6th Ave., LaGrange. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in John's name to the Alzheimer's Association (https://alz.org/) are appreciated. Funeral arrangements entrusted to **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, Countryside. Info: (708) 352-6500 or hjfunerals.com

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Severino, Sheila

Sheila Severino, nee Strausser, of Elmwood Park. Passed away February 7, 2020, age 70; beloved mother of the late Michael; loving sister of Nancy (Thomas) Ciecko; devoted daughter of the late Charles and the late Lorraine Strausser; cherished aunt of Katherine; dearest cousin of Doris Roberta Johnson. Services and Interment were held privately. In memory of Sheila, contributions to WINGS Program, Inc., P.O. Box 95615, Palatine, IL 60095 or www.wingsprogram.com would be appreciated. For information, **The Elms Funeral Home** at 708-453-1234 or www.elmsfh.com

THE ELMS FUNERAL HOME

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Simko, Nadine Marie

Nadine Simko, age 72, of Lake Forest, formerly of Hinsdale, passed away on February 6, 2020. Loving mother of Elise Simko Schroeder and Meghan Simko (Octavian Truta). Dear grandmother of Caroline Reilly Schroeder, Marshall Emerson Schroeder, William Maclain Schroeder, Morgan Emilia Truta and Madeline Grace Truta. Fond sister of Arleen Doyle and aunt of Hadley Doyle (Bradley) Schuller and Caitlin Doyle. Funeral mass and interment will be private. Arrangements by **Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale**. For information 630-703-9131 or www.powellfuneraldirectors.com.



POWELL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Stanevich, Alex

Dr. Alex Stanevich D.P.M. Age 82 Beloved husband of Dorothy Stanevich (nee Burkert). Loving father of Laura (Frank) Gaura, Glen Stanevich, Beth Stanevich and Alan (Linda) Stanevich. Proud grandfather of Ashley (Matt) Mergenthaler, John (Francesca) Gaura, Rachel Stanevich and Melissa Stanevich. Cherished great-grandfather of Logan Mergenthaler. Dear brother of Karin (late Jerry) Berg. Fond uncle of Lisa and Erik. Illinois College of Chiropody and Foot Surgery Class of 1960. Alex was a practicing podiatrist for over 50 years. He loved golfing, fishing, traveling up north and his beloved pets. He loved to be round his family and friends. He enjoyed crossword puzzels, playing sports, and poker games and was a well known jokester to all. Visitation Monday 3-9 p.m. at the **Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home**, 9000 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL. Funeral Tuesday 8:45 a.m. from the **Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home** to St. Michael Church, Mass 9:30 a.m. Entombment Resurrection Cemetery www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878



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Taylor, Anita D.

Anita D. Taylor, 78, passed away February 14, 2020. Beloved wife of Ernest for 55 loving years. Loving mother of Charles and Eric. Cherished grandmother of Trevor and Samantha. Visitation will be Monday, February 17, from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels**, 8300 W Lawrence Ave, Norridge. Interment private. Info: 708-456-8300

CUMBERLAND CHAPELS

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Towns, Eleanor

Mrs. Eleanor Towns, 98, Indianapolis, passed away on February 11, 2020.



Born in Cleveland, Ohio, she was the last surviving daughter of Fritz Pollard, the first Africa American head coach in the National Football League, and one of the first two African American players in the NFL, in 1920. Mr. Pollard was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2005.

Mrs. Towns attended West Virginia State College, and earned a bachelor degree in Physical Education at George Williams College, Chicago, IL.

On Monday, February 17, there will be a Celebration of Life Service at 2 p.m. with visitation from 1 p.m. until time of service. She is survived by her husband of 74 years, Dr. Clarence Towns, Jr.; son, Dr. Stephen A. Towns (Dr. Jeanette Sabir-Holloway); daughter, Stephany C. Towns; grandchildren, Damon Ellis, Jenae Holloway and Geoffrey Holloway, and great granddaughter, Zora Holloway.

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Chicago Tribune

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Ulmer, Alyce Jane

Alyce Jane Ulmer (nee Murray), Age 94, Born into Eternal Life on February 11, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Harold M. "Dutch" Ulmer. Loving mother of Michael H., and Mark H. (Maureen) Ulmer, and Matthew R. (Diana) Ulmer. Proud grandma of Kaitlin, Andrew, Emily, and Brandon (Laura) Kain. Beloved daughter of the late Gladys (nee Smith) and George Murray. Dear twin sister of the late Agnes (the late George) Bird, and the late Mary (the late George) Markham. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Alyce was a great lady. She loved having dinner parties with close friends, hosting holiday dinners for her family, going out to The Old Barn (Burbank) with Dad on a Saturday night, and being involved with Christ the King Parish. Alyce was a beloved member of the Choir, longtime lector and eucharistic minister. Mom played bridge for several years, and relaxed by working in the yard, planting flowers, and growing a few vegetables. She travelled to Alaska and Italy–both while in her eighties! Mom loved all her friends in the parish and on Hamilton Avenue. If it was 5:00, Alyce and her neighbors Ruth and Jane might be having a glass of wine–and on a nice summer evening, it was a pretty safe bet! We will all miss her smile and her wonderful sense of humor. Visitation in church on Monday, February 17th, 3:00pm-8:00pm and Tuesday morning, February 18th, 9:30am-10:30am at Christ the King Church, 9235 S. Hamilton Ave., Chicago, IL 60643. Mass of Christian Burial Tuesday at 10:30am. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorials to a favorite charity of your choice is most appreciated. Funeral Info: **Heeney-Laughlin Funeral Directors**, 708-636-5500 or www.heeneyfh.com

Heeney-Laughlin

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Underwood, Larry V.

Larry V. Underwood died unexpectedly Friday February 7, 2020 as a result of an auto accident.



Larry was born January 24, 1943, in New Hampton, Iowa, the sixth child and third son of Carmelita Brown Underwood and Claude Underwood.

He attended St. Joseph's grade school and New Hampton High School.

He worked for Montgomery Ward for 23 years.

Larry returned to college in 1987 and graduated with honors from the University of Northern Iowa in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Anthropology and minoring in Sociology. Upon graduation he entered the University of Iowa earning a Master of Arts in Library and Information Science in 1990.

After completing his degrees, Larry worked for the WATERLOO-CEDAR FALLS COURIER from 1991 to 1993. In 1993 he joined the CHICAGO TRIBUNE in the editorial research department. He continued to work there until his retirement in 2009.

Throughout his academic and professional career, Larry was recognized for his many achievements. These included the CHICAGO TRIBUNE Outstanding Professional Performance award "For exceptional energy, creativity, and judgement in tracking down the information needed by the Editorial Department." He was presented the University of Northern Iowa Purple and Old Gold Award "For meritorious scholarship in Anthropology." Larry was a past member of the Special Libraries Association, an international professional society for library and information professionals and The American Library Association. He was also inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta, an International Sociology Honor Society.

In his retirement, Larry joined the Du Quoin, IL Public Library Board, where he was actively engaged on the budget committee and pursuing grant opportunities for the library. He also pursued his many interests and hobbies. He was an avid reader, stained glass craftsman, and gourmet cook. In his earlier years, he enjoyed travel and meeting new people. He was always interested in engaging people with new ideas and interests.

Larry married Karen A. Glynn in Waterloo, IA on November 2, 1990 and she survives. He is also survived by his sister, Kay (Robert) Carolan of Minneapolis, MN, many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and great nephews. Larry was preceded in death by his parents and five siblings, Claud (Jeanette) Underwood, Lola (William) Gilbert, Justin (Mary) Underwood, Donna Underwood Peterson, and Mary Ann Underwood.

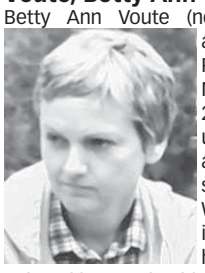
There will be a memorial service in Iowa at a later date.

Donations in Larry's memory may be made to the Du Quoin Public Library, 28 S. Washington, Du Quoin, IL 62832, attention: Kristina Benson, Director.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Voute, Betty Ann (nee Anderson)

Betty Ann Voute (nee Anderson), 78, passed away at Waverly Gardens-Presbyterian Homes in North Oaks, MN on January 28, 2020. Betty Ann grew up in Illinois and was an adventurous spirit and lived some of her life in Phillips, WI. Betty Ann enjoyed reading, learning, her pets and her Swedish heritage. She enjoyed her work with public libraries in Woodridge and Barrington. She is survived by her loyal childhood friend and caregiver, Barbara (Pat) O'Leary of Centerville, MN and her loving cat Mira ("Miracle"). She was preceded in death by her parents, Albin and Anna Anderson.



Memorial donations in memory of Betty Ann can be made to Anti Cruelty Society.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Walker, Clyde C.

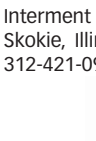
Dr. Clyde Chester Walker, of Chicago/ Sleepy Hollow IL, died on Feb14, 2020 at age 76. He is survived by his loving wife Kathleen, his son Stephen, daughter Lisa and grandsons Matthew and Bradley, and much loved by his extended family. Dr. Walker was a longtime professor of Political Science and Law Enforcement at City Colleges of Chicago, serving both as Chair of the Dept of Behavioral Science as well as union representative. He earned his Doctorate at University of Notre Dame. Visitation Tuesday, February 18, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. until time of funeral service 6:30 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels**, 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. Interment private. Info www.cumberlandchapels.com or 708-456-8300

CUMBERLAND CHAPELS

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Welsh, Reverend William P.

Reverend William P. Welsh, age 85. Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago, December 18, 1960, Fr. Welsh served in many parishes, including St. Francis Xavier, Wilmette; St. Sabina, Chicago; St. Benedict, Irving Park Rd., Chicago; St. Emily, Mt. Prospect; St. Theresa, Palatine; Infant Jesus of Prague, Flossmoor; and St. Lambert, Skokie, until his June, 2004, retirement. After retirement, he served as chaplain for the Carmelite Sisters in Des Plaines. Beloved son of the late William P. and Sylvia; loving brother of Mary Jo (the late Dr. Lee) Simon, Michael (Christine) Welsh, and the late Sylvia Jean Welsh; dear uncle of John, Stephen and the late Daniel Simon, Laurie Jean and Mary Sarah Welsh; cherished great-uncle of James Simon and Kaylee (John) McCombs. Visitation, Tuesday, February 18, from 3 to 8 p.m., and Wednesday, February 19, from 10 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass, 11 a.m., at St. Lambert Catholic Church, 8148 Karlov Av., Skokie. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK, 73123; The Discalced Carmelite Monastery, 1101 N. River Rd., Des Plaines, IL, 60016; or a charity of your choice. For funeral information: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com to sign guestbook.



HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Werner, Otis

After several years of "raising cane," Otis Werner peacefully passed on to his eternal rewards on January 31, 2020, at 94 years of age. He leaves behind a loving niece, nephews, and many cousins. Visitation Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the Prayer Service at 10:45 a.m. at **Michalik Funeral Home**, 1056 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60642. Interment will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery, Skokie, Illinois. For further information please call 312-421-0936 or www.michalikfuneralhome.com.



Michalik Funeral Home Burial and Cremation Services

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Whelan, John Glyn

John Glyn Whelan, II, age 82, February 10, 2020 and was born December 1, 1937 in Dublin, Ireland. John became a U.S. citizen while serving in the U.S. Army. Devoted husband of the late Janice nee Reynolds Whelan, Loved father of John III (Tammy) and James (Shannon) Whelan; Dear grandfather of Shannon (Stephen) Rusch, John "Jack" (Amanda Pineda) Whelan, Joshua Whelan, Maggie Whelan and Jerry Harris. Great grandfather of Piper and Theodore Rusch. Loved brother of Brian (Liz), Joseph (Cathy), Marty (Barb), Donal (Eithne), Lucy Whelan and the late Patricia, late Philip and the late Patrick Whelan; many nieces and nephews. John worked for over 50 years in the trucking industry and was the founder of Whelan and Associates, INC. A visitation will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the **Beidelman-Kunsch Funeral Homes & Crematory**, 516 S. Washington St. Naperville, A funeral service will be held on Monday, February 24, 2020 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment private. In lieu of flowers consider a donation to The Children's Research Fund benefiting Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, info@childrensresearchfund.org. Info 630 355 0264. www.beidelmankunschfh.com.

Beidelman - Kunsch FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, LTD Family Owned and Operated Since 1861

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Zender, Cecelia J.

Devoted daughter of the late; Matthew & Matilda Zender. Loving sister of the late; Dorothy, Albert, Rita & Rosemary. Visitation Thursday, February 20th from 10:00 a.m. until time of chapel prayers 11:00 a.m. at the **KERRY FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION CARE CENTER**, 7020 W. 127th Street, Palos Heights proceeding to Saint Alexander Church, Mass 11:30 a.m. Interment Saint Mary Cemetery in Evergreen Park. www.kerryfh.com ~ (708) 361.4235 ~ www.facebook.com/kerryfuneral

KERRY FUNERAL HOME

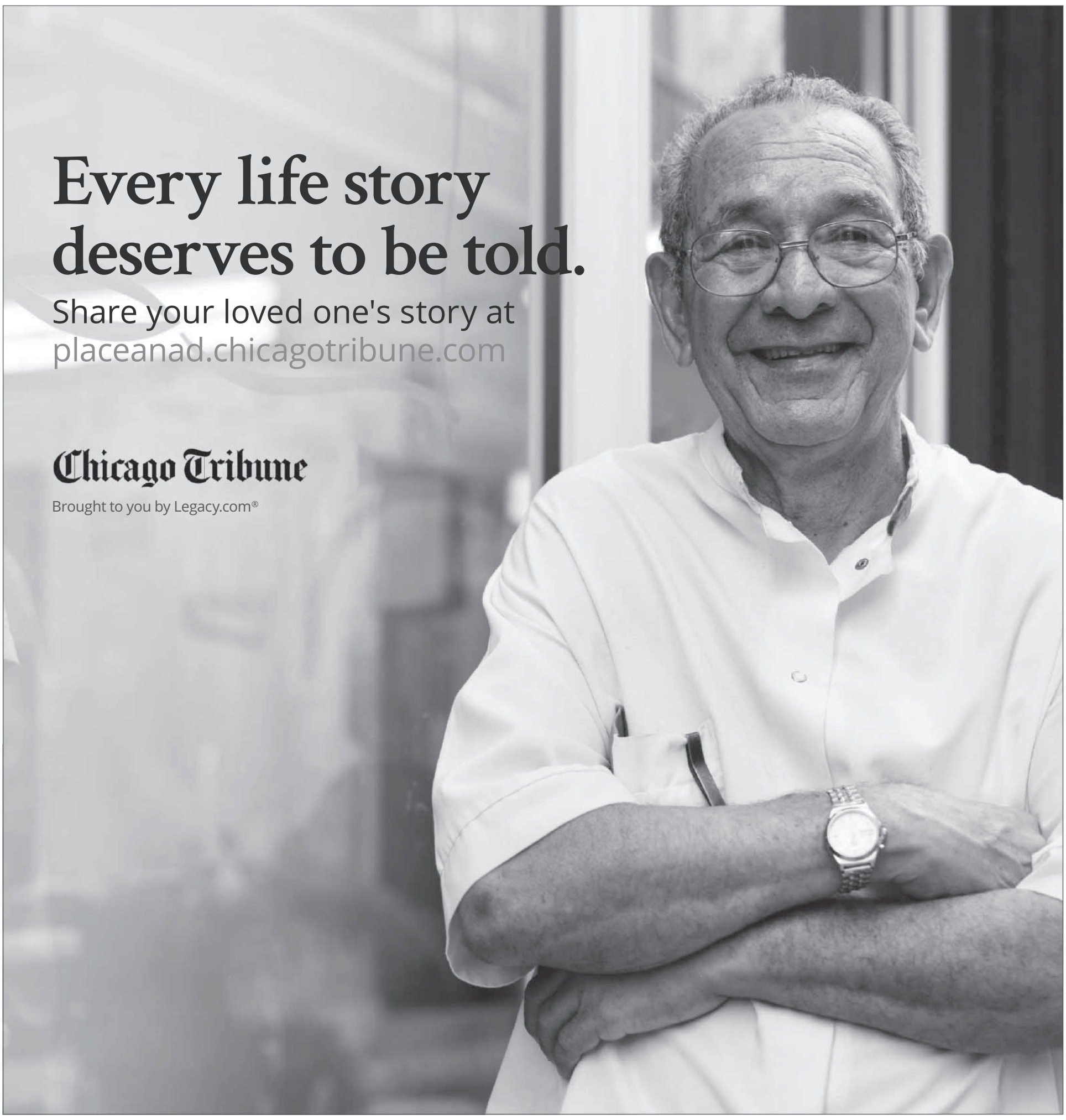
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CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

chicagoweathercenter.com | By Tom Skilling and WGN9



SUNDAY, FEB. 16 | NORMAL HIGH: **36°** | NORMAL LOW: **20°** | RECORD HIGH: **58° (1921)** | RECORD LOW: **-10° (1885)**

Mild days to reign over close of winter season

LOCAL FORECAST

HIGH	LOW
36	27

■ **Weak bubble of high pressure moves across the upper Great Lakes bringing tranquil conditions, seasonable daytime temps.**

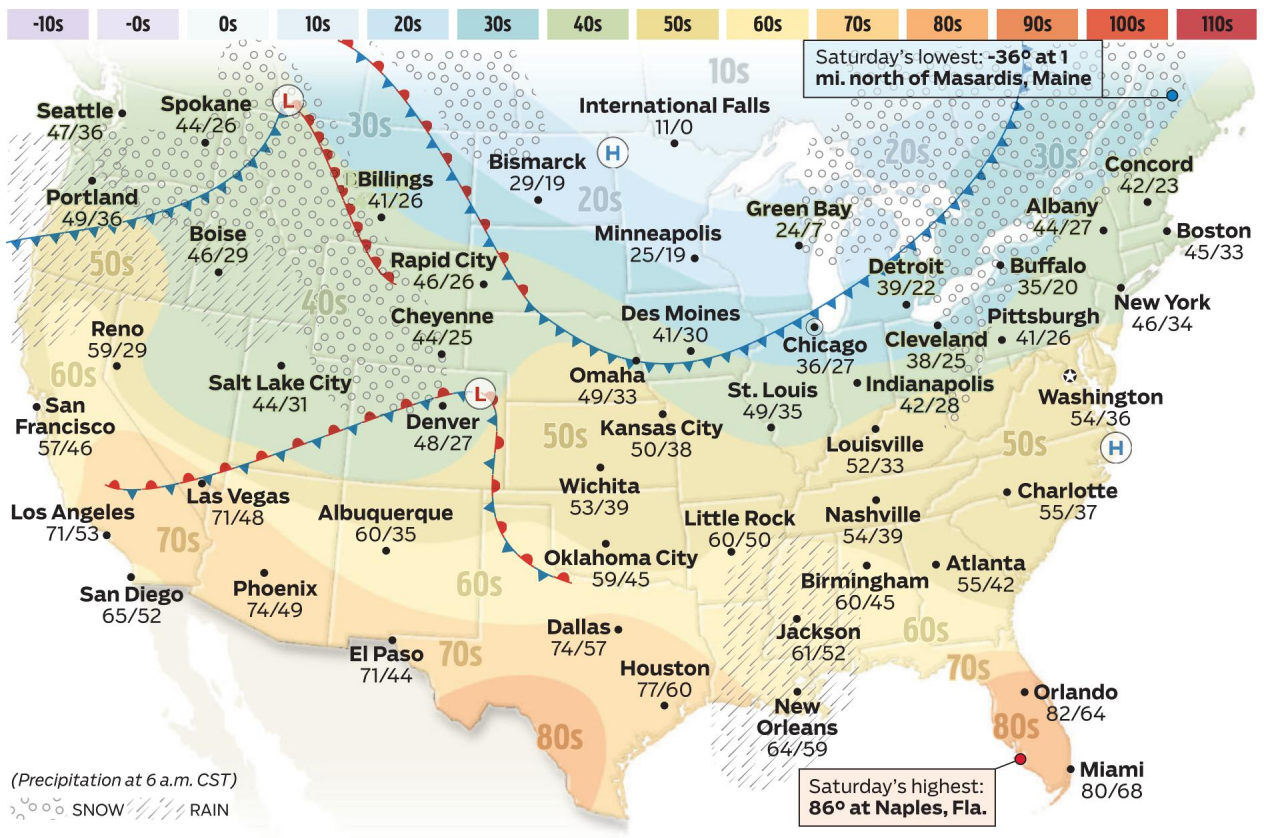
■ Filtered sunshine greets early risers. Daybreak temps range from upper teens in colder suburbs to mid 20s city.

■ Light, variable winds become N-NE 5-10 mph.

■ Chilly air filters into the area, but enough sun allows temps to reach the mid 30s.

■ Clouds thicken overnight. Temps hold in the mid-upper 20s. Spotty snow or flurries possible toward morning.

NATIONAL FORECAST

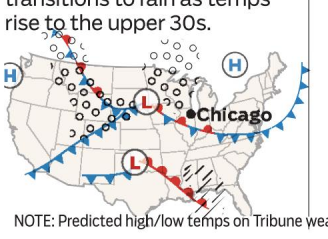


Despite recent snow and prospects for a wintry mix on Monday, daytime temperatures are forecast to run at or above freezing through Tuesday. Readings on Monday may spike near 40 degrees at some locations. Another influx of polar air is set to arrive by midweek, but as has been typical this winter, this will be but a brief interruption in an otherwise mild pattern. Climatological spring arrives in 13 days. Because the duration of nighttime wanes and incoming sunlight strengthens, intrusions of bitterly cold air become unusual after March 1. Most subzero occurrences were recorded during the month's first week. Forecasts suggest high temperatures will average 4 to 6 degrees above normal during the period from Feb. 21 to 25, with readings at or just below normal from Feb. 26 to March 2.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

HIGH	LOW
38	30

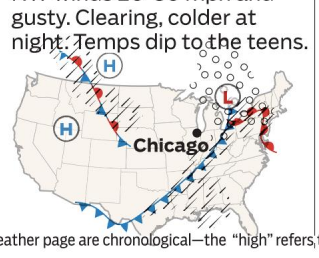
Overcast lowers. Spotty flurries during the morning. Rather raw, as SE winds increase to 15-25 mph. Mixed precipitation becomes steadier in the afternoon and transitions to rain as temps rise to the upper 30s.



TUESDAY, FEB. 18

HIGH	LOW
34	17

Lingering clouds break, leading to a partly sunny afternoon. Windy and trending colder. Temps peak in the low-mid 30s midday. NW winds 20-30 mph and gusty. Clearing, colder at night. Temps dip to the teens.



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

HIGH	LOW
25	9

Noticeably colder under partly sunny skies. Push of polar air limits high temps to the mid 20s. Blustery NW winds of 20-30 mph lower wind chills to single digits. Clearing and cold at night with diminishing winds.



THURSDAY, FEB. 20

HIGH	LOW
24	15

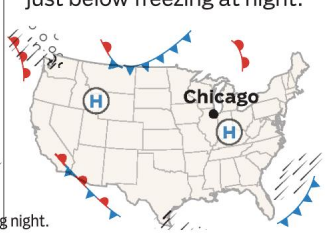
Large polar high pressure settles across the Midwest making for a bright, crisp day. Daytime temps struggle to reach the low-mid 20s despite sunny skies. NW winds diminish to 5-10 mph. Temps begin to rise overnight.



FRIDAY, FEB. 21

HIGH	LOW
38	28

Gusty W-SW winds lock in as high pressure shifts east. Abundant sunshine, and an influx of Pacific air raises temps to the upper 30s by mid afternoon. Temps dip just below freezing at night.



SATURDAY, FEB. 22

HIGH	LOW
45	30

Continued mostly sunny. Quite mild. Temps climb to the mid 40s under mostly sunny skies. Breezy, with SW winds of 15-25 mph. Clouds increase overnight.



NOTE: Predicted high/low temps on Tribune weather page are chronological—the "high" refers to maximum reading expected during day and "low" is the minimum reading expected the following night.

ASK TOM

Dear Tom,

Last autumn you wrote that substantial early-season snows frequently were followed by below normal seasonal snow totals. What were the ends of those snow seasons like?

John Papeck

Dear John,

Following the city's snowy 2019 Halloween, an in-house study determined that Chicago's five snowiest Octobers were all followed by below-normal snow seasons. This October's 4.6 inches of snow, was the city's second snowiest, runner-up to 6.3 inches in October 1989. Spring snowfall was minor in all five snow seasons, with these March-April snow totals: 1990, 1.4 inches; 1968, 2.5 inches; 1953, 4.8 inches; 1907, 4.0 inches; and 1958, 5.5 inches. In only three of those did the city record a 4-inch plus snowfall in February: the 1990 9.7-inch Valentine's (Feb. 14-15) snowstorm, 5.4 inches on Feb. 16, 1953, and 7.0 inches on Feb. 5, 1907.

Write to: ASK TOM
2501 W. Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60618
asktomwhy@wgntv.com

WGN-TV meteorologists Mark Carroll, Steve Kahn, Richard Koeneman, Paul Merzlock and Paul Dailey, plus Bill Snyder, contribute to this page.

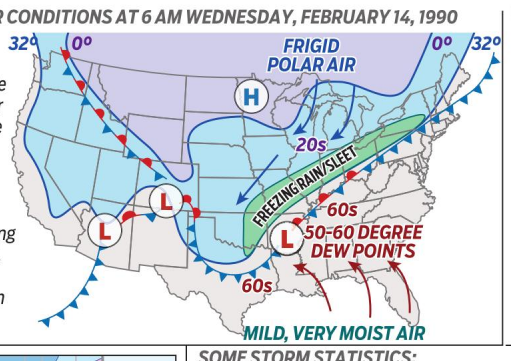
Hear Demetrius Ivory's weather updates weekdays 3 to 6 p.m. on WGN-AM 720 Chicago.

30 years ago, Valentine's Day was anything but a sweetheart

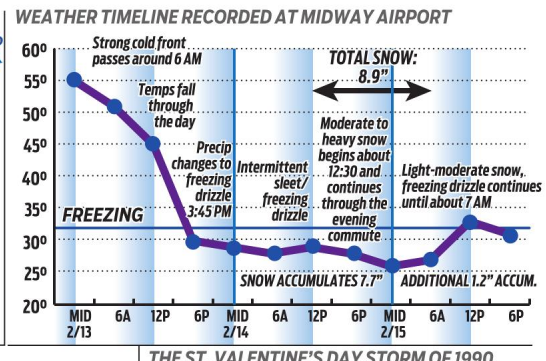
Heavy snow pelted the city during the afternoon and evening of February 14, 1990. Timing could not have been worse. Nightmare commutes and the closure of O'Hare Airport led to the event being referred to as "The St. Valentine's Day Messacre."

THE SET-UP: WEATHER CONDITIONS AT 6 AM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1990

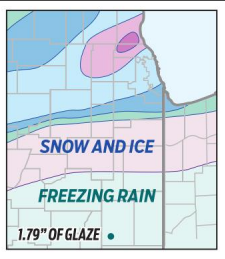
Sprawling polar high pressure supplied a low level flow of cold air while moisture-rich tropical air streamed north from the Gulf, setting up a classic example of what meteorologists call overrunning. By early morning a band of freezing rain and sleet developed. By midday, precip was spreading into Chicago in the form of snow.



WEATHER TIMELINE RECORDED AT MIDWAY AIRPORT



PRECIPITATION OBSERVED FEB. 14-15, 1990



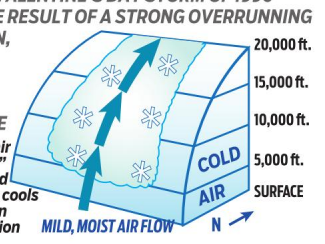
SOME STORM STATISTICS:

- Swath of 6-12" of snow across N. Illinois
- NE winds gusted to 35-40 mph
- O'Hare International Airport closed evening of the 14th
- Major ice storm across E. central Illinois—power out for days in some areas

Buffalo Grove	12"
Schaumburg	10.5"
Streamwood	10.5"
Hoffman Estates	10"
Carpentersville	10"
Chicago-O'Hare	9.7"
Chicago-Midway	8.9"
Moline	8.9"
Joliet	7.8"
Rockford	7.5"

THE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY STORM OF 1990 WAS THE RESULT OF A STRONG OVERRUNNING PATTERN, RATHER THAN A MAJOR CYCLONE

As moist air "overruns" cold air and is lifted, it cools resulting in precipitation



SOURCES: Frank Wachowski, National Weather Service archives

PAUL MERZLOCK AND JENNIFER M. KOHNKE / WGN-TV

CHICAGO DIGEST

SATURDAY TEMPERATURES

LOCATION	HI	LO	LOCATION	HI	LO
Aurora	31	3	Midway	33	7
Gary	34	7	O'Hare	33	7
Kankakee	34	-1	Romeoville	32	3
Lakefront	33	8	Valparaiso	34	3
Lansing	33	2	Waukegan	32	7

CHICAGO PRECIPITATION

PERIOD	2020	NORMAL
Sat. (through 4 p.m.)	Trace	0.06"
February to date	0.48"	0.84"
Year to date	3.28"	2.57"

CHICAGO SNOWFALL

PERIOD	O'HARE	MIDWAY
Sat. (through 4 p.m.)	Trace	Trace
Season to date	25.2"	23.9"
Normal to date	25.6"	26.8"

SOURCE: Frank Wachowski

LAKE MICHIGAN CONDITIONS

	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Wind	NW-N 10-15 kts.	SE 20-30 kts.
Waves	1-2 feet	3-5 feet
Sat. shore/crib water temps		37°/34°

U.S. SNOW COVER

FEB. 15	2020	2019
Area covered by snow	37.6%	40.0%
Average snow depth	4.7"	6.5"

TRACKING THE COLD

SINCE OCT. 15	O'HARE	MIDWAY
Sub-32° highs	20 days	7 days
Subzero lows	1 days	1 days

CHICAGO AIR QUALITY

Saturday's reading	Moderate
Sunday's forecast	Moderate
Critical pollutant	Particulates

SUNDAY RISE/SET TIMES

Sun	6:45 a.m.	5:24 p.m.
Moon	1:15 a.m.	11:17 a.m.

NEW	1ST Q	FULL	3RD Q
Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16

SUNDAY PLANET WATCH

PLANET	RISE	SET
Mercury	7:13 a.m.	6:45 p.m.
Venus	8:26 a.m.	9:03 p.m.
Mars	3:36 a.m.	12:38 p.m.
Jupiter	4:43 a.m.	1:56 p.m.
Saturn	5:18 a.m.	2:45 p.m.

BEST VIEWING	TIME	DIRECTION
Mercury	6:15 p.m.	5° WSW
Venus	6:15 p.m.	30° WSW
Mars	5:30 a.m.	15° SE
Jupiter	6:00 a.m.	11° SE
Saturn	Not visible	

Source: Dan Joyce, Chicago Astronomical Society

MIDWEST CITIES

SUN./MON.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Illinois						
Carbondale	pc	52	37	sh	54	42
Champaign	pc	39	28	sh	43	32
Decatur	pc	41	31	sh	45	33
Moline	pc	42	30	sh	43	27
Peoria	pc	41	31	sh	43	30
Quincy	pc	45	35	sh	48	29
Rockford	pc	35	25	rs	38	26
Springfield	pc	42	31	sh	45	31
Sterling	pc	37	26	fr	40	26
Indiana						
Bloomington	pc	46	31	sh	47	44
Evansville	pc	50	34	sh	53	43
Fort Wayne	pc	39	24	sh	40	37
Indianapolis	pc	42	28	sh	46	41
Lafayette	pc	41	26	sh	43	34
South Bend	pc	36	20	sh	39	32
Wisconsin						
Green Bay	pc	24	7	sn	34	23
Kenosha	pc	35	25	rs	37	27
La Crosse	cl	30	24	ss	36	17
Madison	pc	31	22	sn	36	22
Milwaukee	pc	33	23	rs	36	25
Wausau	pc	23	9	ss	31	16
Michigan						
Detroit	cl	39	22	cl	36	32
Grand Rapids	pc	33	18	ss	36	32
Marquette	cl	18	5	ss	30	22
St. Ste. Marie	cl	21	6	cl	25	22
Traverse City	cl	28	11	sh	33	30
Iowa						
Ames	cl	39	28	rs	38	18
Cedar Rapids	cl	32	27	fr	38	19
Des Moines	pc	41	30	sh	42	20
Dubuque	cl	35	27	rs	38	22

OTHER U.S. CITIES

SUN./MON.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Abilene	su	77	52	pc	78	44
Albany	cl	44	27	su	37	24
Albuquerque	su	60	35	pc	61	35
Amarillo	pc	66	41	su	61	31
Anchorage	pc	16	13	sh	32	32
Asheville	pc	56	35	pc	57	45
Aspen	ss	38	23	pc	33	15
Atlanta	sh	55	42	sh	61	52
Atlantic City	pc	48	34	pc	46	39
Austin	pc	78	59	sh	79	64
Baltimore	cl	52	36	pc	50	39
Billings	pc	41	26	pc	33	20
Birmingham	pc	60	45	sh	67	60
Bismarck	ss	29	19	cl	24	2
Boise	rn	46	29	pc	41	19
Boston	cl	45	33	su	43	28
Brownsville	cl	80	68	pc	81	69
Buffalo	sh	35	20	pc	33	28
Burlington	pc	38	23	pc	24	10
Charlotte	sh	55	37	pc	62	48
Charlstn SC	sh	62	50	pc	64	56
Charlstn WV	sh	50	32	cl	56	49
Chattanooga	cl	59	41	pc	63	54
Cheyenne	pc	44	25	pc	31	14
Cincinnati	sh	45	30	sh	50	45
Cleveland	sh	38	25	pc	39	37
Colo. Spgs	pc	49	29	ss	41	21
Columbia MO	pc	48	38	sh	51	31
Columbia SC	sh	53	44	pc	63	51
Columbus	ss	41	26	cl	46	40
Concord	pc	42	23	su	36	11
Crps Christi	cl	76	64	sh	77	65
Dallas	su	74	57	pc	77	52
Daytona Bch.	sh	76	62	cl	73	63
Denver	pc	48	27	ss	42	22
Duluth	pc	17	5	ss	29	10
El Paso	pc	71	44	su	73	44
Fairbanks	pc	-13	-20	cl	8	5
Fargo	cl	18	14	sh	22	-5
Flagstaff	su	55	28	pc	54	22
Fort Myers	pc	84	66	pc	84	66
Fort Smith	sh	59	50	pc	71	47
Fresno	pc	71	45	pc	66	41
Grand Junc.	sh	49	31	pc	48	24
Great Falls	pc	42	21	pc	38	15
Harrisburg	sh	49	30	pc	50	35
Hartford	pc	45	27	su	44	26
Helena	pc	40	23	pc	36	19
Honolulu	pc	81	71	pc	80	70
Houston	pc	77	60	ts	79	68
Int'l Falls	pc	11	0	ss	23	-4
Jackson	sh	61	52	sh	72	62
Jacksonville	rn	75	60	sh	73	62
Juneau	sn	35	31	sn	35	36
Kansas City	pc	50	38	sh	53	29
Las Vegas	su	71	48	pc	71	42
Lexington	sh	47	31	sh	55	50
Lincoln	pc	52	34	pc	45	23
Little Rock	sh	60	50	sh	65	53
Los Angeles	su	71	53	pc	71	54
Louisville	sh	52	33	sh	56	51
Macon	sh	54	45	sh	63	54
Memphis	sh	60	48	cl	66	58
Miami	sh	80	68	pc	81	73
Minneapolis	pc	25	19	ss	34	10
Mobile	rn	60	56	sh	70	64
Montgomery	sh	60	49	sh	68	60
Nashville	sh	54	39	pc	64	57
New Orleans	rn	64	59	sh	74	66
New York	pc	46	34	pc	48	34
Norfolk	cl	55	39	pc	54	42
Okla. City	pc	59	45	pc	61	38
Omaha	pc	49	33	sh	42	23
Orlando	sh	82	64	pc	82	65
Palm Beach	sh	80	68	pc	83	72
Palm Springs	su	78	53	su	81	53
Philadelphia	pc	50	32	pc	50	35
Phoenix	su	74	49	su	76	50
Pittsburgh	sh	41	26	pc	46	40
Portland, ME	pc	43	27	pc	38	17
Portland, OR	sh	49	36	pc	48	31
Providence	pc	47	30	pc	46	27
Raleigh	sh	55	38	pc	61	42
Rapid City	pc	46	26	cl	32	17
Reno	pc	59	29	su	52	20
Richmond	cl	55	35	pc	54	37
Rochester	sh	38	22	pc	29	23
Sacramento	pc	67	46	pc	68	40
Salem, Ore.	pc	49	34	pc	47	29
Salt Lake City	rn	44	31	pc	37	21
San Antonio	pc	77	58	sh	79	63
San Diego	su	65	52	pc	67	51
San Francisco	pc	57	46	pc	62	47
San Juan	sh	84	75	pc	85	75
Santa Fe	su	52	33	pc	52	29
Savannah	rn	64	52	cl	67	57
Seattle	sh	47	36	pc	47	30
Shreveport	pc	69	55	sh	72	64
Sioux Falls	pc	34	27	ss	33	11
Spokane	pc	44	26	pc	43	23
St. Louis	pc	49	35	sh	53	35
Syracuse	sh	40	22	pc	30	22
Tallahassee	rn	63	54	sh	71	61
Tampa	pc	81	65	pc	82	66
Topeka	pc	52	35	sh	53	28
Tucson	pc	74	44	su	76	45
Tulsa	cl	62	47	pc	65	38
Washington	cl	54	36	pc	52	40
Wichita	pc	53	39	pc	54	31
Wilkes Barre	cl	41	24	pc	41	29
Yuma	su	79	50	su	80	54

WORLD CITIES

SUNDAY	FC	HI	LO
Acapulco	pc	88	73
Algiers	pc	72	47
Amsterdam	rn	56	44
Ankara	pc	49	25
Athens	pc	58	48
Auckland	pc	74	67
Baghdad	sh	68	52
Bangkok	pc	95	73
Barbados	pc	85	77
Barcelona	pc	60	50
Beijing	su	47	23
Beirut	sh	63	54
Berlin	sh	58	47
Bermuda	pc	66	63
Bogota	pc	71	48
Brussels	rn	60	44
Bucharest	pc	50	33
Budapest	pc	52	36
Buenos Aires	pc	96	72
Cairo	pc	70	51
Cancun	su	84	73
Caracas	pc	81	64
Casablanca	pc	68	54
Copenhagen	rn	50	41
Dublin	pc	46	41
Edmonton	ss	17	-1
Frankfurt	sh	57	48
Geneva	pc	59	43
Guadalajara	pc	87	52
Havana	pc	88	66
Helsinki	rn	42	40
Hong Kong	pc	62	50
Istanbul	pc	51	40
Jerusalem	rn	54	43
Johannesburg	su	82	60
Kabul	su	46	24
Kingston	pc	86	75
Kyiv	pc	41	36
Lima	pc	80	71
Lisbon	pc	63	57
London	rn	58	43
Madrid	pc	62	43
Manila	pc	90	76
Mexico City	su	83	51
Monterrey	pc	79	60
Montreal	sh	35	17
Moscow	sh	34	32
Munich	pc	61	47
Nairobi	ts	76	61
Nassau	pc	79	69
New Delhi	su	80	51
Oslo	rn	45	33
Ottawa	sh	34	9
Panama City	pc	91	74
Paris	pc	63	47
Prague	sh	56	49
Rio de Janeiro	ts	91	75
Riyadh	pc	79	57
Rome	su	63	40
Santiago	su	88	54
Seoul	sh	27	15
Singapore	pc	91	77
Sofia	pc	48	25
Stockholm	sh	48	38
Sydney	sh	74	68
Taipei	pc	55	47
Tehran	pc	52	41
Tokyo	pc	58	40
Toronto	sh	36	14
Trinidad	pc	88	73
Vancouver	sh	43	34
Vienna	pc	54	37
Warsaw	cl	54	48
Winnipeg	cl	11	9

FORECAST (FC) ABBREVIATIONS: su-sunny pc-partly cloudy cl-cloudy rn-rain ts-thunderstorm sn-snow fl-flurries fr-freezing rain sl-sleet sh-showers rs-rain/snow ss-snow showers w-windy na-unavailable



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"The feel of her restaurant was like you were stepping into her home."

— Trillis Rollins, chef at Peach's at Currency Exchange Café



TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Lee Hogan has closed her restaurant, Miss Lee's Good Food, after 21 years in business on East Garfield Boulevard in Chicago.

'WE'RE LOSING A REAL GEM'

Miss Lee's Good Food, a South Side soul food fixture, closes as owner retires

By Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz



Lee Hogan is seen outside Miss Lee's Good Food on Feb. 6. Hogan is selling the business, ideally to someone who wants to open another restaurant in the spot.

For 21 years, Lee Hogan felt called to cook.

"God gave me a gift," said Hogan, owner of Miss Lee's Good Food, a fixture of the South Side's soul food scene. "If you don't use it, you lose it."

But all that use has taken a toll. Hogan, known to her many admirers as Miss Lee, closed her counter-service eatery in September, in advance of having knee replacement surgery. Now she is selling the business her regulars say is one of a kind.

"There's lots of soul food places, but this is real down-South cooking, what we grew up with as children," said the Rev. Denise Collins, of Hyde Park, who would frequent Miss Lee's the first Sunday of every month. "We're losing a real gem in the community."

Hogan, 75, opened the restaurant at 203 E. Garfield Blvd., in Washington Park, in September 1998, using savings from her 31 years as a waitress at Gladys' Luncheonette in Bronzeville, a historic soul food institution that has since closed.

"My intention was always to open up a place for myself," Hogan said in a southern drawl as she rested against a counter in the restaurant's kitchen, her cane propped against a wall.

A native of rural Marks, Mississippi, and one of 10 siblings, Hogan moved to Chicago in 1968 in search of a better living than working the cotton fields with her family, which paid about $3 a day.

She landed a late-night shift at the Hayes Hotel in Woodlawn, originally built for the 1893 Columbian Exposition and since closed, but "there were a lot of pimps and hustlers, and I didn't go for that too much," she laughed. She said she passed the exam to work for the U.S. Postal Service, but at that point was in the thrall of all the tips she got waiting tables.

"I didn't even have to cash my checks," Hogan said of her years earning tips at Gladys Luncheonette, whose customers included Martin Luther King Jr., comedian Redd Foxx, Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan.

When the small storefront on Garfield Boulevard became available to rent, Hogan felt it time to bring her own food to the neighborhood. Though she'd watched her mom cook growing up, and learned some techniques from a South Shore barbecue joint where she briefly worked, she describes her culinary talents in more divine terms.

"You'd be surprised how He speaks to me," she said.

Miss Lee's became known for its baked or grilled "herbal chicken," generously seasoned with Greek or Italian herbs. Each day had a slightly different menu of about a dozen dishes — smothered steak and onions ($12.25)

Turn to ***Lee's, Page 3***

Mayor criticizes Amazon proposal

Distribution center in Bolingbrook uncertain with official to retire

By Ryan Ori

Amazon's plan to put a distribution center on the former Old Chicago amusement park and megamall site in Bolingbrook could be a tall order, after pushback from the village's longtime mayor.

Hours after the Tribune on Tuesday reported the online giant's $50.5 million purchase of 119 acres along Interstate 55, Mayor Roger Claar began criticizing Amazon's building plans. He also criticized the 1,500 jobs the company said it wants to bring to the site, saying the pay is too low.

Claar balked at what he said is a proposed 100-foot-tall, metal structure facility, calling it too tall and unsightly. The 34-year mayor, in comments first reported by CoStar Group, said the 825,000- to 850,000-square-foot building would dramatically exceed the height of a five-story Holiday Inn hotel that is Bolingbrook's tallest structure.

His stance hadn't softened by Friday.

"I've yet to find anybody who's excited," Claar said in an interview Friday. "It's going to further jam up the 55 and 53 intersection, the jobs will pay only $15 an hour, and I've yet to find anyone who's not concerned about a 100-foot-tall building — which is taller than anything in Bolingbrook, with no windows."

Amazon's plan would require a zoning change because it far exceeds the village's 60-foot height limit, Claar said.

Objections by the ninth-term mayor call into question what will become of the land along the east and west sides of Illinois Route 53, where Old Chicago was torn down in 1986. Yet it's possible Amazon could try to wait out Claar, who Friday said he doesn't plan to run for a 10th term next year.

Claar is a powerful force in the southwest suburban village known for big industrial and office campuses lining the expressway. He's also controversial, in part because of his active role in supporting President Donald Trump. Claar defeated challenger Jackie Traynere by just 151 votes in 2017.

Since the incumbent is retiring, it's uncertain whether it will be Claar or his successor who will determine the land's future use.

Most recently, the property was used as Manheim Arena Illinois until the auto auction center closed late last year. The property's Atlanta-based parent company, Cox Automotive, sold the site to Amazon in January.

Seattle-based Amazon has not commented on its plans publicly.

Claar said the company contacted him after putting the property under contract but before completing the purchase. Amazon was the only one of 18 prospective buyers — most of which were industrial developers — that didn't discuss potential plans while making offers on the land, Claar said.

Since making critical comments, Claar said he's been contacted by one of the unsuccessful buyers of the property — Atlanta-based Seefried Industrial

Turn to ***Amazon, Page 3***

Some flyers buy 'carbon offsets' to atone for air travel

Officials caution to pick environmental programs with care to avoid scams

By Mary Wisniewski

Having grown up with parents who encouraged recycling, Jenny Beightol has always been aware of her environmental impact. She doesn't own a car, and bikes or takes the CTA to get around Chicago.

But the 32-year-old Old Town neighborhood resident sometimes likes to travel to places like Mexico. This has led to soul searching, because scientists say that planes account for about 2.5% of global carbon dioxide production, which contributes to climate change.

To ease her guilt, Beightol buys "carbon offsets," which allow her to invest in environmental projects as a way of compensating for the greenhouse gas emissions associated with her flights. She figures out her air travel carbon footprint using the site TerraPass and gives to a project led by the Southern Ute tribe in Colorado, which captures natural methane gas and redirects it into reusable energy.

"Until our governments step up and get involved and truly fund alternative, low-emission ways to travel, it's really on us as individuals to do what we can," Beightol said.

In recent years, environmental activists have increasingly focused on pollution caused by the rapidly expanding aviation industry. The issue gained publicity last year with teenage Swedish activist Greta Thunberg's decision to take a boat, rather than a plane, across the Atlantic Ocean. The British band Coldplay canceled its fall world tour over environmental concerns. There's even a Swedish word "flygskam," which means "flight shame."

For eco-conscious flyers like Beightol, there are a growing number of ways they can offset the emissions associated with their flights. Many opt to pay an extra

Turn to ***Flying, Page 2***



GARY S. CHAPMAN

Hopper, the travel booking app, is working with Eden Reforestation to plant trees for every flight or hotel reservation booked by its customers.

Buffett aims to break Colombia's cocaine curse

Ex-Illinois sheriff, billionaire's son spending $200M to rebuild region

By Joshua Goodman
Associated Press



IVAN VALENCIA/AP

Howard Buffett, center, receives gifts during a visit with Colombia's President Ivan Duque, right, to a coca farm in La Gabarra, Colombia, on Jan. 29. Buffett is helping Colombia and El Salvador in their fight against drug trafficking.

TIBU, Colombia — With Colombian military snipers in position, Howard Buffett descends from a helicopter and trudges through the wet grass in steel-toe boots chewed through by his dog's teeth.

Waiting under a tin-roofed shack is a small group of coca farmers. They've never heard of multibillionaire investor Warren Buffett, but after decades of neglect by their own government they're grateful for the outstretched hand of his eldest son, who they refer to simply as "the gringo."

"There's a saying here: The less you know better," said Rubén Morantes, his leathery skin and calloused hands a testament to a lifetime of tillage in one of Colombia's most-dangerous territories, where outsiders are traditionally mistrusted.

For nearly two decades Buffett has crisscrossed the world giving away part of his father's fortune to promote food security, conflict mitigation and public safety. But his latest gamble is one of the most daunting yet: helping Colombia kick its cocaine curse.

He is focusing on Tibu, heart of the remote, notoriously lawless Catatumbo region bordering Venezuela where Buffett accompanied President Iván Duque.

Tibu has the second largest coca crop in all of Colombia — 28,200 acres, according to the United Nations. Drug production as well as violence has skyrocketed in the area since armed groups filled the void left by retreating rebels who signed a peace deal with the government in 2016.

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation has committed to spending $200 million over the next few years to transform the impoverished municipality into a model of comprehensive state building. Plans include strengthening security forces and helping farmers secure land titles and substitute coca — the raw material for cocaine — with legal crops like cacao.

The first component is building 185 miles of roads to connect the municipality's 37,000 residents for the first time with national and international markets. It's a challenge made more difficult by lurking guerrillas who last year detonated a homemade bomb as army engineers were working on the road, killing five people and injuring several.

"The only way we have confidence that farmers can grow legal crops is if they can get those crops to market," Buffett told farmers during a visit last month with Duque to La Gabarra, a rural outpost in Tibu. It was the first time any Colombian president had visited the blood-soaked hamlet.

The plan envisions subsidies and training for farmers as they switch crops, as well as helping them find buyers. It also aims to strengthen infrastructure for local law enforcement.

But some experts worry Buffett's enthusiasm for speeding Colombia's development is no match for entrenched corruption in rural areas run like political fiefdoms. There's also the challenge posed by thousands of Venezuelan migrants who lack roots in the community and are being targeted for recruitment by criminal gangs.

A lot is riding on Buffett's investment.

Not since the start of the U.S.-led Plan Colombia two decades ago have so many resources converged on a single geographical area, said Álvaro Balcázar, who helped the government negotiate with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia the section of the peace deal focusing on illicit crops.

"There's no precedent for something on such large a scale," Balcázar said. "But the region is strategic for consolidating peace in Colombia."

Like his father, Buffett, 65, has a reputation for folksy, Midwestern plain speech and self-effacing humor. Although he's a three-time college dropout, his father wants him to succeed him as the nonexecutive chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, the $550 billion conglomerate that owns companies such as Duracell, Dairy Queen and GEICO insurance as well as major stakes in leading U.S. airlines and banks.

But he's spent much of his adult life roving the world taking wildlife photos and writing books. He's also a corn farmer and made headlines in 2017 by briefly serving as the sheriff of Macon County, Illinois, where he lives and his foundation is based.

He began exploring the world as a teenager on a trip to Soviet-controlled Prague in 1969 to visit one of the many exchange students his mother hosted at their home in Omaha, Nebraska. But his love of travel hasn't been matched by culinary curiosity: In Catatumbo, he carried around a blue, insulated lunch pack containing his requisite PB&J sandwich and a Dr. Pepper.

As a philanthropist, his priority now is helping Colombia and El Salvador, whose fight against drug trafficking has a direct impact on the U.S. Between the two countries, he has already spent or committed $310 million, including the funding in El Salvador of a new police forensics center and a modern system to help the country's prosecutors track criminal investigations.

As a volunteer police officer who logged 678 hours on patrol last year, Buffett has seen firsthand the human toll caused by drug addiction. A few weeks before traveling to Colombia, he and a partner were staking out a motel in Decatur at 1 a.m. when they arrested a man possessing crack. With him was a woman who said she had a drug problem, so Buffett paid for her to stay at the hotel two nights. Later, he referred her to a county rehab facility paid for with a gift from the Buffett Foundation in the hopes she would get help.

"These are people who need our help," he said. "They're not criminals."

He has turned to Latin America after years of focusing much of his attention on Africa and especially Rwanda, where he works with the government on sustainable agriculture. He spent so much time at his farm in South Africa in the 1990s that he obtained permanent residency.

Buffett began working in Colombia in 2008, helping pop star Shakira set up schools in her hometown of Barranquilla. He's also funded an army unit removing thousands of landmines strewn across former conflict zones. Leveraging his business contacts, he established a program to help around 100 families in southern Colombia switch from growing coca to producing high-quality coffee for Nespresso.

While an enthusiastic supporter of the 2016 peace deal, he has nonetheless struck a close relationship with Duque, a law-and-order conservative who rode into office attacking the agreement.

Duque has vowed to slash cocaine production in half by the end of 2023. Production of the drug skyrocketed after his predecessor — Nobel Peace Prize laureate Juan Manuel Santos — halted aerial eradication in 2015 due to health concerns over the herbicides used. But reaching that goal requires huge resources the government doesn't have, as well as overcoming the indifference of urban voters who are removed from the conflict and have their own growing list of demands.

That's where Buffett steps in.

The $200 million Buffett has pledged for Tibu is more than triple what the government has spent the past two years altogether on public works in 170 high-risk municipalities that are part of a rural development rescue plan mandated by the peace deal. The U.S. Agency for International Development spends $230 million annually in Colombia, although its projects are spread across the country.

Beyond the big check, long-time partners praise the Buffett Foundation for being independent and nimble. It's funded from an annual gift in Berkshire Hathaway stock by Warren Buffett, so it can take risks few are willing to attempt, development experts say.

"We're accountable mainly to the IRS," jokes Buffett, who sees setbacks like a venture capitalist who must eat crow before finding wild success.

"If you're a charity, and you're going to have your annual banquet to raise a lot of money, you can't stand up there and tell people how you had these five failures and this one success. People aren't going to write checks," he said. "We'll make a decision in five minutes if we know what we want to do."

He is skeptical of the U.S. government and United Nations, preferring not to work with either.

"The reason is because we can't depend on them," said Buffett, who said he was burned badly by USAID in 2011 when it abandoned a joint $10 million seed program for starving farmers in South Sudan just as fighting broke out in the world's newest independent state.

"The bullets started flying, and they pulled out. But it's like you're in South Sudan, so of course bullets are going to fly," he said.

Instead, the foundation relies on partners known for delivering results quickly and slim overhead — a combination he says is hard to find among the "beltway bandits" profiting from U.S. foreign aid outlays. One accompanying him to Catatumbo is Portland, Oregon-based Mercy Corps, which is helping farmers sort through Colombia's bureaucratic maze to obtain land titles.

In a nod to his father's reputation for common sense, Buffett seeks frequent counsel from the so-called "Oracle of Omaha."

"He's my sounding board, kind of like my conscience in a way," Buffett said. "But he never asks, 'Why are you doing that?' or 'Why you're taking that risk?' "

In Tibu, after cracking a few jokes and planting a cacao tree, he seemed beside himself with joy even as the presidential committee hustled to quickly depart as heavy fog threatened to maroon them in the middle of nowhere.

"I know Emilio is very worried about leaving," Buffett told the farmers through a translator, referring to Duque's post-conflict adviser, Emilio Archila. "But I'm not, because there's lots of chocolate here."

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Flying

Continued from ***Page 1***

charge to a participating airline when booking a flight. The airline then contributes the money to a project that purports to do something to help the planet, like planting trees or investing in renewable energy.

Airlines offering offsets include JetBlue, Qantas, Air Canada and Chicago-based United Airlines, which is planting trees in Peru and Kenya through Conservation International.

Flyers can also use websites like Cool Effect, Green-e or Gold Standard, where they can learn about various environmental programs to purchase carbon offsets for airline tickets they've already booked.

Some travel apps are even offering to help. Hopper, the travel booking app, recently announced that it was planting four trees for every flight booked, and two trees for every hotel room reserved, at no extra cost to customers. The trees are being planted through an organization called Eden Reforestation in six countries, including Madagascar and Indonesia.

"I've never been so happy to spend money," Hopper CEO Fred Lalonde said. He said he had never considered himself an environmentalist, but became "terrified" after his company started researching global warming.



GARY S. CHAPMAN

Eden Reforestation's Papamena dry deciduous project is part of a much larger greenbelt forest restoration initiative. "I've never been so happy to spend money," Hopper CEO Fred Lalonde said of his company's contributions to the work.

"This is one initiative where we're not looking at the cost, because the crisis is global and we have to act now," Lalonde said.

But do the offsets do any good? Peter Miller of the Natural Resources Defense Council said that buying carbon offsets for air travel and skipping unnecessary flights can both be part of the solution to slowing climate change, though they're definitely not all of it.

"If you do fly, offsets provide a way to mitigate the emissions from the trip," said Miller, director of the Western region of the organization's climate and clean energy program. "That's a lot better than doing nothing, which is what most folks are doing at this point."

Miller cautioned that buying carbon offsets are not a "get out of jail free" card, and said there is a lot more everyone can do to help the environment.

Flyers should also be careful about picking a carbon offset program, since they're not equally reliable, Miller said. Scammers can claim they're doing carbon offsetting in their backyards and take your money.

"It's important for consumers to ensure that what they're doing is really providing a benefit," Miller said. He is a board member of the Climate Action Reserve, a nonprofit which develops offset protocols and serves as a registry for offset projects to track and ensure that the projects are doing what they claim.

Don Wuebbles, professor of atmospheric science at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, views planting trees to offset climate damage with skepticism.

"There's certainly nothing wrong with planting more trees, but if you plant a tree, it takes 20 to 30 years before that tree pulls much carbon out of the atmosphere," Wuebbles said. "To me, it sounds like a bit of a gimmick."

Wuebbles said people can reduce how much they fly, but admits that he's a "terrible example" of that, having just flown back from a meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal. He serves on the group's special science committee.

Wuebbles said that one reason there is such concern about aviation is that even though it represents a relatively small percentage of emissions, it's growing fast, as air travel has become such an important part of society for both business and pleasure. Besides carbon dioxide, aviation also produces contrails or condensation trails, which also are suspected of affecting the weather. "The jury is still out as to how much," Wuebbles said.

The world's airlines have committed to an international agreement called the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, according to Nancy Young, vice president of environmental affairs for Airlines for America, an industry group. Under the United Nations program, airlines have agreed to offset carbon emissions on international flights exceeding 2020 levels using various programs, Young said.

Unlike with cars, using batteries to operate planes may not be viable, Wuebbles said. He instead sees hope in using biofuels for planes, because while those still produce emissions, the fuel is coming from plants that have already taken carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, as opposed to fossil fuels, which are taken from under the ground.

Beightol said she realizes there is a lot of skepticism about the benefits of offsets, especially tree planting, which is why she found a different offset project through Cool Effect. She says she is also making the choice to fly less, with fewer business trips for meetings that can be done through teleconferencing, and fewer "quick trips."

"I feel for my friends that have to be in person for client meetings, and they're literally just flying in the morning and coming home at night," she said.

Douglas Kidd, executive director of the National Association of Airline Passengers, said his advocacy group just hopes that carbon offsets remain voluntary, "so that passengers can make their own decisions on how much they choose to donate, whether it's a little, a lot or nothing at all."

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Lee's

Continued from **Page 1**

on Tuesdays, pig ears or salmon croquettes ($11.95) on Thursdays — and she would add new ideas as the spirit moved her.

Take her buttermilk pie, a dish she had never heard of before a customer requested it a couple of years after she opened. She tried making it, swapping in buttermilk for whole milk, and put it on her menu.

"Two years later, I was making some and the spirit came to me and said, 'Why don't you put lemon in there?'" she said. She's been selling lemon buttermilk pies ever since, alongside her peach, apple and sweet potato cobblers and other puddings and sweets.

Fans say Miss Lee's stood apart from competitors.

"The feel of her restaurant was like you were stepping into her home rather than a soul food restaurant," said Trillis Rollins, chef at Peach's at Currency Exchange Café a block away, who would go to Miss Lee's with his friends for her peach cobbler. "You would think that you were in her kitchen at home."

"Her cooking is like you knew your grandma would make it," said Collins, who on her monthly Sunday visits would order turkey and dressing, with a side of string beans and sweet plantains while her husband, Robert, who grew up in Mississippi, would get spinach and butter beans. "No one will take the place of Miss Lee's."

Though people call it soul food, Hogan prefers to say she made "home-cooked meals" to customers from all walks of life. She made turkey burgers for the "kids" and had a vegetable plate for her more health-conscious customers.

The restaurant's following was widespread. Three-quarters of its business came from outside of the neighborhood, with some customers traveling from Wisconsin and Michigan to eat in the standing-only shop and others having her send dishes to Florida, Hogan said.

"I sold dressings by the pan full," said Hogan, who employed five or six people at the restaurant at a given time. "Y'all call it stuffing. Blacks in the South call it dressing. I don't ever call it anything else."

Hogan counted celebrity customers of her own, and a stack of photos includes her posing with Mayor Richard M. Daley, whose birthday she catered at City Hall. She was respected in her tough neighborhood, telling the young men who occasionally would sell drugs outside her door: "I don't mess with your business, so don't you mess with mine." They would move along, she said.

During more than two decades of business, through the ups and downs of the economy, Hogan said she had very few months without profit. She lived simply and was always able to stay afloat.

"God's been good to me," said Hogan, who lives in Hyde Park. "I tell everybody that."

But she got tired.

There were the decades on her feet, and the work days that would stretch from 6:30 a.m. until past 10 p.m. Looking back, it might have helped to hire a manager to relieve some of the burden, she said. She wonders if she should have entrusted someone else to cook her peach cobbler, rather than insist on making all of her desserts herself.

Signs in Miss Lee's windows say she is on indefinite vacation. But Hogan says she is selling the business — though not the name, which is hers, and not the real estate, which she doesn't own — ideally to someone who wants to open another restaurant in the same spot, with her double ovens and deep fryers and refrigerators and dozens of gleaming pots and pans.

She is not passing on her recipes, for fear they won't be followed faithfully.

"If I thought one person would actually do that recipe the way I do it, I would have tried," Hogan said.

While closing was hard — "I felt that I was going to crack up," she said — being closed has been less so. She has caught up on sleep. Once she sells, she hopes to spend time doing missionary work for her church.

"I don't have nothing special planned," said Hogan, who never married or had children. "But I feel that the Lord is leading me right."

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TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Lee Hogan, 75, opened her restaurant in September 1998, using savings from her 31 years as a waitress at Gladys Luncheonette in Bronzeville. "My intention was always to open up a place for myself," Hogan said.



Gleaming pots and pans are among the restaurant equipment Hogan is looking to sell.



Hogan is seen taking a call from a longtime customer on Feb. 6. Hogan waited tables at another South Side restaurant for decades before opening her own business.



JAMES MAYO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 1980

Amazon is planning to build a distribution center in Bolingbrook on the site of the former Old Chicago amusement park and megamall, which was torn down in 1986.

Amazon

Continued from **Page 1**

Properties — that said it is representing Amazon to help the e-commerce behemoth through the development process.

A Seefried representative did not respond to requests for comment. Amazon has declined to comment beyond an initial statement that read in part: "This land purchase in Bolingbrook provides us with the flexibility to quickly respond to our future network needs."

Amazon in recent years has built a network of distribution centers in the Chicago area. Amazon leased three warehouses recently developed on the site of the former Maywood Park horse track just west of Chicago in Melrose Park.

The Bolingbrook proposal would have a height equivalent to an eight- or nine-story building, but it's unclear how many floors it actually would have, Claar said. It could be a one-story structure with items stacked high on racks.

In some U.S. cities where land is scarce, such as New York, Seattle and San Francisco, multi-floor warehouses have begun to emerge. Upper levels of those buildings are accessible to delivery trucks via ramps.

Chicago Tribune reporter Lauren Zumbach contributed.

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CATALINA MARKETING REINFORCES ITS DIGITAL AND U.S. CPG SALES TEAMS

CHICAGO, Feb. 7, 2020 – Catalina, the leader in shopper intelligence and personalized digital media for CPG brands and retailers, has promoted three Chicago-based leaders on its U.S. CPG sales team and hired a Turner Broadcasting/Warner Media vet to head its digital sales team on the East Coast.

Adam Van Beck has been promoted to Vice President of U.S. Brand Development, reporting to Marsha McGraw, SVP of U.S. CPG Sales. In his new role, Van Beck will continue to lead the business development team, while also serving as a strategic partner to key brand customers, including Kraft/Heinz, Amplify and Hershey.

Nick Breisch has been promoted to Group Director of Brand Development, reporting to Van Beck. Since joining Catalina in 2011, Breisch has driven results for top brands in the Kraft Foods, Mondelez, Power Bar and now Kraft Heinz portfolios. Breisch will help Catalina further strengthen its customer pipeline, while building long-term strategic partnerships with established and emerging brands.

Kevin Pike has also been promoted to Group Director of Brand Development, reporting to Jim Presley, VP of Brand Development. Pike has successfully led teams serving Kellogg, Kimberly-Clark, SCJ, ConAgra, Wrigley, PowerBar and many others throughout his 13-year Catalina career.

Meanwhile, Karl Rosen, most recently Senior Director, Ad Innovation & Programmatic Solutions at Turner, is joining Catalina as Group Director, East Coast Digital Sales. He reports to West Naze, SVP, U.S. Digital Sales.

AUCTION MART

PLEASE CALL 312.222.4089
TO PLACE AD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF COLLATERAL UNDER ILLINOIS UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to Section 5/9-610 *et. seq.* of the Illinois Uniform Commercial Code, that certain Promissory Note dated January 23, 2019 (as amended, restated, supplemented, and/or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Note"), in the original principal amount of Six Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars and No/100 ($655,000.00) made by John W. Higgins ("Borrower") in favor of HF Interests, LLC (the "Lender"), that certain Pledge and Security Agreement dated January 23, 2019 (as amended, restated, supplemented, and/or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Pledge Agreement") by HH Gateway, LLC ("HH Gateway") in favor of the Lender, and all other documents related thereto (collectively with the Note and the Pledge Agreement, the "Loan Documents"), the Lender will sell substantially all of HH Gateway's assets that were pledged to the Lender as collateral under the Loan Documents including (a) all of HH Gateway's right, title and interest in HHS Enterprises, LLC (the "Company"), whether owned as of, or acquired after, the date of the Pledge Agreement, including without limitation, HH Gateway's membership interests in the Company and HH Gateway's right to receive distributions, allocations and payments as a member of the Company; (b) all of HH Gateway's right, title and interest to all the fees and charges to be paid by the Company to HH Gateway, whether owned as of, or acquired after, the date of the Pledge Agreement; (c) all of HH Gateway's right, title and interest to all indebtedness of the Company to HH Gateway of any kind or description, including without limitation, HH Gateway's right to receive payment of any member loans or other loans as a member of the Company; and (d) all products and proceeds, whether cash proceeds or noncash proceeds, and products of any and all of the foregoing (collectively, the "Assets"). The Assets secure the repayment of the indebtedness to the Lender under the Note.

Subject to all the terms of this Notice, the Assets will be sold pursuant to public auction (the "Auction") to be held at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, 525 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661 on **February 26, 2020,** at **10:00 a.m.** Central time (the "Auction Date"). The Assets will be sold pursuant to the following terms and conditions: on the Auction Date, the Assets will be offered for sale, in bulk, and sold to the highest bidder at the conclusion of the Auction, as determined by the Lender in its sole and absolute discretion, on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, with all faults, without recourse, and without representations or warranties (other than as agreed to in writing by the Lender), including, without limitation, condition of title, value, or quality of the Assets, or with regard to assets, liabilities, financial condition or earnings of the Company. WITHOUT LIMITING THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING, ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, TITLE POSSESSION QUIET ENJOYMENT OR THE LIKE IN THIS DISPOSITION ARE EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMED. The minimum bid Agent will consider for the Assets shall be **$870,000**, which bid shall be all cash and without contingencies of any kind. Any bidder wishing to attend the Auction shall be required to submit no later than 24 hours before the Auction a written bid of no less than **$870,000** to Agent's counsel and a deposit equal to no less than 10% of such bidder's bid (wire instructions to be provided upon request to Agent's counsel). Only bidders complying with the forgoing procedures may attend the Auction.

The Lender reserves its rights to, on or prior to the Auction Date: (1) withdraw all or a portion of the Assets from the Auction for any reason whatsoever, (2) modify or amend any of the bid requirements set forth herein, (3) reject any or all bids or to continue the Auction to such time and place as Secured, in its sole and absolute discretion, may deem fit, (4) cancel the Auction, (5) postpone, reschedule, or continue the Auction, and/or (6) credit bid at the Auction and to apply the expenses of the Auction and all or any part of the total amount of the indebtedness owed to the Lender under the Note, in satisfaction of the purchase price. The Lender reserves all of the rights accruing to it under the Loan Documents, including, without limitation, the right to seek a judgment for any deficiency remaining on account of its indebtedness after the conclusion of the Auction.

To the extent that the Auction generates proceeds in excess of the indebtedness to the Lender under the Note, such excess proceeds will be remitted to HH Gateway, in accordance with Section 9-615 of the Illinois Uniform Commercial Code. HH Gateway, at any time after receipt of this notice and prior to consummation of the sale transaction contemplated hereby, may request at its expense an accounting from the Lender of the unpaid indebtedness secured by the Assets. The Lender reserves all of its rights and remedies against Borrower and HH Gateway under the Loan Documents and applicable law for any and all deficiencies on the indebtedness remaining due to the Lender after the sale of the Assets.

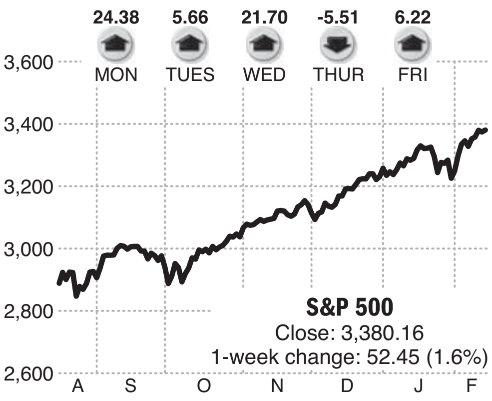
Persons interested in bidding on the Assets at the Auction and/or desiring other information should contact counsel for the Lender, Peter A Siddiqui, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, 525 W. Monroe St., Chicago, Illinois 60661, (312) 902-5200 (peter.siddiqui@katten.com).

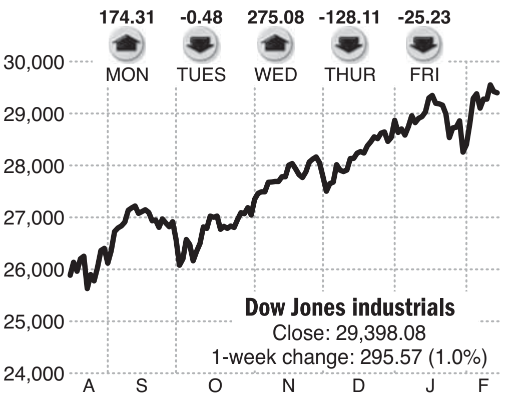
HH Gateway may redeem the Assets at any time before the Auction by paying the full amount owed to the Lender, including its expenses. For a written calculation of this amount, contact the Lender's counsel.



INVESTING

Stocks Recap





WEEKLY PERFORMANCE

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	INDEX	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	YTD %CHG	1YR %CHG
29568.57	24680.57	Dow Jones industrials	29568.57	28995.66	29398.08	+295.57	+1.0	+3.0	+13.6
11359.49	9676.06	Dow Jones trans.	11042.04	10805.96	10862.92	+5.19	+0.1	-0.4	+2.8
956.35	732.82	Dow Jones utilities	956.35	929.60	955.35	+23.52	+2.5	+8.7	+29.4
14183.26	12238.40	NYSE Comp.	14148.24	13899.53	14097.34	+165.41	+1.2	+1.3	+11.9
5914.74	5127.21	NYSE International	5866.88	5742.28	5796.52	+29.80	+0.5	-0.6	+8.6
9636.41	6893.80	Nasdaq 100	9636.41	9373.20	9623.58	+222.48	+2.4	+10.2	+36.4
9748.32	7290.03	Nasdaq Comp.	9748.32	9493.63	9731.18	+210.66	+2.2	+8.5	+30.2
3385.09	2703.79	S&P 500	3385.09	3317.77	3380.16	+52.45	+1.6	+4.6	+21.8
2106.30	1802.58	S&P MidCap	2100.51	2045.16	2096.61	+47.31	+2.3	+1.6	+9.5
34474.00	28036.97	Wilshire 5000	34474.00	33753.43	34428.34	+600.35	+1.8	+4.7	+19.5
1715.08	1450.32	Russell 2000	1696.54	1653.67	1687.58	+30.81	+1.9	+1.2	+7.5
432.26	358.87	Dow Jones Stoxx 600	432.26	422.24	430.52	+6.16	+1.5	+3.5	+16.7
7727.49	7004.43	FTSE 100	7547.65	7403.69	7409.13	-57.57	-0.8	-1.8	+2.4

Commodity	Change	Price
Gold	↗ +14.10	$1,582.70
Silver	↗ +.05	$17.72
Crude Oil	↗ +1.73	$52.05
Natural Gas	↘ -.02	$1.84
10-year T-note	↗ +.01	1.58%
Euro	↗ +.0088	to .9224/$1
Yen	↗ +.02	to 109.76/$1

Most active

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
Chesapk Engy	.45	-.06
Sprint Corp	8.69	+3.76
Ford Motor	8.10	-.01
Gen Electric	12.83	...
Aurora Cannabis Inc	1.58	-.12
Uber Technologies	39.66	-.97
Bank of America	34.85	+.24
Yamana Gold Inc	4.10	+.26
AT&T Inc	38.25	-.20
Virgin Galactic Hldg	28.68	+9.75
Freeport McMoRan	12.24	+.44
Slack Technologies	27.99	+5.00
Pfizer Inc	36.51	-1.54

NASDAQ STOCK MARKET

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
Adv Micro Dev	55.31	+5.58
Onconova Therapeut	.53	+.04
Microsoft Corp	185.35	+1.46
Cisco Syst	46.97	-1.00
Apple Inc	324.95	+4.92
Micron Tech	58.50	+1.62
genprex Inc	4.28	+3.10
Roku Inc	130.25	+6.00
Bed Bath &Beynd	11.18	-4.13
Lyft Inc	44.69	-5.23
FuelCell Energy	2.08	+.36
Zynga Inc	6.93	+.28
NY Mortgage Trust	6.29	-.05

EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
Alps Alerian MLP	7.85	-.16
iPath Sh Term Fut	13.52	-.86
iShares Brazil	43.86	+.48
iShs China Large Cap	42.27	+1.01
iShs Emerg Mkts	44.20	+.84
Invesco QQQ Trust	234.64	+5.44
ProShs UltraPro QQQ	114.54	+7.52
ProShs UltPro ShtQQQ	16.49	-1.19
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	337.60	+5.40
SPDR S&P O&G ExpPdtn	18.78	-.43
SPDR Financial	31.17	+.25
US Oil Fund LP	10.95	+.37
VanE Vect Gld Miners	28.31	+.38

Largest Companies

Based on market capitalization

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
AT&T Inc	38.25	-.20
Adobe Inc	379.67	+13.58
Alibaba Group Hldg	219.63	+3.10
Alphabet Inc C	1520.74	+41.51
Alphabet Inc A	1518.73	+39.62
Amazon.com Inc	2134.87	+55.59
Apple Inc	324.95	+4.92
Bank of America	34.85	+.24
Berkshire Hath A	340223.94	-676.06
Berkshire Hath B	226.80	-.58
Boeing Co	340.49	+5.80
Chevron Corp	110.08	+2.43
China Mobile Ltd	42.10	-.82
Cisco Syst	46.97	-1.00
Citigroup	78.79	+.10
CocaCola Co	59.95	+.76
Comcast Corp A	46.09	+1.35
Disney	139.54	-1.48
Exxon Mobil Corp	60.65	+.05
Facebook Inc	214.18	+1.85
FEMSA	95.26	+1.35
HSBC Holdings prA	26.94	+.15
Home Depot	245.03	+7.73
Intel Corp	67.27	+1.25
JPMorgan Chase	137.46	+.29
Johnson & Johnson	150.13	-1.76
MasterCard Inc	340.95	+13.95
Merck & Co	82.65	-2.43
Microsoft Corp	185.35	+1.46
Netflix Inc	380.40	+13.63
Novartis AG	97.63	+1.80
Nvidia Corporation	289.79	+38.20
Oracle Corp	55.47	+.75
PepsiCo	146.99	+1.62
Pfizer Inc	36.51	-1.54
Procter & Gamble	126.14	+.06
Royal Dutch Shell B	51.32	+.27
Royal Dutch Shell A	50.49	-.36
SAP Se	137.44	+2.38
Salesforce.com Inc	189.95	+4.23
Taiwan Semicon	58.19	+1.99
Toyota Mot	140.15	-2.19
Unitedhealth Group	298.78	+9.56
Verizon Comm	58.51	-1.43
Visa Inc	210.29	+7.85
WalMart Strs	117.89	+1.44
Wells Fargo & Co	48.22	+.38

How the region's Top 100 companies fared

Ranks based on market capitalization of public companies headquartered in Illinois and northwest Indiana as of Friday, February 14, 2020

Market capitalization in millions of dollars

RANK/COMPANY	CAP	CLOSE	WEEK (Stock $ change)	1-YR (Stock % return)
1 Boeing Co	191,747	340.49	▲ +5.80	-14.5
2 McDonalds Corp	163,488	217.09	▲ +5.48	+27.6
3 Abbott Labs	158,559	89.66	▲ +1.79	+21.0
4 AbbVie Inc	139,083	94.05	▲ +1.76	+23.5
5 Mondelez Intl	85,518	59.68	▲ +1.02	+26.3
6 CME Group	76,377	213.13	▼ -.07	+18.5
7 Caterpillar Inc	76,261	137.99	▲ +4.62	+7.9
8 ITW	60,379	187.86	▲ +4.32	+38.2
9 Deere Co	52,909	168.07	▲ +.62	+6.8
10 Exelon Corp	48,482	49.76	▲ +1.57	+6.5
11 Baxter Intl	47,553	93.14	▲ +1.89	+28.6
12 Walgreen Boots Alli	46,817	52.85	▼ -.39	-23.6
13 Allstate Corp	40,679	125.57	▲ +1.14	+35.0
14 Kraft Heinz Co	32,824	26.88	▼ -2.66	-38.4
15 Equity Residential	32,107	86.46	▲ +2.26	+19.4
16 Motorola Solutions	31,596	184.41	▲ +4.95	+35.5
17 Arch Dan Mid	24,922	44.77	▼ -.58	+10.9
18 Discover Fin Svcs	23,955	76.42	▲ +1.13	+11.0
19 Ventas Inc	22,270	59.75	▲ +.81	-3.9
20 Nthn Trust Cp	21,442	101.20	▼ -.06	+12.9
21 Gallagher AJ	20,549	109.16	▲ +4.23	+38.2
22 United Airlines Hldg	20,129	79.55	▲ +.07	-8.6
23 CDW Corp	19,869	138.29	▲ +5.63	+49.4
24 TransUnion	18,477	98.13	▲ +3.20	+51.1
25 Dover Corp	17,411	119.86	▲ +2.55	+34.9
26 Ulta Salon Cosmetics	16,837	294.57	▼ -1.39	-2.3
27 Grainger WW	16,571	307.65	▲ +7.95	-.7
28 ConAgra Brands Inc	15,913	32.69	▲ +.74	+42.0
29 CBOE Global Markets	13,916	125.63	▲ +3.09	+32.2
30 CNA Financial	13,668	50.36	▲ +3.51	+22.4
31 IDEX Corp	13,294	174.79	▲ +3.44	+24.5
32 Zebra Tech	12,874	238.77	▼ -8.49	+26.8
33 NiSource Inc	11,284	30.21	▲ +.62	+15.8
34 LKQ Corporation	10,174	33.20	▲ +.27	+26.5
35 Fortune Brds Hm&Sec	10,156	72.99	▲ +2.24	+55.0
36 Packaging Corp Am	9,365	98.94	▼ -2.44	+5.5
37 US Foods Holding	8,886	40.50	▼ -.01	+13.9
38 Jones Lang LaSalle	8,830	171.34	▼ -1.39	+4.5
39 CF Industries	8,327	38.30	▼ -3.57	-4.2
40 Paylocity Hldg	7,915	147.65	▲ +7.46	+77.1
41 Aptargroup Inc	7,458	116.67	▼ -.03	+14.4
42 Hill-Rom Hldgs	7,333	109.47	▲ +1.25	+5.8
43 Old Republic	7,130	23.49	▲ +.45	+21.0
44 Equity Lifesty Prop	6,849	75.24	▲ +2.38	+39.6
45 Morningstar Inc	6,774	158.24	▲ +.85	+24.5
46 IAA Inc	6,721	50.34	▲ +2.77	
47 Ingredion Inc	6,498	97.34	▲ +7.40	+7.3
48 Middleby Corp	6,384	113.73	▲ +1.76	-7.6
49 CDK Global Inc	6,329	52.10	▼ -1.49	-6.1
50 Stericycle Inc	5,875	64.48	▲ +.03	+41.2
51 First Indl RT	5,841	46.01	▲ +2.51	+39.7
52 Kemper Corp	5,327	79.93	▲ +.26	-.2
53 Brunswick Corp	5,296	64.93	▲ +3.37	+33.8
54 Cabot Microelect	4,886	167.20	▲ +6.32	+69.9
55 GrubHub Inc	4,608	50.39	▼ -.17	-36.7
56 Envestnet Inc	4,544	86.60	▲ +5.34	+51.9
57 Littelfuse Inc	4,499	184.73	▲ +.64	+2.1
58 RLI Corp	4,302	95.97	▼ -.44	+41.7
59 Equity Commonwlth	4,058	33.29	▲ +.52	+12.7
60 Wintrust Financial	3,723	65.25	▲ +1.06	-9.0
61 Navistar Intl	3,700	37.28	▲ +.23	+6.0
62 John Bean Technol	3,581	113.10	▼ -2.38	+38.0
63 Anixter Intl	3,323	98.25	▲ +.14	+61.4
64 Hyatt Hotels Corp	3,217	87.94	▼ -.07	+20.5
65 Retail Prop Amer	2,713	12.70	▲ +.38	+2.1
66 GATX	2,710	77.22	▲ +.80	+6.9
67 Teleph Data	2,585	24.06	▼ -.01	-29.3
68 TreeHouse Foods	2,571	45.75	▼ -.18	-24.0
69 Stepan Co	2,333	103.71	▲ +2.90	+15.7
70 Fst Midw Bcp	2,311	21.02	▲ +.18	-3.5
71 Federal Signal	2,013	33.27	▲ +.85	+55.2
72 Adtalem Global Educ	1,944	35.31	▲ +1.29	-28.2
73 Horace Mann	1,877	45.54	▲ +1.55	+18.4
74 Hub Group Inc	1,852	55.51	▼ -4.18	+25.9
75 US Cellular	1,846	34.74	▲ +.39	-35.5
76 Knowles Corp	1,626	17.74	▲ +1.63	+12.5
77 Addus HomeCare	1,615	103.82	▲ +4.26	+54.4
78 Groupon Inc	1,598	2.83	▼ -.22	-15.9
79 AAR Corp	1,571	45.02	▲ +.64	+21.6
80 Huron Consulting Gp	1,524	66.52	▲ +2.21	+23.5
81 Coeur Mining	1,438	5.98	▼ -.08	+23.2
82 Allscripts Hlthcare	1,436	8.85	▼ -.23	-23.9
83 First Busey Corp	1,416	25.74	▼ -.14	+1.2
84 Tootsie Roll	1,328	34.05	▲ +.99	-3.8
85 Methode Electronics	1,267	34.18	▲ +.88	+26.7
86 SP Plus Corp	1,002	43.67	▲ +.18	+20.4
87 Acco Brands Corp	946	9.76	▲ +.56	+15.3
88 ANI Pharma	793	65.66	▲ +.77	+11.7
89 Enova Intl Inc	736	21.81	▲ +1.20	-9.4
90 OneSpan Inc	733	18.24	▲ +1.03	+15.9
91 Sanfilipo John	705	79.99	▲ +2.81	+18.9
92 QCR Holdings Inc	667	42.24	▲ +.41	+23.2
93 Heritage-Crystal Cln	653	28.17	▼ -.73	+10.6
94 Great Lakes Dredge	648	10.14	▼ -.40	+45.3
95 Tenneco Inc	598	10.47	▲ +.69	-68.1
96 Echo Global Logis	564	20.68	▼ -1.00	-14.4
97 Heidrick & Struggles	545	28.48	▲ +.88	-13.7
98 Fst Mid Bancshares	545	32.72	▼ -.55	-1.9
99 SunCoke Energy Inc	522	6.02	▲ +.17	-36.8
100 MYR Group	509	30.62	▲ +1.56	-7.9

Largest mutual funds

Based on Total assets

FUND	NAV	CHG IN $	1-YR %RTN
American Century UltraInv	57.45	+1.45	+31.5
American Funds AMCpA m	35.30	+.71	+20.8
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	29.35	+.31	+16.2
American Funds AmrcnMutA m	44.48	+.40	+17.3
American Funds BdfAmrcA m	13.29	...	+8.7
American Funds CptWldGrIncA m	53.29	+.60	+18.1
American Funds CptlIncBldrA m	64.06	+.45	+13.5
American Funds EuroPacGrA m	55.84	+.45	+17.4
American Funds FdmtlInvsA m	64.50	+1.08	+21.2
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	54.85	+1.20	+24.2
American Funds IncAmrcA m	23.55	+.16	+14.7
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	40.82	+.43	+19.9
American Funds NewWldA m	71.63	+1.06	+18.7
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	49.80	+.85	+25.0
American Funds SmCpWldA m	61.14	+1.65	+21.9
American Funds TheNewEcoA m	48.59	+1.11	+20.6
American Funds TxExBdA m	13.51	+.01	+7.9
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	49.59	+.69	+20.0
Baird AggrgateBdInstl	11.41	...	+10.3
Baird CorPlusBdInstl	11.77	+.01	+10.5
BlackRock StrIncOpIns	10.09	+.04	+7.8
DFA EMktCorEqI	21.38	+.34	+6.6
DFA EmMktsValInstl	27.38	+.26	-.9
DFA FvYrGlbFIIns	10.78	...	+3.6
DFA IntlCorEqIns	13.61	+.08	+11.5
DFA IntlSmCoInstl	18.53	+.16	+13.2
DFA IntlSmCpValIns	18.62	+.14	+8.9
DFA USCorEq1Instl	26.71	+.42	+20.4
DFA USCorEqIIInstl	24.27	+.38	+18.7
DFA USLgCpValInstl	38.57	+.43	+13.6
DFA USSmCpInstl	34.88	+.59	+6.4
DFA USSmCpValInstl	33.10	+.40	-.9
Dodge & Cox Bal	103.42	+.99	+13.9
Dodge & Cox Inc	14.28	+.03	+9.8
Dodge & Cox IntlStk	42.94	+.29	+12.4
Dodge & Cox Stk	197.33	+2.61	+15.7
DoubleLine CorFII	11.24	+.01	+8.5
DoubleLine TtlRetBdI	10.78	+.01	+7.0
Edgewood GrInstl	41.84	+1.52	+31.4
FPA Crescent d	34.62	+.23	+13.0
Fidelity 500IdxInsPrm	117.48	+1.91	+25.6
Fidelity BCGrowth	118.82	+3.29	+32.0
Fidelity Balanced	25.73	+.36	+20.5
Fidelity Cap&Inc	10.39	+.11	+11.9
Fidelity Contrafund	14.72	+.32	+26.7
Fidelity ContrafundK	14.74	+.33	+26.9
Fidelity EmergMketsOpps	20.75	+.42	+19.3
Fidelity ExMktIdxInPr	67.99	+1.63	+16.2
Fidelity Frdm 2020	16.48	+.13	+13.7
Fidelity Frdm 2025	14.56	+.12	+14.5
Fidelity Frdm 2030	18.15	+.19	+15.9
Fidelity GlobalexUSIdx	13.14	+.09	+12.9
Fidelity GroCo	23.64	+.79	+35.3
Fidelity GroCoK	23.68	+.79	+35.4
Fidelity IntlGr	18.10	+.22	+29.2
Fidelity IntlIdxInstlPrm	42.86	+.08	+14.2
Fidelity IntlVal	9.82	+.02	+12.3
Fidelity InvmGradeBd	11.76	...	+10.3
Fidelity LowPrStk	49.48	+.59	+13.8
Fidelity Magellan	11.09	+.29	+29.5
Fidelity OTCPortfolio	13.93	+.32	+36.2
Fidelity Puritan	23.89	+.40	+19.3
Fidelity TotalBond	11.08	+.01	+9.8
Fidelity TtlMktIdxInsPrm	94.93	+1.66	+23.9
Fidelity USBdIdxInsPrm	12.11	...	+9.5
Fidelity Advisor NewInsI	34.73	+.70	+23.5
First Eagle GlbA m	57.57	+.32	+10.5
Franklin Templeton CATxFrIncA1 m	7.79	+.01	+10.6
Franklin Templeton GlbBdAdv	10.60	+.04	-2.6
Franklin Templeton IncA1 m	2.34	+.01	+9.1
Franklin Templeton IncAdv	2.32	+.01	+9.3
Franklin Templeton IncC m	2.37	+.01	+8.4
Franklin Templeton RisingDivsA m	72.60	+1.44	+23.5
Harbor CptlApprecInstl	84.40	+2.27	+31.8
Harding Loevner IntlEqInstl d	24.05	+.16	+17.0
INVESCO DevMktsY	45.11	+.63	+13.9
JPMorgan CoreBondR6	12.07	+.01	+9.8
Lord Abbett ShrtDurIncA m	4.22	-.01	+4.8
Lord Abbett ShrtDurIncF b	4.22	...	+4.9
MFS ValI	45.75	+.57	+21.7
Metropolitan West TtlRetBdI	11.11	-.01	+9.7
Metropolitan West TtlRetBdPlan	10.45	-.01	+9.8
Nuveen HYMuniBdI	18.43	+.05	+13.7
Oakmark IntlInv	24.15	+.23	+12.5
Old Westbury LgCpStrats	15.58	+.19	+19.2
PGIM Investments TtlRetBdZ	14.71	+.01	+11.8
PIMCO AlAstInstl	11.83	+.06	+7.4
PIMCO IncA m	12.11	+.01	+7.2
PIMCO IncI2	12.11	+.01	+7.5
PIMCO IncInstl	12.11	+.01	+7.6
PIMCO TtlRetIns	10.54	+.01	+9.4
PRIMECAP Odyssey Gr	41.84	+.45	+12.4
Schwab SP500Idx	51.80	+.84	+25.6
T. Rowe Price BCGr	135.64	+3.77	+26.0
T. Rowe Price CptlAprc	32.61	+.42	+20.4
T. Rowe Price EqIdx500	89.98	+1.45	+25.3
T. Rowe Price EqInc	32.16	+.25	+17.0

FUND	NAV	CHG IN $	1-YR %RTN
T. Rowe Price GrStk	80.08	+1.98	+27.2
T. Rowe Price HlthSci	84.27	+1.79	+18.6
T. Rowe Price InsLgCpGr	47.97	+1.20	+24.9
T. Rowe Price MdCpGr	98.76	+1.87	+20.6
T. Rowe Price NewHorizons	65.66	+2.36	+32.3
T. Rowe Price NewInc	9.86	+.01	+9.9
T. Rowe Price Rtr2020	22.62	+.20	+15.1
T. Rowe Price Rtr2025	18.26	+.19	+16.2
T. Rowe Price Rtr2030	26.65	+.30	+17.1
T. Rowe Price Rtr2040	27.92	+.36	+18.3
T. Rowe Price Val	38.99	+.56	+19.5
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	312.65	+5.07	+25.5
Vanguard BalIdxAdmrl	40.70	+.44	+18.3
Vanguard CAITTxExAdm	12.24	+.01	+7.3
Vanguard CptlOppAdmrl	164.01	+2.26	+18.8
Vanguard DevMIdxAdmrl	14.12	+.07	+13.7
Vanguard DevMIdxIns	14.14	+.07	+13.7
Vanguard DivGrInv	31.90	+.42	+26.5
Vanguard EMStkIdxInAdm	36.49	+.52	+10.7
Vanguard EqIncAdmrl	80.71	+.63	+18.0
Vanguard ExplorerAdmrl	100.83	+2.64	+17.8
Vanguard ExtMktIdxAdmrl	99.87	+2.39	+16.2
Vanguard ExtMktIdxIns	99.87	+2.40	+16.2
Vanguard GNMAAdmrl	10.58	-.01	+5.7
Vanguard GrIdxAdmrl	103.00	+2.66	+34.7
Vanguard GrIdxIns	103.01	+2.66	+34.8
Vanguard HCAdmrl	90.74	+.27	+17.2
Vanguard HYCorpAdmrl	6.00	+.03	+11.2
Vanguard HYTEAdmrl	11.93	+.02	+10.3
Vanguard InTrBdIdxAdmrl	12.04	-.01	+11.0
Vanguard InTrInGdAdm	10.21	...	+10.6
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	14.65	+.01	+7.4
Vanguard InflPrtScAdmrl	26.32	+.01	+8.8
Vanguard InsIdxIns	304.35	+4.93	+25.5
Vanguard InsIdxInsPlus	304.38	+4.94	+25.6
Vanguard InsTrgRt2020Ins	24.64	+.17	+14.2
Vanguard InsTtlSMIInPls	72.00	+1.25	+24.0
Vanguard IntlGrAdmrl	107.22	+2.04	+25.3
Vanguard LTInGrdAdm	11.45	+.01	+22.7
Vanguard LTTEAdmrl	12.10	+.01	+9.6
Vanguard LfStrGrInv	37.08	+.41	+17.4
Vanguard LfStrModGrInv	29.56	+.24	+15.4
Vanguard LtdTrmTEAdmrl	11.14	...	+4.0
Vanguard MdCpIdxAdmrl	230.21	+4.95	+20.4
Vanguard MdCpIdxIns	50.86	+1.10	+20.5
Vanguard MdCpIdxInsPlus	250.81	+5.39	+20.5
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	149.28	+1.42	+19.9
Vanguard RlEstIdxAdmrl	141.13	+5.73	+22.0
Vanguard SCpGrIdxAdm	73.41	+2.04	+19.1
Vanguard SCpValIdxAdm	59.09	+.98	+7.9
Vanguard STBdIdxAdmrl	10.63	...	+5.1
Vanguard STInvmGrdAdmrl	10.79	...	+5.7
Vanguard STTEAdmrl	15.88	...	+2.4
Vanguard SmCpIdxAdmrl	81.33	+1.77	+13.0
Vanguard SmCpIdxIns	81.33	+1.77	+13.0
Vanguard StarInv	28.27	+.28	+18.1
Vanguard TrgtRtr2015Inv	15.49	+.08	+12.4
Vanguard TrgtRtr2020Inv	33.25	+.24	+14.1
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Inv	20.33	+.18	+15.5
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Inv	37.36	+.35	+16.3
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Inv	23.10	+.24	+17.0
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Inv	40.15	+.45	+17.7
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Inv	25.36	+.31	+18.3
Vanguard TrgtRtr2050Inv	40.83	+.50	+18.3
Vanguard TrgtRtrIncInv	14.32	+.07	+11.5
Vanguard TtBMIdxAdmrl	11.23	-.01	+9.7
Vanguard TtBMIdxIns	11.23	-.01	+9.7
Vanguard TtBMIdxInsPlus	11.23	-.01	+9.7
Vanguard TtlnBIdxAdmrl	23.01	+.02	+8.3
Vanguard TtlnBIdxIns	34.53	+.03	+8.4
Vanguard TtlnBIdxInv	11.51	+.01	+8.3
Vanguard TtlnSIdxAdmrl	29.76	+.21	+13.0
Vanguard TtlnSIdxIns	119.01	+.85	+13.0
Vanguard TtlnSIdxInsPlus	119.04	+.85	+13.0
Vanguard TtlnSIdxInv	17.79	+.13	+12.8
Vanguard TtlSMIdxAdmrl	83.57	+1.46	+23.9
Vanguard TtlSMIdxIns	83.59	+1.46	+23.9
Vanguard TtlSMIdxInv	83.54	+1.46	+23.8
Vanguard USGrAdmrl	124.09	+3.23	+32.5
Vanguard ValIdxAdmrl	47.18	+.34	+17.2
Vanguard ValIdxIns	47.18	+.34	+17.3
Vanguard WlngtnAdmrl	76.98	+.41	+19.3
Vanguard WlngtnInv	44.57	+.23	+19.2
Vanguard WlslyIncAdmrl	67.77	+.24	+14.8
Vanguard WlslyIncInv	27.97	+.09	+14.7
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b - Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets. d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee. s - fund split shares during the week. x - fund paid a distribution during the week. Source: Morningstar.



JONATHAN WEISS/DREAMSTIME

U-Haul's new policy to screen new hires for tobacco use is rare. The policy takes effect this month.

U-Haul to turn away smokers

New anti-tobacco policy expected to cut costs at truck rental company

By Matthew Perrone
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U-Haul has an unusual wellness goal for 2020: hiring fewer smokers.

The truck rental company said in January that it will stop hiring people who use tobacco or nicotine products in the 21 states where it is legal to do so.

Executives said the new policy, which takes effect this month, is expected to the cut company costs by improving the health of U-Haul's 30,000-person workforce.

Screening new hires for tobacco use is rare. But employers have long used financial penalties and perks to try to reduce the financial toll of tobacco-related diseases, such as cancer, heart disease and stroke.

Those carrots and sticks are part of most corporate wellness programs, which typically aim to encourage workers to exercise, lose weight and control diseases like diabetes.

In recent years, researchers have begun rigorously studying the programs. The results show little evidence that wellness plans improve employee health or lower health care costs.

Smoking-related medical expenses add nearly $170 billion a year to employer and government medical expenses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Employers also lose $156 billion in lost productivity due to smoking and related health issues.

Roughly 70% of large employers offer programs to help employees quit smoking as part of their health coverage. The gold-standard approach involves counseling sessions and nicotine gums, patches and medications to control cravings.

One fourth of large firms add another penalty to push smokers to quit: an extra charge on their health premiums. The fee usually amounts to about $600 a year for workers, according to survey data from consultant Mercer, which designs corporate health and wellness plans. About 10% of employers provide other incentives, such as points that can be redeemed for prizes.

Despite an estimated $8 billion spent on wellness programs annually, experts say they haven't been shown to deliver the long-term benefits promised.

"There isn't any evidence that these programs actually result in people smoking less or eating less or exercising more," said Karen Pollitz, who studies insurance and health plans at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Although many employers report cost-savings from wellness programs, researchers say those results are likely skewed because healthier workers are more likely to participate, boosting positive results.

A randomized 4,000-patient study published last year in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that employees enrolled in wellness programs showed no major improvements in health status or health care spending after 18 months, compared with employees who didn't participate.

Some researchers have theorized that the savings reported from wellness plans may simply come from shifting insurance costs onto less healthy workers.

The American Cancer Society recommends employers focus on smoke-free workplaces and quit-smoking programs, rather than penalizing smokers with fees or exclusionary hiring practices.

Rihanna's line accused of deceptive marketing

By Sapna Maheshwari
The New York Times

When singer Rihanna started a lingerie collection in 2018, she teamed up with the startup behind Kate Hudson's athleisure line Fabletics.

But Fabletics and the startup TechStyle Fashion Group faced complaints about deceptive billing tactics, and now Rihanna's line, Savage x Fenty, is now facing the same criticism.

The line has been praised for using models of different body types and ethnicities in its marketing. But on Tuesday, Truth in Advertising, a nonprofit organization, said Savage x Fenty "ensnares consumers into unwanted monthly charges" through a membership plan that was difficult to opt out of. It said it had alerted the Federal Trade Commission to the line's business practices, which it believes violate the agency's rules and the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act.

When consumers buy items like bras and underwear from the Savage x Fenty website, the brand allegedly enrolls consumers in $50 monthly subscriptions "without disclosing all the material terms and conditions of the offer," Truth in Advertising said. The prices that appear when an item is added to a shopper's online cart — say, $19.50 for a pair of leggings — require a membership. For nonmembers, the price of the leggings would more than double. Truth in Advertising added that the brand also used "dissuasion and diversion tactics" when consumers tried to cancel memberships.

Savage x Fenty denied the claims. "These accusations are false and based on misconceptions of our business," Emma Tully, a representative for the line, said in an email.

"At Savage x Fenty, we believe strongly in transparency, which is why we provide multiple disclosures of membership terms throughout the shopping experience, within advertisements and through our ambassador engagement policies," she said.

The complaint from Truth in Advertising involves the pervasiveness of so-called negative-option billing online, which refers to the practice of companies charging consumers for a service unless it is specifically declined.

"A lot of consumers really love the fact that this brand is championing female empowerment and inclusiveness, and so they are very willing to purchase products from this website," Bonnie Patten, the executive director of Truth in Advertising, said. "What they don't understand is that the prices they're seeing on social media are prices for joining a membership, and because of the way the checkout process works, they are unwittingly being put into a subscription model."

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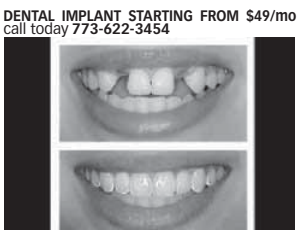
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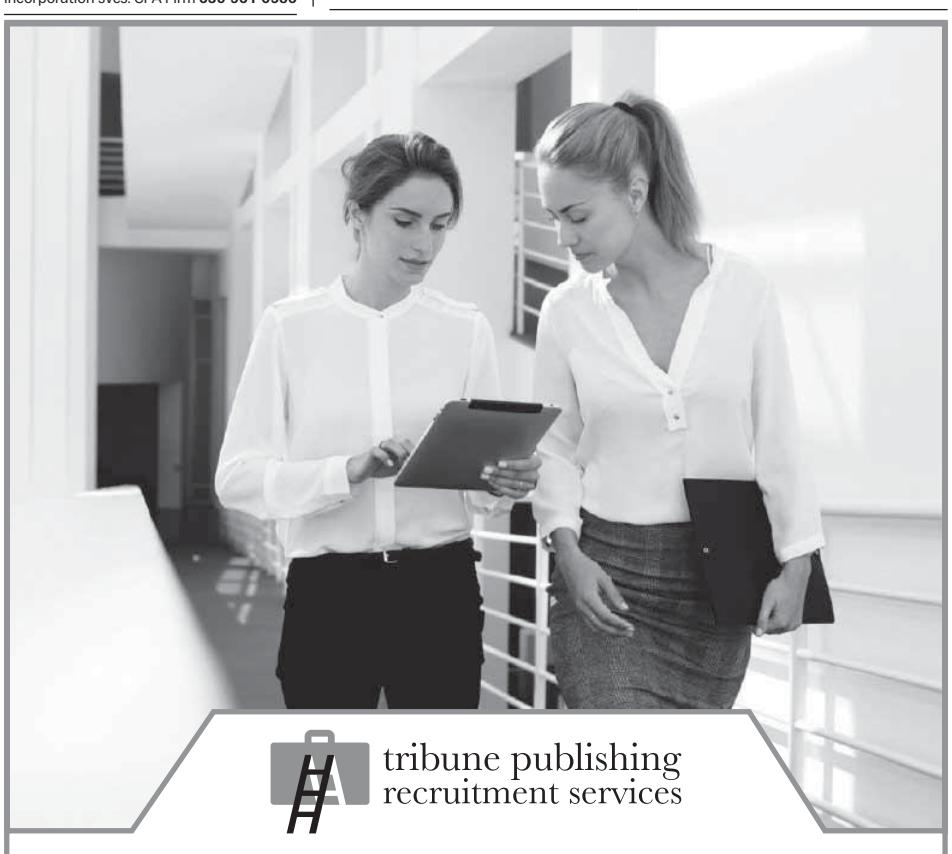
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Ideas to not let work-related stress bring you down

How's work, they ask.

Work's work, you answer.

After all, if you told them the truth, they might never ask you again. But work shouldn't be just "work." Granted, it doesn't have to be a day at the beach, but it shouldn't stress you out either, at least not all the time. But for many working Americans, job-related stress is just a fact of life. Maybe you're not meeting your sales quotas or hitting your deadlines. Maybe your boss seems intent on ruining the department from within. Or maybe, your co-workers have adopted an every-man-for-himself philosophy that makes it difficult for you to do your job.

Since you spend the majority of your day at work, any stress you feel is bound to have a detrimental impact on your well-being. Job-related stress can cause headaches, back and neck pains, anxiety, lightheadedness, lack of sleep and a loss of energy.

If you're feeling bad on the job, or having a hard time staying on task, there's a good chance stress is at least one of the culprits. Stress can often cause a domino-effect of health problems, so finding successful ways to battle stress is essential to feeling good and staying productive.

Beware of the vending machine

That bag of chips you crave at 2:45 p.m. each day? It's not your friend. For many, though, that daily dose of salt or sugar, usually purchased in a fried or chocolate-covered format, is a crutch to get through the day. Even if you think you feel an immediate effect, there's no long-term benefit. In fact, you're doing your body — and your mood — more harm than good.

Annie Kay, a registered dietician and author of "Every Bite is Divine" (Life Arts Press, $16.95), suggests looking for alternative ways to combat workplace stress. "Take a quick walk around the office, enjoy a breathing break or chew on a piece of gum," she says. "Finding non-food ways of handling stress and having a few healthy snacking options handy, can give you the strength you need to resist the salt and sugar."

While coffee and caffeine offer a quick pick-me-up, the immediate buzz also will be short-lived. Kay suggests eating a protein-rich snack, like a handful of nuts, a spoonful of peanut butter, a piece of fruit or a chunk of cheese.

'Get on up'

Medical professional Richard Parsons says he expects 10 minutes of activity from his staff every 60 minutes. "At the 50-minute mark of every hour, an alarm goes off on everyone's computer and they get up from their desk and move around," Parsons says. "I'd love it if a dance party started but mostly, people get up and stretch or go get some water. At first, people complained that is was like the book "1984," that they all had to obey and move at once, but now they've all bought into it. It's nice to see everyone out of their desks every hour and our productivity is higher than ever."

Parsons says he borrowed the idea of an hourly break from a professor in college. "It was a lecture class at night, like 200 people in an auditorium from 7 to 10, so it could get really boring," Parsons says. "But out of nowhere, he'd blast music right in the middle of one of his lectures, like James Brown or Madonna, and we'd all get up and shake off our fatigue. We'd move around for about five minutes and then he'd get back to his lecture."

And don't think your standing desk absolves you from activity. You still need to move your arms and legs every once in a while. A standing desk can be helpful in alleviating work-related stress but it isn't the cure-all many thought it would be. Still, it absolutely helps stagnant employees assume different working positions throughout the day. If you don't have a standing desk, ask your boss or HR department to consider purchasing one for you or several for your department. In many cases, employees received a standing desk after providing their employer with that proverbial note from their doctor, the one that says something like "Hey, you're killing this guy! Give him a break and spend a couple of bucks on a standing desk. What are you, a sadist?"

Get out of the office

A study from the American Psychological Association found that working from home increases morale and job satisfaction among employees while lowering work-related stress and personnel turnover.

"Take away the traffic every morning and I'm in a better place all day," says Trina Scott, a graphic designer. "Working from home two days a week has made me a better employee, there's no doubt."

Tips for dealing with moody co-workers

Career coach Sharon Smythe offers up a few suggestions to survive working with others that aren't happy with their jobs.

1. Stay out of the fray. The first time you hear someone complaining about a boss or co-worker or project, tread carefully. "It is the initial conversation that hooks everyone in. If you stay out of the fray initially, you won't be seen as a person to come to when people are complaining later," Smythe says.

2. Practice diversion. When people want to complain, find something else to talk about. "Most times people just want to talk. They're not necessarily focused on complaining but they just want to vent in one way or the other," Smythe says. "Get them to talk about the weather or some friends you have or whatever sport situation is going on in your city."

3. Suggest finding a new place to work. "Obvious, right? But sometimes people just need to hear it," Smythe says. "You can say something like 'hey, you seem really unhappy here. Have you considered looking for something else?' Sometimes people need to be told to find a new job. Sometimes they'll take the hint that they're complaining too much."

4. Offer a solution. "You certainly don't want to get involved or be the mediator but people don't want to hear you defending for your boss or your co-worker. They only thing you can offer is potential solution," Smythe says. "Keep your solution simple — different hours, a desk in a different area, a request to be put on a new project."

5. Be happy. Don't let the negative talk get to you. "No one's job is perfect. People work to pay the mortgage and feed their children," Smythe says. "Buy some headphones, take lunch with your friends and be kind and courteous."



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Useful tips to achieve work happpiness

Tim Bono, author of "When Likes Aren't Enough: A Crash Course in the Science of Happiness," offers these tips to help you achieve happiness, even without the benefit of Taco Tuesday at the office:

• **Go outside, move around:** Bono says that research confirms a few minutes walking around in nature can boost both mood and energy levels. "Exercise is key to our psychological health because it releases the brain's feel-good chemicals," he says.

• **Get more bang for your buck:** Buy experiences instead of things and spend your money on others. "The enjoyment one gets from an experience like a vacation or concert will far outweigh and outlast the happiness from acquiring another material possession," says Bono.

— Make time for others: Instead of focusing so much on "me-time," Bono suggests using some of the extra minutes in your day to help others. "Doing a good deed empowers us to tackle the next project, helping us feel more in control of our lives and less pressed for time," Bono says. "This translates to higher levels of happiness and satisfaction."

• **Delay the positive, dispatch the negative:** Anticipation itself is pleasurable and looking forward to an enjoyable experience can make it all that much sweeter, according to Bono. "Wait a couple of days before seeing a new movie that just came out, plan your big vacation for later in the summer and try to take time to savor each bite of dessert," Bono says. "On the flip side, get negative tasks out of the way as quickly as possible. Anticipation will only make them seem worse."

• **Enjoy the ride:** People who focus more on process than outcome tend to remain motivated in the face of setbacks. They're better at sticking with big challenges and prefer them over the easy route. Focusing only on the end outcome can lead to premature burnout if things don't go well, according to Bono.

• **Embrace failure:** People who overcome adversity do better in life because they learn to cope with challenges. "Failure is a great teacher, helping us realize what doesn't work so we can make changes for the better," Bono says.

• **Sweet dreams:** Get a full night's sleep on a regular basis. "Our brains are doing a lot of important work while we sleep, including strengthening neural circuits that both consolidate memories from the previous day and that help us regulate our moods when we are awake," says Bono. "Sleep deprivation can lead to cognitive impairment similar to that of intoxication and often is the prelude to an ill-tempered day."

• **Strengthen your willpower:** Exercising willpower muscles in small, everyday behaviors strengthens your ability to stay focused at work. "Resisting the temptation to check our phone for new text messages or emails when we're walking somewhere, or resisting the temptation to get the candy bar when we're in the checkout line at the grocery store, allows our willpower muscles to become stronger and in turn, resistant to temptations that could sidetrack us in other aspects of our lives," Bono says.

• **Introduce variety:** Being able to change things up every once in a while by taking on new projects or even by doing the same task but with music in the background or by interacting with different people, can be one way to introduce variety and improve overall morale, according to Bono.

• **Practice gratitude:** It's easy to get bogged down with life's inevitable hassles so make an effort to direct attention to things that are still going well. On the way home from work, fill the time that could go toward ruminating over bad parts of your day with the things that went well. "Study after study has shown gratitude to be one of the simplest yet most robust ways to increase psychological well-being," says Bono.

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People often get angry over things that happen outside the office and are inevitably forced to carry that dark cloud with them around the office.

Don't let a bad mood at work affect your job

Samantha Brickton says she and her cohorts in the recruiting department in an Atlanta-based recruiting firm have a phrase they use when someone's in a bad mood at work. "'Regina Time,'" says Brickton, 37, explaining that Regina, a former college roommate she lived with at the University of Western Michigan, used to get upset with the other students she lived with on a "daily basis," according to Brickton, and would storm out of the apartment. "We called it 'Regina Time,' like she had to go freak-out for a while and then would come back and act like nothing happened. I told someone about it at work and it just became a thing here, too."

Although she admits she's a little callous about describing her former roommate, Brickton admits that Regina may have been on to something. "I think sometimes bad things happen when you're at work and instead of trying to sit there and fight through it, it's OK just to take a walk around the building or go for a drive to cool off," she says. "I'm learning that I sometimes need to remove myself from the scene to get my head together."

Inside and outside influences

While problems that occur during the workday are often enough to send angry employees to the brink, John Albert, a social worker in Miami, Florida, says that people often get angry over things that happen outside the office and are inevitably forced to carry that dark cloud with them around the office. "How many times do we get into an argument with our partner at work, usually via text, and that argument sets us off on a bad path for the rest of the day?" asks Albert. "Or what about bad news that's financial, like being rejected for a mortgage, or seeing $10 in your checking account with payday still a week away?"

Albert, who specializes in dealing with family and workplace conflict, says workers who know their mood negatively impacts their work need to develop their coping skills. "Your mood affects your relationship with your peers, with clients and with your boss," Albert says. "It can impact how you work, what you work on and how much effort you put into your day-to-day responsibilities. And when your company is dealing with results, your behavior may have a direct negative impact on your performance, which will hurt your company's bottom line, so it's best to deal with your anger head-on."

Looking within

When things go badly at work, sometimes the easiest thing to do is to remove yourself from your present situation. Nicole Vallick, a marketing specialist in Austin, Texas, says most times, she can seek comfort in music. "I pop my earbuds in and keep to myself for an hour or so, and I really dig into my work," she says. "I think that isolating myself, at least mentally, pays big dividends. I'm not falling behind in my work or causing a scene. I'm just centering myself with some music to keep things moving forward."

Vallick says that within her department, employees with earbuds on are automatically assumed to be in a do-not-disturb zone. "If you're busting your butt to finish a project, you either work from home or make yourself off-limits at work, but since we're in an open office, it's kind of hard to get away. So you can escape a bit by putting some music on and people generally respect that."

Brickton says she puts on a 10- to 15-minute meditation podcast, focusing on nothing more than her breathing in an effort to get her mind back to normal. "It's harder sometimes more than others, depending on the situation, but I think I've trained myself to focus on one thing, like my breathing, to keep me from focusing on everything else."

Outside assistance

Albert says that self-generated actions like meditation can certainly help a person relax, but he cautions against using any method exclusively, especially one that, by design, focuses on an isolated effort. "I think meditation is amazing and can have benefits for all of us, whether we're dealing with a bad situation or not, but I know that people can't rely on it to solve problems that will still exist when the meditation session ends," he says. "We can't live our lives in a meditative state, especially at work, so it pays to have some strategies in place to help us maintain our balance."

Vallick agrees. "I think the stigma of asking for help died two generations ago, says the 32-year-old mother of two. "I found a therapist who lets me Facetime her during the day. It's amazing how a quick conversation with her can help me maintain my focus."

— Marco Buscaglia, Careers



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NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND

Chicago's finest

All-Star Game has no Bulls, but the city is well-represented in showcase. **Pages 2-5**

ALL-STAR GAME
At the United Center
Team LeBron vs.
Team Giannis
7 p.m. Sunday, TNT, TBS

■ Chicago native Anthony Davis recalls nearly quitting basketball. Page 3
■ Kevin Garnett has plenty to say about Bulls. Page 4

Bulls' Zach LaVine participates in the 3-Point Contest at NBA All-Star weekend at the United Center on Saturday.
CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



PAUL SULLIVAN
In the Wake of the News

Money talks, so time to speak up

Can the Cubs afford to keep Bryant, Baez and other core players?

MESA, Ariz. — Can the Cubs afford to keep superstars Kris Bryant and Javier Baez while saving some money for Anthony Rizzo, Willson Contreras and others whose contracts come up in the next couple of years?

It doesn't seem likely to happen, but Bryant said Saturday that it can be done.

"I don't know, I haven't looked at the math of whatever the payroll situation is," Bryant said in a revealing 36-minute news conference at the Nike Performance Center. "But I know that we just got this new network (Marquee Sports Network) for a lot of money, and the Cubs are one of the most profitable teams out there. And one of the most desirable teams (to watch).

"People always want to go to Wrigley Field. They want to go to Wrigleyville and see all the bars and everything that's built up.

"The Ricketts family, they've done a really good job in terms of just changing everything about this franchise, and there is certainly money (to spend). It's a very profitable game. It's just a matter of if they want to (keep everyone). I don't know (if they do). I really don't. But it certainly would be cool."

Certainly the Cubs have the money to spend if they want, though President Theo Epstein said in September that the expected windfall from Marquee

Turn to ***Sullivan, Page 8***



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE
Kris Bryant arrives at Cubs spring training at Sloan Park on Saturday in Mesa, Ariz.

ON THE CLOCK
39 Days until the Cubs season opener against the Brewers on March 26 in Milwaukee.

MORE BASEBALL
■ Tim Anderson says White Sox have a "winning vibe." **Page 6**
■ Cubs pitcher Jon Lester is ready to put one of the worst seasons of his career behind him. **Page 7**
■ No hard feelings toward Cubs about trade rumors says Kris Bryant. **Page 7**



TOP OF THE SECOND



PHIL ROSENTHAL

Barkley sounds off on Bulls

You know what amuses Charles Barkley? The idea that Zach LaVine should have been an NBA All-Star.

You know why?

"Because he didn't deserve it," Barkley said during a free moment Thursday night before TNT's pregame show from Chicago's House of Blues.

And why is that?

"Because he didn't deserve it," Barkley said flatly.

The top basketball TV analyst working today, Barkley is in town with the rest of TNT's studio show crew as part of the channel's All-Star Weekend coverage.

What makes the Hall of Famer the best in the business is his rare blend of insight, humor and the chutzpah to say what few others will.

LaVine and his fans may be sore his All-Star Weekend participation on his home floor was limited to Saturday night's 3-Point Contest.

But as Barkley sees it, players on losing teams can't count on being selected for the NBA's midseason showcase.

LaVine and the Bulls are 19-36, just five games out of the No. 8 slot in the Eastern Conference but also only 5½ games from last place

"I'm not going to lie to you. I've been very disappointed in the Bulls," Barkley said. "I have no idea what they're doing. I have no idea what has happened to Lauri Markkanen. I thought he was going to be the next big thing, and he has regressed."

And what of Bulls coach Jim Boylen?

"Jim Boylen is a good friend of mine, and I'll leave it at that," Barkley said. "Jim Boylen is a good friend of mine, but I don't know what the Bulls are doing."

See? Even when Barkley holds back, he doesn't hold back.

LaVine, of course, isn't alone in feeling overlooked.

Bradley Beal of the 20-33 Wizards said it was "disrespectful" he wasn't named an All-Star.

Devin Booker of the 22-33 Suns also voiced complaints over his perceived snub, although he eventually scored a spot in both Sunday's game and the 3-Point Contest as a fill-in for the Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard.

"When you're 5-75, you don't have the right to feel snubbed," Barkley said. "Seriously, all the guys that say they got snubbed are on the worst teams in the NBA. You're not even competitive.



RICHARD SHOTWELL/AP

Charles Barkley declared that Bulls guard Zach LaVine didn't deserve to be an All-Star.

"Like, if your team is pretty good, you're snubbed. If your team is in last place, you're not snubbed. You don't deserve it."

Barkley is even less impressed with the new All-Star Game format the NBA is trotting out Sunday night on TNT and TBS.

The first three quarters will be scored as separate games with the teams winning money for charity.

Then in the fourth quarter, the overall winner will be the team that reaches a target score determined by the total points the leading team had across the first three quarters, plus — in honor of the late Kobe Bryant — 24 points.

Or something like that.

The fourth quarter will be televised without commercial breaks, which is good because announcer Marv Albert, analysts Reggie Miller and Chris Webber and reporter Allie LaForce might need the time to explain how all of this works.

The whole thing is strange, to say the least.

"It's a very fine line between strange and stupid," Barkley said.

Well, on which side of the line does it fall?

"I'm on stupid," he said.

The whole weekend is just meant to be fun and should be viewed that way.

"All these people come up with these stupid rules to try to make it like ... it's Game 7, life or death," Barkley said. "No, this is an exhibition. We're here to have fun. ... This is the only break (during the season) these guys get. The best players are here. Hopefully the other guys are resting up."

Viewers, too, should try to sit back and enjoy it for the spectacle that it is. Winning and losing isn't necessarily the most important thing.

"Listen," Barkley said, "these guys all play for different teams. They're not going to go out and try to kill each other because somebody (will) get hurt and we'll be like, 'Oh, man, they shouldn't have been playing that hard.'

"Out of all the sports, we have far and away the best (All-Star) weekend. On Friday night, we show the young stars, which is great for the fans. On Saturday night, which is the best night, we have the Slam Dunk and 3-Point Contest. Then Sunday should be just fun.

"Could they go out and play a little harder? Yes. But I don't want them to come out and kill each other in an exhibition game."

Or to get into one when your team is subpar. Got it, Zach?

LET'S PLAY 2

	Sunday @Jets 7:30 p.m. NBCSCH	**Wednesday** Rangers 7 p.m. NBCSN
	Thursday Hornets 7 p.m. NBCSCH	**Saturday** Suns 7 p.m. NBCSCH

SUNDAY ON TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
1:30 p.m. Daytona 500 — FOX-32

NBA
7 p.m. All-Star Game — TNT, TBS

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
11 a.m. Cincinnati at E. Carolina — CBSSN
Noon Indiana at Michigan — CBS-2
Noon Villanova at Temple — ESPN
Noon Iowa at Minnesota — FS1
1 p.m. Duquesne at Fordham — NBCSN
1 p.m. Tulane at Wichita State — CBSSN
2 p.m. Memphis at Connecticut — ESPN
3 p.m. Missouri St. at Indiana St. — ESPNU
3 p.m. San Diego St. at Boise St. — CBSSN
5 p.m. Arizona State at California — ESPNU
8 p.m. Utah at Oregon — FS1

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
11 a.m. Michigan at Rutgers — BTN
11 a.m. VCU at Dayton — ESPNU
Noon Florida State at Duke — ESPN2
2 p.m. Texas A&M at Tennessee — ESPN2
2 p.m. Xavier at DePaul — NBCSCH
2 p.m. Kansas State at Oklahoma — FS1
4 p.m. Mississippi St. at Kentucky — ESPN2

GOLF
Noon PGA: Genesis Invitational — Golf
2 p.m. PGA: Genesis Invitational — CBS-2

GYMNASTICS
6:30 p.m. Nebraska at Minnesota — BTN

HOCKEY
11:30 a.m. Red Wings at Penguins — NBC-5
2:30 p.m. Bruins at Rangers — NBC-5
3 p.m. AHL: Monsters at Wolves — NHL WPWR-50
5 p.m. Blues at Predators — NBCSN
7:30 p.m. Blackhawks at Jets — NBCSCH WGN-AM 720

SOCCER
8 a.m. Juventus vs. Brescia — ESPN2
8 a.m. Aston Villa vs. Tottenham — NBCSN
10:30 a.m. Arsenal vs. Newcastle — NBCSN

SOFTBALL
9 a.m. Washington vs. Texas Tech — ESPNU
6 p.m. UCLA vs. Florida State — ESPN2



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NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Heat player Derrick Jones Jr. competes in the Slam Dunk Contest at NBA All-Star weekend on Saturday at the United Center.

Birthday boy brings boom

Jones wins Slam Dunk contest, LaVine falls in 1st round of the 3-Point Contest

By Phil Thompson, DeAntae Prince, Jamal Collier

Zach LaVine started and ended the 3-Point Contest well — it was the middle of the competition that doomed him.

The Bulls guard didn't make it past the first round during All-Star Saturday Night at the United Center despite hitting all 10 shots from the corners.

LaVine had 23 points in the first round, finishing behind Devin Booker (27), Buddy Hield (27) and Davis Bertans (26). It was not enough to advance with the top three scorers moving on to the next round.

LaVine missed several shots from his money rack, which he set at the top of the circle, and whiffed on both 3-point balls. He came into the contest as a long shot, according to oddsmakers.

Hield, a Kings guard, hit the final shot to win the contest, edging Devin Booker 27-26. Hield made five in a row on his second rack and four of five on his money rack, including his last shot.

Davis Bertans finished third with 22.

Slam Dunk contest: Heat forward Derrick Jones Jr. celebrated his 23rd birthday by winning the contest, edging Magic forward Aaron Gordon in a memorable showdown that required two tiebreaker jams.

Jones and Gordon each got a perfect 50 on both of their dunks in the final. Then they got two more perfect scores on their first jam in the dunk-off.

Jones then took off from just inside the foul line and threw down a windmill jam with his left hand, drawing a 48 from the panel of five judges.

After a short discussion with Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal, Gordon brought out 7-foot-5 Celtics rookie Tacko Fall and positioned him near the basket. He then took the ball from Fall's hands on his way to a thunderous dunk.

The United Center gasped as the courtside NBA stars celebrated.

But Gordon was awarded a 47, giving the victory to Jones.

The crowd believed Gordon short-changed on his final dunk, reacting with guttural boos. Gordon also lost a memorable dunk contest to LaVine in 2016.

Lakers center Dwight Howard earned major points before he even finished his second dunk. Howard started his routine by welcoming his former Magic teammate Jameer Nelson to the court to bestow him with an oversized cape.

Howard then revealed the No. 24 on the center of his chest, an homage to Lakers legend Kobe Bryant, who died last month in a helicopter crash in Southern California. Howard, now in his second stint in Los Angeles, played with Bryant in the 2012-13 season.

Howard's 41 and 49 scores weren't enough for him to advance to the final round but his Bryant tribute will be remembered.

Skills Challenge: It wasn't a good start to the Skills Challenge for players with Chicago ties.



Bam Adebayo holds his trophy after winning the NBA Skills Challenge at the United Center on Saturday.

Clippers guard Patrick Beverley — a Chicago native — and Nets guard Spencer Dinwiddie — a former Bull — both missed their passes through the ring in the opening competition of All-Star Saturday Night.

Beverley actually missed two of them. Then he "accidentally" drifted into Pascal Siakam's path while both were trying to make layups — probably no surprise to anyone familiar with Beverley's tenacity.

If it was an attempt to slow down Siakam, it didn't work. Siakam completed his layup and then got back to the other end of the court to sink his 3-pointer to move on to the second round.

The Heat's Bam Adebayo took the trophy, beating the Pacers' Domanta Sabonis in a what came down to a 3-point contest at the end. Adebayo eliminated Dinwiddie in the first round and Siakam in the semifinals; Sabonis knocked off defending champion Jayson Tatum in the opening round and the Bucks' Khris Middleton in the semis.

Associated Press contributed.



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Anthony Davis playfully demands to be welcomed like LeBron James at an event at the Martin Luther King Boys and Girls Club on Saturday.

Chicago native Davis nearly quit hoops

By Phil Thompson

Anthony Davis beamed about his high school alma mater, Perspectives, still the little basketball program that could despite boasting a seven-time NBA All-Star.

"They definitely upgraded the athletic situation," the Chicago native and Lakers star said Saturday during All-Star media day at Wintrust Arena. "I've tried to do as much as I can with the material things, jerseys and basketballs and shoes and stuff like that. As one of the coaches just told me the other day, they just went 14-2. It's continually improving, and I'm excited for them."

There was a time during his junior season when he and his family considered transferring to a basketball powerhouse to boost his profile and bring more scholarship offers. Early on he had just one from Cleveland State.

"Actually, I just rode past the church (where he and Perspectives teammates used to practice) and I was just talking about it," he said. "Just being loyal. It was my junior year, didn't want to leave and have to sit out a year, so I just stayed around and tried to stick it out. My dad always gave me the saying, 'No matter where you are, they'll find you.'"

Ultimately, "Coach Cal (Kentucky's John Calipari) came to one of my games, and the rest is history."

Davis played one season at Kentucky, leading them to the national championship, and was the consensus national player of the year. He was the No. 1 pick in the 2012 NBA draft by the New Orleans Hornets. After seven seasons in New Orleans, he was traded to the Lakers in July 2019, joining LeBron James

He'll start for Team LeBron on Sunday in the NBA All-Star Game at the United Center.

Davis told reporters Saturday that had he transferred, he likely would have been influenced by the reigning basketball icon in Chicago at the time: Derrick Rose.

"Still one of my favorites to watch," Davis said. "Even when I was considering — I wouldn't say considering, I would say had the thought of leaving Perspectives — it was actually going to be Simeon because of Derrick Rose.

"He's one of the guys everyone underneath him looked up to because of the things he did for the city, and him actually drafted to the Bulls and then doing what he did — that whole run — it was just inspiring for all of us."

Davis applauded Rose's tenacity to come back despite hard luck with multiple injuries. Davis had a confidence crisis of his own after his junior season of high school.

"Going into my senior year, that whole summer, I tried out for an AAU team and I wasn't the best player," he said. "I probably was one of the worst. It kind of surprised me, it kind of shocked me. It scared me so much I didn't want to play basketball anymore."

Once again, his father advised him to stay the course.

"And so I went to play a tournament with those guys (Meanstreets in May 2010), and I said, 'This is going to be the test.' Only ended up playing six minutes in the first game. Rolled my ankle. When I got back — this is when Nike EYBL just started — it was at Boo Williams (Invitational), and I had got back home and I got tons and tons of scholarship offers. And when I had seen that, I said, you know what, I'm going to stick with it. Over the course of the summer I ended up becoming the No. 1 player in the country, and I'm here today."

NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND

KG doesn't have answers for Bulls

'I was never close to signing with the Bulls'



TEDDY GREENSTEIN

Late in his NBA career, Kevin Garnett took a 13-hour flight to Beijing for a preseason game. His agent suggested Garnett go upstairs to the first-class cabin to meet the president of Showtime Sports, Stephen Espinoza.

"A double-decker plane ... dammmmmn," Garnett, 43, recalled. "Steve looks like he's about to (sleep). He's tucked in. And we're up for the next seven hours. I'm talking his head off. I threw all these ideas at him."

One was to document Garnett going to college, either Michigan or North Carolina.

Wait, didn't Rodney Dangerfield already do that?

The idea that stuck is what developed into a Showtime documentary that will air in the fall. Why then? Barring something ridiculous, Garnett will be inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in late August.

Garnett, who played for three teams and was a 15-time All-Star over a 21-season NBA career, could be frosty with the media as a player. And he said he was tempted to "fade to black" after retiring in 2016.

But as more entertainment and broadcasting outlets approached him, here's the thing Garnett realized about himself: "If you ask me a question about something, I feel like I've got a story for damn near everything."

OK, I thought Saturday while sitting at the Ace Hotel Chicago for a Showtime promotional event during NBA All-Star Weekend.

My question: Were you ever close to signing with the Bulls?

Garnett: "I was never close to signing with the Bulls. Ever."

Silence.

Why?

Garnett: "I don't really have a why. There was never an opportunity to, and I saw how Jerry (Reinsdorf), how they did Mike, you know, keeping it 100 (% truthful). And all players keep that in the back of their minds. If you treat the greatest like this ... the greatest didn't even have a chance to come back and have ownership. What he invested to build the Bulls, he didn't even get a chance to come back and reap the benefits of that, so ... players see that and remember that or put that in the back of their minds. At least I did.

"But I don't know why in the hell the Bulls can't sign any free agents. I don't know."

But you just said it.

"Yeah," Garnett replied, "I just probably gave you the answer all in there.

"But who knows? Different times, though. (Shoutout) to Zach LaVine, he's doing his thing. Let's see if they keep that nucleus together."

Garnett has no ties to the Bulls but credits Chicago for making him a beast. He left South Carolina before his senior season of high school to suit up with Ronnie Fields at Farragut Career Academy.

"It helped me with competition," he said. "I was never lacking in opportunity, never lacking a matchup. I was confident. Not to say I won every battle, but I competed against ... you ask anyone in this city, they know me for hooping. Not just on the West Side but the South Side where West Siders don't go. ... I was playing on courts, I'm in people's hoods, I'm in projects. I wasn't even supposed to be there.

"West Siders don't go past 81st and 82nd here in the city. I was at Kennedy-King (College) every Saturday playing against the Carver kids, the Simeon kids, the King kids, you know? I'd play against the DePaul guys when they were out of practice. We played ball all the time ... kept (me) out of the headaches and the streets."

Garnett remembers playing ball and having Scottie Pippen tell him: "You're too young to be out here."

But Isiah Thomas told him: "You can play in the league right now."

"I said: 'Zeke, what you say?'"

"He said: 'Boy, do you know you can go to the league from high school?'"

Thomas was right: The Timberwolves took Garnett with the fifth pick in the 1995 draft.

Garnett was nervous before the draft while working out for NBA executives, giants such as Pat Riley.

"He said: 'What the (heck) is this? You've got me watching a high school guy?'" Garnett said. "And then I dunked it. Hey, (you bleep), what you mean, why you here?'"

Garnett was asking himself that during the shooting of "Uncut Gems," the Adam Sandler movie that won several critics' awards.

"They tricked me, said I'd have a cool little get-in, get-out (role)," Garnett said. "And then two days turned into two weeks. Next thing you know I've got a book in front of me and have to learn this whole exchange with Adam. Acting is not something I'm looking to do but if y'all are looking for a 7-foot villain ..."

Garnett was happy to play the role of bad guy while being named nine time All-Defensive First Team.

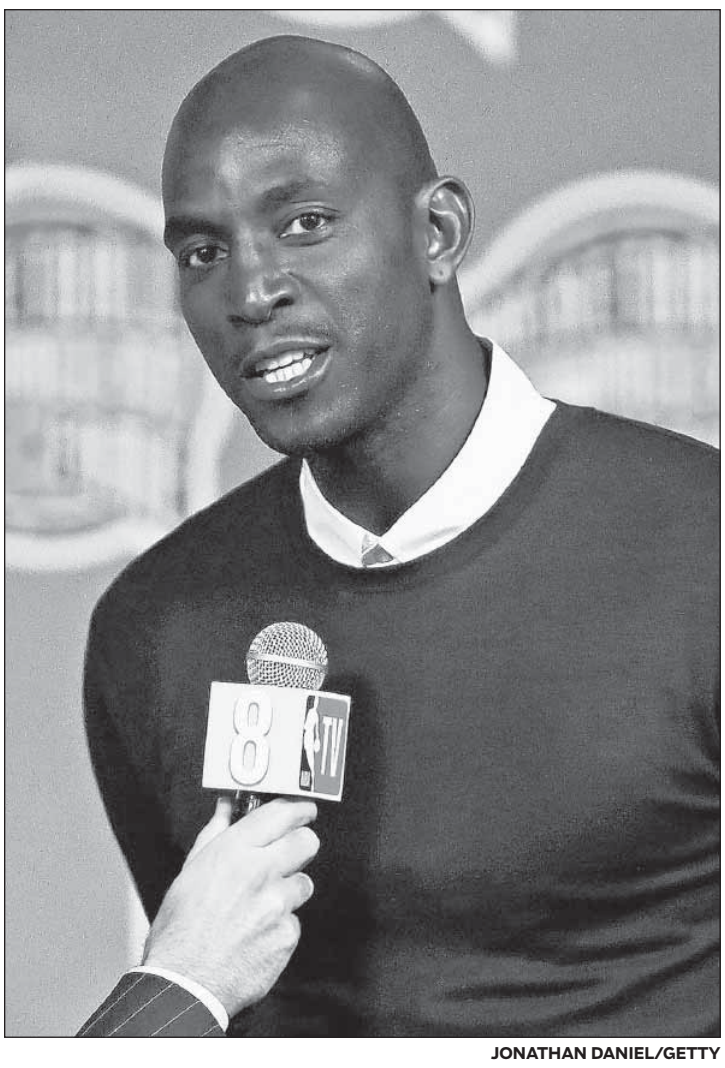
"I didn't want to be cool on the court: *Hey, what's up? You cool, dog?*" he said. "Nah. I wanted you to feel this smoke. I wanted you to be nervous, sweating. When I'm off the court I'm a whole different person.

"Pat Riley stayed in my head, and I played off that. When I watch film of myself, I was such an angry kid. But it was really coffee. Coffee made me a wild animal."

Now you sense Garnett needs no java to be intense. And thoughtful. And funny.

Showtime execs hope those qualities come across in the doc about his life, career and legacy.

"We're gonna build something here, put some dope product out," he said. "And we're gonna present it to the world."



JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY

Retired NBA star Kevin Garnett talks about being named a finalist for the 2020 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on Friday.



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Isiah Thomas hugs Miles Bridges after Bridges was awarded the MVP trophy after the Rising Stars game.

ALL-STAR GAME NOTES

Trophy named in Kobe's honor

BY DEANTAE PRINCE, JAMAL COLLIER, TEDDY GREENSTEIN

Kobe Bryant owned All-Star Weekend throughout his 20-year NBA career with the Lakers, first as a brash 18-year-old winning the 1997 Slam Dunk contest and later as a grizzled veteran reasserting his dominion in the league.

The numbers support that claim. Bryant played in 18 All-Star games and won the MVP award four times — both records.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver on Saturday announced that the All-Star Game MVP trophy has been named in honor of Bryant, who died at 41 in a January helicopter crash in Southern California.

"We were thinking about what the best way is, one of the ways to honor Kobe," Silver said at the United Center before All-Star Saturday Night. "I think one of the things that stands out with Kobe, of course in addition to his five championships, is that he has the all-time record of 18 consecutive All-Stars and tied for the record of four MVPs. So we were thinking, what is something special we could do at All-Star that had more permanence than changing the numbers on the jerseys? ...

"To all of us, it seemed like the appropriate way to bring honor to him."

The trophy's official name is the NBA All-Star Game Kobe Bryant MVP Award.

The news was part of a larger tribute to Bryant and former NBA Commissioner David Stern, who died at 77 on Jan. 1 after suffering a brain hemorrhage. Bryant and Stern were present for every All-Star Game from 1984-2016. (The 1999 game was canceled because of a lockout.)



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver talks about the newly named NBA All Star Game Kobe Bryant MVP Award.

Young at heart: Almost immediately upon arriving at the House of Hoops highlight camp Saturday afternoon, Bulls guard Coby White became a kid again.

He sat on the baseline with a basketball and began talking to one of the kids attending the camp. He challenged another to see if he could score a basket on him, and when he was successful, the rest of the camp, about 100 10- to 13-year-olds from the city, worked themselves into a frenzy.

"I don't think us as NBA players sometimes realize how much of an impact we have on kids," White said at the Robert Clemente Academy. "I probably made some of these kids' year just by seeing me and me being just who I am. I'm in the league, but I still act like a kid. I am a kid. I still like to have fun, so I'm out here clowning and jumping around playing with them."

Although the Bulls were largely absent from the premier events during NBA All-Star Weekend, aside from Zach LaVine's participation in the 3-Point Contest, several players still stuck around for the weekend to host events around the city, including White, who called his Saturday morning the most fun he had all weekend.

"I wanted to give the kids something, something I didn't have growing up," White, 19, said. "When they first see you, they're shy and kind of star struck. But once they realize, you're like them, but just a little but older, I think they all just open up."

No hard feelings: Don't include Jimmy Butler among those crushing #GarPax.

Asked Saturday whether he's surprised the Bulls rebuild is taking so long, Butler replied: "I don't know. Is that the goal or point of a rebuild? I would think so.

"I have faith in management here. I think they have to know what they're doing. I think their decision (to trade me) was right for them. I'll continue to wish them the best. They have some really great, young talent. They'll figure it out. They've got nothing but time."

The Bulls drafted Butler with the 30th pick in 2011, and he rewarded them with three All-Star seasons.

They traded him to the Timberwolves in 2017 for Zach LaVine, Kris Dunn and the rights to Lauri Markkanen. Butler is now thriving with the Heat (35-19), while the Bulls (19-36) have lost six straight. Some fans are calling for the firing of executives John Paxson and Gar Forman.

Late Friday: The Rising Stars game served as the official tipoff to All-Star Weekend, and the game was filled with highlight-reel moments between the best first- and second-year players, both domestic and international.

The best moments started at halftime, however, when Hornets guard Miles Bridges sent out a tweet from the locker room, with a man sitting up in his seat at attention with two words "alright bet."

Bridges then proceeded to put on a show during a 13-point third quarter, which included an emphatic ally-oop dunk to himself off the backboard, to help lead Team USA to a 151-131 victory over Team World. Bridges was named MVP of the game after scoring 20 points with five rebounds and five assists.

NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND

Turning back the clock



BOB LANGER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A who's who of stars and future Hall of Famers battled in the 1988 NBA All-Star Game at Chicago Stadium.

By Phil Thompson | Chicago Tribune

The 1988 All-Star Weekend holds a special place in NBA history. Bulls great Michael Jordan won the Slam Dunk contest and All-Star Game MVP, and if that didn't constitute his coming-out party, it at least served as one of his career highlights and the cherry on top of his first NBA MVP season. That year's All-Star Game was special for a variety of reasons, particularly for those players who were voted for the honor. Here are 10 facts and recollections about the 1988 midseason showcase.

1. Isiah Thomas was booed during player introductions — but try telling that to Thomas.

Native Chicagoan or not, Thomas wore the enemy uniform of the Pistons, the fierce and physical rival of the Bulls in the late 1980s and early '90s.

And there was the rumored conspiracy of the 1985 All-Star Game "freeze-out" of Michael Jordan — allegedly led by Thomas — to humiliate the cocky rookie. Thomas has since flatly denied the rumor, but it certainly played a role in his reception at Chicago Stadium in 1988.

However, when asked about the catcalls this week, Thomas told the Tribune: "Only thing I recall is family and friends, and that's what I remember."

2. 'It was cold in Chicago that weekend. Really cold.'

That was former Hawks coach Mike Fratello's recollection when he arrived to coach the Eastern Conference team.

Fratello isn't in town as Chicago hosts All-Star Weekend for the first time in 32 years. He's coaching Team USA in preparation for the FIBA AmeriCup qualifying opener against Puerto Rico in Washington. He's missing out on this week's snow and freezing temperatures, though it "heats" up to a high of 37 degrees and a low of 31 on Sunday. The 1988 All-Star Weekend was no day at the beach, dipping to minus-2.

3. Larry Bird flashed some legendary humor.

Mike Fratello said the Eastern Conference players, including Bird, Michael Jordan, Isiah Thomas, Moses Malone and Dominique Wilkins, all agreed to hold practice, which wasn't a given at All-Star Games.

"Magic (Johnson) and Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar) were setting pick-and-roll screens," Fratello said. "I remember how we were (going over) how we were going to defend that and play that, so we went over all of that stuff."

They also did shooting drills, not that Bird needed the extra work.

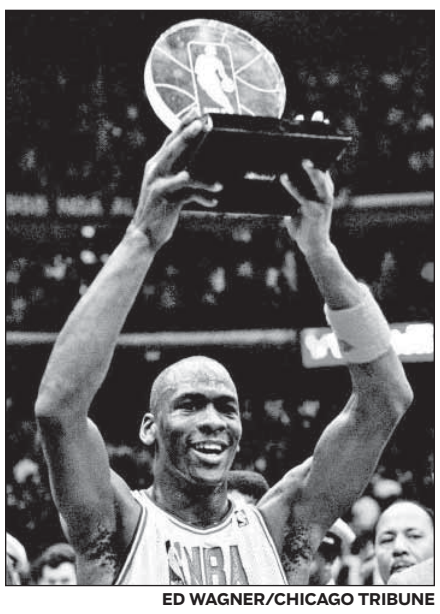
But after Bird rallied to win the 3-Point Contest on a buzzer-beater, Fratello recalled how Bird walked past him and quipped: "I guess it must have been the shooting drills."

4. NBA rivalries were fierce, but players kept it classy at All-Star Weekend.

The 1980s and '90s were marked by fierce rivalries between teams and individuals, but heated exchanges during the season didn't cross over into the All-Star Game, at least according to Isiah Thomas.

"You never got into any of that," he said. "I guess all of us really took our cues early on when we made the All-Star team from Larry Bird and Julius Erving. If you can remember Dr. J and Bird, they would fight like cats and dogs, but then when the All-Star Game came around and they were walking to the locker room, it was all about East as a team versus the West as a team.

"Those rivalries during the course of a season, they honestly never came into play. You never really thought about it. I think we all took cues from Philadelphia and Boston, who were great rivals and the biggest rivalry in the league at that time."



ED WAGNER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Michael Jordan hoists the All-Star MVP trophy at Chicago Stadium in 1988.

5. Michael Jordan led the voting.

Fans put up a then-record 3.35 million votes, topping the previous year's record of 3.2 million.

It's probably no surprise around these parts, but Jordan led all players with 1,121,285 votes, followed by the Lakers' Magic Johnson with 1,022,112.

Jordan's performance that weekend, of course, was legendary. In addition to winning the dunk contest with an iconic jam from the free-throw line, Jordan put up a whopping 40 points in the game, leading all scorers.

6. The late Charlie Murphy might appreciate Dominique Wilkins' true Hollywood stories.

These days it seems you can't have an All-Star event without an actor, singer or comedian taking center stage as the pregame or halftime act or filling some other official capacity. In 1988, celebrities occupied less oxygen at the event, but they certainly had a presence.

"I will tell you we had a lot of celebrities sitting in the audience," Wilkins said. "We had quite a few, from the Will Smiths to the Jack Nicholsons. ... We had a celebrity row there."

Wilkins said plenty of singers and actors were in his orbit in those days, so he wasn't starstruck. It's the adage: Entertainers want to be athletes and athletes want to be entertainers, he said.

"We all knew each other," Wilkins said. "I knew Eddie Murphy and Prince, all of us (were) friends in those days.

"I knew Prince for many years. The Jackson family, I was close to Jermaine. We even had business things together early in my career. It was a rapport."

7. The NBA was not on TNT — yet.

Turner Network Television didn't launch until October 1988. But TNT's sister channel, TBS, aired the three Saturday All-Star competitions in a three-hour special for just the second time. CBS broadcast the All-Star Game live that Sunday.

This weekend, the Celebrity Game airs Friday on ESPN, and NBA TV broadcasts Saturday morning's practice. TNT has Friday's Rising Stars game, All-Star Saturday Night and Sunday's All-Star Game.

8. Corporate branding paled by today's measure.

For the 2020 event, the league has 10 marketing partners — even the Celebrity Game (Ruffles) and All-Star MVP (Kia) are sponsored.

Add in current and retired players' partnerships — 2K, Beats by Dre and Mountain Dew are among the 12 major partners — and you have brand ambassadors at various league and private events tied to All-Star Weekend.

Back in 1988, there were just four brands that involved All-Star events — and the All-Star Game wasn't one of them: Gatorade sponsored the Slam Dunk contest, Schick the NBA Legends Game, Miller Lite the All-Star balloting and American Airlines and Sheraton the Long Distance Shootout (now named the 3-Point Contest).

"The game has evolved into a media bonanza and branding phenomenon," Dominique Wilkins said. "I wish we had it, to tell you the truth."

9. Mike Fratello and the Hawks coaching staff came close to missing the game.

Fratello and the Celtics' K.C. Jones were in a race to the wire to represent the East, and it came down to one weekend.

"It's one of the greatest weekends of my life, the fact that our team needed a little bit of help to make it from a coaching standpoint," Fratello said. "We had to win that game going into the cutoff date. Boston had to beat Cleveland (for the Celtics staff to go). ... If that happened, I wouldn't have become the All-Star coach based on record."

But the Cavaliers upset the Celtics 119-100 on Jan. 23.

The next day, the host Hawks took care of business against the Nets, who had been winless on the road, to ensure their coaching staff's trip to Chicago.

It was "kind of like a reality check — like, wow, this is really happening," Fratello said.

He added that he appreciated having his family with him in Chicago.

It was a chance for the late Vince Fratello, a New York Golden Gloves middleweight boxer known as "The Hackensack Hurricane," to see his son in action.

"My father sitting right there next to me during the interviews and all that stuff ... I know how proud he was," Fratello said.

10. Maurice Cheeks took a back seat.

Cheeks was one of four Chicago-area natives, along with Isiah Thomas, Mark Aguirre and Doc Rivers, who played in the 1988 All-Star Game, but Cheeks wasn't looking for the spotlight, according to East coach Mike Fratello.

Fratello said Cheeks recognized the coach had to perform a juggling act to give stars such as Michael Jordan, Dominique Wilkins and Larry Bird enough time to shine.

"I remember Maurice coming up to me and saying, 'Coach, don't worry about me and minutes. I got a bad back,' or whatever it was," Fratello said.

Cheeks played a scoreless four minutes and had two rebounds and one assist.

Wilkins amused by 1988 Slam Dunk conspiracy theories

By Phil Thompson

Count Dominique Wilkins among the fans disappointed that Bulls guard Zach LaVine won't be participating in Saturday's Slam Dunk contest at the United Center.

"I thought LaVine and (Magic forward Aaron) Gordon brought the dunk contest back in Toronto" in 2016, said Wilkins, a co-star with Michael Jordan in 1988 in what is regarded as the greatest showdown in dunk contest history. "What a beautiful contest and show that they put on. I enjoyed it.

"It would be great to see that type of dunk again in Chicago this weekend."

But Wilkins said he understands why LaVine, the Slam Dunk winner in 2015 and '16, opted not to compete for a third time, citing the demands on players' time during All-Star Weekend. LaVine is scheduled to participate in the 3-Point Contest instead Saturday night.

"Gordon is definitely going to be one of the favorites to win that (dunk contest), but don't look past that kid (Derrick) Jones out of Miami," Wilkins said. "Oh, man, he's a high flyer. He'll get off the floor."

Bucks guard Pat Connaughton and Lakers center Dwight Howard will join Gordon and Jones in the Slam Dunk field.

Wilkins lamented that many of the NBA's top players avoid the contest, though he acknowledged the pressure to invent ever more creative dunks.

"This is the thing," Wilkins said, "it's nothing you do differently, you just put some flair on the same dunks. That's all. ... When I see guys do my windmill, they put their own style on it. It's all about being a showman."

It's for that reason the former Hawks star doesn't begrudge losing to Jordan in 1988 at Chicago Stadium, a classic showdown that remains the subject of debate.

"No matter what, the fans got their money's worth," Wilkins said. "It was all about laying it on the line. We went at it step for step."

Wilkins said his favorite part of the '88 contest was the buildup to it. He won the first matchup in 1985 in Indianapolis, and each player missed one of the next two contests because of injuries — Jordan in 1986 and Wilkins in '87.

This time Jordan was on his home floor.

"It was electric," Wilkins said. "I know he felt it, too, because we brought out the best in each other.

"Michael, man, was a mother. That's how I'm going to put it. He was nothing short of amazing the way he performed."

Despite their resumes, Wilkins insists neither player had an inkling what the other had in store with each successive dunk.

"People don't believe (us) when we tell them, Mike and I have never worked on our dunks before the contest," Wilkins said. "All the dunks we did were game-time dunks. We didn't have to go practice. It was stuff we were already doing in games."

Greg Anderson, Clyde Drexler, the late Jerome Kersey, Otis Smith and Spud Webb also competed that year, "but we knew we (were) going to be in the finals," Wilkins said. "It made for, in my opinion, the greatest dunk contest ever. The fact we're still talking about it 32 years later, that tells you in itself what it was."

Part of the mystique is the controversial final round, in which Wilkins received a score of 45 for his final dunk, a two-handed windmill jam. Wilkins needed a 48 to clinch victory.

Even Jordan at the time said: "I was shocked. I would have given him a 49 or a 50."

Jordan declined to comment this week through a spokesman.

For Jordan's final attempt, he followed Julius Erving's advice and executed the now-iconic free-throw-line dunk that got a perfect score of 50 for the win.

The five-man panel consisted of former Bears running back Gale Sayers, former NBA players Gail Goodrich, Johnny Green and Randy Smith and Dodgers vice president Tom Hawkins.

Since then, fans have invented a variety of explanations and conspiracy theories, questioning everything from the judges' impartiality to the coin flip that forced Wilkins to go first.

It all amuses the "Human Highlight Film."

"It's just crazy the things people come up and reason why and who did this and why they did the structure this way," Wilkins said with a laugh. "It's so many things. At the end of day, it was going to happen the way it happened, with two guys laying it all out on the line, giving the best that they had and entertaining the crowd."

Former Hawks coach Mike Fratello, who coached the Eastern Conference All-Star team in '88, said he can't be unbiased when it comes to this debate.

"When it's that close, who am I to say?" he told the Tribune this month. "I've heard the barbershop arguments, the barroom discussions of, 'Well, 'Nique really won that,' or ' 'Nique got cheated.' That's somebody who's a 'Nique fan versus somebody who's an MJ fan.

"It was a pretty damn good competition that day."

And it's one that, despite losing to his rival, Wilkins cherishes as much as any moment in his career.

"We are forever joined at the hip because of that contest," he said.

WHITE SOX

WHITE SOX TAKEAWAYS

Anderson says Sox have a new vibe

By LaMond Pope

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Here are three takeaways from White Sox spring training Saturday.

1. Andrew Vaughn is soaking up all spring training has to offer.

Last year at this time, Andrew Vaughn was playing college baseball at California.

This spring the first baseman is participating in White Sox camp as a nonroster invitee.

"It's kind of weird," Vaughn said Saturday. "Last night I was watching Cal play on the live stream and I was like, 'I was just doing that.' And now I'm fortunate enough to be in big-league camp. I couldn't be more humbled."

The Sox selected Vaughn with the third pick in the 2019 draft. The 21-year-old is the No. 16 prospect in baseball, according to MLB Pipeline.

Vaughn slashed .278/.384/.449 with six home runs and 36 RBIs in 55 games at three minor-league stops last year.

His first hit after his promotion to high-A Winston-Salem was a home run.

"That was pretty special," Vaughn said of the home run. "The first hit, that was pretty cool."

Vaughn picked up a lot of lessons during those 55 games.

"I learned (to) take care of your body, get in the weight room and learn how to pace yourself," Vaughn said. "It's a marathon, not a sprint. There are a lot of games."

Vaughn has used the early portions of spring training to get into a good routine.

"Getting in early, getting my work in, getting in the gym, getting in the cage," Vaughn said. "Just getting it all done."

His goals for the spring?

"I want to go out and be the best I can be," Vaughn said. "Whenever my name gets called upon to play, I'm going to go do my best and just soak it in and enjoy it."

2. Tim Anderson notices a 'winning vibe' in the clubhouse.

Shortstop Tim Anderson made huge strides at the plate in 2019, winning the major-league batting title with a .335 average.

With all the moves the Sox made in the offseason, he's thrilled about the possibility of the team making a leap in 2020.

"I was excited," Anderson said when asked about the team's acquisitions. "That let me know that we were ready to take that next step, and I've been ready since I stepped into that locker room. So I was excited when we signed some more guys."

It's reflective of the vibe he senses in the clubhouse.

"I get a winning vibe, all positive and winning vibes," Anderson said. "Everybody knows what we are here to do. We are here to win a championship. ...

"Everybody is on that vibe."

3. Yasmani Grandal's communication skills were on display with Michael Kopech.

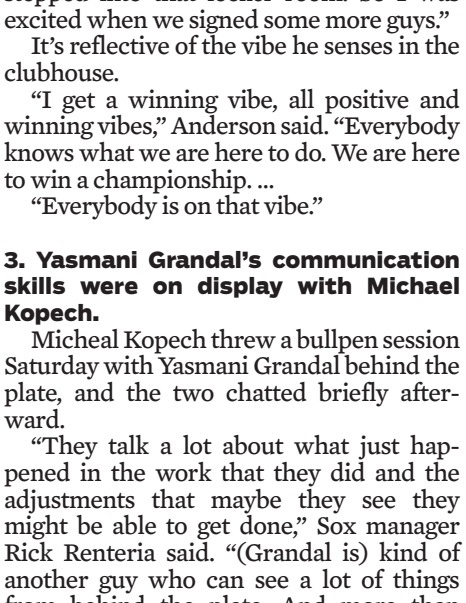
Micheal Kopech threw a bullpen session Saturday with Yasmani Grandal behind the plate, and the two chatted briefly afterward.

"They talk a lot about what just happened in the work that they did and the adjustments that maybe they see they might be able to get done," Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "(Grandal is) kind of another guy who can see a lot of things from behind the plate. And more than anything, becoming more familiar with the personalities.

"You can see (Kopech), the ball coming out of his hand really good (Saturday). You could also see him getting himself frustrated when he missed a location or something, which is natural. (He's) very competitive. They're just starting to get a feel for each other, and it's pretty nice to see."

Renteria likes how Kopech is progressing. The right-hander missed all last season recovering from Tommy John surgery.

"He looks like he's understanding a lot more about who he is," Renteria said. "I think he's understanding also there's a controlled aggression you can take when you're doing your work. And it's evident in his work. He's growing up, he's learning. He's going to be really good."



GREGORY BULL/AP

White Sox manager Rick Renteria smiles during a spring-training workout Saturday in Glendale, Ariz.



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Former Brewers pitcher Gio Gonzalez is happy to return to team that drafted him.

Back where it all began

Gonzalez hoping to bring success, stability to White Sox rotation

"It was nice to see the team that drafted me wanted me back."

—White Sox pitcher Gio Gonzalez about returning to the Sox

By LaMond Pope

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Gio Gonzalez never has pitched for the White Sox.

But he's very familiar with the organization.

The Sox drafted Gonzalez in the first round with the No. 38 pick in 2004. And they traded him twice as a prospect.

First, he was sent with Aaron Rowand and Daniel Haigwood to the Phillies for Jim Thome late in 2005.

A year later the Sox acquired Gonzalez and Gavin Floyd from the Phillies for Freddy Garcia. And on Jan. 3, 2008, the Sox dealt Gonzalez, Ryan Sweeney and Fautino De Los Santos to the Athletics for Nick Swisher.

And he's back again after signing a one-year, $5 million contract in December.

"We joke about it," Gonzalez said Saturday. "I told (executive vice president Ken Williams), 'What, you guys didn't want me at 20 years old?' "

Perhaps the Sox would have held on to Gonzalez had then known the left-hander would go on to post a 130-99 record with a 3.68 ERA in 332 appearances (324 starts) in 12 seasons with the Athletics (2008-11), Nationals (2012-18) and Brewers (2018-19).

Gonzalez is a two-time All-Star (2011-12) and finished third in National League Cy Young voting in 2012 and sixth in 2017.

He said the pursuit of a postseason berth was a reason he signed with the Sox. Another was catcher Yasmani Grandal, a Brewers teammate last season who signed a free-agent deal with the Sox in November.

They paired up in 16 games in 2019, and Gonzalez had a 3.73 ERA over 70 innings in those outings.

"Any time you can compete for a playoff berth is something very appealing to any players," Gonzalez said. "... Yasmani made a very appealing case for me to come over here. I love the way he worked in Milwaukee. I thought he caught great games. It was good to see him establish this organization, plus it was nice to see the team that drafted me wanted me back. ...

"As the days went by after the signing — (adding Dallas) Keuchel, (Edwin) Encarnacion — a lot of names and even in-house guys that they signed (such as Luis Robert). That was very appealing to come over here. It seems like they want to do magic this year and for years to come. ... The buzz is in the locker room. We are excited."

The Sox value Gonzalez's veteran presence.

"He's had a lot of success over his career," Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "That in and of itself brings a little bit of calm. Even when you're talking to him, (he's) very low-key. You get a sense that he's very, very comfortable in his own skin, and that's what happens when you've been in the big leagues the number of years that he has and having success.

"He's able to exude that. And then subtle conversations that he can have with everybody, there's a lot that he can bring to the table."

Gonzalez has been slowed this spring because of left shoulder soreness but is "feeling really great." General manager Rick Hahn said Wednesday that Gonzalez "won't participate in the first week of spring games, but we anticipate him being ready to go when the bell rings come the end of March."

Gonzalez missed some time last season because of left arm fatigue — he was on the injured list from June 1-July 20.

"That was because Milwaukee wanted to take their time with me," Gonzalez said. "But I was ready to go. The second half I felt stronger, I was throwing harder and finished strong."

He did, compiling a a 1.17 ERA in 23 innings in September and helping the Brewers earn an NL wild-card spot.

He wasn't too worried when the shoulder soreness popped up recently.

"I told them right away: 'Listen, this is something I think is minor,' " Gonzalez said. "I didn't get to throw as much as I wanted to. And once things started popping up, I said 'let me address this, tell them (it's) something minor.'

"I feel good. I'm already throwing. (Sunday) we start a little longer and then we hit the long toss. It's good progress."

CUBS

CUBS TAKEAWAYS

Kipnis no longer has to hate 'Go, Cubs, Go'

By Mark Gonzales

MESA, Ariz. — Here are three takeaways from Cubs spring training Saturday:

1. Jason Kipnis doesn't have to hate 'Go, Cubs, Go' now.

Jason Kipnis admitted the experience of joining the Cubs was a little bittersweet — he grew up about 20 miles from Wrigley Field and then fell short of beating them in Game 7 of the 2016 World Series.

"But now I don't have to hate the 'Go, Cubs, Go' song," Kipnis quipped Saturday after nine seasons with the Indians. "I don't have to cringe at looking at all these championship banners. It's fun. It's really exciting to be on this side. I'm going to enjoy it."

Despite hitting 70 home runs in the last four seasons and earning two American League All-Star selections, the left-handed-hitting Kipnis settled for a minor-league contract that will pay him $1 million if he makes the major-league roster.

"I'm about to be 33, and in this game apparently that's very old," said Kipnis, who earned $14.5 million last season. "I have to weigh in winning, and this was one of the better teams."

Kipnis said he contacted Anthony Rizzo to ask why the Cubs fell short of expectations in 2019.

"He said maybe they didn't do the best job of rebounding right away, brushing off some losses or put emphasis on all the games," Kipnis said. "I think he knew it right away, so I didn't have to say anything. They got a good core here. I'm well aware of that. They're well aware of it too.

"I think these guys don't know how many years they have together. There's always trades and other stuff that plays into that, but I think they want to take advantage of the time they have together, and I think they're looking to get this thing going."

Kipnis attended both Cubs and White Sox games as a kid, but his family and friends were delighted he signed with the Cubs.

"I've got to earn a spot," he said. "Nothing is given to me. It's an invite with a chance to play, and I've got to seize that opportunity and I'm looking to come it."

2. Kris Bryant will likely play multiple positions again.

Cubs manager David Ross has been extremely reluctant to discuss specifics of his roster, rotation or batting order.

But he couldn't avoid responding to an inquiry about whether he will employ Kris Bryant at various positions, as predecessor Joe Maddon did for five seasons.

"We're just letting him come in and take batting practice," Ross said a few hours after Bryant arrived at spring training. KB is very valuable because he can move around for our team, yes. He's definitely valuable to us in that way."

Bryant played third base, first base, left field and right field last season and has played every position in his major-league career but catcher, second base and pitcher.

3. David Ross is still working on his message to the team.

David Ross says he'll end up devoting a large chunk of his time to Cubs pitchers and catchers.

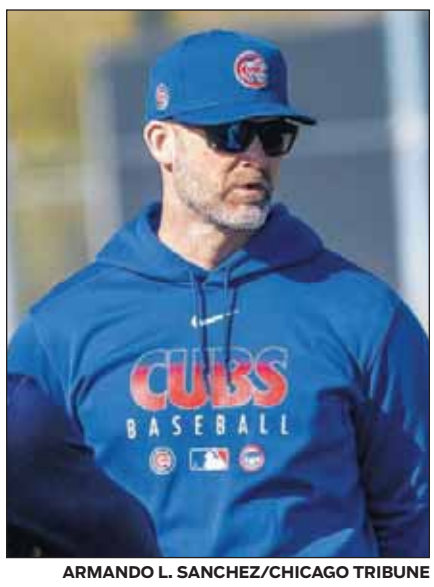
"I wasn't a great hitter," he quipped. "I also don't want to step on anyone's toes."

Ross will convey his thoughts to his coaching staff, but only to make sure the message is consistent.

"I don't think I'll be talking to Willson (Contreras) about his (pitch) framing," Ross said. "That's Craig Driver's job."

He has been involved early at spring training, hitting grounders to infielders and assisting in flip drills.

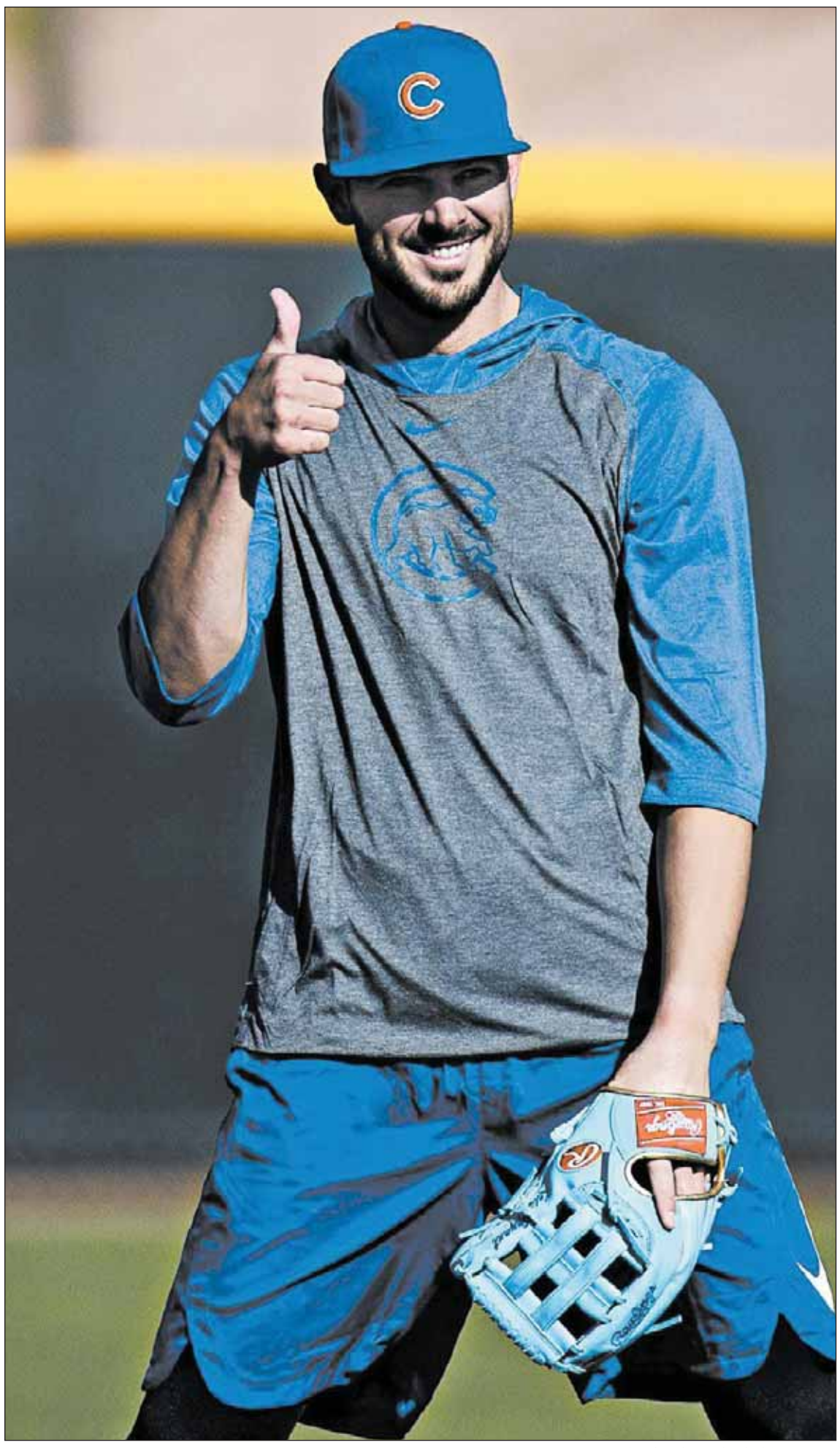
"Somebody has to do it," Ross said. "I got no ego here. I don't mind being the bucket boy. It's all right. I'm about W's. If someone needs balls to be fed to him, I'll do that too. If someone needs a ball on the tee, I can do that as well."



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

David Ross walks near a practice field during spring training on Saturday in Mesa, Ariz.

CUBS



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cubs infielder Kris Bryant smiles during spring training at Sloan Park on Saturday in Mesa, Ariz.

His kind of town

Bryant sets record straight on desire to stay with Cubs

By Mark Gonzales

MESA, Ariz. — A candid Kris Bryant admitted to being somewhat surprised about returning to the Cubs but stressed his desire to stay in Chicago after losing his service-time grievance while also correcting false reports about contract offers and blasting the Astros for their sign-stealing scandal.

During an expansive news conference Saturday that lasted nearly 36 minutes, Bryant elaborated on many topics, including his impending fatherhood and potential free agency after 2021.

"There were trade rumors last offseason, too, and going through that I understand this part of the process as you get closer to free agency and everything's up in the air," Bryant said two days before the Cubs' first full-squad workout.

"I understand it, and I just really try my best to tune it out. It's really hard."

Trading Bryant, 28, the 2015 National League Rookie of the Year and 2016 NL Most Valuable Player, might become more of a reality with two seasons left before free agency and the Cubs facing the possibility of paying a competitive-balance tax for the second consecutive season.

Bryant, who will earn $18.6 million this season, concurred with a team source's contention last winter that he was never offered an extension worth more than $200 million, adding he hasn't looked at social media much except when friends send him screenshots about rumors.

"I love everybody here," Bryant said." I love the city. It's just part of the game to people. It's just talk. Whether it's true or not, we're just chucking darts at a wall, and maybe something sticks."

Bryant emphasized he has no hard feelings toward the Cubs after alleging the start of his service time was manipulated in 2015 so that he wouldn't become a free agent until after 2021.

He said he filed the grievance through the Major League Baseball Players Association as a matter of principle, adding: "My mom and dad always told me to stand up for what I believe in, and I was going to see the process through."



"There's definitely no hard feelings, so let's definitely put that that narrative to bed."

—Kris Bryant on losing his grievance with the Cubs over service time

"There's definitely no hard feelings, so let's definitely put that that narrative to bed," said Bryant, who added he didn't flip over tables after the ruling.

"I just saw this as a process that is eventually going to help the players in the next round of negotiating, and I was going to be that guy to have the courage to do it. I know there's going be backlash for it, and I understand it."

The grievance was filed in October but wasn't decided until late January. That surprised Bryant, who thought a decision would arrive in a few weeks.

"That took forever," he said. "Obviously I knew (winning the hearing) was an uphill battle."

Potential trade partners for Bryant appear to be dwindling. The Phillies are near the luxury-tax threshold ($205 million, according to rosterresource.com), as are the Anthony Rendon-less Nationals ($197 million).

The Rangers, who have been frequent trade partners with the Cubs over the last several seasons, have the financial flexibility but not the young, impact pitching the Cubs would seek in return.

That leaves the Rockies ($179 million) and disgruntled All-Star third baseman Nolan Arenado, who will earn $35 million in the second year of his eight-year, $260 million contract that includes an opt-out clause after 2021.

A source confirmed that the Cubs inquired earlier this month about the Rockies' young pitchers before the Arenado spat, but any deal might need to include several players to alleviate salary-tax concerns for the Cubs.

Team President Theo Epstein has stressed there are no "untouchables" on the Cubs roster, but Bryant wouldn't mind being "in the loop a little bit" about his future.

"I feel like I've earned a little respect here," Bryant said. "It's just how I go about my business and just who I am as a player and a person to kind of sit down and have talks like that."

Bryant was even more candid about the Astros' sign-stealing tactics and said players should have been penalized for their involvement.

"What a disgrace, just watching their apology (Friday)," Bryant said. "There's no sincerity, no genuineness when it comes to it. I certainly know that if I messed up big in that way, I'd be the first one to let you know just how big of a mess of it was."

Bryant believes the tactics went back further than the 2017 season and thinks the Astros used buzzers inside their jerseys to indicate which pitches were being thrown.

"If they didn't get caught, they'd still be doing it," he said. "They're only doing this apology because they got caught, and that's it."

Bryant even went as far to suggest Astros batters would be thrown at intentionally.

"If teams are going about it the right way, you know if you do get hit and you're not going after people's heads and stuff like that, I think they're definitely going to experience some of that this year," Bryant said.

Lester aware of all the doubters

Cubs vet determined to rebound from 1 of his roughest seasons

By Mark Gonzales

MESA, Ariz. — Jon Lester threw his first effective changeup of 2020 during a news conference while discussing his new arrangement with catcher-turned-manager David Ross.

"I don't know if you guys know this, but he took me out of games plenty of times," Lester deadpanned. "So, this won't be anything new."

The preferred scenario for Lester, Ross and the Cubs, however, would be Ross delivering a pat on the back instead of Lester handing him a baseball after a rough outing.

With one guaranteed year left on his contract, Lester, 36, is determined to rebound from one of his roughest seasons in an otherwise dependable 14-year career.

Lester remains one of the best free-agent signings of President Theo Epstein's regime, but part of their legacies are at stake as the Cubs try to remain competitive with the chore of upgrading their uncertain future drawing near.

The 6-foot-4 left-hander reported to spring training noticeably leaner, and that can only help him avoid some of the nagging injuries that have affected his performance during the last two seasons. In 2019 he was limited to 171⅔ innings — his fewest in any full season.

Since signing a six-year, $155 million contract in December 2014 that helped transform the Cubs into a perennial playoff contender, Lester admits he's had to rely more on sharpness and smarts due to a dip in velocity.

That has become more evident after last season, when he allowed 101 runs and a National League-most 205 hits. A left hamstring injury suffered while running to home plate on April 8 sidelined him for 2½ weeks and ended any realistic chance of achieving his annual goal of throwing 200 innings.

"I've been doubted before," Lester said. "I don't really care. I know what the effort and the preparation that I put in every five days. I know that at 36, I'm not 26 anymore. I know that I have a lot of miles on my body and arm, but at the same time I feel like I can still bring a lot to this team.

"I think I've proven a lot of people wrong throughout my career. I've been there plenty of times, and I'm excited for this year.

Part of the optimism involves an array of changes, including increasing his leg strength, tweaking some pitching tendencies to and playing for Ross, Lester's former teammate who takes over for Joe Maddon, who helped spark the Cubs' renaissance with Lester.

"Contracts expire, we all become at some point free agents, and sometimes we need a different scenery," said Lester, who needs to pitch 200 innings to have his 2021 option for $25 million automatically vest. "Sometimes we need a different voice. It can be a lot of things. You hear about players that get traded, and they come over to a new team. And it's like, 'I just needed someplace new,' or they signed a free-agent deal and say, 'I just needed someplace new.'

"I think it benefits all of us; I think it benefited Joe kind of coming full circle with his career, going back to (the Angels). He's going to do phenomenal for them. It would be nice to (face) them in the World Series. But sometimes you need a new voice.

"Sometimes it doesn't matter who the voice is. You just don't perform. And I think sometimes managers get too much of the blame for us not performing."

Lester accepted his share of blame, as he finished with a 4.46 ERA, his highest since a 4.82 mark in 2012 with the Red Sox.

"Sometimes I could be a little more hardheaded when it comes to what made me successful and what makes me successful, and I think I got away from some of that last year and put me behind the 8-ball," Lester said.

Lester concurred with catcher Willson Contreras' observation that the shape of Lester's pitches can accurately dictate his performance. Opponents batted .294 against Lester in 2019, including a .319 mark by left-handed hitters.

"I'm just not a spin-rate guy, so through that side of it I don't think benefits me," said Lester, who did say the high-speed cameras that break down release points have helped him make some adjustments on occasion.

One indicator that seems to show how Lester will perform is the sharpness of his signature cutter.

The pitch was in vintage form during a three-game stretch shortly after Lester returned from the injured list when he allowed no earned runs in 19⅔ innings in wins against the Mariners, Marlins and Brewers from May 1-12.

Lester hopes that form returns more often in 2020.

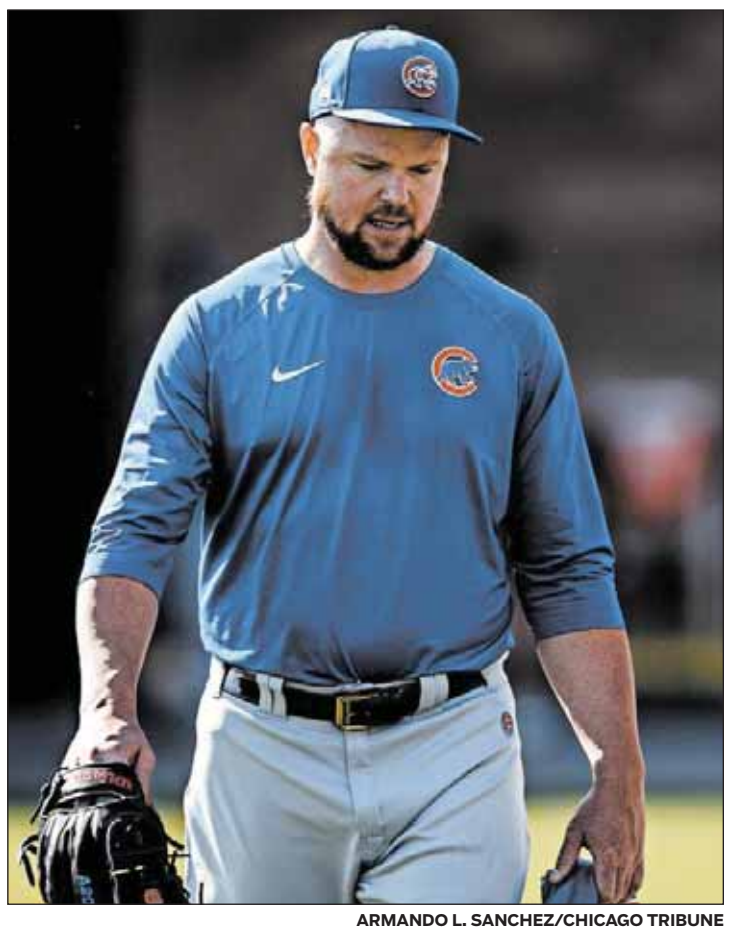
"I feel like I'm in a good place mechanically, and that's kind of one of my checkpoints that we figured out last year that we tweaked and got me kind of back on track for that," Lester said. "It's about angles, it's about how the pitches are coming out of my hand, where it's coming out of my hand, and so forth. So, there's a lot of little minor things in there that have to go right to make pitches and execute and get guys out."

Ross maintains that Lester still possesses "front-of-the-rotation" potential. And Lester admits it's "weird" that Ross, his teammate for 4½ seasons, is his manager.

"But he's my boss," said Lester, who has been known to display his displeasure after being pulled from games.

"When he decides that the game's over for me, the game's over. Now I have had times where I've gone in to talk to Joe or Tito (Terry Francona) or John Farrell. I'm sure we're going to have times where I come in and talk to David, but I've never disrespected my manager, and I hope people understand that. I'm a competitor.

"I definitely don't want to come out of games. At the end of the day I can look myself in the mirror and usually 10 out of 10 times say, 'OK, I should have come out of that game,' regardless of my emotions."



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cubs starting pitcher Jon Lester walks on a practice field during spring training at Sloan Park on Saturday in Mesa, Ariz.

BASEBALL

Sullivan

Continued from **Page 1**

doesn't factor into the budget yet.

"The new TV deal, at least for the first few years, means the exact same thing for us as the old deal," he said.

Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts also told Sports Business Journal last fall that the Wrigley Field renovation was costlier than expected, and "we probably missed our budget by 100%." That's around $500 million that could have been spent on retaining players had they managed the budget properly.

So Epstein's task, if he accepts it, is to figure out a way to pay Bryant and Baez and still have enough left for the rest while staying under the luxury-tax threshold. Both players could command more than $300 million as free agents after the 2021 season.

Bryant said he was most disappointed that some believe the Cubs should trade him now because he "doesn't want to be here in two years" and that he turned down a "monster extension well north of $200 million."

That rumor stemmed from a report by NBC Sports Chicago's David Kaplan, the radio host and former pre- and postgame host on Cubs telecasts.

"I'm like, 'Well, where was that? I never saw that,'" Bryant said. "It's just these rumors and sources and people just saying things. The only thing that matters is what comes from my mouth. And never once have I said I never wanted to play here. ... We have it so good here. Of course I'd love to play here."

The Cubs paid more than $7 million in penalties after exceeding the $206 million tax threshold last year and made no major acquisitions in the offseason while trying to stay under the $208 million threshold for 2020. Epstein won't discuss payroll matters but said Tuesday that they've been open about the budget and the "ramifications" of going over the luxury-tax threshold.

"I think all we're trying to do is position ourselves the best we possibly can with the resources we have for now and the future, try to sustain as much success as possible," Epstein said.

That's why Bryant's name has come up all winter in trade speculation, though Epstein only has threatened to make moves so far.

"I'll be honest, it wasn't as much turnover as we expected," Epstein said. "All along we weren't going to force change. We were seeking it in certain areas. ... But I feel like any time you go out there and say we need to accomplish changes for changes' sake, you probably make bad deals and make a tricky situation worse."

The Dodgers, meanwhile, pulled off a deal to insert superstar outfielder Mookie Betts into an already potent lineup. Bryant said the Dodgers "are doing all they can to win. They really want to win, and that's admirable."

So are the Cubs doing all they can to win?

Bryant paused for nine seconds before answering. It was the pause heard 'round Wrigleyville.

"Ummmm ... well, we really didn't do much," he said.

Bryant added he still "believes in this team."

"Of course we would've liked to have added people, but I don't know who we would've added."

The always helpful media chimed in with some suggestions.

Gerrit Cole?

"A little expensive," Bryant said.

Re-sign Nicholas Castellanos?

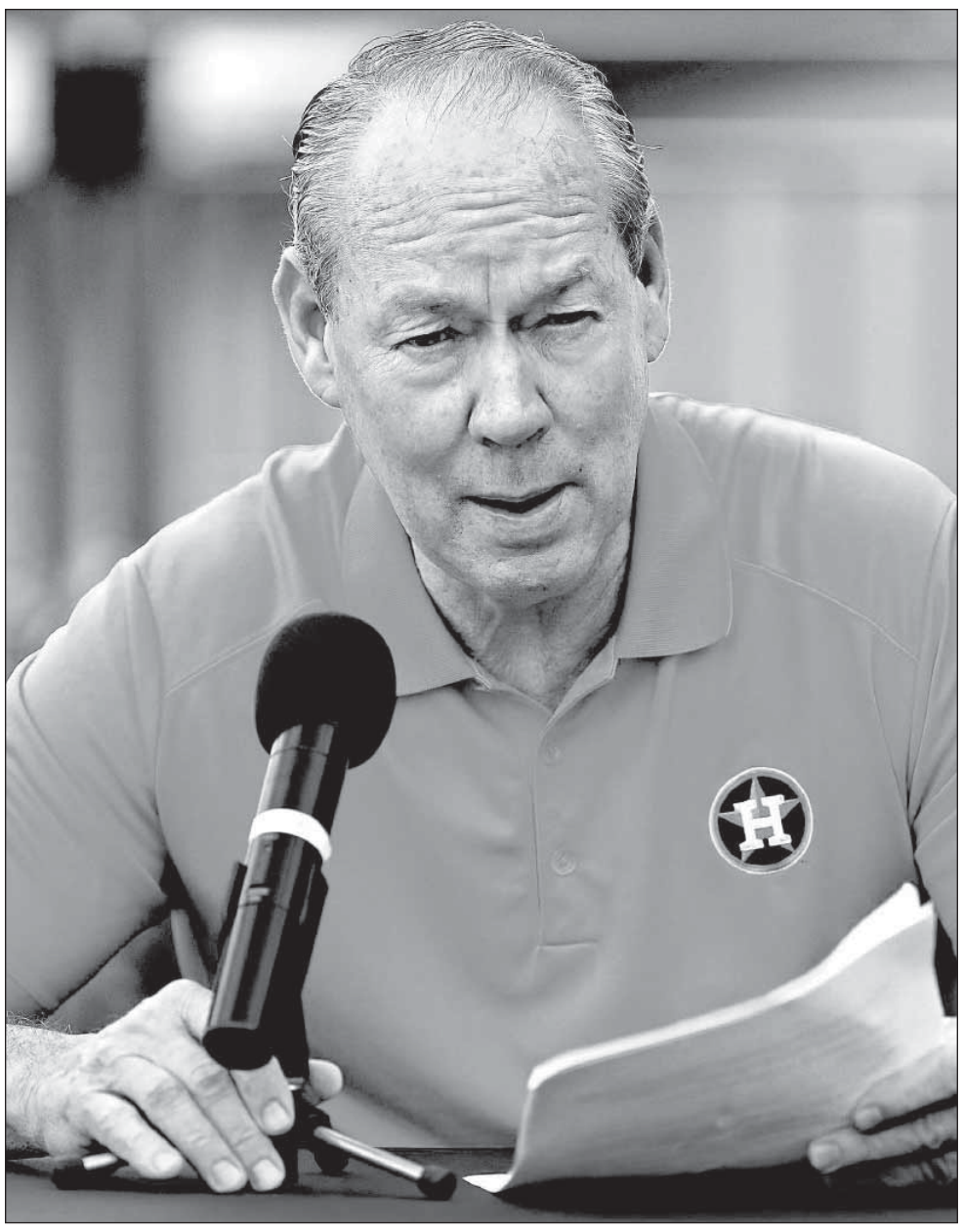
"Certainly I would've loved to see Nick (stay)," Bryant said. "He's a good player."

The bottom line is Bryant wants to stick around and doesn't want trade talk to become a distraction this season. So why not have agent Scott Boras call up Epstein and get something done?

"Like I've said ever since the very beginning, I'm always open to (an extension)," he said. "I'm always here to talk. It's fun to talk about stuff like that because it's a city I love so much, people I love so much — fans, teammates, everybody here that I'm so comfortable with.

"It's like, of course you want to be here. But I don't hold those cards. I just play third base and left field and right field and center field and first base and do what I do."

To our readers: *Beginning today, you will find the Tribune's In the Wake of the News banner flying over Paul Sullivan's columns. Sullivan joins a list of Chicago's great journalists in becoming the 18th sports columnist to hold the distinguished title in the newspaper's 172-year history. Sullivan joined the Tribune in 1981 and six years later began covering the Cubs, White Sox and Major League Baseball. He will continue to focus on baseball in his columns. He was named Illinois Sportswriter of the Year in 2019 by the National Sports Media Association and one of the nation's 10 best columnists in 2018 by the Associated Press Sports Editors.*



MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY

Astros owner Jim Crane reads a prepared statement at a news conference on Thursday.

A sorry situation

Sign-stealing Astros to be branded around the league as villains for life



PAUL SULLIVAN

GLENDALE, Ariz. — It was a sordid affair that shocked the baseball world, a story of "deceit, dissembling and conspiracy," according to one players union official.

The integrity of the game was at stake, and an investigation was launched to get to the bottom of things.

When all was said and done, the co-conspirators were deemed guilty, severe penalties were dished out and the game moved on.

But unlike the Astros sign-stealing scandal, no public apologies were issued back in 1988, when Commissioner Peter Ueberroth, 26 MLB owners — including Tribune Co., then owner of the Cubs, and White Sox Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf — and other baseball executives were found guilty of colluding to suppress player salaries.

The owners had been caught red-handed for the second consecutive offseason, conspiring to avoid bidding on a group of 79 free agents after the 1986 season, including future Hall of Famers Tim Raines, Andre Dawson and Jack Morris.

Not only did they not learn their lesson after the first collusion case stemming from the 1985-86 offseason, they basically doubled down.

"What transpired in 1986 occurred because everyone 'understood' what was to be done," arbitrator George Nicolau wrote in an 81-page opinion. "By common consent, exclusive negotiating rights were, in effect, ceded to former clubs. There was no vestige of a free market, as that term is commonly understood. The object was to force players back to their former clubs, and the expectation was that all would go back in a replication of 1985, requiring nothing more to be done."

Nicolau, who died last month at 94, also found that Reinsdorf, then-Brewers owner Bud Selig and American League President Bobby Brown called Phillies President Bill Giles to ask him not to sign Tigers free-agent catcher Lance Parrish. (Parrish did sign with the Phillies in March 1987.)

In essence, the owners believed keeping salaries down and retaining more of the revenues was more important than trying to win a World Series.

They cheated their own fans and left a black mark on the game. But because it occurred before the internet age, they weren't forced to admit to their crimes or issue statements of remorse.

The collusion scandal comes up whenever the free-agent market is proceeding slowly, but it mostly has been forgotten.

The Astros cheating scandal, on the other hand, is not going away anytime soon.

In fact it has virtually hijacked the first week of spring training. Players and management in all 30 camps have been asked to comment on the results of Commissioner Rob Manfred's investigation or react to the Astros' apologies.

"I thought the apologies were whatever," Dodgers star Cody Bellinger said Friday. "I thought (Astros owner) Jim Crane's was weak. I thought Manfred's punishment was weak, giving them immunity. Those guys were cheating for three years. What people don't realize is (Jose) Altuve stole an MVP from (Aaron) Judge in '17. Everyone knows they stole the ring from us. But it's over."

Sorry, Cody. It ain't over till it's over.

Astros players got off scot-free after the MLB investigation declared the team guilty of an elaborate scheme to decode catchers' signs and relay them to hitters. Though the scheme was "player-driven," according to the investigation, they were granted immunity to speak openly to investigators.

The only individuals who were still with the Astros who were punished were general manager Jeff Luhnow and manager AJ Hinch, both of whom were suspended for the entire 2020 season and fired later that day by Crane. The Red Sox fired manager Alex Cora, who was the Astros bench coach in 2017, and former Astros player Carlos Beltran, the alleged ringleader of the scheme, was fired from his new position as Mets manager.

When the Astros opened camp Thursday in West Palm Beach, Fla., the media appropriately swarmed, forcing many finally to answer for their crimes. Crane showed how clueless he was by insisting the sign-stealing scheme "didn't impact the game," only to say a minute later, "I didn't say it didn't impact the game."

Some players' apologies were deemed insufficient when their remarks were relayed on Twitter, ensuring the controversy would grow. Former Astros pitcher Dallas Keuchel, now with the White Sox, was one of the first players to apologize publicly, though he added a caveat: that the only difference between the 2017 Astros and other teams is the Astros were busted.

So should everyone else step up and apologize?

"I'm just one dude," Keuchel said Thursday at Camelback Ranch. "I guess it's ultimately up to the individual. We're always going to be World Series champs because we were talented and, to me, we earned the right to be World Series champs. Just because stuff came out about the 2017 Astros doesn't mean other teams weren't doing illegal stuff. It just means that we were the ones that were caught.

"I'm not here to really dig into anything that happened. Ultimately it's up to the individual to show remorse or try to move on. I chose the remorse route because, hey, personally, I felt like that was what was owed. I owed it to my family and that's how I was raised."

Apologies are a tricky thing. They can come from the heart and show real remorse, or they can be forced and sound disingenuous, as Altuve's did Thursday.

Former NFL wide receiver Antonio Brown is taking an apology tour on social media for his rampant misbehavior, telling the Hollywood, Fla., police, the NFL and Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger he's so, so sorry. Does anyone really believe Brown, or is he just trying to get back into the NFL?

Former Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa has steadfastly refused to apologize for his alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs, making him *persona non grata* at Wrigley Field.

Juiced-up slugger Barry Bonds, on the other hand, is embraced by fans in San Francisco and the Giants organization in spite of his alleged cheating.

Just last week, former Indiana basketball coach Bob Knight was welcomed back to a game at Assembly Hall, where he received a standing ovation and a whitewash of his past misdeeds. I don't remember Knight apologizing for choking a player or any of his other unacceptable behavior, though I do recall him discussing his firing by IU officials with ESPN and his classless comment: "I hope they're all dead."

As for the Astros, all the apologies in the world probably won't mean anything to their peers. They're America's Villains for life.

We don't know how their 2020 season will play out, but we can be pretty sure they'll lead the league in being hit by pitches.

MLB

Baker calls for MLB to take action

News services

Dusty Baker wants action from Major League Baseball: End the criticism of the Astros from across baseball over sign stealing, and take steps to ensure pitchers don't throw at his players.

"It's not good for the game, it's not good for kids to see it, so I think both," the new Astros manager said Saturday in West Palm Beach, Florida. "Stop the comments and also stop something before it happens."

Baker spoke in response to a wave of harsh comments during spring training about the Astros' use of video to steal signs in 2017 and 2018. Dodgers 1B Cody Bellinger said Friday the Astros "stole" the 2017 World Series title from them and adds that Jose Altuve did likewise with the MVP, denying the Yankees' Aaron Judge.

Astros players, management and ownership spent the first day of camp apologizing for their actions and professing remorse. But many players and front offices around the league didn't feel they went far enough.

Nationals GM Mike Rizzo said he wanted to hear the Astros use the word "cheated" when addressing the situation.

"I'm depending on the league to try to put a stop to the seemingly premeditated retaliation that I'm hearing about," Baker said. "In most instances in life you get kind of reprimanded for when you have premeditated anything."

Dodgers P Ross Stripling indicated he might intentionally throw at Astros batters.

"We don't start nothing," Baker said. "This is kind of the slogan of my team: We don't start anything — not intentionally. Guys are going to be getting hit intentionally and unintentionally. If you say you are going to drill somebody and all of the sudden you drill them, you can't say, 'I wasn't trying to hit them,' you know what I mean?"

Astros ace Justin Verlander expects the commissioner's office to severely punish retaliation.

"The game has changed," Verlander said. "I think the commissioner has made it very clear in the past few seasons that throwing a baseball at somebody intentionally isn't an appropriate form of retaliation in the game any longer."

Verlander also said it is "wrong" to speculate that the Astros — specifically Altuve — used buzzers as part of the sign stealing.

"We were successful in the World Series last year. All that stuff about buzzers and all that stuff is simply not true," he said. "People can speculate all they want. We dug our grave. We're in it. I think emphatically everybody made it very clear that that wasn't true."

OF George Springer declined to speak with the media Saturday. Altuve was not in the clubhouse during the time it was open to the media but through a spokesman also declined to comment on Bellinger's remarks.

However, SS Carlos Correa addressed criticism that the team has endured and spoke about Bellinger's comments.

"I have no problem when people talk about what happened during the regular season in 2017. You know, whatever people have to say, we've got to take that on the chin. Guys, it was wrong. It was wrong and we've got to own that and we've got to take that," Correa told MLB.com.

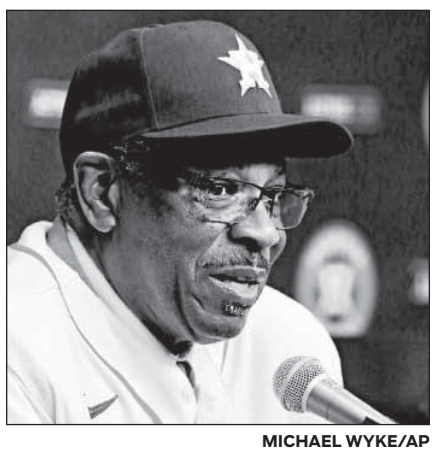
"But when you stand in front of the camera and you don't know the facts, you don't know what happened and you're not informed and you try to rip one of my teammates like that, when you don't know."

Verlander is concerned about the respect the Astros have lost around the league. However, he expects more revelations about sign stealing by other teams to emerge.

"Yeah, it bothers me," he said. "But like I said, (Bellinger's) entitled and everybody else is entitled to their own opinion. I think facts are still coming out, information's still coming out, and I don't think this is going to be something that's done — not even for us. There's going to be information that's going to continue coming out for a long time."

Could the Dodgers be one of those teams?

"I don't want to insinuate about other organizations," Verlander said. "The other day we apologized about what we did."



MICHAEL WYKE/AP

Manager Dusty Baker is calling for an end to criticism of the Astros.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Illinois guards Alan Griffin (0) and Andres Feliz (10) react in the final minute against Rutgers on Saturday.

RUTGERS 72, ILLINOIS 57

No Ayo, uh-oh

Illinois suffers offensive outage without star guard

By Shannon Ryan

Illinois' hot streak seems ages ago.

After winning seven straight games, the Illini have lost four in a row against one of the toughest parts of their schedule. Saturday's 72-57 loss at Rutgers highlighted their rough patch.

The No. 22 Illini (16-9, 8-6 Big Ten), playing without injured guard Ayo Dosunmu, shot only 31.1%, including only 28.6% on 3-pointers, in Piscataway, N.J., where the Scarlet Knights (18-8, 9-6) have not lost at home all season.

The Illini went from tied for first place in the Big Ten two weeks ago to tied for fifth in the logjam that is the middle of the conference standings.

Here are three takeaways from Illinois' loss.

1. Illinois' short-handedness wasn't its only problem.

Dosunmu traveled to Rutgers but was in his Illini warmups and wasn't available to play.

Illinois fans sighed with relief when it was announced he hadn't torn a ligament in his left knee after an awkward fall at the final buzzer in Tuesday's one-point loss to Michigan State in Champaign. But the reality of playing without Dosunmu as he recovers is tough.

He is often the player who can spark a run or close games with a clutch shot.

Illinois appeared to be losing stream throughout the game. The offense looked lifeless without Dosunmu.

In Dosunmu's place Illinois started Andres Feliz, who finished with 10 points, five rebounds and four assists in his typical bulldog fashion.

But without Feliz as a spark off the bench, Illinois had little help from its reserves aside from Giorgi Bezhanishvili.

Tevian Jones shot 2 of 8 from the field, missing 5 of 7 3-pointers, for six points in a season-high 20 minutes.

Starting guard Trent Frazier shot only 2 of 13, missing all but one of his nine 3-point attempts. The Illini often go as Frazier goes.

"We can't shoot it like we shot it there tonight," coach Brad Underwood told reporters after the game.

Dosunmu's injury is listed as day-to-day.

"We're not going to rush anything," Underwood said.

2. Giorgi Bezhanishvili responded well to his bench role.

For the first time in his Illini career, the sophomore forward came off the bench.

He had struggled mightily lately, especially during the previous two games when he shot 2 of 11 and occasionally appeared frustrated.

Bezhanishvili looked more comfortable Saturday and handled the demotion well.

He scored six points with seven rebounds, his most boards since grabbing eight against Michigan on Dec. 11.

He had nine turnovers in the previous three games but turned it over only once against Rutgers in 23 minutes.

Alan Griffin started in Bezhanishvili's place to give the Illini a four-guard lineup around center Kofi Cockburn, who had 10 points and 10 rebounds. Griffin's strong play needs to continue if the Illini are to turn things around.

Starting in place of Bezhanishvili, Griffin scored a team-high 14 points, shooting 3 of 6 on 3-pointers and making all five free throws. He added six rebounds in 35 minutes.

3. The Illini have another tough game up next.

The Illini play at No. 13 Penn State on Tuesday.

Dosunmu's return is unknown. The offense has looked weak. And the Nittany Lions are tough.

They've won eight in a row and sit only a game behind first-place Maryland.

The Illini struggled with Rutgers' Ron Harper Jr., who dominated with 27 points, making all five of his 3-point shots.

Expect an even more intimidating challenge against Lamar Stevens.

The senior forward averages 17.5 points and 6.8 rebounds per game. He's coming off a 23-point performance Saturday against Northwestern.

PENN STATE 77, NORTHWESTERN 61

Wildcats drop to 1-13 in Big Ten

Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State coach Patrick Chambers has watched his teams cough up enough leads late to know this squad is different.

The No. 13 Nittany Lions are hanging on and closing games out.

Lamar Stevens scored 23 points to lead Penn State over Northwestern 77-61 on Saturday.

Myles Dread scored 16 and Jamari Wheeler and Mike Watkins added 11 apiece for the Nittany Lions, who led for all but 6 minutes, 29 seconds to win their eighth straight. They arrived at 20 wins sooner than any other season in program history.

"We've been talking about moments since the beginning of the season and this is another moment for us," Chambers said. "You can celebrate after the season. Right now, we're trying to do something special. Something Penn State's never done before."

Boo Buie and Pete Nance had 12 points, Pat Spencer scored 11 and Miller Kopp had 10 for the Wildcats (6-18, 1-13 Big Ten), who lost their ninth in a row.

The Nittany Lions (20-5, 10-4) led 42-28 at halftime and by as many as 18 midway through the second half before the Wildcats clawed back.

Aided by a 17-6 run midway through the second half, Northwestern cut Penn State's lead to seven with 5:16 left. But Dread drained a 3-pointer to help put the game out of reach and the Nittany Lions finished on a 10-4 run.

"Give credit to their guys who were able to hit some good shots when we put some pressure on them," Northwestern coach Chris Collins said. "We had some opportunities in the paint that we couldn't finish."

The Wildcats had a good start. Kopp got the them started with a 3-pointer that quickly turned into an 11-9 lead for Northwestern. It didn't last long.

Penn State extended its lead with back-to-back 3-pointers from Dread and Wheeler that sparked a 22-6 run, including a 10-0 stretch, that put Penn State up 35-19.

BEARS

A 17-game season is NFL's hot topic

How can it happen — and what's the next step?



Dan Wiederer
On the Bears

After a long training camp practice last summer, Bears defensive lineman Akiem Hicks took a few minutes to consider an extension to the NFL regular season. At that time, chatter around the league centered around a possible 18-game schedule with the idea of adding games seeming more and more like a when, not if, situation.

And while Hicks vowed to be open-minded about whatever was ahead, he also emphasized that any decision to lengthen the season needed to be thoroughly analyzed under the appropriate microscope.

"Whatever is smart for the player," Hicks said. "That's where I come at this from. Look, this is the product, right? The players. We're the product. With what we're putting out on the field, you want guys to feel healthy. You want guys to be fast, to hit hard. You want all those things out of the game. And if going to a longer regular season doesn't benefit that, then maybe we shouldn't do it.

"But if that can be maintained through the entirety of the season, then it's worth considering. Still, I always say you want to retain the game itself. And if the essence of the game doesn't stay the same, then what's the point? You're just putting stuff on TV."

Teammate Allen Robinson expressed his concerns about the physical toll of a longer schedule.

Said the receiver: "As everybody knows, the 16-game season is already grueling enough on the body. Especially when you have those guys who are on the (roster) bubble and they're playing four preseason games and then 16 regular-season games and then sometimes going into the playoffs. ... It becomes a long year. From that perspective, adding games would be tough."

Tough, to be certain. But adding games also has become a priority for the league.

Discussions about an increase to the regular season remain on the front burner as negotiations of a new collective bargaining agreement intensify. The current CBA — agreed upon at the end of a 4½-month lockout in 2011 — won't expire until after next season. But the league and the NFL Players Association would love to hammer out a new 10-year CBA by the middle of next month, if possible, ahead of March 18, which marks the beginning of the new league year.

In the middle of that back-and-forth are the continued discussions surrounding a 17-game regular season. So what would that look like? Right now, the questions seem abundant.

For one thing, how would schedule makers handle each team having an uneven number of games? Will there be another big push by the league to add neutral-site games in international venues or even domestically?

How would the new scheduling formula determine each team's opponents for a 17-game schedule? And if a 17-game slate gets the green light soon, would a push to increase to 18 games be close behind?

Most important, from the NFLPA's standpoint, the league will have to assuage the growing anxiety surrounding player-safety concerns with more games requiring players to assume greater risk to their bodies and their physical and mental well-being.

Last summer Hicks noted how the league's expanded Thursday night package successfully provided more football for the consumer, more money for the league and another night for America to indulge in its football obsession. But that also came at the expense of players, who dread the abbreviated turnaround for those games and stress that their bodies aren't capable of delivering the best possible show on Thursdays.

"That has always been a tough transition," Hicks said. "Just naturally you don't have the full time to heal up. You haven't recovered."

Cornerback Richard Sherman of the 49ers, who also serves on the NFLPA executive committee, has been among the most vocal critics of a possible 17-game schedule. At the Super Bowl a few weeks ago, Sherman vocalized the resistance of the players union to be tempted purely by the monetary advantages that a longer schedule would provide. Obviously the financial perks from increased television revenue would become a major selling point by the league. And by extension, the promise of larger contracts would prove enticing to players. But Sherman doesn't want his on-field colleagues to overlook the health sacrifices they would be agreeing to.

"It's always odd when you hear player safety is (the NFL's) biggest concern," Sherman said. "They're really standing up for player safety, player safety, player safety. But it seems like player safety has a price tag. (It's) player safety up to the point of 'Hey, 17 games makes us this much money. So we really don't care how safe they are if you're going to pay us this much money to play another game.'

"That's the point that's really concerning for us as a union and us as players. They think players have a price tag on their health, and I don't think we're in the same ballpark in that regard. Players have become more aware of player safety and longevity and just life after football."

Almost certainly, under any schedule-expansion proposal, the union will insist on expanded rosters to lessen the physical demands on players. Multiple bye weeks for each team also would become a possibility, providing another week of rest for players and another week of lucrative programming for the league.

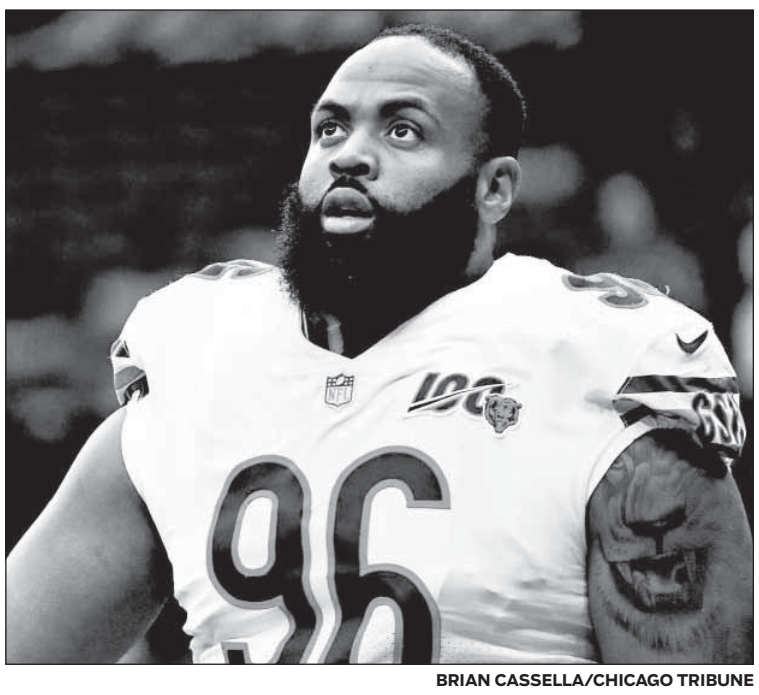
A push to reduce the preseason could heat up. Additional suggestions to eliminate the mandatory seven-player game-day inactive list might merit further consideration as well.

Still, even as players press the league for more safety-related initiatives, a simultaneous push for a greater share of revenue is ongoing. And that revenue pot would naturally grow with the addition of a 17th game.

In July, at a 100th-season promotional event in Decatur, Ill., Bears Chairman George McCaskey was asked if he was in favor of expanding the regular season and stressed that his top concern would be for player health and safety.

"We'd have to see what the proposal amounts to and what it would detail," McCaskey said then. "And we're waiting for more information from the league. ... I'd be interested to see what the particulars would look like."

Those particulars are starting to emerge. NFL owners and players face a challenging negotiating process. Yet the prospect of a 17th game — and perhaps eventually an 18th — still seems like a when, not if, scenario. The realistic vantage point now might center around finding the proper compromise to make that setup work for all parties.



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Of the NFL adding games to its schedule, Bears defensive lineman Akiem Hicks says: "Whatever is smart for the player."

SPORTS

GOLF

Leaderboard at Riviera tightens up

McIlroy, Kuchar, Scott share lead; 16 others have a shot

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Put together the best field of the year on a course players regard as one of the ultimate tests, and the result is a final round at Riviera loaded with possibilities.

Rory McIlroy kept patient through some missed opportunities by making enough birdies for a 3-under 68. Adam Scott, motivated to get a victory at Riviera that the PGA Tour counts, rolled in a 10-foot birdie putt on the final hole Saturday for a 67. Matt Kuchar recovered from three bogeys in a four-hole stretch to make one last birdie for a 70.

They were tied for the lead at the Genesis Invitational.

Within striking distance was Dustin Johnson, who overwhelmed Riviera in 2017 for a five-shot victory that could have been more, finished birdie-eagle-par for a 67 and was two shots behind.

Sixteen players were separated by four shots with 18 holes to play.

"I think you just have to worry about yourself, concentrate on what you're doing, do it well, set yourself a target, don't think about anyone else," McIlroy said. "And you know, if that's good enough at the end of the day, then great. If not, then someone just played better than you and hats off to them."

McIlroy returned to No. 1 in the world this week and is playing as though he plans to stay there. This was his 17th time in his last 18 rounds on the PGA Tour that he shot in the 60s dating to his victory in the Tour Championship.

Kuchar has led since a 64 in the opening round, and now he shares it with McIlroy and Scott, two players who have won majors and reached No. 1 in the world.

They were at 10-under 203.

Missing from the mix was Tiger Woods, who went the other direction, and quickly. He shot 41 on the back nine and held it steady from there for a 76 to wind up 15 shots behind.

"Well, that was a lot of shots and it was a long day," Woods said.

Scott won at Riviera in 2005 and has the trophy to show for it, just not a spot in the PGA Tour record book. The tournament was shortened to 36 holes by rain, and it was deemed unofficial.

This is his first competition in some two months, dating to his victory in the Australian PGA Championship three days before Christmas.

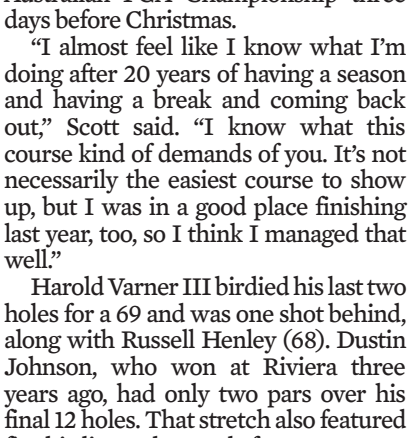
"I almost feel like I know what I'm doing after 20 years of having a season and having a break and coming back out," Scott said. "I know what this course kind of demands of you. It's not necessarily the easiest course to show up, but I was in a good place finishing last year, too, so I think I managed that well."

Harold Varner III birdied his last two holes for a 69 and was one shot behind, along with Russell Henley (68). Dustin Johnson, who won at Riviera three years ago, had only two pars over his final 12 holes. That stretch also featured five birdies and an eagle for a 67. He was two shots behind, along with Joel Dahmen (66).

Still in the mix was Hideki Matsuyama, who bogeyed his last hole Friday and was the last player to make the cut. Matsuyama played in the final group off the back nine, away from all the attention, and posted a 64. He was four shots behind and very much in the picture.

Woods will have to wait another year to win at Riviera, another week to seek his record 83rd victory on the PGA Tour. In a spot where he couldn't afford to drop shots, he made more mistakes than he had all week, especially on the greens. He four-putted from 18 feet on No. 13, his second four-putt in as many tournaments this year and the first times since 1998 that Woods had multiple tournaments with a four-putt. He three-putted the 17th for par. He finished with a three-putt bogey from about 12 feet on the 18th.

It added up to a 76, leaving him at the bottom of the pack. It was his highest score since he opened with an 81 at Royal Portrush in the British Open last summer, and the first time since the PGA Championship in May that Woods had consecutive rounds over par.



CHRIS TROTMAN/GETTY

Rory McIlroy is in a three-way tie atop the Riviera leaderboard.



JARED C. TILTON/GETTY

DAYTONA 500

Who wants it most?

No driver or carmaker seems to have an edge going into 'The Great American Race'

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The first four events leading into the Daytona 500 have produced four different winners. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. put his new team on the pole, while Erik Jones outlasted a crash-fest to win a qualifying race. Joey Logano and William Byron won the qualifying races.

No clear favorite has emerged for "The Great American Race." No single manufacturer has a demonstrated edge going into NASCAR's version of the Super Bowl. It was a Toyota 1-2-3 sweep for Joe Gibbs Racing last year, in part because of mandated manufacturer alliances for drivers to work together, but there's so far been little indication the race will play out the same way Sunday.

Instead, this is a wide-open field of 40 drivers and all believe they have a shot at the life-changing victory and the record $23.6 million that will be divvied by among the drivers. And why not? The unpredictability of Daytona allowed Justin Haley to gamble on rain strategy last July and shock the field with a win in his third and final start of the season.

Now Haley is back at Daytona for his debut in the Daytona 500, just one of a handful of drivers in a watered-down field that includes six Cup Series rookies, a 10-year veteran who had failed to qualify for the race in his only other previous attempt and a slew of others chasing the payout that can extend the season for any fledgling team.

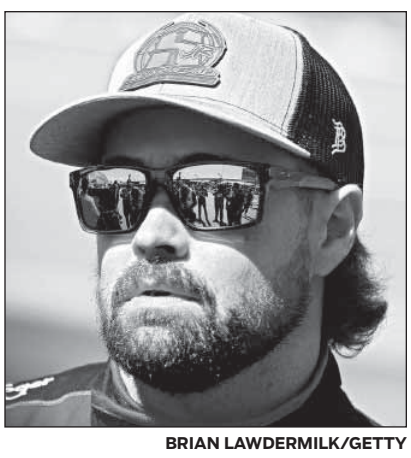
Timmy Hill raced his way into Sunday's field in a qualifying race and said his Daytona 500 debut will keep tiny MBM Motorsports in business for the foreseeable future. More important? Hill thinks he's got a chance to be competitive Sunday.

"My car is very capable of running competitively in this race," Hill said. "I feel like we're not just here to participate, we're here to race."

But no one knows what that racing will look like when the flag drops on the 62nd running after President Donald Trump, named the grand marshal for the race, gives the command for drivers to start their engines. The exhibition Busch Clash was a demolition derby as drivers shook off the offseason rust and adjusted to NASCAR's new rules package.

The superspeedway rules implemented last season put a taller spoiler on the cars and made for unpredictable closing rates — and they were not used in the Daytona 500. Teams raced the package twice at Talladega, and in the July race at Daytona that was shortened 82 miles by rain. Moments before the sky opened, former Daytona 500 winner Austin Dillon wrecked the favorites with an aggressive move as the leader.

The Busch Clash last weekend was similar as Logano threw a block on reigning series champion Kyle Busch that caused a wreck that collected Logano teammate Brad Keselowski. Angry words were exchanged, cars destroyed and only six drivers were running at the end. Keselowski and Logano are downplaying any feud, but blocking is a legitimate concern for Sunday.



BRIAN LAWDERMILK/GETTY

For just the third time in his career Ricky Stenhouse Jr. will be on the pole, this time at Sunday's Daytona 500.

"At the end of the day, you block because it works. It works until it doesn't," Clint Bowyer said. "That's successful until it's not, and then you're the bad guy. You've wrecked the whole field because it was an untimely block, and you wrecked everybody, but if you didn't, you should have and you're going to lose the race.

"So it's a tricky thing to judge. It puts you on the spot. And it's do or die, and it's a decision that has to be made that fast."

Kevin Harvick, the 2008 Daytona 500 winner, thinks smart racing will be critical Sunday with drivers having to ignore the way they've previously raced the speedway.

"I think survival will be more talked about this year than any year in the past," Harvick said. "We have all been programmed to block and do things with the old package for so many years, and this is not the old package. The runs are happening faster."

Two-time and defending race winner Denny Hamlin is the William Hill betting favorite at 10-1 and his Toyota has indeed been good every time he's hit the track. And even after he suffered extensive damage in the Clash, he was still able to push teammate Jones to the victory.

The Daytona 500 has not had a back-to-back winner since Sterling Marlin in 1994 and 1995, and he's one of only three drivers to accomplish the feat.

Gragson wins first Xfinity race: Noah Gragson won his first career Xfinity Series race when Saturday's opener was stopped on the final lap by a crash well behind the winning JR Motorsports Chevrolet.

Gragson and Chase Briscoe swapped the lead in the closing three-lap sprint to the finish, but NASCAR threw the yellow-flag for a multi-car crash on the final lap.

THE LINEUP

Daytona International Speedway (2.5-mile track)

ROW 1
47 Ricky Stenhouse Jr. *Chevrolet* — 88 Alex Bowman *Chevrolet*

ROW 2
22 Joey Logano *Ford* — 24 William Byron *Chevrolet*

ROW 3
10 Aric Almirola *Ford* — 48 Jimmie Johnson *Chevrolet*

ROW 4
6 Ryan Newman *Ford* — 42 Kyle Larson *Chevrolet*

ROW 5
2 Brad Keselowski *Ford* — 4 Kevin Harvick *Ford*

ROW 6
43 Bubba Wallace *Chevrolet* — 41 Cole Custer *Ford*

ROW 7
3 Austin Dillon *Chevrolet* — 20 Erik Jones *Toyota*

ROW 8
19 Martin Truex Jr. *Toyota* — 21 Matt DiBenedetto *Ford*

ROW 9
95 Christopher Bell *Toyota* — 1 Kurt Busch *Chevrolet*

ROW 10
17 Chris Buescher *Ford* — 77 Ross Chastain *Chevrolet*

ROW 11
11 Denny Hamlin *Toyota* — 8 Tyler Reddick *Chevrolet*

ROW 12
38 John Hunter Nemechek *Ford* — 13 Ty Dillon *Chevrolet*

ROW 13
9 Chase Elliott *Chevrolet* — 34 Michael McDowell *Ford*

ROW 14
12 Ryan Blaney *Ford* — 18 Kyle Busch *Toyota*

ROW 15
14 Clint Bowyer *Ford* — 36 David Ragan *Ford*

ROW 16
37 Ryan Preece *Chevrolet* — 66 Timmy Hill *Ford*

ROW 17
16 Justin Haley *Chevrolet* — 15 Brennan Poole *Chevrolet*

ROW 18
00 Quin Houff *Chevrolet* — 32 Corey LaJoie *Ford*

ROW 19
51 Joey Gase *Chevrolet* — 52 BJ McLeod *Ford*

ROW 20
62 Brendan Gaughan *Chevrolet* — 27 Reed Sorenson *Chevrolet*

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	40	15	.727	—
Boston	38	16	.704	1½
Philadelphia	34	21	.618	6
Brooklyn	25	28	.472	14
New York	17	38	.309	23
SOUTHEAST				
Miami	35	19	.648	—
Orlando	24	31	.436	11½
Washington	20	33	.377	14½
Charlotte	18	36	.333	17
Atlanta	15	41	.268	21
CENTRAL				
Milwaukee	46	8	.852	—
Indiana	32	23	.582	14½
Chicago	19	36	.345	27½
Detroit	19	38	.333	28½
Cleveland	14	40	.259	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	34	20	.630	—
Dallas	33	22	.600	1½
Memphis	28	26	.519	6
San Antonio	23	31	.426	11
New Orleans	23	32	.418	11½
NORTHWEST				
Denver	38	17	.691	—
Utah	36	18	.667	1½
Oklahoma City	33	22	.600	5
Portland	25	31	.446	13½
Minnesota	16	37	.302	21
PACIFIC				
L.A. Lakers	41	12	.774	—
L.A. Clippers	37	18	.673	5
Phoenix	22	33	.400	20
Sacramento	21	33	.389	20½
Golden State	12	43	.218	30

ALL-STAR WEEKEND; CHICAGO

All-Star Saturday winners
Skills Challenge: Bam Adebayo, Miami
3-point Shootout: Buddy Hield, Sacra.
Slam Dunk: Derrick Jones Jr., Miami

Sunday's All-Star Game, 7 p.m.
Team LeBron vs. Team Giannis

FRIDAY: TEAM USA 151, TEAM WORLD 131

TEAM WORLD: Barrett 11-17 5-6 27, Clarke 11-15 0-0 22, Hachimura 7-11 0-0 14, Doncic 6-11 0-0 16, Gilgeous-Alexander 7-15 1-2 16, Melli 1-3 0-0 3, Mykhailiuk 2-11 0-0 6, Wagner 6-9 3-4 16, Alexander-Walker 2-12 0-0 6, Okogie 2-5 0-0 5. Totals 55-109 9-12 131.
TEAM USA: Nunn 7-11 0-0 16, Williamson 7-11 0-0 14, Jackson Jr. 4-7 3-4 12, Morant 5-9 0-0 10, Young 7-13 0-0 18, Bridges 8-12 1-2 20, Paschall 10-13 2-3 23, Washington 4-5 0-0 8, Graham 3-7 0-0 9, Sexton 9-14 0-0 21. Totals 64-102 6-9 151.

Team World	**39**	**42**	**24**	**26 — 131**
Team USA	**30**	**41**	**44**	**36 — 151**

3-Point Goals—Team World 12-49 (Doncic 4-9, Mykhailiuk 2-9, Alexander-Walker 2-10, Melli 1-2, Wagner 1-2, Okogie 1-4, Gilgeous-Alexander 1-7, Barrett 0-4), Team USA 17-39 (Young 4-8, Sexton 3-6, Bridges 3-7, Graham 3-7, Nunn 2-4, Jackson Jr. 1-4). **Rebounds—**Team World 44 (Clarke 8), Team USA 43 (Jackson Jr. 7). **Assists—**Team World 32 (Barrett, Doncic, Okogie 5), Team USA 32 (Young 7). **Total Fouls—**Team World 8, Team USA 9.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	36	11	12	84	196	145
Tampa Bay	39	15	5	83	211	156
Toronto	31	20	8	70	209	194
Florida	30	22	6	66	201	198
Montreal	27	26	8	62	184	188
Buffalo	26	24	8	60	166	181
Ottawa	19	28	11	49	152	197
Detroit	14	42	4	32	122	224

METRO.	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	37	16	5	79	206	177
Pittsburgh	35	15	6	76	186	151
N.Y. Islanders	33	18	6	72	166	157
Columbus	30	18	11	71	152	146
Philadelphia	32	20	7	71	193	177
Carolina	33	21	3	69	186	159
N.Y. Rangers	30	23	4	64	188	178
New Jersey	21	26	10	52	158	201

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	32	16	10	74	186	170
Dallas	34	19	5	73	158	147
Colorado	33	18	6	72	203	160
Nashville	28	22	7	63	187	186
Winnipeg	29	25	5	63	176	179
Minnesota	27	24	7	61	176	187
Chicago	26	24	8	60	174	185

PACIFIC	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	32	21	5	69	190	175
Edmonton	31	21	6	68	186	180
Vegas	30	22	8	68	189	183
Calgary	30	24	6	66	174	186
Arizona	29	24	8	66	170	166
San Jose	26	28	4	56	152	189
Anaheim	23	27	7	53	146	179
Los Angeles	21	33	5	47	145	187

2 pts for win, 1 pt for shootout/OT loss

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Boston 4, Detroit 1
Nashville 4, St. Louis 3
Edmonton 4, Florida 1
Tampa Bay 5, Philadelphia 3
San Jose 2, Minnesota 0
Dallas 4, Montreal 3 (OT)
Toronto 4, Ottawa 2
Los Angeles 3, Colorado 1
Chicago 8, Calgary 4
Arizona 3, Washington 1
Vegas 1, N.Y. Islanders 0

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 11:30 a.m.
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 2:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Carolina, 3 p.m.
Anaheim at Vancouver, 4 p.m.
Columbus at New Jersey, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Ottawa, 5 p.m.
St. Louis at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.

BLACKHAWKS 8, FLAMES 4

Chicago	**2**	**4**	**2 — 8**
Calgary	**2**	**1**	**1 — 4**

FIRST: 1, Chi, Toews 16 (Koekkoek, Kubalik), 0:30. **2,** Calg, Bennett 6 (Dube, Lucic), 2:07. **3,** Chi, Kubalik 23 (Kane, Toews), 9:17. **4,** Calg, Bennett 7 (Kylington, Dube), 12:57. **Penalties:** Monahan, Cal (Tripping), 7:12; Calg bench, served by Tkachuk (Too Many Men on the Ice), 15:15.
SECOND: 5, Chi, Saad 18 (Gustafsson, Kane), 4:24. **6,** Chi, Nylander **7,** 5:28. **7,** Calg, Lindholm 26 (Gaudreau, Kylington), 10:56. **8,** Chi, DeBrincat 14 (Strome, Dach), 17:47. **9,** Chi, Nylander 8 (Highmore), 18:14. **Penalties:** Toews, Chi (Slashing), 14:12.
THIRD: 10, Calg, Lindholm 27 (Tkachuk, Gaudreau), 14:06 (pp). 11, Chi, Kane 26 (Toews), 16:48. 12, Chi, Dach 8 (Murphy, Caggiula), 18:59. **Penalties:** Lindholm, Cal (Roughing), 16:32; Caggiula, Chi (Interference), 16:32.
SOG: Chi 12-7-9—28. Calg 8-14-20—42.
POWER PLAYS: Chi 0 of 3; Calg 1 of 4.
GOALIES: Chi, Lehner 16-9-5 (42 shots-38 saves). Calg, Rittich 22-15-5 (15-11), Calgary, Talbot 8-9-1 (13-9).

TENNIS

ATP NEW YORK OPEN

SF in New York; indoors-hard
#8 Kyle Edmund d.
#6 vs. Miomir Kecmanovic, 6-1, 6-4.
Andreas Seppi d. Jason Jung, 6-3, 6-2.

ATP ARGENTINA OPEN

SF in Buenos Aires; outdoors-red clay
Pedro Sousa d.
#1 Diego Schwartzman, walkover.
#8 Casper Ruud d. J. I. Londero, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1.

ATP ABN AMRO WORLD TOURNAMENT

SF in Rotterdam, Netherlands; indoors-hard
#3 Gael Monfils d. Filip Krajinovic, 6-4, 7-6 (5).
Felix Auger-Aliassime d.
Pablo Carreno Busta, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

WTA ST. PETERSBURG OPEN

SF in St. Petersburg, Russia; indoors-hard
#2 Kiki Bertens d. E.Alexandrova, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.
#8 E. Rybakina d. #6 M. Sakkari, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

WTA THAILAND OPEN

SF in Hua Hin, Thailand; outdoors-hard
#5 Magda Linette d. P. Maria Tig, 7-5, 6-4.
Leonie Kung d. #8 Nao Hibino, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. Baylor (23-1) beat No. 14 West Virginia 70-59. Next: at Oklahoma, Tuesday.
2. Gonzaga (26-1) beat Pepperdine 89-77. Next: vs. San Francisco, Thursday.
3. Kansas (22-3) beat Oklahoma 87-70. Next: vs. Iowa State, Monday.
4. San Diego State (25-0) did not play. Next: at Boise State, Sunday.
5. Louisville (21-5) lost to Clemson 77-62. Next: vs. Syracuse, Wednesday.
6. Dayton (23-2) beat UMass 71-63. Next: at VCU, Tuesday.
7. Duke (22-3) beat Notre Dame 94-60. Next: at N.C. State, Wednesday.
8. Florida State (21-4) beat Syracuse 80-77. Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Tuesday.
9. Maryland (21-4) beat Michigan State 67-60. Next: vs. Northwestern, Tuesday.
10. Seton Hall (18-7) lost to Providence 74-71. Next: vs. No. 19 Butler, Wed.
11. Auburn (22-3) lost to Missouri 85-73. Next: at Georgia, Wednesday.
12. Kentucky (20-5) beat Mississippi 67-62. Next: at No. 25 LSU, Tuesday.
13. Penn State (20-5) beat Northwestern 77-61. Next: vs. No. 22 Illinois, Tuesday.
14. West Virginia (18-7) lost to No. 1 Baylor 70-59. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Tue.
15. Villanova (18-6) did not play. Next: at Temple, Sunday.
16. Colorado (20-6) beat Oregon State 69-47. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Thursday.
17. Oregon (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Sunday.
18. Marquette (17-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 23 Creighton, Tuesday.
19. Butler (19-7) lost to Georgetown 73-66. Next: at No. 10 Seton Hall, Wed.
20. Houston (20-6) lost to SMU 73-72. OT. Next: vs. Tulsa, Wednesday.
21. Iowa (17-8) did not play. Next: at Minnesota, Sunday.
22. Illinois (16-9) lost to Rutgers 72-57. Next: at No. 13 Penn State, Tuesday.
23. Creighton (20-6) beat DePaul 93-64. Next: at No. 18 Marquette, Tuesday.
24. Texas Tech (16-9) lost to Oklahoma St. 73-70. Next: vs. Kansas St., Wed.
25. LSU (18-7) lost to Alabama 88-82. Next: vs. No. 12 Kentucky, Tuesday.

SATURDAY'S SCORES

EAST
Army 79, Lehigh 66
Boston U. 77, Navy 54
Florida A&M 97, Delaware St. 95, 2OT
Lafayette 72, Holy Cross 62
Rhode Island 73, Saint Joseph's 55
SOUTH
Florida 84, Vanderbilt 66
Miami 71, Wake Forest 54
Northwestern St. 84, McNeese St. 79
S. Miss. 75, FIU 67
UT Martin 80, E. Illinois 79, OT
Virginia 64, N. Carolina 62
Virginia Tech 67, Pittsburgh 57
MIDWEST
Anderson (Ind.) 106, Franklin 87
Ashland 94, Purdue-Northwest 57
Benedictine (Ill.) 73, Lakeland 70
Bowling Green 77, Ball St. 71
Bradley 69, S. Illinois 67
Cleveland St. 67, Detroit 66
DePauw 90, Ohio Wesleyan 52
Dominican 70, Concordia (Ill.) 67
E. Michigan 69, W. Michigan 51
Green Bay 94, Milwaukee 90
Illinois Tech 70, Aurora 66
Indianapolis 83, Truman St. 82
Iowa St. 81, Texas 52
Kent St. 87, Ohio 72
Knox 81, Beloit 68
Loyola 82, N. Iowa 73, OT
McKendree 80, Lindenwood (Mo.) 68
Miami (Ohio) 65, N. Illinois 60
N. Dakota 86, W. Illinois 83, OT
Oakland 72, Youngstown St. 64
Ohio St. 68, Purdue 52
Ripon 70, Monmouth (Ill.) 56
Saint Louis 84, La Salle 69
SE Missouri 75, SIUE 73
St. Norbert 116, Grinnell 113, OT
Transylvania 77, Manchester 62
Valparaiso 65, Illinois St. 62
Wabash 91, Kenyon 79
Wayne St. (Mich.) 64, Wis.-Parkside 51
Wisconsin 81, Nebraska 64
SOUTHWEST
Mississippi St. 78, Arkansas 77
North Texas 64, Old Dominion 47
SOUTHWEST
Mississippi St. 78, Arkansas 77
TCU 68, Kansas St. 57
Texas A&M 74, Georgia 69
WEST
UCLA 67, Washington 57

HOW WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. South Carolina (24-1) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Monday.
2. Baylor (23-1) beat Oklahoma State 69-42. Next: at Texas Tech, Tuesday.
3. Oregon (23-2) did not play. Next: at Southern Cal, Sunday.
4. N.C. State (22-2) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Sunday.
5. UConn (20-3) did not play. Next: at South Florida, Sunday.
6. Mississippi State (22-3) did not play. Next: at No. 18 Kentucky, Sunday.
7. UCLA (21-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11 Oregon State, Monday.
8. Stanford (22-3) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Sunday.
9. Louisville (22-3) did not play. Next: vs. Notre Dame, Sunday.
10. Maryland (21-4) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Sunday.
11. Oregon State (19-6) did not play. Next: at No. 7 UCLA, Monday.
12. Arizona (20-4) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Sunday.
13. DePaul (23-3) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Sunday.
14. Florida State (20-4) did not play. Next: at Duke, Sunday.
15. Gonzaga (25-2) beat Santa Clara 53-46. Next: at Loyola Marymount, Thur.
16. Texas A&M (19-5) did not play. Next: at No. 25 Tennessee, Sunday.
17. Iowa (20-5) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Sunday.
18. Kentucky (18-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Mississippi State, Sunday.
19. Northwestern (21-3) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska.
20. Indiana (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Sunday.
21. South Dakota (24-2) beat Oral Roberts 77-73. Next: vs. N. Dakota St., Thur.
22. Arizona State (17-8) did not play. Next: vs. Washington, Sunday.
23. Arkansas (19-5) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Sunday.
24. Missouri State (21-3) beat Southern Illinois 88-57. Next: vs. Evansville, Fri.
25. Tennessee (17-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 Texas A&M, Sunday.

SATURDAY'S SCORES

EAST
Ball St. 69, Buffalo 58
Boston U. 71, Navy 56
Bryant 62, CCSU 51
Bucknell 60, American U. 57
Colgate 79, Loyola (Md.) 70
Columbia 89, Harvard 64
Delaware St. 61, Florida A&M 53
Holy Cross 57, Lafayette 49
La Salle 59, Saint Joseph's 53
Lehigh 89, Army 72
Marshall 76, UTEP 66
Penn 53, Yale 51
Princeton 85, Brown 48
Temple 76, Houston 75
SOUTH
Charlotte 62, Rice 51
E. Carolina 61, Memphis 57
N. Kentucky 65, IUPUI 62
UCF 49, Cincinnati 42
MIDWEST
Akron 64, E. Michigan 53
Cent. Michigan 82, Bowling Green 75
Drake 92, Indiana St. 71
Grand Canyon 68, Chicago St. 57
Kent St. 87, Toledo 68
Missouri St. 88, S. Illinois 57
N. Iowa 67, Evansville 49
Ohio 84, Miami (Ohio) 70
S. Dakota St. 89, Fort Wayne 43
SE Missouri 80, SIU-Edwardsville 57
UMKC 58, CS Bakersfield 43
W. Michigan 68, N. Illinois 65
Wright St. 79, Ill.-Chicago 55
Youngstown St. 84, Cleveland St. 72
WEST
BYU 65, Pacific 54
Boise St. 69, San Diego St. 67, OT
Fresno St. 79, Utah St. 61
San Diego 73, Saint Mary's (Cal) 59

GOLF

PGA THE GENESIS INVITATIONAL

3rd of 4 rds; Riviera CC; Los Angeles; 7,322 yds; Par 71

203 (-10)	
Adam Scott	72-64-67
Matt Kuchar	64-69-70
Rory McIlroy	68-67-68
204 (-9)	
Russell Henley	67-69-68
Harold Varner III	67-68-69
205 (-8)	
Joel Dahmen	68-71-66
Dustin Johnson	72-66-67
206 (-7)	
Max Homa	72-69-65
Talor Gooch	70-72-64
Sung Kang	69-67-70
207 (-6)	
Luke List	71-68-68
Scott Brown	71-68-68
Bryson DeChambeau	68-70-69
Jon Rahm	70-68-69
Wyndham Clark	67-68-72
Hideki Matsuyama	71-72-64
208 (-5)	
Collin Morikawa	73-67-68
Sebastian Munoz	69-69-70
Paul Casey	69-69-70
James Hahn	68-70-70
Chez Reavie	69-68-71
209 (-4)	
Matthew Fitzpatrick	71-70-68
Kyoung-Hoon Lee	67-73-69
Brian Stuard	72-68-69
Scott Piercy	70-69-70
Carlos Ortiz	68-70-71
Rafa Cabrera Bello	68-69-72

WOMEN'S AUSTRALIAN OPEN

3rd of 4 rds; Royal Adelaide GC; Adelaide, Australia; 6,689 yds; Par 73

204 (-15)	
Inbee Park	67-69-68
207 (-12)	
Ayean Cho	69-69-69
208 (-11)	
Marina Alex	68-70-70
209 (-10)	
Perrine Delacour	72-70-67
Celine Boutier	70-69-70
210 (-9)	
Maria Fassi	73-67-70
Yu Liu	73-67-70
Elizabeth Szokol	71-69-70
Madelene Sagstrom	69-70-71
211 (-8)	
Christina Kim	70-73-68
So Yeon Ryu	71-69-71
Brittany Altomare	70-70-71
Amy Olson	68-72-71
212 (-7)	
Pornanong Phatlum	72-71-69
Nicole Broch Larsen	71-71-70
Stephanie Meadow	70-72-70
Mi Hyang Lee	71-69-72
Ashleigh Buhai	71-69-72
Ally McDonald	70-70-72
Hannah Green	69-71-72
Jillian Hollis	68-69-75

CHUBB CLASSIC

2nd of 4 rds; The Classics at Lely Resort; Naples, Fla.; 6,845 yds; Par 71

130 (-12)	
Stephen Leaney	65-65
131 (-11)	
Bernhard Langer	65-66
132 (-10)	
Chris DiMarco	68-64
Fred Couples	67-65
Fred Funk	65-67
133 (-9)	
Kevin Sutherland	70-63
Scott Parel	64-69
134 (-8)	
Marco Dawson	67-67
Bob Estes	67-67
Tim Petrovic	66-68
Ken Tanigawa	65-69
135 (-7)	
Kent Jones	69-66
John Daly	68-67
Scott Verplank	67-68
Brandt Jobe	66-69
Mark Brooks	66-69

AUTO RACING

NASCAR DAYTONA 500 LINEUP

Sunday at Daytona International Speedway; Daytona Beach, Fla.; lap: 2.5 miles; (Car number in parentheses)

Row 1
(47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet
(88) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet
Row 2
(22) Joey Logano, Ford
(24) William Byron, Chevrolet
Row 3
(10) Aric Almirola, Ford
(48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet
Row 4
(6) Ryan Newman, Ford
(42) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet
Row 5
(2) Brad Keselowski, Ford
(4) Kevin Harvick, Ford
Row 6
(43) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet
(41) Cole Custer, Ford
Row 7
(3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet
(20) Erik Jones, Toyota
Row 8
(19) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota
(21) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford
Row 9
(95) Christopher Bell, Toyota
(1) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet
Row 10
(17) Chris Buescher, Ford
(77) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet
Row 11
(11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota
(8) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet
Row 12
(38) John Hunter, Ford
(13) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet
Row 13
(9) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet
(34) Michael McDowell, Ford
Row 14
(12) Ryan Blaney, Ford
(18) Kyle Busch, Toyota
Row 15
(14) Clint Bowyer, Ford
(36) David Ragan, Ford
Row 16
(37) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet
(66) Timmy Hill, Ford
Row 17
(16) Justin Haley, Chevrolet
(15) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet
Row 18
(00) Quin Houff, Chevrolet
(32) Corey LaJoie, Ford
Row 19
(51) Joey Gase, Chevrolet
(52) BJ McLeod, Ford
Row 20
(62) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet
(27) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

pregame.com	SP	SUNDAY
Cincinnati	10½	at East Carolina
at Minnesota	3	Iowa
at Michigan	7	Indiana
Villanova	6	at Temple
Monmouth	2½	at Niagara
at Iona	8½	Marist
at Siena	7	Manhattan
at St. Peter's	6	Fairfield
at Wright St	17½	IUPUI
at N. Kentucky	9½	Ill.-Chicago
Duquesne	7	at Fordham
at Wichita St	15	Tulane
at UConn	4	Memphis
at S. Dakota St	12	IPFW
at Indiana St	4	Missouri St
at Drake	12	Evansville
San Diego St	6½	at Boise St
at Rider	7½	Quinnipiac
at Neb.-Omaha	9	Denver
Arizona St	5	at California
NC State	3½	at Boston Coll.
at Oregon	12½	Utah

NHL

		SUNDAY	
at Pittsburgh	off	Detroit	off
Boston	-150	at NY Rangers	+140
at Carolina	-206	Edmonton	+186
at Vancouver	-185	Anaheim	+170
Dallas	-173	at Ottawa	+161
Columbus	-145	at New Jersey	+135
at Nashville	off	St. Louis	off
at Buffalo	off	Toronto	off
at Winnipeg	-138	Chicago	+128



LARRY MACDOUGAL/AP

THE LATE SHOW
For coverage of Saturday's Blackhawks-Flames game, go to **chicagotribune.com/sports**
■ Subscribers, open the **digital replica** for the result and up-to-date standings.
■ Sign up for the Tribune's sports newsletter at **chicagotribune.com/newsletters**

FIRE

Defender Sekulic signed to fill need at right back

By Jeremy Mikula

If there's a tired phrase that could describe the right back position for the Chicago Fire the last few seasons, it's "square peg in a round hole."

That shouldn't be the case this season after the Fire on Saturday announced the acquisition of defender Boris Sekulic from Polish club Gornik Zabrze. Terms of the deal were not announced, but the Fire used targeted allocation money to complete the deal.

Sekulic, 28, is under contract through 2022.

"Boris is a talented and smart defender that will immediately strengthen our backline," Fire coach Raphael Wicky said in a statement. "We are excited to welcome him to Chicago ahead of the 2020 season."

Sekulic has made two appearances for the Slovakian national team and has played professionally in Serbia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Poland.

He played his final match with Gornik on Friday, going the full 90 minutes in a 2-0 win against Arka Gdynia.

Right back has been a problem position for the Fire for a few seasons. Outside of Sekulic, the Fire do not have a natural right back on the roster. In previous seasons they deployed midfielders such as Matt Polster and Diego Campos or center back Johan Kappelhof at the position.

Sekulic will join the Fire, who are in Los Angeles for preseason training, after the receipt of his International Transfer Certificate and P1 visa.

NHL

Kings' Toffoli scores 3 outside

News services

Tyler Toffoli scored twice in the final minute to complete a hat trick and the Kings beat the Avalanche 3-1 on Saturday night at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the third and final outdoor NHL game this season.

Toffoli put the Kings ahead 2-1 with 54 seconds remaining, then scored in to an empty net with 4.3 seconds left.

The Kings won their second straight, improving to 4-12-1 since New Year's Day.

At 6,621 feet above sea level, this was the highest altitude ever for an NHL game. The Stadium Series game was a sellout — 43,574 fans, more than twice the capacity of the Pepsi Center in Denver.

Karlsson out for season: Sharks D Erik Karlsson is out for the the season after suffering a broken thumb, the team announced.

Karlsson, 29, suffered the injury to his left thumb during Friday's 3-2 win over the Jets and will have surgery.

Karlsson leads the Sharks with 40 points (six goals, 34 assists) in 56 games this season after signing an eight-year, $92 million extension last June.

Also, F Evander Kane was suspended three games for elbowing Jets D Neal Pionk. Kane, 28, leads the Sharks with 21 goals and 110 penalty minutes.

'Canes taking it outdoors: The Hurricanes will host the 2021 NHL Stadium Series game next February at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, North Carolina.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Baylor matches Big 12 wins mark

Associated Press

Jared Butler scored 16 of his 21 points in the first half, and top-ranked Baylor never trailed while tying the longest winning streak in Big 12 history at 22 games with a 70-59 victory over No. 14 West Virginia on Saturday in Waco, Texas.

The Bears (23-1, 12-0 Big 12) cruised without second-leading scorer MaCio Teague, a junior whose streak of 90 consecutive games ended because of a right wrist injury.

Baylor led by 19 in the first half and answered a scoreless stretch of nearly four minutes before halftime by starting the second half on a 20-3 run for its biggest lead at 53-25.

Taz Sherman scored a season-high 20 points for the Mountaineers (18-7, 6-6), who had 11 of their season high-tying 22 turnovers in the first 12 minutes.

Matthew Mayer had a flying dunk off a nifty spin move on the baseline and finished with 13 points and eight rebounds for the Bears, who matched Kansas' record run in the Big 12. The Jayhawks started 22-0 in 1996-97.

Louisville falls again: Johnny Newman III had a career-high 23 points and Clemson used a strong defensive first half to send No. 5 Louisville to its second straight defeat, 77-62.

The Tigers (13-12, 7-8 Atlantic Coast Conference) held the Cardinals to their lowest first-half output this season as they led 31-14 at the break and limited the ACC's leading scorer Jordan Nwora to five points.

IN BRIEF

Doping ruling strips Russia of gold

Russia is expected to drop into second place in the gold medal count for the 2014 Winter Olympics after sports officials on Saturday disqualified a biathlon winner for testing positive for a steroid, the New York Times reported.

If upheld by the International Olympic Committee and on expected appeals, the ruling would signify the final unraveling of a Russian effort to dominate medal counts by cheating with a state-sponsored doping program.

The International Biathlon Union ruled that Evgeny Ustyugov, who competed in a gold-medal-winning relay team, had used a banned steroid during the 2013 and 2014 seasons. "The consequences include the disqualification of Mr. Ustyugov's results from the Olympic Games 2014, in which he won a gold medal," the group said.

Fallout from the doping program has cut the number of Russian medals won at the 2014 games the country hosted. The supremacy in gold medals in Sochi has been a point of national pride.

College football: A former Wisconsin football player who is the brother of a 2011 Super Bowl standout surrendered to Chicago police in connection with the deaths of two people who were found with gunshot wounds on a Wisconsin road and later died. Marcus Randle El, 33, was charged with two counts of first-degree intentional homicide. Randle El's brother, Antwaan Randle El, was a star QB at Indiana and spent nine years with the NFL, including as a receiver for the Steelers.

Football: The agent for Steelers QB Mason Rudolph says Browns DE Myles Garrett opened himself up for potential legal action after reiterating his claim that Rudolph used a racial slur shortly before their infamous November brawl. Garrett was reinstated after an indefinite suspension last week.

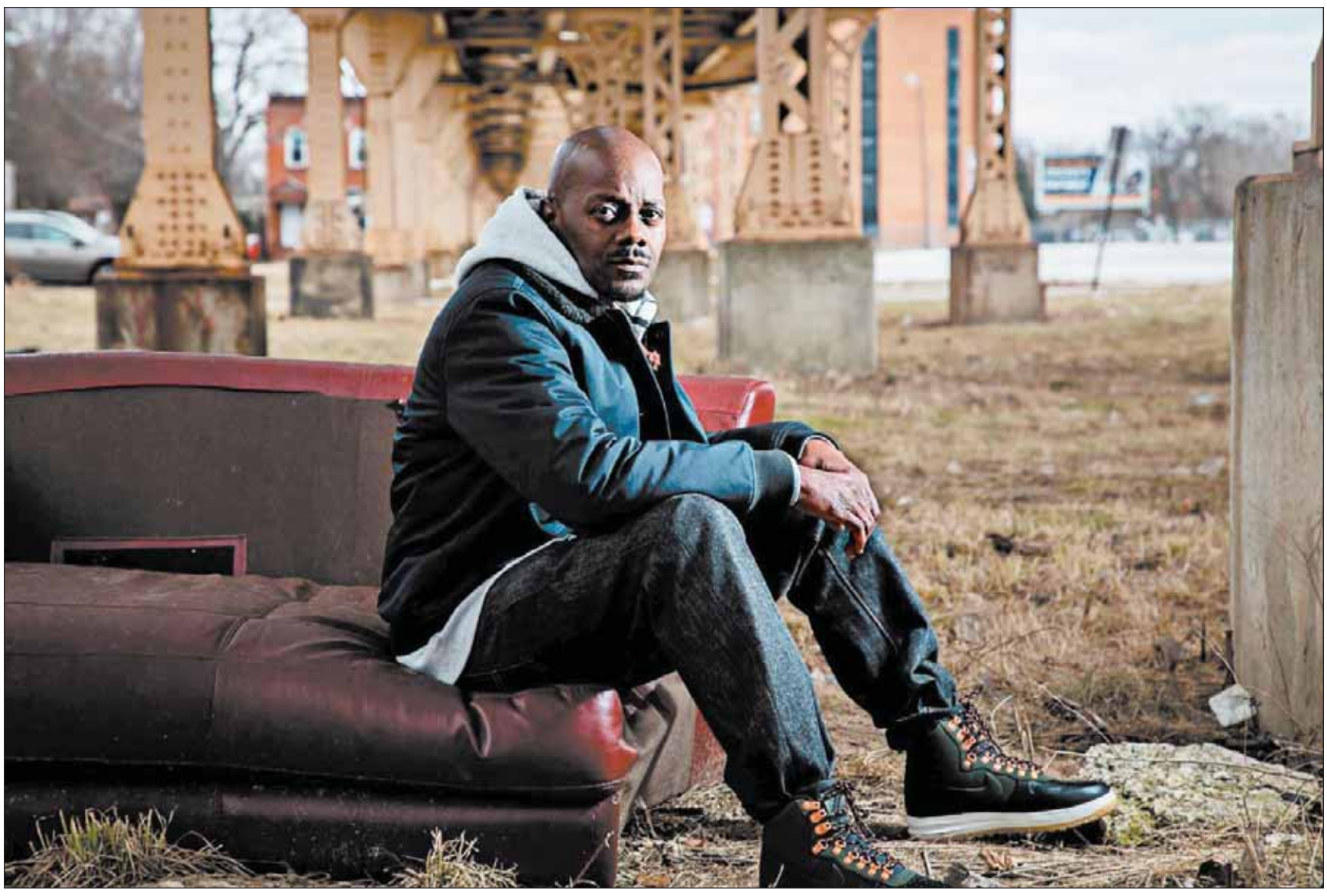
Golf: Seven-time major champion Inbee Park of South Korea took a three-stroke lead at the Women's Australian Open in Adelaide, Australia, after carding a 5-under 68.

Soccer: French league leader Paris Saint-Germain settled for a 4-4 draw at Amiens. PSG trailed 3-0 and led 4-3 before conceding an injury-time equalizer.

— News services


NBA
ALL-STAR 2020
CHICAGO
OFFICIAL WATCH OF THE NBA
TRAE YOUNG.
TISSOT GENTLEMAN AUTOMATIC.
POWERMATIC 80 MOVEMENT WITH
UP TO 80 HOURS OF POWER RESERVE.
SPALDING
TISSOT
1853
POWERMATIC 80
SILICIUM
SWISS MADE
TISSOT
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TISSOT, INNOVATORS BY TRADITION

Chicago Tribune
A+E
Sunday



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jasmon Drain near State and 37th streets, near the site of the former Stateway Gardens public housing projects in Chicago. His new book is "Stateway's Garden."

5 fresh Chicago voices

A look at this season's debut novels and the stories and lives behind the authors



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Rita Woods at a wellness center in Mokena; she is a family doctor and the director of the center. Woods' new book is "Remembrance."

By Christopher Borrelli

This month, next month — and probably long into the future — if you pay any attention at all to the Chicago literary landscape, you're going to need to acquaint yourself with a handful of fresh names. No fewer than five debut novels by Chicago authors arrive on shelves this winter, an unusually strong showing. All are talented fiction writers and all have landed healthy deals with major publishers. They tell tales from the Stateway Gardens housing projects, and about women linked mysteriously across centuries. They write about a forgotten science-fiction novelist, and about growing up in South Shore, and about the toxic history between a mother and daughter.

Some have left Chicago, some still live here.

But more important, not one of their books reads like the beginning of a minor career.

Consider this an introduction.

Turn to ***Debuts, Page 9***



SIMON WAY PHOTO

Stephanie Wrobel is the author of "Darling Rose Gold."



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Author Michael Zapata at the Logan Square Auditorium in Chicago. His debut work of fiction is "The Lost Book of Adana Moreau."



JEREMY HANDRUP PHOTO

Gabriel Bump is the author of "Everywhere You Don't Belong."

Let communities choose their own architecture

Don't impose classicism on federal buildings, but don't demonize it either



Blair Kamin
Cityscapes

Casting a critical eye at banks that resembled Roman temples, the great Chicago architect Louis Sullivan famously wrote nearly 120 years ago that their bankers should wear togas and sandals, and conduct business in Latin.

To Sullivan, Roman Revival banks were architectural fakes, their columns and pediments mere drapery that had nothing to do with their underlying construction.

Yet today, it's hard to stroll down Chicago's LaSalle Street financial canyon without admiring the banking temples along the street. They may be stage-set architecture, but they're stage sets for the ages — their proportions, materials and details powerfully communicating a message of financial stability.

I bring up Sullivan and the LaSalle Street banks because the debate over a profoundly misguided proposal, which would establish classical architecture as the preferred style for many federal buildings, already is devolving into a superficial style war — a new front in the culture wars roiling Donald Trump's America.

Predictably, left-leaning opponents of the plan are portraying classicism as reactionary, arguing, as a Chicago Sun-Times editorial did last week, that the plan would take us "back into a bygone era when women wore bonnets, men wore tricorn hats and the only acceptable design for a federal building was a knockoff of a classical Greek or Roman structure."

The view from the right is equally warped. Writing on the City Journal website, the critic Catesby Leigh opines that modernist federal buildings fail to "speak to the aspirations of ordinary citizens." How does he know?

Chicagoans rightly admire the modernist design of Ludwig Mies

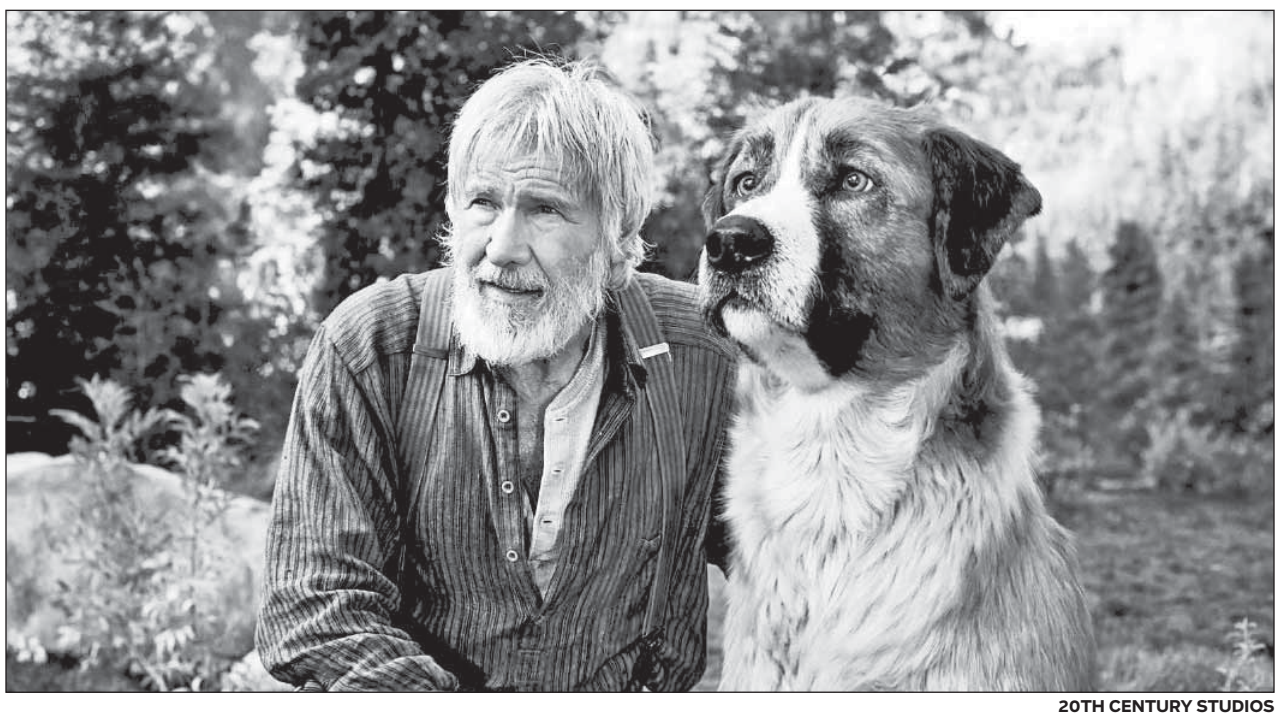
Turn to ***Kamin, Page 7***

Maybe you'd like to know real cold, Chicago

Winter and 'Call of the Wild' remind us of Jack London



Rick Kogan
Sidewalks



20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

Harrison Ford stars as John Thornton in the latest film version of Jack London's "The Call of the Wild." The dog, Buck, is a CGI creation.

The weather news these days is bleak. Many are scared. There is talk of a few inches of snow and temperatures in the single digits.

Look, this is Chicago. It gets cold in winter. It snows. But so loud is the panic peddling— "blizzard watch," "deep freeze," "bitter cold" and on and hyperbolically on — of TV, radio and, yes, even newspapers that we lose perspective. Memories of winters past mysteriously vanish and many of us turn into winter crybabies.

Now, there are times in winter when weather deserves extensive coverage. But having lived through the famous blizzard of 1967 and withstood a "polar vortex" or two, I consider myself quite beyond winter whimpering. At the first snowfall of every season, I gain some additional immunity by rereading Jack London's short story "To Build a Fire." In it there is this: "When it is 75 below zero, a man must not fail in his first attempt to build a fire. This is especially true if his feet are wet. If his feet are dry, and he fails, he can run along the trail for half a mile to keep his blood moving. But the blood in wet and freezing feet cannot be kept moving by running when it is 75 degrees below. No matter how fast he runs, the wet feet will freeze even harder."

Or, a few pages later, this: "He was losing his battle with the frost. It was moving into his body from all sides. This thought drove him forward. But he ran no more than 100 feet, when he fell head first. It was his last moment of fear. When he had recovered his breath and his control, he sat and thought about meeting death with dignity."

Jack London knew cold. Once the most famous writer in the world, his best novel is "The Call of the Wild." H.L. Mencken, a perceptive critic, wrote: "No other popular writer of his time did any better writing than you will find in 'The Call of the Wild' ... Here, indeed, are all the elements of sound fiction: clear thinking, a sense of character, the dramatic instinct, and, above all, the adept putting together of words — words charming and slyly significant, words arranged, in a French phrase, for the respiration and the ear."

It is a powerful book, the story of a dog (half Saint Bernard/half Scotch Collie) named Buck, kidnapped from his "big house in the sun-kissed" Santa Clara Valley in California and propelled into the harsh and frozen north and the savage characters of the Klondike Gold Rush, there to come under the gentle hand of gold prospector John Thornton and eventually discover his ancient roots.



AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM

Jack London wrote "The Call of the Wild" on this typewriter, currently on display at the American Writers Museum in Chicago. It is a Bar Lock #10 dating from 1902, the oldest in the exhibition.

It has been the basis for many movies, the first in 1923. The latest cinematic version (the ninth) arrives Feb. 21. This "The Call of the Wild" stars Harrison Ford, looking particularly scraggy in a white beard as Thornton. The dog? It is not real. It is a CGI creation, "played" by actor Terry Notary via that technological device known as "motion-capture."

This may not be the only liberty taken. There are some things in the trailer for the film that are not in the book: a massive avalanche and Buck's rescue of a woman who falls through the ice on a frozen lake. There is also a fight with a bear, barely noted in the novel. Oh, Hollywood.

But allow me to push you toward the work of Jack London.

If you are afflicted with a short attention span, "To Build a Fire" is not a long story. There are two versions of it, one written in 1902 and the other in 1908. I prefer the latter because it features a dog and it is colder and there is death. It is only 6,708 words long.

I gave a copy of the story to noted local writer Peter Ferry, who has written two fine novels, "Travel Writing" and "Old Heart." He too had read it before and upon rereading it told me, "I had forgotten just how cold 'To Build a Fire' makes you. I am turning up the heat."

Jack London never knew of wind chill factors, but he knew the cold. He was only 21 in 1897 when, after some miserable California years as an oyster pirate and hobo, he made his way to Alaska in search of gold. He never found any but did accumulate the material for short stories and for "The Call of the Wild" (1903) and such other novels as "White Fang" (1906). He was wildly prolific, writing 1,000 words a day, and ever traveling.

He was a major celebrity and there is little doubt that he influenced such future writers as Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck and Upton Sinclair. But his views on politics and race compelled one of his biographers, James L. Haley, to write in 2010's "Wolf: The Lives of Jack London" (Basic Books) that London was "the most misunderstood figure in the American literary canon."

He died in 1916 at the age of 40 and though his books still sell and are taught in schools, he remains, as Haley puts it, "the most-read revolutionary socialist in American history, agitating for violent overthrow of the government and the assassination of political leaders — and he is remembered now for writing a cute story about a dog."

The new "The Call of the Wild" movie is sure to draw some to the book, where they will read: "When the long winter nights come on and the wolves follow their meat into the lower valleys, he may be seen running at the head of the pack through the pale moonlight ..."

Enjoy. But know, if and when you watch the movie, that the entire film was shot in California.

Oh, well. So it goes. Winter will be over, so I am told, in a few weeks.

rkogan@chicagotribune.com

How the Paramount Theatre changed Aurora



Chris Jones



PARAMOUNT THEATRE PHOTO

The view from the stage inside the Paramount Theatre in Aurora. Next up: "The Secret of My Success."

What's the second-biggest city in Illinois?

It's Aurora, with about 200,000 residents, a truth duly noted at a Chicago Tribune event last weekend by a staffer from the Aurora Beacon-News, a Tribune-owned publication with a small but mighty team of reporters who labor to cover a city far bigger than most Chicagoans think.

Rockford and Joliet, by way of comparison, have less than 150,000 people each. Springfield, the state capital, is little more than half the size of Aurora and Champaign a little less than half. Bloomington-Normal's no comparison, even if you add their populations together. And Aurora is far more diverse than the state of Illinois as a whole.

And in the city of Aurora, some 40 miles west of Chicago, the renaissance of the historic Paramount Theatre has been transformative. With the exception of Cleveland, which has benefited immeasurably from the Playhouse Square Center, I'd argue that no Midwestern downtown has been more changed by a single arts organization.

Back in the early 1990s, it was argued that casinos were the answer to blighted downtowns such as Aurora's collection of buildings on the banks of the Fox River. The Hollywood Casino is still there, but there has been little new investment and the place now looks down at heel, at least as compared with the 1990s.

When it comes to attracting new businesses and filling the streets with people, the Paramount has been far more effective in a much shorter time.

Here are the facts: In less than 10 years, following its decision to produce its own musicals using the talent found in northern Illinois, the Paramount has acquired a subscription base of 41,000 patrons, one of the largest in the nation.

This success, combined with its ongoing comedy and concert series, has allowed the theater to expand its base into a performing arts school for area residents and, beginning next season, a second subscription season of shows in a smaller theater across the street, this one devoted to plays.

Other businesses have seen all the people now walking around downtown and decided to go west and join the party: Recent arrivals include the restaurateur Amy Morton, who has opened Stolp Island Social, the kind of buzzy establishment more usually associated with Midtown Manhattan.

When the current president, Tim Rater, came to the Paramount, he started with some advantages. A restoration took place in the 1970s, and again in 2006, meaning that this Rapp and Rapp theater was not allowed to languish like the Uptown Theatre, with renovation costs forever rising into the stratosphere. That money was already spent; it did not become part of a stultifying debt.

The theater has a large capacity; its post-renovation 1,885 seats allow the theater to keep prices low, but it is not a barn. Many of the old movie palaces used for performances in old downtowns are less than ideal for live shows, but the Paramount has a relatively big stage, scaled to the size of the auditorium.

And, perhaps most important of all, it had never really gone dark. People in Aurora all knew it was there. They'd seen comics, movies, musical acts.

But none of this would have worked without the theater's determination to offer mainstream, family-friendly entertainment. Its bread and butter these last nine years or so have been the likes of "Beauty and the Beast," "The Little Mermaid," "The Wizard of Oz" and "Mamma Mia!"

These are not titles that necessarily thrill a critic, but that's not the point. They sell like crazy, especially when the lower cost structure in Aurora, as compared with New York and Chicago, allows for spectacular productions.

There's another point worth making here that theater people often fail to acknowledge: Family entertainment with familiar titles often attracts a far more diverse audience than socio-political drama foregrounding race.

All Americans like to have a good time out with the people they love, and the Paramount is very welcoming. High ticket prices are perhaps the single biggest factor in the way of attracting a diverse audience. The Paramount's model has made real inroads — no subscriber pays more than $37 a ticket, even in the best seats.

Just go and see "Cinderella" later this year. You might be surprised at the diversity in the room.

Since it has earned the trust of all those audience members, the Paramount now is able to introduce new work. On Friday, the theater will open "The Secret of My Success," a collaboration with Universal Studios, the original producer of the 1987 caper movie about corporate ambition, starring Michael J. Fox.

This is, of course, a pre-Broadway tryout that just happens to be taking place 40 miles west of the traditional Broadway in Chicago theaters.

"The Secret of My Success" comes with a skilled Broadway director in Gordon Greenberg, the same man responsible for the excellent updating of Studs Terkel's "Working" some years ago. Greenberg, who told me recently how happy he was to be working in Aurora, has penned the book alongside Steve Rosen, both a writer and a Broadway performer and a very funny guy.

But the music in the show — described to me as a pop Broadway score — is by Michael Mahler and Alan Schmuckler, both composer-writer-performers with a long history in Chicago. And there are Chicago stars in the cast, too: Heidi Kettenring and Barbara Robertson, among others, are working alongside Broadway actors such as Billy Harrigan Tighe, who plays the role of the bifurcated corporate climber, as played by Fox.

"It is a joyous room," says Jim Corti, Paramount's artistic director.

That's how they roll in Aurora.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

cjones5@chicagotribune.com

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A world premiere takes on Shakespeare

CSO commissioned 'Ophelia's Tears' for veteran clarinetist



Howard Reich
On Music



TODD ROSENBERG PHOTO

Veteran CSO clarinetist J. Lawrie Bloom will play the world premiere of a concerto the CSO commissioned for him: "Ophelia's Tears."

The prolific French composer Nicolas Bacri admits he was torn when asked to write a bass clarinet concerto for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's J. Lawrie Bloom.

"Honestly, I didn't find the instrument sexy enough for a concerto at the beginning," says Bacri, speaking by phone from Brussels, where he has lived for 12 years.

"For me, bass clarinet (was) much more for solemn declamation than for virtuoso features."

But Bacri's preconceptions were shattered a year ago, when Bloom flew to Paris to play for him.

"It was quite a revelation," says Bacri. "I rediscovered the instrument thanks to him, because I had too narrow a conception of this instrument."

The turning point at their meeting came when Bloom played the solo clarinet version of Bacri's "Ophelia's Mad Scene," which had originated as a work for soprano and clarinet. To Bacri's surprise, Bloom finessed the solo work on the lower-pitched bass clarinet.

"I changed one note," remembers Bloom of that momentous day. "I have a note on the bass clarinet that the clarinet does not have. (On) the final note of the piece, I could go an octave lower, where I had a lot more power."

That private performance, plus a wide-ranging discussion of the sonic and musical characteristics of the bass clarinet, made a deep impact on Bacri.

"I found it so fantastic," says the composer, "that I decided to base my new work on that 'Ophelia' solo."

After Bloom returned to Chicago, "I got an email from him very quickly saying that the piece was like a river running before his eyes," recalls the clarinetist. "And he then began to send me little fragments. He sent me the first couple pages, and then he sent me a passage and said: 'Can you play this?'

"Not because it was so incredibly technically difficult, but because it was very high and very soft. I played through it and sent him an email: "Yeah, yeah, that's fine.' "

Thus emerged "Ophelia's Tears," Concertante Elegy, which will receive its world premiere Feb. 20 in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, with CSO music director Riccardo Muti conducting.

But Bloom's private performance for Bacri wasn't the only reason he accepted the commission.

Equally important was the opportunity to write for the CSO, "which is for me the best orchestra in the world," says Bacri. Yet he hastens to add that he did not tailor the piece — which is inspired by thematic material from his "Ophelia's Mad Scene" — for the Chicago orchestra.

He wrote it "as for any other orchestra — but thinking about the pleasure I will have to hear it, that's all. But no special features. The excellence of an orchestra doesn't lie on extended technique. It's on the opposite: It lies on the most familiar techniques. When you can see the true personality in an orchestra is when you make them play a scale.

"Of course, there is no scale in my piece!"

Yet no sooner does Bacri avow that he did not pen "Ophelia's Tears" for the CSO's specific capabilities than he slightly amends that statement.

"I'm so aware about the brass excellency of the orchestra, and so maybe, maybe there are some difficult things with the horns, on the high registers with the horns," says the composer.

"Maybe with another orchestra I would be a little more — not careful, because I think it's absolutely playable — maybe I would not be so demanding, because they need to be able to play that.

"And I'm so looking forward to hear how the brass are going to sound. But the violas too, they have a very important part."

The rush of ideas that Bloom's performance triggered in Bacri resulted in a 15-minute work with three sections played without pause. But why is it titled "Ophelia's Tears"?

"In July 2018, Oliver Knussen — the great composer and conductor — died," says Bacri, referring to a musician who had profound influence on him.

"I met him only twice, but it was very important meeting with him, and also with his music in general. I love his music.

"When he died, I remembered that one of the first pieces of his that I heard is 'Ophelia Dances.' So I told myself: What a coincidence! Now I'm going to write a piece in his memory, and it will be 'Ophelia's Tears.'

"What is a better instrument than bass clarinet to make this homage to Ophelia?"

And to Knussen.

As its title suggests, Bacri's concerto evokes Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and the arc of Ophelia's descent into madness.

"The piece opens with a quiet first section called 'Tragedy,' " explains Bloom. "'Hamlet' is one of the great tragedies of theater, so it's sort of setting that up.

"Then it moves into a more cacophonous section of confusion, maybe, which leads us into the second section, called 'Madness.' And it's, of course, a sonic picture, if you will, of Ophelia's growing madness.

"The final section is 'Death.' "

Bacri describes this last section as "a kind of dirge."

All of which, not surprisingly, takes a toll on the performer.

"It has some very big technical demands that are relatively the smaller part of the work," says Bloom.

"Musically, I find it a little bit like 'Lucia di Lammermoor,'" referring to Donizetti's opera, with its own famous portrait of madness.

"I feel like Joan Sutherland when I have to go through the mad scene. It's pretty intense, and the death as well. I find it quite an emotional journey, more than most of the standard clarinet concertos I've played."

How much of this comes across in concert remains to be heard, not only for the audience but also for Bloom, who has been rehearsing the solo part without accompaniment, since there's no piano reduction of the orchestra part yet available.

As for composer Bacri's return to Ophelia as a protagonist, this may say less about an obsession with one character than his embrace of Shakespeare's canon.

"Shakespeare is the most important influence for me," says Bacri.

"I'm not a writer — I'm a composer. So why Shakespeare and not Mozart? Of course, Mozart and Bach and Beethoven are most important for me.

"But Shakespeare! If I could put music only on words of Shakespeare, I would do it. For me, Shakespeare is an example of the universal mind. Of course, some writers have said that Shakespeare was not only one writer but maybe a collective of writers. I don't know. Maybe.

"But I don't mind," adds Bacri. "The work of Shakespeare is an example of universality, because there is everything in it. It makes a fantastic coherence and a fantastic statement of what the world is, what humanity is."

J. Lawrie Bloom will play the world premiere performances of Nicolas Bacri's "Ophelia's Tears" on a Chicago Symphony Orchestra program that also will include Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 2 and 5, led by Riccardo Muti. 8 p.m. Feb. 20-22 and 3 p.m. Feb. 23 in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave.; ticket prices vary; 312-294-3000 or www.cso.org

Howard Reich is a Tribune critic.
hreich@chicagotribune.com



BOOKS

Ripple effect of suggesting a book

When you recommend reading, you send a person on a delightful and unexpected literary journey of great value

By Patrick T. Reardon



MISHA T. KWASNIEWSKI/AP

The ripple effect of a good book recommendation can go on for years, as Patrick T. Reardon writes in this essay.

Over the last year, I've read two books that knocked my socks off — the exquisitely evocative "Song of Solomon" by Toni Morrison and that epic, beautiful whale of great literature, "Moby-Dick" by Herman Melville.

I came to read them because, back in the spring of 2016, a friend recommended a book that had nothing directly to do with either: "How to Read the Bible" by Harvey Cox.

The story of how the Cox book led to Melville's big fish and Morrison's "Song" is an illustration of that little-recognized thing that happens among readers — the way the recommendation of one book has a ripple effect and leads to the reading of other books which lead to other books. In fact, since "How to Read the Bible" was suggested to me, it has led me to a total of 27 books, immensely enriching my reading experiences.

Think about it. When you suggest a book to someone, it can send that someone on a delightful and unexpected literary journey of great value.

Maybe I give you a copy of "Memento Mori" by Muriel Spark, and you like it so much to go on the read all of her other novels. That's the simplest example of this. The odds are, though, that you won't just read her stuff. You'll also be attracted to writers who are described as being like her or writing in the same postwar Britain or by authors whose paths crossed hers.

In a way, that's what happened to me, but with a focus on subject matter rather than writer.

The recommendation of "How to Read the Bible" came during a random conversation with my friend, Father Dominic Grassi who, at the time, was the pastor of our Catholic parish. I'd always had an interest in the Bible, plus I was intrigued that Cox, a highly popular author in the 1960s, was still writing.

What captivated me about "How to Read the Bible" was its description of biblical books as literary works that were created by authors who, in addition to their spiritual and theological preoccupations, also were crafting, as artfully as possible, a poem or a story. In other words, they were storytellers like Homer or Edith Wharton or Shakespeare.

This sort of juxtaposition of religious faith and art has always attracted me, and, as I read the Cox book, I noted several books mentioned in his text that I ordered and got around to reading as well, including "The Book of 'Job': A Biography" by Mark Larrimore and "The Poets' Jesus: Representations at the End of a Millennium" by Peggy Rosenthal.

The very good Rosenthal book didn't spark anything else in particular, but the Larrimore book certainly did.

It was published as part of a series from Princeton University Press, titled Lives of Great Religious Books, each of which looks at some great spiritual work and that work's impact on world culture. While these scholarly yet buoyantly written books of 200 pages or so deals, of course, with theology, their greater emphasis is on politics, art and history. Indeed, they are marketed as "biographies" of these great works.

Well, I was so beguiled by Larrimore's book on Job that, in the intervening 3½ years, I've read 10 other books from that series, and written about several of them, including "The Talmud: A Biography" by Barry Scott Wimpfheimer, "The Book of Genesis: A Biography" by Ronald Hendel, "The Song of Songs: A Biography" by Ilana Pardes and " 'The Koran' in English: A Biography" by Bruce B. Lawrence.

Those books from the Princeton series led, in turn, to other books. Because I'd read the Larrimore book, I was quick to obtain and read the recently published "Job: A New Translation" by Edward L. Greenstein. The Pardes book had a few pages on Morrison's "Song of Solomon," so, soon after finishing the one, I gobbled up the novel.

And the Hendel book led me to the totally unexpected "The Book of Genesis," illustrated by none other than R. Crumb, that 1960s countercultural, in-your-face founder of the underground "comix" movement and creator of "Fritz the Cat." An atheist, Crumb reproduced the entire text of the Bible's first book and, in his own peculiar way, illustrated it in a reverent fashion, if still with a lot of very buxom women and more than a few nudes.

The text Crumb used was the translation by Robert Alter who was also mentioned in the Harvey Cox book and became one of my favorite writers on the Bible as literature. Over a 20-year period, he translated the entire Hebrew Bible, and I've started to read the various installments. I've also enjoyed his work on the art of biblical narrative and the art of biblical translation, but perhaps my favorite is his 2010 "Pen of Iron: American Prose and the King James Bible."

This is Alter's examination of how the words, rhythms, techniques and literary aims of the King James Version have permeated American literature, influencing Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech, and writers ranging from Marilynne Robinson to Cormac McCarthy to Ernest Hemingway.

The bulk of "Pen of Iron" has to do with how the King James Version enriched "Seize the Day" by Saul Bellow, "Absalom, Absalom!" by William Faulkner and — a book I soon read and relished — Melville's "Moby-Dick."

"How to Read the Bible" turned out to open a lot of doors to a lot of fascinating and compelling books. I'm sure there have been other cases like this in my reading life that may have been just as rich but, for one reason or another, I didn't realize were happening. And in your reading life, too, I suspect.

And the wonderful thing is that it doesn't have to end. I'm looking forward to other "biographies" of great religious books from the Princeton series and to other translations and books by Alter. And other spinoffs and offshoots from the Cox book.

And the ripples of that one book recommendation continue to roll.

Patrick T. Reardon, a former Tribune reporter, is the author of eight books as well as the forthcoming "The Loop: The 'L' Tracks that Shaped and Saved Chicago," from Southern Illinois University Press.

Reader recommendations

We'd love to hear more about what you're reading. Send your recommendations about books that have inspired a ripple effect to books@chicagotribune.com. In the meantime, here's a recommendation from a reader responding to our feature about the titles authors turn to in tumultuous times.

Stuart Dybek suggests the work of W.S. Merwin. I suggest reading Stuart Dybek! Most of his stories are set in Chicago (and have a marvelous feel for our city). Try **"The Coast of Chicago," "I Sailed with Magellan"** or **"Paper Lantern: Love Stories."** If you like short short stories, try **"Ecstatic Cahoots"** (50 short stories in 192 pages), which includes "Mysterioso," a complete story of only two lines. Dybek is a Chicago treasure; read one of his books, and you'll then want to pick up the rest. — *David L. Perry, Chicago*

REVIEW

Jack Fredrickson offers another smart mystery

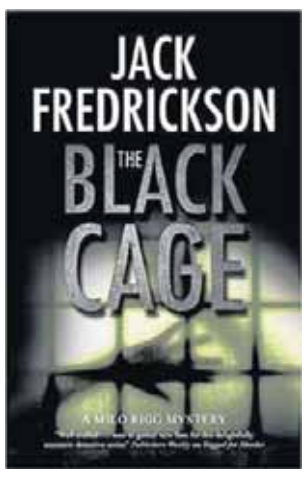
By Lloyd Sachs

Milo Rigg, the crime reporter in Jack Fredrickson's smart, new mystery, "The Black Cage," is the obvious choice to cover the murder of two young missing sisters whose naked, frozen bodies were found dumped in a ravine in suburban Cook County. As a star columnist for the Chicago Examiner, Rigg investigated the sensational murder 15 months earlier of three teenage boys whose naked bodies were dumped in a Chicago forest preserve.

But the 35-year-old Rigg is no longer at the Examiner, the fictitious No. 3 paper in town. After raging against the police on any and all media platforms for their bungled investigation of the boys' still-unsolved killing — turning off readers in the process — he was exiled by his financially shaky employer to the shabby, pink-painted digs of the Examiner's suburban "stuffer."

Stripped of his byline, Rigg now works part time on "meaningless, suburban, safe little stories." He drives in three days a week from the converted railroad car in the Indiana dunes in which he lived with his wife before she was killed two years earlier in a random, drive-by shooting on the Dan Ryan.

When an editor decides he needs his ace reporter back in the fold, Rigg is ready. He has never stopped poring through stacks of notes on the boys' deaths. His return is not good news for the crooked Cook County sheriff and the morally compromised medical examiner, one or both of whom may have played a role in the disappearance of a key witness in the girls' case.



'The Black Cage'

By Jack Fredrickson, Severn House, 224 pages, $28.99

But Deputy Jeremy Glet, whose reputation took a major hit when he was captured repositioning the dead boys' bodies, "preening" for TV cameras before forensics arrived on the scene, welcomes the chance to spar with Rigg again. He promises his old journalistic nemesis that he is onto something "explosive."

Fredrickson, a Hinsdale-based writer acclaimed for his Windy City series featuring private investigator Vlodek "Dek" Elstrom, is a sneaky stylist. On the one hand, he deftly engages in classic, hard-boiled tropes: "He doubted anyone about to kill himself would open a beer and take only a tiny sip before pulling the trigger." And though the beautiful supervisor who seduces Rigg may be the stuff of fantasy — she keeps her string of pearls on in bed — not many journalism thrillers get as much right as this one does.

Rigg's inserted stories read like actual reportage. Fredrickson skillfully documents the anxieties of a threatened industry, and you can't beat details like the burned-out dome light in Rigg's Taurus, which tells us he spends too many nights working inside it.

For all that, "The Black Cage" boasts a subtle modernist streak. If most crime novels cut sharp, crooked paths to their resolution, this one moves slowly, as if finding its way through a fog. There are no sudden breakthroughs to provide excitement; revelations arrive via the local line, not the express.

Much of the time, Rigg seems to be caught up in his recurring pre-dawn nightmare, in which his wife's arms beckon to him from behind the bars of a black cage. Ultimately, that unsettling image will connect to the murders. If in the early parts of the novel the young victims get a bit lost in the narrative shuffle, their absence ultimately leaves a deep imprint.

Lloyd Sachs, a freelancer, writes regularly about crime fiction for the Chicago Tribune.



ANTHONY SOUFFLE/TRIBUNE 2015

A recent Gallup poll surveying Americans about common cultural activities showed libraries are the most popular attraction.

BIBLIORACLE

Libraries: *The* cultural attraction

By John Warner

Quick quiz: Which of the following is the most common cultural activity in the United States?

- Going to the movies
- Attending a concert
- Attending a sporting event
- Going to the library
- Visiting a museum
- Visiting a zoo
- Visiting a national park
- Visiting a casino

I'll break the suspense. It's going to the library — by a lot. According to a Gallup poll completed in December 2019, on average, Americans went to the library 10 ½ times a year. The next closest was going to the movies at 5.3 times.

One message I am happy to revisit at every possible opportunity is the inherent awesomeness of public libraries.

Libraries are twice as visited as movie theaters. Maybe we should be paying more attention to libraries.

Libraries are important because they are one of the few remaining civic spaces open to all regardless of age, gender or income. Some are thinking that of course libraries come out on top because, unlike the other places on the list, they're free of charge. (Not entirely true. Casinos are also free to enter.)

Yes, that libraries are free is one of the main draws, but it is baffling to me that something being free to the public is occasionally used to discount the importance of that thing. Parks, roads, schools, police and firefighters are the same kind of "free" as libraries: paid for by taxpayer funds, and we believe all of those things to be vital to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

A deeper dive into the Gallup data reveals how important libraries are to those with lower incomes. Higher-income households do more activities overall — because they can afford them — which makes maintaining open and accessible alternatives even more important. Households with income under $40,000 a year visit libraries at much higher rates than households with incomes over $100,000 per year (12.2 to 8 ½).

If you think the so-called "digital native" generation would be turning its back on libraries, guess again. Visits to libraries are highest among the youngest group, 18- to 29-year-olds, at 15 ½ per year. The next-youngest group, 30 to 49, is at 12.3 visits per year — well above the overall average.

Also, library visits are highest in the Midwest, at 12.9 per year. Take a bow, my friends in the middle of the country, for knowing you have a good thing and making use of it.

We should be thinking about how to make more library-like things rather than looking for ways to cut public services.

Think of how adaptable libraries have had to become to keep pace with the digital age. Consider the range of activities and programming that is available — classes, book clubs, readings, children's activities, community meetings. You can even use your library for resources to help you start and run your own business or nonprofit, including free, reserved meeting spaces.

And once you have your job or have started your business, you can go to the library to get your taxes prepared — for free.

Take that, TurboTax.

If anyone starts talking about how we can't afford libraries and we need to reduce taxes or tighten our belts, point them toward this article and ask them what they have against institutions that are both dynamic and enduring.

We don't want a world without libraries.

John Warner is the author of "Why They Can't Write: Killing the Five-Paragraph Essay and Other Necessities."

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

John Warner tells readers what book to pick up next, based on the last five titles they've read.

1. "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles
2. "Girl at War" by Sara Novic
3. "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah
4. "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery
5. "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee
— Judy G., Glenview
Textbook list of books on the "buy two, get the third free" table at the chain bookstore. There's nothing wrong with that, or with these books, but it can put a reader into a cul-de-sac of choosing books that everyone else has chosen before them. Enter: The Biblioracle.
"The Known World" by Edward P. Jones.

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1. "An Honorable Defeat: The Last Days of the Confederate Government" by William C. Davis
2. "Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor" by Willard Sterne Randall
3. "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult
4. "Leadership in Turbulent Times" by Doris Kearns Goodwin
5. "Written in My Own Heart's Blood: Outlander, Book 8" by Diana Gabaldon
— Phil S., Park Forest
This list demonstrates a clear interest in the complexities of history and how different perspectives allow for different interpretations. I'm recommending a historical work fresh off the presses: **"The False Cause: Fraud, Fabrication, and White Supremacy in Confederate Memory"** by Adam H. Domby.

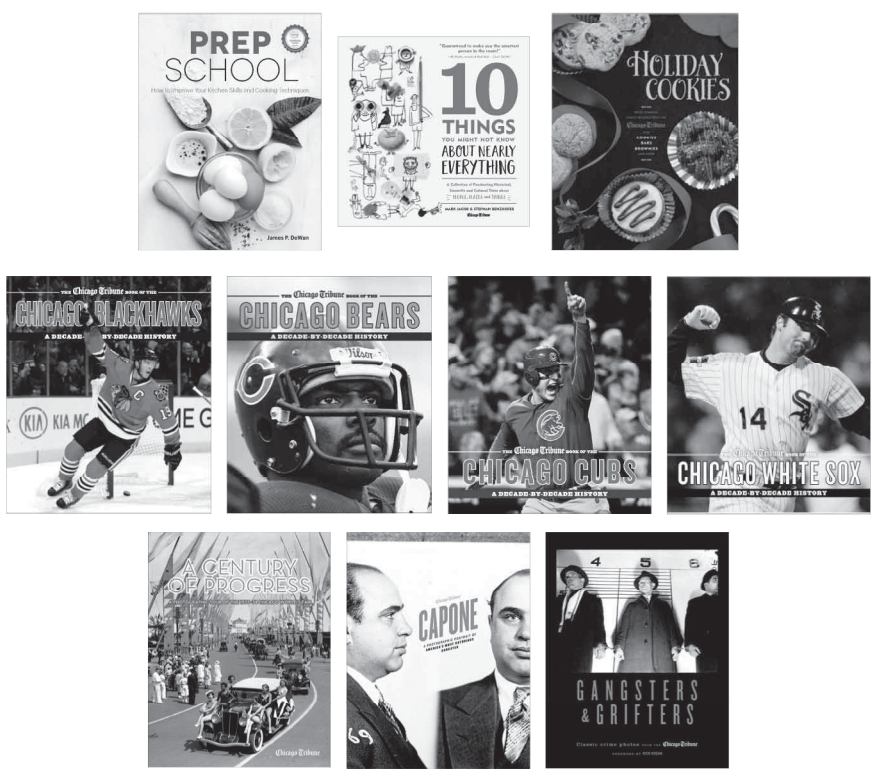
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1. "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Della Owens
2. "Bridge of Scarlet Leaves" by Kristina McMorris
3. "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt
4. "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah
5. "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee
— Rory D., Elgin
Another list of highly common reads — again, nothing wrong with that — but I'm countering with something not so recently published: **"How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia"** by Mohsin Hamid.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle

Send a list of the last five books you've read to books@chicagotribune.com.

Trib Books
LIBRARY



A decade-by-decade history of the Chicago Bears. Al Capone and a look into Chicago's criminal underworld. Delectable cookie recipes from Tribune readers. Find these selections and more original reporting and photography from the Tribune's curated book collection.

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LITERARY EVENTS

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TUESDAY EVENTS



DEAN REUTER
The Hidden Nazi
Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 pm
The Book Stall
811 Elm St., Winnetka
847 446-8880
www.thebookstall.com

The Book Stall hosts DEAN REUTER for a discussion of "**The Hidden Nazi**: The Untold Story of America's Deal with the Devil," about General Hans Kammler, a sidekick to SS Chief Heinrich Himmler and supervisor of Nazi rocket scientist Wernher von Braun. Reuter and his co-authors discovered US government documents that prove that Kammler was in American custody for months after the war, well after his officially declared suicide.



GABRIEL BUMP
Everywhere You Don't Belong
Tuesday, February 18 at 7 pm
Anderson's Bookshop
123 W. Jefferson Ave. Naperville
630-355-2665
www.andersonsbookshop.com

Anderson's Bookshop in **Naperville** hosts a powerful debut for author **Gabriel Bump** with his Chicago-set book, **Everywhere You Don't Belong**. This event is free and open to the public. To join the booksigning line, please purchase the author's featured book at Anderson's Bookshop.



MICHELLE SCHAUB
Dream Big Little Scientists
Tuesday, February 18 at 7 pm
Anderson's Bookshop
5112 Main St. Downers Grove
630-963-2665
www.andersonsbookshop.com

Anderson's Bookshop in **Downers Grove** hosts children's author **Michelle Schaub** with her STEM-happy picture book, **Dream Big Little Scientists**. This event is free and open to the public. To join the booksigning line, please purchase the author's featured book at **Anderson's Bookshop**.

THURSDAY EVENTS



CHARLES FINCH
The Last Passenger
Thursday, February 20 at 7 pm
Anderson's Bookshop
123 W. Jefferson Ave. Naperville
630-355-2665
www.andersonsbookshop.com

Anderson's Bookshop in **Naperville** presents a local favorite author, **Charles Finch**, sharing his new Charles Lenox mystery series novel, **The Last Passenger**. This event is free and open to the public. To join the booksigning line, please purchase the author's featured book at **Anderson's Bookshop**.

FRIDAY EVENTS



JANICE KAPLAN
The Genius of Women
Friday, February 21 at 7 pm
Anderson's Bookshop
123 W. Jefferson Ave. Naperville
630-355-2665
www.andersonsbookshop.com

Anderson's Bookshop in **Naperville** welcomes former Parade Magazine Editor-in-Chief and author **Janice Kaplan** celebrating her new title, **The Genius of Women**. This event is free and open to the public. To join the booksigning line, please purchase the author's featured book at **Anderson's Bookshop**.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SCOTT SIMON
Sunnyside Plaza
Sunday, February 23 at 2 pm
Anderson's Bookshop
123 W. Jefferson Ave. Naperville
630-355-2665
www.andersonsbookshop.com

Anderson's Bookshop in **Naperville** presents **Scott Simon**, NPR's most listened-to news program (Weekend Edition Saturday) host discuss his new middle grade book, **Sunnyside Plaza**. This event is free and open to the public. To join the booksigning line, please purchase the author's new book at **Anderson's Bookshop**.

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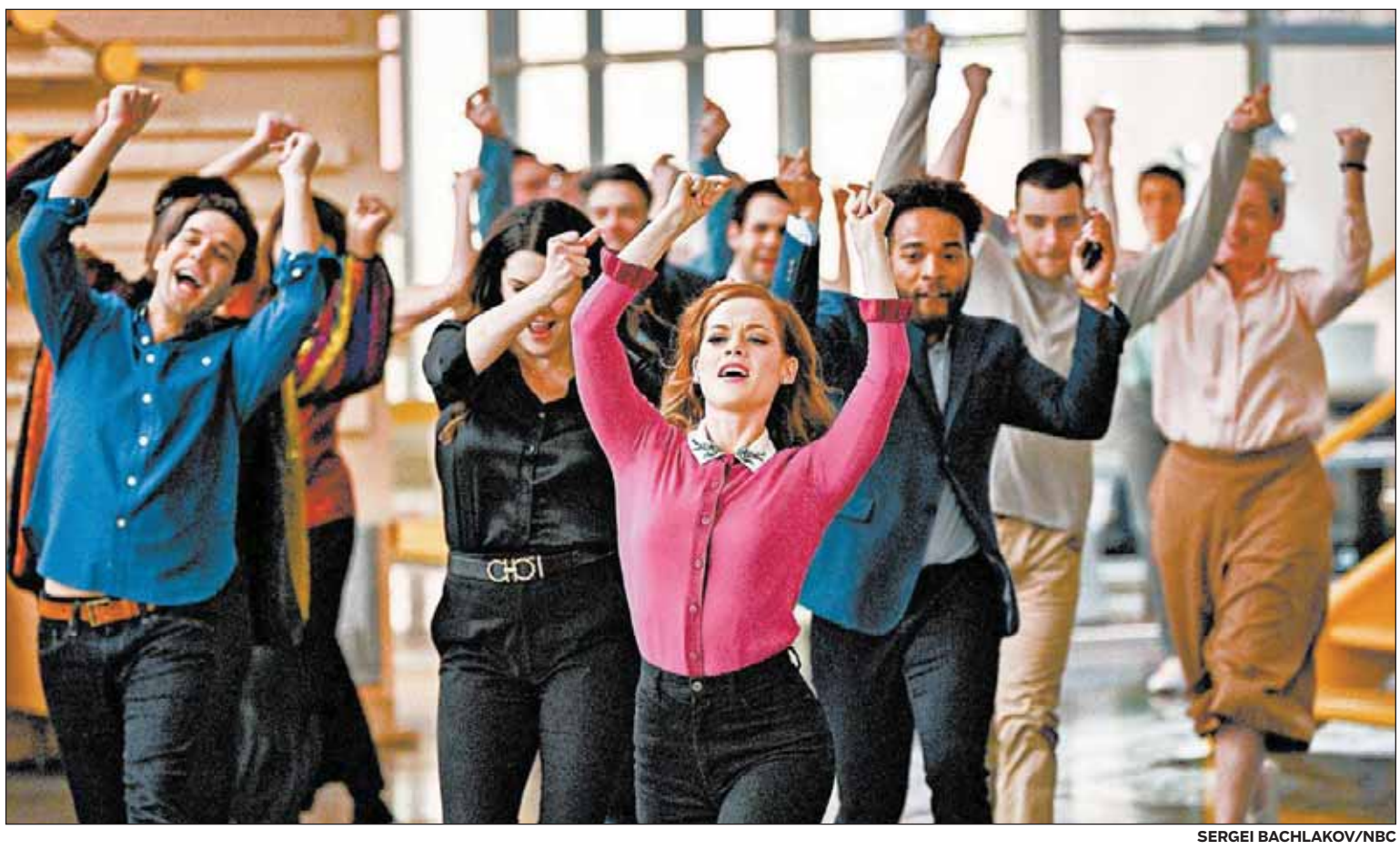


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Singing a new-show tune

On TV's new musicals, every episode is opening night

By Alexis Soloski
The New York Times



SERGEI BACHLAKOV/NBC

Jane Levy, center, stars in "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," about a woman who can hear thoughts of her fellow San Franciscans via popular song.

NEW YORK — At a Queens Studio lot, on a frigid Monday in November, the actor Jonny Beauchamp, in wig, fake lashes, gloves and platform heels, took a deep breath — as deep as his flame-colored corset allowed — and readied himself for the next take.

On "Katy Keene," a "Riverdale" spinoff on the CW, Beauchamp plays Jorge, an aspiring Broadway chorus boy who also performs as his drag alter ego, Ginger. This episode, the sixth, would see Ginger competing in a drag pageant at Molly's Crisis, an outrageous, loving homage to the Greenwich Village piano bar Marie's Crisis. For the talent portion, Ginger would sing Beyoncé's "Pretty Hurts."

"And let me tell you, honey," he said gesturing to his corset, "this hurts."

Although he had recorded a backing track the night before, he insisted on singing live instead of lip-syncing, "to give it that extra verve," he said.

He isn't singing alone. This winter, on networks and streaming services, other characters are joining in — in church, on the sidewalk, in restaurants, bedrooms, rehearsal rooms, open-plan offices and pour-over coffee bars. They are singing new songs and old ones, show tunes and pop hits, rock and rap and the occasional hallelujah chorus.

New shows like "Katy Keene" and "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," a musical procedural on NBC, join fall arrivals such as "Perfect Harmony," a single-camera comedy on NBC; "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series," a mockumentary-style series on Disney Plus; and "Soundtrack," an hourlong drama on Netflix. Each includes at least one musical number per episode, often many more.

More musical series are in the works, like a collaboration among Alicia Keys and the "Greatest Showman" composers Benj Pasek and Justin Paul for Showtime and Damien Chazelle's "The Eddy," set in a Paris nightclub and bound for Netflix. MGM is developing a Billy Joel jukebox anthology. The Chainsmokers are producing a Freeform series. Remember the musical episode of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" when a demon came to town and made everyone sing ballads and patter songs? Television is like that now.

"Musicals are no longer nerdy," said Tim Federle, the showrunner for "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series." Or maybe more nerds have made it to pitch meetings.

Either way, programming executives have pegged musical series as a way to break out amid TV's ever-growing glut. New series "are looking to stand out but also to really connect to audiences," said NBC executive Lisa Katz. "It's undeniable that music is something that people connect to."



MITCHELL HADDAD/NBC

"Perfect Harmony," starring Bradley Whitford, is based on creator Leslie Wake Webster's grandfather, a choir director who spent his final years mentoring singers in rural Kentucky.

Broadly, and with exceptions, the musical surfeit speaks to impulses that are both utopian and mercenary. On the one hand, musicals are a pleasure and an escape, an antidote to the antihero. In an era of atomized programming, their soundtracks — which range from the Beatles and Dolly Parton to Nicki Minaj and Imagine Dragons — aim for big-tent appeal.

"People who are from very different backgrounds and different worlds can all have a shared experience of liking a song," said Lesley Wake Webster, the creator of "Perfect Harmony."

On the other, there's a clear desire to replicate a hit like "Glee," which spawned tours, companion shows, album sales. And executives know that a musical number is immediately uploadable, excerptable — a fast-track to fan engagement and a stealthy way to stretch an advertising budget.

Still, strumming a ukulele doesn't guarantee going viral, and musical series have an iffy history. When I was growing up, after "The Partridge Family," before "Glee," a musical series was mostly a punch line. "Cop Rock," anyone?

But the success of "Glee," as well as that of other recent shows like "Nashville" and "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," proved that musical series can thrive.

Which might have suggested that most of these new shows were dreamed up by marketing VPs. But the reality is more complicated and in some cases more personal.

"Perfect Harmony," a romance between a snooty Princeton professor (Bradley Whitford) and a rube choir, seems like a match made in focus group. But Webster based it on her grandfather, Arthur Wake, a hotshot choir director who spent his final years mentoring singers in rural Kentucky.

Each series has to decide how to assimilate song and story. In "Perfect Harmony," "Katy Keene" and the "High School Musical" series, the music is mostly diegetic, meaning that it occurs within the story — characters sing because they are in rehearsal or at a karaoke bar. "Soundtrack," a lip-synced series about a varied group of Los Angelenos, and "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," about a young coder who can hear the innermost thoughts of her fellow San Franciscans via popular song, approach things like Broadway musicals. The music just appears, anywhere, anytime.

But those dance breaks and melismatic runs still need to be earned, so strict rules have been drafted for why and how a show's characters should sing.

Austin Winsberg, the showrunner for "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," wrote a 27-page manifesto stipulating that each song had to reveal character, drive story or at least make a joke. (Also, jazz hands and kick lines were out.) "Soundtrack," created by Joshua Safran, the showrunner for the second season of "Smash," constructed the show's story around the songs. He built playlists for each character and let the songs, typically four to six per episode, guide the plot.

And yet, as Webster admitted, "Sometimes it's just like, 'Gosh, wouldn't it just be really fun to have them sing right now?' "

That said, "fun" wasn't a word many of the musical showrunners threw around. The breathless pace of episodic television and the added demands of music and dance make for an unforgiving combination.

A song typically requires more takes and more setups than a dialogue scene, and every gesture has to match the backing track. "As somebody who's done both action and musicals, it is as big as your biggest action sequence," Safran told me. Which means that it can occasionally feel like a car crash. Kate Reinders, a Broadway performer who stars on "High School Musical," said, "Sometimes you feel like you never maybe get there."

Or maybe you get somewhere else. Jane Levy, who stars in "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," said that during a song-and-dance number, "It feels like the molecules in the air around us suddenly change.

"It's just a little bit more joyful, a little bit more connected."

On the move

How FKA twigs is redefining her artistry with dance

By Makeda Easter
Los Angeles Times

The sound of applause is not enough to drown out the clicks of FKA twigs' sky-high stilettos as she saunters across a stage in the Grammy-nominated video "Cellophane." Wearing a sparkling bikini, her body undulates like molten lava against a pole as the song of vulnerability begins.



FKA twigs

Its lyrics are set to a spare piano: "Didn't I do it for you Why don't I do it for you/ Why won't you do it for me/ When all I do is for you."

Then, she's spinning on the pole, upside down with her legs contorted above her head, as the sky opens up and an alienlike creature appears.

Directed by Björk collaborator Andrew Thomas Huang, the video marked twigs' return after a three-year hiatus. She took time away from performing to make new music, train in different movement styles and heal from an operation removing benign fibroid tumors from her uterus.

From the early days of her career, twigs, whose experimental sound blends electronic with pop and R&B, has made dance an integral component of her artistry.

Since releasing her first music project in 2012, she's experimented with ways to combine her music with movement, working with Hollywood choreographer Ryan Heffington, voguer Benjamin Milan, krumping troupe Wet Wipez and others from the global dance community.

For "Cellophane," she had to learn a new skill.

The video concept came to twigs immediately after writing the song in 2018. "It was supposed to be seductive, but also uncomfortable to watch," she said.

To make the pole dancing look effortless on camera, twigs studied intensely with LA choreographer and pole instructor Kelly Yvonne for about a year. Early training sessions were painful.

"At a certain point, you stop feeling it and your body gets used to it," twigs said. "The pole becomes your best friend and the harder you squeeze, the tighter the burn, the more exhilarating it is."

Pole dance is just one of the movement skills twigs showcased during her recent tour for her latest album, "Magdalene."

When twigs began conceptualizing the show with Theo Adams, the founder of a London-based performance collective, they spent a week trading ideas with Canadian performance art duo Quote Unquote Collective.

Working with Adams, the two further developed the live show, steeped in the centuries-old Italian street theater tradition of commedia dell'arte. The goal was to use old-fashioned theater techniques and archetypes to present twigs' raw talent to audiences.



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY

FKA twigs performed onstage last month during the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

In the show, twigs tap dances as a jester and does contemporary and street dance in Harlequin-inspired costumes with a cast of performers. A pole routine is set to "Lights On," a song from her debut album. And at one point, she sets aside her microphone and grabs a sword to perform an agile number showing off her skills in the Chinese martial art wushu.

"I'm still a beginner, but I want to just put it onstage so I could show everyone where I am," twigs said. "It's kind of fun to be vulnerable and be a work in progress."

When twigs performed a shortened version of the show last year at the LA festival Camp Flog Gnaw, the crowd stood mesmerized as she moved. Even outdoors, a cellphone ring pierced the awed silence.

Working with twigs was easy, Adams said. "She's like an old-school pro performer," he said. "She's got it and there's not many people around nowadays in the world that have that."

Born Tahliah Barnett, twigs grew up in the English countryside of Gloucestershire. She began taking ballet, tap and modern dance classes at 7, learned to salsa dance at 8, and around 12 began training in street dance and hip-hop.

At 17, she moved to South London and became a backup dancer for British pop artists including Jessie J and Ed Sheeran. Dance is "just something that's inside of me," she said. "My dad was a jazz dancer. My mom's a salsa dancer."

But in the early days of her music career, she wanted to distance herself from dance.

"I really did not want to be known as a dancer," she said. "I wanted to do some movement onstage and I wanted to express myself a little bit, but I really did not want to put dance into what I do."

After signing to her music label Young Turks, someone from the artists and repertoire division told her, "if you dance, you're not going to be taken seriously."

Twigs said dance can make or break an artist.

"It really is super exposing. In the beginning, I was really nervous to have dance," she said adding that when she rose through the ranks, not many pop artists were incorporating underground cultures like voguing. "They haven't done it for a long time."

The turning point was creating "Soundtrack 7," a short film fusing contemporary with street dance, created during a 2015 residency at Manchester's Old Granada Studios as part of the Manchester International Festival.

"That was when I was like, 'Oh wait, I've still got it,' " she said. "It's still in here somewhere — this classical training, the contemporary training."

These days, twigs hesitates to call herself a dancer, instead preferring to invoke the term "movement artist," one investigating "what my body can do and seeing how that relates to beats and music and sounds."

"I used to be a dancer and now I'm a mover and it's just different," she said. "I can't explain how it's different, but it just is."

Kamin

Continued from ***Page 1***

van der Rohe's Federal Center, but Leigh puts down its handsomely proportioned, elegantly detailed high-rises as "boxy," trashes its transparent low-rise post office as "squat" and deems the entire complex, including the vibrant plaza highlighted by Alexander Calder's bright red Flamingo sculpture, as "not exactly a tour de force."

The people who live here know better.

Here's the point: Style wars invariably fail to address the underlying characteristics — including function, security, sustainability, accessibility and compatibility with a specific site, climate and culture — that render architecture and urban design worthy or not. No style, classical or modernist, has a monopoly on quality. The problem with the proposal in question isn't classicism. It's the *imposition* of classicism and other traditional styles from a single central authority, a move that would undercut the very democratic ideals that classicism is supposed to represent.

As the Chicago-based Society of Architectural Historians and other organizations wrote in a letter to Trump Monday, joining opponents of the plan such as the American Institute of Architects and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "we ... remain convinced that the dictation of style — any style — is not the path to excellence in civic architecture."

The controversial plan, a draft executive order now circulating in the Trump White House, would overturn guiding principles for federal architecture — courthouses, agency headquarters and the like — that have been in place since 1962. The forward-thinking principles have been a touchstone for the General Services Administration, the agency that commissions federal buildings. In 1994, it created a Design Excellence program that has tapped the talents of such Chicago architects as Carol Ross Barney, designer of the Oklahoma City federal building that replaced the one that a truck bomb destroyed in 1995, killing 168 people.

Written by future New York senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the principles, critically, are neutral on the question of style.



ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE FILE

The muscular Richard J. Daley Center's bridgelike beams, right, relate directly in scale to the monumental Corinthian columns of the City Hall-County Building across Clark Street downtown, an example of modernism enlivened against classicism in glorious counterpoint.

Federal buildings "must provide visual testimony to the dignity, enterprise, vigor, and stability of the American Government," the principles say. But they add, pointedly, that "the development of an official style must be avoided. Design must flow from the architectural profession to the Government, and not vice versa."

In other words, officials styles were for the totalitarian governments American was fighting during the Cold War era of the 1960s. The principles, in contrast, equated democratic freedom with architectural pluralism: Federal buildings should reflect regional architectural traditions and, by implication, the diverse character of the American people.

That is very different from the stereotype of one-size-fits-all, steel-and-glass modernism.

The organization spearheading the draft executive order is a tiny Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, the National Civic Art Society. In 2012, Philanthropy magazine reported that its chief funder was Chicago investor Richard H. Driehaus, sponsor of the Driehaus Prize for traditional and classical architecture.

Anne Lazar, executive director of Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, confirmed Tuesday that personal contributions from Driehaus to the group are ongoing, but she declined to answer what Driehaus thinks of the draft executive order, which carries a title, "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again," that riffs on Trump's slogan to "Make America Great Again."

The National Civic Art Society's position, however, is quite clear: Modernism is a plague on our collective house, a rupture with the evolving classical tradition that began with the Greeks and Romans; flowered during the Renaissance via such masters as Italy's Andrea Palladio; informed the Founding Fathers, especially the architect-President Thomas Jefferson; and inspired the celebrated "White City" ensemble of Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.

"The public finds it ugly, strange, and off-putting," the group says of modern architecture on its website. "It has created a built environment that is degraded and dehumanizing."

Wiser classicists know better: Modernism, now well over a century old, is, like it or not, a part of history whose impact cannot be wished away. And while modernism's glassy, transparent volumes boldly departed from the solid masses of classically-inspired buildings, its masters, like Mies, simultaneously learned from that tradition and enlivened it by placing their buildings and urban spaces in vivid counterpoint to it. A sterling Chicago example, chiefly designed by Jacques Brownson, is the Richard J. Daley Center, the muscular court's high-rise whose bridgelike beams relate directly in scale to the monumental Corinthian columns of the City Hall-County Building across Clark Street.

There are few better examples of what the Yale architectural historian Vincent Scully called "a continuing dialogue between the generations which creates an environment developing across time."

That development doesn't degrade our cities. It enlivens them. We would all be poorer without it.

Both sides in the federal buildings debate need to take off ideological blinders. There is nothing inherently regressive about a classical federal building, just as there is nothing inherently progressive about a modernist one. The spectrum of classical design ranges from the transcendent excellence of the Parthenon to the megalomaniacal vision for post-World War II Berlin drawn up by Hitler's architect, Albert Speer. So, too, with modernism, which spans the gamut from the rigor and refinement of the Mies-designed Federal Center to the coarse concrete of the Brutalist FBI headquarters on Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue, by Chicago architects C.F. Murphy Associates.

I do not quiver at a trend noted by a New York Times editorial on this subject that the General Services Administration has begun to construct more buildings in a classical style. If local communities and their leaders choose in coordination with the federal government to build in that style, and it can serve functional needs in a reasonably economical way, those communities and leaders have every right to do so. The point is the choice, and maintaining the ability to choose.

While it's true that the federal government once set aesthetic standards for federal buildings, opting for a streamlined version of Art Deco during the Depression, the nation has changed markedly since then. We are more diverse, not just demographically but architecturally. Pluralism reigns, just as our national motto ("*E pluribus unum*," Latin for "Out of many, one") suggests it should. Our buildings should reflect that diversity, not mask it.

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CSO	FEB 27–29	Sibelius & Nielsen: A Nordic Celebration
Jazz	FEB 28	Abdullah Ibrahim & Ekaya
Piano	MAR 1	Daniil Trifonov
CSO	MAR 1	Civic Centennial Celebration
Chamber	MAR 2 LIMITED AVAILABILITY	Ax, Kavakos & Ma
CSO	MAR 5–7	Blomstedt Conducts Brahms 2
World	MAR 6 LIMITED AVAILABILITY	The Chieftains and Friends: *The Irish Goodbye*
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NATHAN CONGLETON/NBC

From left, Craig Melvin, Savannah Guthrie and Hoda Kotb during a recent "Today" broadcast. Morning TV has become the most intense, competitive time of day for major news outlets.

Having a rough morning?

How early news shows grapple with Trump, technology

By Brian Steinberg
Variety

Robin Roberts needs to rely on more than just her journalism training to survive on "Good Morning America."

ABC News keeps throwing new program configurations at her, so much so that Roberts says she draws upon her childhood experience, when her father had to move from job to job in the Air Force, to keep rolling with them.

"I had to make new friends every three years," she says. On camera at "GMA," she's done much the same.

When she joined the show as a co-anchor in 2005, Roberts worked with Charlie Gibson and Diane Sawyer, then just Sawyer. Then she teamed with George Stephanopoulos and a broader "family" of news anchors in a configuration that helped the show surpass its main rival, NBC's "Today," in the ratings for the first time in 16 years.

Now, "GMA" looks nothing like the program that snatched the viewership crown (it's still TV's most-watched morning program, though NBC has taken back the lead among key viewers). In 2020, Roberts is part of a trio — she opens the show with Stephanopoulos and Michael Strahan — and the second hour of "GMA" takes place before a live audience seated in a separate studio.

In a different era, producers would try to maintain elements of the show for as long as possible to avoid upsetting longtime viewers. David Hartman launched "GMA" in 1975 and kept on as host into 1987.

"There were very little, if any, format changes," he recalls.

Sticking to last year's formula is no longer a strategy for the future. TV's business of dawn is breaking. Whether or not it can be fixed remains to be seen.

In recent years, the morning slot has experienced tremendous upheaval. Consider the dismissals of Matt Lauer from "Today" and Charlie Rose from "CBS This Morning," or ABC's quick-turn move of Strahan to "GMA" from "Live" with Kelly Ripa.

President Donald Trump's attraction to "Fox & Friends" can create ripples in the news cycle; his feud with Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" shocked the anchors as well as their audience.

Once a softer environment for news and interviews, morning television has become the most intense and competitive time of day for major TV news outlets, even though viewers are getting more news from smartphone screens and other new-tech venues. And as the pace of breaking news increases, the shows are turning more hard-boiled.

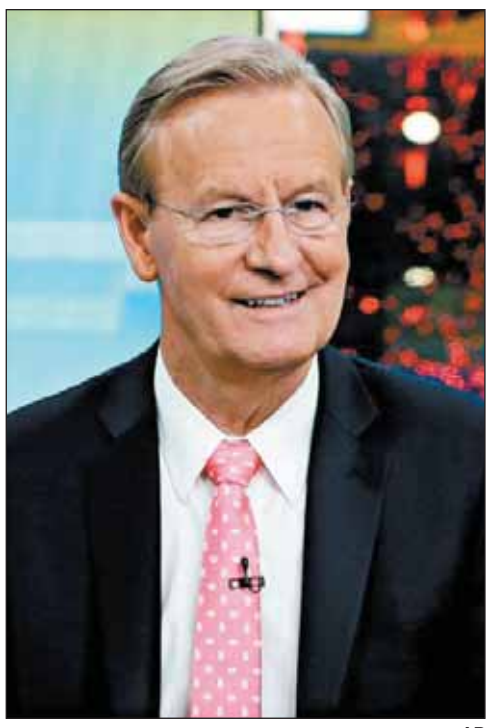
In recent years, viewers have seen anchors conduct contentious newsmaker interviews, discuss shocking political maneuvers and even cover detailed sexual assault allegations against former colleagues.

Adding to the tension: Key viewers have defected from the a.m. offerings on ABC, NBC and CBS. Over a five-season period that ended with the 2018-19 cycle, the audience that news advertisers pay for most — people between 25 and 54 — fell almost 22% at "CBS This Morning," 28% at "Today" and a little over 38% at "GMA," according to Nielsen.



HEIDI GUTMAN/ABC 2018

Robin Roberts compares trying to keep up with the 24-hour news cycle to being "shot out of a cannon." Viewers often have seen all the big headlines before they turn on the TV.



AP

Steve Doocy, of "Fox & Friends," said the heated discussions are part of the cable show's appeal.

Meanwhile, cable's best-known morning programs — "Fox & Friends," "Morning Joe" and "New Day" — have won viewers by aggressively focusing on a narrower political spectrum and breaking national news.

"It's not your momma's 'Good Morning America,' " says Roberts one morning during a quick break on set while the cameras are off. "Nor should it be."

In sunrise visits to six of the nation's most-watched a.m. programs, *Variety* found anchors taking on more roles as their networks extend into digital video and social media; producers working to beat their rivals in the traditional ratings, all the while hoping their networks monetize experimental ways of reaching viewers; and news personnel trying to figure out how to balance an increasing amount of hard news with the lighter tone that has been a hallmark of the time slot.

Michael Corn, senior executive broadcast producer for "GMA," sees changes coming at breakneck speed.

"Our world as media consumers is evolving at an incredible pace," he says. "If you're running a show like this, you have to learn to evolve just as fast."

America's six most-watched morning programs — "GMA," "Today," "CBS This Morning," "Fox & Friends" "Morning Joe" and "New Day" — bring in almost $1 billion in ad dollars and millions of viewers every year. At broadcast networks, the shows typically carry the entire news division. "Today" is "the beating heart, financially, spiritually and editorially," of NBC News, says Noah Oppenheim, the division's president. "Yeah, it's critical."

The programs once thrived by becoming part of a family habit, passed from one generation to the next. Now each member of a clan can check out Twitter headlines, smartphone notifications or even email newsletters.

Morning programs continue to hold the national interest.

Apple bet millions of dollars on "The Morning Show," a streaming-video drama that offers a not-so-veiled look at the inner workings of morning TV, particularly "Today." Roberts can't take a day off without people wondering where she's gone. At "Today," Savannah Guthrie's recent eye surgery — chronicled in great detail on various broadcasts in December and January — has sparked strong viewer reaction.

"It's on the mend," she says. "We have all lived through the eye saga. It's getting better."

The rule of morning news had long been to offer viewers the equivalent of a soothing cup of coffee. These days, the shows often serve up a shot of much harder stuff.

In the Trump era, that makes for moments that a different generation of morning audience might never have thought they'd see on TV.

During one recent broadcast of "Morning Joe," for example, Scarborough told viewers that White House adviser Stephen Miller, whose controversial remarks in pre-election emails to the conservative news site Breitbart had leaked, was "revealed as a white nationalist or as a champion of white nationalism." No matter what one's politics, that's tough stuff to hear over coffee and cereal or while the kids play next to the couch.

And yet viewers flock to these cable programs. Some pass along clips of the knock-down, drag-outs between Trump supporters and the "New Day" anchors on CNN (the network has on occasion cut its commercials so the back-and-forth can continue without interruption). Others enjoy hearing MSNBC's Scarborough and Brzezinski warn about behavior coming out of the White House. And some thrill to see members of the Trump administration showing up on "Fox & Friends."

The anchors on those networks are fierce rivals, but on this point they agree: Audiences like what they see. While the shows draw fewer viewers than their broadcast rivals, ratings have been on the rise.

Between the 2014-15 and the 2018-19 TV seasons, the 25-to-54 audience has soared 25% for "Fox & Friends," 28% for CNN's "New Day" and a whopping 113% for MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

"I always thought that it was a tender time of the day," says Steve Doocy, who launched "Fox & Friends" in 1998 and has worked at other morning programs.

"You're just waking up. You want it nice and easy. But what we have noticed is that when we do segments that are louder, at a hotter temperature — you know what? It kind of works."

Indeed, those discussions are part of the cable shows' appeal.

"I think people are tuning in to us to see people held to account," says Alisyn Camerota of "New Day." "People do like it when we hold their feet to the fire.

"Sometimes we have to interrupt people if they are blathering on with their talking points, but even then, our viewers expect us to get in there and stop the nonsense. I don't wrestle with it."

The broadcast shows still boast celebrity interviews and cooking segments, but they've also changed with the times. "CBS This Morning" injected a newsier focus on the proceedings when it launched in 2012.

"Our competitors will say (to me) I really like what you guys are doing," says Gayle King of "CBS This Morning." "They shall remain nameless, but they are well known."

In 2015, NBC eliminated the longtime news reader position on "Today" and pushed fluffier stories into the second hour. That let the anchors at 7 a.m. lean into a tighter focus on hard news, says Oppenheim. "GMA" recently reworked its starting moments with a "cold open" on Roberts, Stephanopoulos and Strahan at the desk, pushing the usual voice-overs and video montages until after the trio kicks off the show.

Now, even some of the cable hosts have begun to wring their hands over how tough a stance to take each day.

"Mika and I for the first time had to talk to each other before we went on the show and basically say, 'Let's keep it down to a simmer,' " says Scarborough. "We can't say the world is coming to an end every day. We can't predict that locusts are going to descend from the heavens every day and tear the flesh off everyone in Washington every day."

He credits co-anchor Willie Geist for keeping discussions calmer and notes his team tries to use sports scores and other conversations about culture to cool things down.

The dizzying array of outlets now vying for morning attention puts pressure on all the shows to put up more content and throw something new at viewers at every turn.

Even the quieter moments in early-bird TV can be a squeeze.

The day has barely started, and Guthrie is already pushing up against a deadline. The clock ticks just past 6:30 a.m. at the show's famous Studio 1A, in a tiny hair-and-makeup room often used for production meetings as the anchors get ready to go on screen. Guthrie, Hoda Kotb, Al Roker and Craig Melvin are talking to producers about everything from the state of U.S.-Iran relations to a recipe that involves apples and pancetta — all elements of the coming broadcast — and Guthrie has to take a final look at the opening for the show: Due to overnight developments in the news cycle, changes are needed.

She and executive producer Libby Leist quickly start calling other "Today" operatives, including producers in the show's control room. Leist tracks down NBC White House correspondent Kristen Welker, who is scheduled to have a one-on-one in-studio discussion with Guthrie. They need to work out new questions.

"Ten years ago, the show used to be put to bed in the afternoon the day before," says Leist, "and now there are more conversations we have reinventing the show as it gets up to air."

NBC is working to push "Today" forward after an era of tumult. The program has been under a microscope since 2012, when it lost in the ratings to "GMA" for the first time in 16 years. That same year, co-anchor Ann Curry left in a tearful on-air goodbye. Lauer's ouster in 2017 brought new scrutiny to the news division and even parent Comcast.

"All the shows have their ups and downs, and I think the 'Today' show gets a lot of scrutiny," says Guthrie. "I hope that's because people think this show still matters."

Executives believe the program has found stability with Guthrie and Kotb — and a business plan that calls for consideration of digital and social elements to be just as important as the TV programming. NBC's vision of morning business may be one others pursue as well.

ABC News has also worked to turn "GMA" into an always-on digital presence. Both programs have begun to dabble in e-commerce, allowing viewers to buy some of the products they see showcased in certain segments.

"You can imagine a future in which the broadcast television show is just one piece of a larger 'Today' brand that people are interacting with," says Oppenheim. Leist envisions being able to offer cooking demonstrations from the "Today" archives via Peacock, NBCUniversal's new streaming-video service.

TV executives hold out hope for the future. Producers believe their shows will get new sampling on both old and new screens. Next fall, television ratings are going to include some of the viewership that watches screens in places other than the home, such as offices and hotel rooms. And sending morning segments into the streaming-video ether is gaining traction.

Amid the frenzy, the anchors can't forget why people continue to latch on to the morning show.

"The way people are receiving it is shifting, but I don't think that changes the product," says "CBS This Morning" co-anchor Tony Doukopil. "The product still has to make a connection with people."

Scott Carlin, executive vice president of global media and entertainment at Magid, a TV-industry consultant, says that modern viewers see themselves as "survivors." So, yes, they want to hear all the explosive news stories, but they still want to walk away feeling positive. That's no easy task.

"I think it's very challenging for all of these shows to figure out how do they not get caught in a fear trap?" Carlin says.

Debuts

Continued from **Page 1**

Jasmon Drain, 'Stateway's Garden'

Vitals: 44, grew up in Englewood, now lives in Kenwood.

It's about: The interlocking trajectories of a handful of tenants in the now-demolished State Street housing project. Set in the 1980s, and ending with Stateway's demolition in 2007, reminiscent of story collections from Raymond Carver and Gloria Naylor, this elegant first book begins with a shy child named Tracy, spirals outward to his distracted mother, then gravitates toward an older brother, then their neighbors; by the final story, we're reading a furious history of an enormous slab of concrete ("a grayish-white color that looked like dirty sheets bleached repeatedly") that shared a single quality with the millionaire homes on Lake Shore Drive, "condo views of the city" — albeit, without ever feeling as welcome to that city.

His story: Drain taught some at University of Illinois at Chicago, a bit at Chicago State, a little at Olive-Harvey College near Pullman. "I hated teaching," he said, "But I was good at it." He attended Southern Illinois University, then entered law school at Louisiana State University. One day, not long after he quit his job as a paralegal for a downtown Chicago law firm, he was feeling distraught. "I didn't know what to do with myself, and you may not believe this, but I picked up a pen and started. I was riding a train north — this is 2007 — and I see they're knocking down Stateway and I wonder what it must be like to see someone knock your home down. Romantic as it sounds, I got off the train, went to the other side (of the CTA platform), took the next train home, sat and started writing. Eventually, I had a book."

If only the rest went so smooth.

He said he never wanted to be a writer; watching his father struggle as a freelance musician, he wanted something more certain than a creative life. "But it is who I am, so I do it." For years he tried to sell the stories that make up "Stateway's Garden." He sold a couple to literary journals for less than $100, total. But, inspired by reservation tales of Sherman Alexie ("the first writer I read who did not run from reality"), and Steinbeck, he continued: "Something's happened in every book, an overarching narrative affecting its characters. Maybe the characters don't see it. Maybe we don't. But if a book is set in '64, '78, whenever, something's there. That's Steinbeck to me, writing about the time, rather than just having characters go through feelings. He wrote fiction resonant of its time, and I want that."

What's next: He's working on a novel, but Drain admits he's still uncertain if he wants the life of a writer. "Right now working on something new is the last of my thoughts. I just have to want *to do it again* first. Someone asked me for advice for aspiring writers of color, and I said, 'Don't do it if it's not who you are.' You'll find who are you anyway. But this job will test you."

Rita Woods, 'Remembrance'

Vitals: 62, from Homer Glen, where she is a family physician and medical director of the Wellness Center in Mokena serving the Pipefitters Local 597.

It's about: Four women, linked by the legacy of African American slavery — and their supernatural powers. Pinging across 300 years, from 1791 Haiti to a contemporary nursing home in Cleveland, it's a historical epic rooted in the horrors of the slave trade, with an intriguing bit of X-Men-like uncanniness attached. One slave develops the power to manipulate space, starting an encampment for the underground railroad sealed off with a force field. No whites allowed. Until the priestess ages, and the town, Remembrance, frays.

Her story: Woods never planned, of course, to wait until her 60s to become a debut novelist. She had grown up in Detroit, wanting to write for magazines, but "my parent's rule was smart black girls go into professions." So she became a doctor; at one time, she was on the staff of four hospitals simultaneously. She put in so many hours as a family doctor, there was no time to write, for years. She even trained seriously as a bodybuilder (then decided not to compete).

About a decade ago, she realized "I had worked 20 years to create this career and it's not the one I wanted as a kid, and it's kept my kids in dance and paid the mortgage and paid for vacations, but it was brutal and there was no bandwidth left (for writing). I couldn't sustain it." She wrote during early morning hours and self-imposed weekend retreats.

"I realized I didn't want to just tell a straightforward underground railroad story. Anyone who had the courage to run away from slavery had something else in them anyway. I don't know if it would be called magic, but certainly a strength of character. On some level though I wanted them to be able to weaponize those abilities, and not necessarily in an offensive way."

She pictured Remembrance beneath an invisible dome, subject to "an odd physics, where the people inside could walk 50 miles, or could go fishing — as long as they were inside the dome, the space inside was infinite. It was its own world, a parallel universe of sorts."

She began attending writers conferences and pitching to agents — one of whom assumed the Underground Railroad was an actual railroad. ("He wanted to know if you sat or stood.") But the very next agent she talked to acquired the book. Then couldn't sell it. Woods heard it was reminiscent of influential sci-fi novelist Octavia Butler, one of the few African American women in the genre, but that Butler (who died in 2006) never actually sold that well during her lifetime. Not surprisingly, after the success of Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad," the book sold. Now Woods has a nationwide book tour (a rarity today for a freshman novelist) and multiple bookings on NPR (every debut writer's dream).

What's next: Woods is already a hundred pages into her second book. "I'm already getting the 'We need the next book, we need the next book ...' — but I'm never home."

Michael Zapata, 'The Lost Book of Adana Moreau'

Vitals: 40, from Old Irving Park, lives in Lincoln Square.

It's about: A New Orleans boy named Maxwell Moreau whose father is a pirate and mother, Adana, a Dominican immigrant, writes a surprise bestselling sci-fi novel. Before she dies, she burns the manuscript of her follow-up. Still, nearly a century later, a Chicago man locates an unexpected copy of that lost book in his grandfather's papers and heads in search of a now-elderly Maxwell, traveling into a New Orleans devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

His story: It's not so unusual for a first-time novelist to write an entire book (or a few), then throw away the work and start again on something new. Zapata, using a grant from the Illinois Arts Council and money he received after his car was totaled by a drunken driver, moved to Ecuador for a year, rented an apartment in the Andes, in a small town that had been founded by his great-grandfather. He knocked out several hundred pages quickly, over five months. But he decided it was awful. First he erased the novel from his computer, then he hiked to the top of a volcano with a print-out of the book and threw the manuscript into a crevice. "I didn't want to return to Chicago and dwell on it and try to redo it for years. I wanted to start again."

The manuscript burned?

"The volcano was dormant."

So he littered, then?

"It's so unromantic when you put it like that!"

The good news is, after returning to Chicago — where he is an academic adviser at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, after years of teaching dropouts in Chicago Public Schools (and also co-founding the long-running Make Literary Magazine) — Zapata began writing "The Lost Book of Adana Moreau." The first line he came up with is still the first line in the book.

"I was always an avid science-fiction reader when I was young, but when I am not writing I tend to think materially in a way about how economics affects people. I lean democratic socialist and I thought a lot about my experiences teaching sometimes brilliant people who dropped out. When I sat to write, I wanted to tell a story about people between things, not quite accepted. I think a lot of Latin Americans don't feel fully American or Latin American. I am in constant contact with family in Ecuador (where his father emigrated from) so there's not the 'before' and 'after' of a classic immigrant experience. I also think of New Orleans as the northernmost Latin American city. I lived there and it feels viscerally like a parallel universe."

The result is a evocative blend of folklore, realism and oral tradition (he's a Studs Terkel fan).

What's next: His dad worked on Jewelers Row in the Loop, so he's thought about setting a novel there. But first, "I'm starting work on a book about Chicago in 2050. I won't give it away, but it's about a first-generation Ecuadorian who is a census taker and he's telling a long monologue to an aunt at a black site in Chicago — after a revolution."

Gabriel Bump, 'Everywhere You Don't Belong'

Vitals: 28, from South Shore, now teaching at the University of Buffalo.

It's about: Claude McKay Love, a South Shore kid, abandoned at five by his parents and raised by a grandmother, yet quintessential ordinary, easily overlooked, polite, obedient, headed for college and uncertain of his place. After a riot, after watching friends shot by Chicago police, then leaving the city for undergraduate world he can't relate to, what it means to be young and black gathers heartbreaking shape. Bump wrote recently: "I wanted to write a novel for the teenagers riding the Jeffery Local with their headphones on, their hats tuned straight, their minds on girlfriends and forever love, their unfinished algebra worksheets crumpled in their backpacks, their dreams about belonging to a peaceful world."

His story: "Everywhere You Don't Belong" reads like something of a response to the history of great literature set on the South Side. Bump read Gwendolyn Brooks, and Richard Wright, but he wondered, rightly, where's the great South Side literature since the mid-20th century? "Then as an undergraduate (at University of Missouri), I found Stuart Dybek and loved his style, the way his characters popped. Until (Dybek, who made his name writing stories about working-class communities around Pilsen) I hadn't read the Chicago I knew." Which is what Bump tells his own students: "'Look for blind spots in the canon where you feel you can add something.' Myself? I wanted something on South Shore."

Bump, like his hero, Claude, is from Euclid Avenue, in the Highlands of South Shore; Bump, like Claude, took a No. 15 Jeffery to school; and Bump, like Claude, attended University of Missouri to study journalism and left early. But this isn't auto-fiction: "I was never recruited to be in a gang, and unlike Claude, I didn't flee for my life from Missouri." Unlike Claude, Bump didn't go to school in South Shore; he went to Hyde Park's University of Chicago Laboratory Schools; his mother is a pediatric nurse, his father is a doctor. (Coincidentally, his parents bought their home from the family of Carlo Rotella, a famed journalist from South Shore.)

While at school in Missouri — after a couple of years of being asked "What's Chiraq like?" — he decided to return to Chicago, where he studied creative writing at School of the Art Institute of Chicago; then left again to get his MFA at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. The first draft of his new novel was his UMASS thesis. "These days, I don't know how I feel when I return to South Shore. It's a strange place. Maybe it's always been true, but it feels darker now than I remember, but then maybe that's just because I'm a decade older."

What's next: Bump has a two-book deal with Algonquin. He recently handed in the first draft of "The New Naturals," his follow-up, about an underground group of black academics who start a utopian society in New England. (He's also about halfway through his third book.)

Stephanie Wrobel, 'Darling Rose Gold'

Vitals: 33, from Darien and Lemont, lives in London.

It's about: A teenager named Rose Gold who spent most of her childhood being told by her mother that she was so sick she needed a wheelchair, so allergic and ill and full of cancer that she required constant hospitalization. This mystery of sorts picks up five years after Patty, the mom, has done prison time for child abuse. She returns to her Midwest town as a pariah, but then moves in again with her daughter, who appears now to be weirdly forgiving.

Her story: Wrobel, like many first-time novelists, thought writing fiction as a career was an impractical and uncertain way to earn a living. "It was always more of a dream than a plan, so the closest I could get was advertising." She worked for several years as a copywriter at a pair of Chicago agencies, writing TV and radio commercials for blue-chip brands such as Michelob and Capital One. "As far as writing tight copy goes, when you are used to having five words for a billboard, (that job) taught me the economy of language, but it was also good for me on a skin-thickening level. I am so used to having creative directors draw big slashes through my copy that, comparatively, book editors are pleasant with your feelings."

The rest has been fast. She got her MFA from Emerson College in Boston, where "Rose Gold" was her thesis. She submitted it to book agents only two years ago, and now publishing rights have been sold in 15 countries. That's very quick for a first-timer. She plans to stick with suspense, though "I'm less interested in a who-dunnit than a why-they-dunnit."

Her novel began with a mention of Munchausen syndrome: a friend who works as a school psychologist said she suspected that some of her students were feigning illness to see a doctor. "I was intrigued, then shocked to learn the perpetrators are often mothers, but there aren't many firsthand accounts from the perpetrators, only the victims. The tricky thing with people with mental illness is the general public doesn't often have much sympathy, so the key to writing Patty was showing that she could be funny and charming and relatable."

What's next: Movie rights haven't been optioned yet but that's inevitable. (It's hard reading "Darling Rose Gold" without picturing another screen-eating Frances McDormand turn.) Meanwhile, Wrobel has a two-book deal with Berkley (a Penguin imprint) and is already on the second draft of her next book, about a wellness center "with cultlike tendencies."

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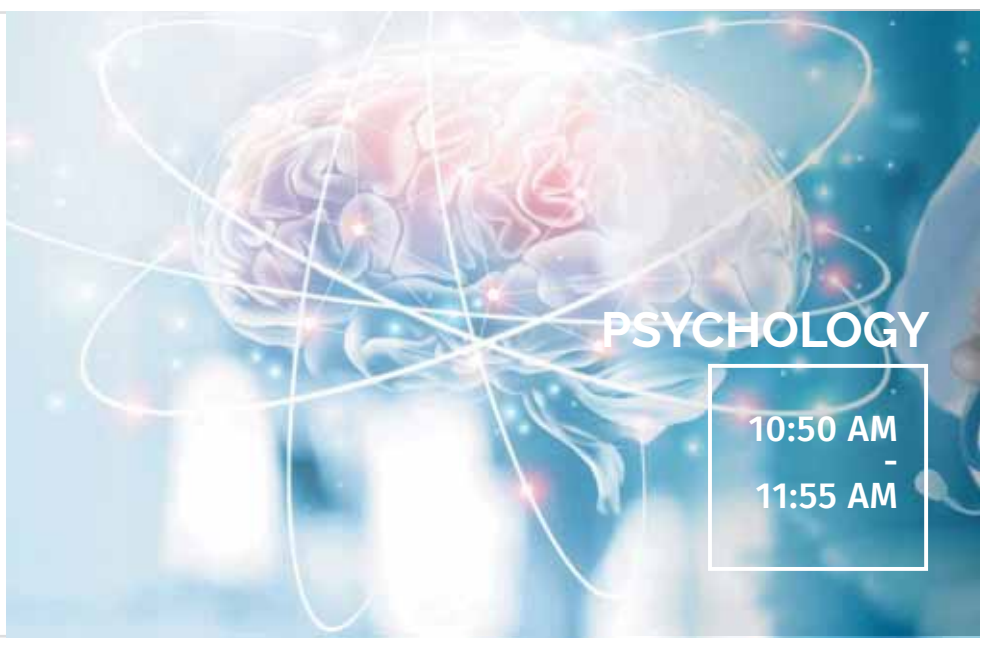
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Lionel Richie

"American Idol" (7 p.m., ABC): Judges Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan all will be back as this long-running music competition series returns for its 18th season with a new crop of hopefuls that includes one contestant from a past season. That lucky returnee was selected in recent online viewer voting based on auditions taped at the iconic Whisky a Go Go nightclub in West Hollywood, Calif. Ryan Seacrest also is back as host.

"God Friended Me" (7 p.m., CBS): Rakesh (Suraj Sharma) is shocked when his new soulmate app suggests that his dream partner isn't Jaya, but rather Lulu (Sibongile Mlambo), the princess of an African nation, in the new episode "The Princess and the Hacker." Elsewhere, Ali (Javicia Leslie) reveals her cancer diagnosis to Arthur and Trish (Joe Morton, Erica Gimpel).

"2020 American Rescue Dog Show" (7 p.m., Hallmark): Rebecca Romijn and Rodney Peete host the third annual edition of this canine competition, reportedly the only one of its kind to shine a spotlight on rescue dogs available for adoption. Both purebreds and mixed breeds compete for top honors over two nights (concluding Monday) in such charming categories as Best in Wiggling, Best in Couch Potato and more, with the winners in each category eventually facing off for the title of Best in Rescue. Ross Mathews and Larissa Wohl return as co-hosts.

"Duncanville" (7:30 p.m., FOX): Amy Poehler is both an executive producer and a voice cast member in this whimsical new family comedy revolving around Duncan (Poehler), a resoundingly average 15-year-old whose daydreams, however, are tributes to his self-perceived awesomeness. His mom, Annie (also Poehler), frets that her son is prone to making catastrophic decisions, while his dad, Jack (voice of Ty Burrell, "Modern Family"), just wants to be a better father than the one he had.

"Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist" (8 p.m., NBC): Immediately following an encore screening of the pilot, which NBC previewed in January, this delightful musical fantasy settles into its regular Sunday night time period with its second episode, "Zoe's Extraordinary Best Friend," wherein Zoey (Jane Levy) struggles to gain control over her uncanny new abilities to hear what the people around her are thinking.

"Race for the White House" (8 p.m., 11 p.m., CNN): Academy Award winner Mahershala Ali narrates this returning six-part docuseries, each episode of which examines the story of an iconic campaign for the presidency of the United States. Whether it's unforgettable speeches or shameful dirty tricks, each election had moments of tension and drama. Season 2 opens tonight with a look at the history-making 2008 race between Barack Obama, then a freshman senator, and veteran Sen. John McCain.

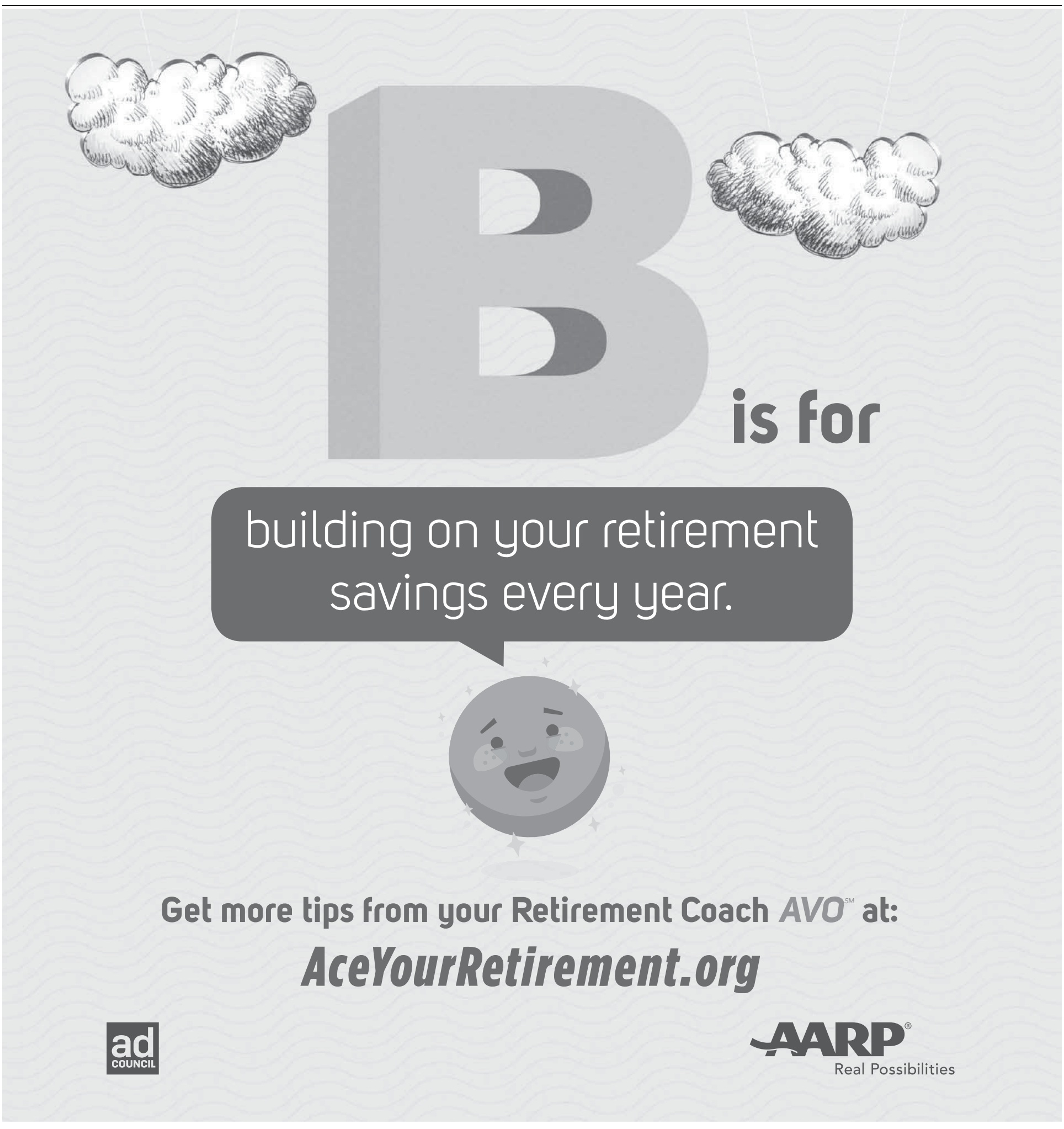
"Good Girls" (9 p.m., NBC): This female-driven crime dramedy returns for Season 3, picking up the story from the startling finale to its sophomore edition, when ringleader Beth (Christina Hendricks) decided to get her part-time lover, part-time nemesis Rio out of the picture permanently. In the aftermath, both her partners in crime are ambivalent about continuing their dubious enterprise. Ruby (Retta) doesn't want to put her marriage at risk any longer.

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SUNDAY EVENING, FEB. 16

MOVIES

	PM		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00
BROADCAST	CBS	2	God Friended Me (N) © HD		NCIS: Los Angeles: "Commitment Issues." (N) HD		NCIS: New Orleans: "Bad Moon Rising." (N) ©		News (N) ♦
	NBC	5	Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist: "Pilot." ©		Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist (Series Premiere) (N) © HD		Good Girls: "Find Your Beach." (Season Premiere) (N) ©		NBC 5 News at 10pm (N)
	ABC	7	American Idol: "301 (Auditions)." (Season Premiere) (N) © HD				For Life: "Pilot." © HD		News at 10pm (N) ♦
	WGN	9	black-ish ©	black-ish: "Inheritance."	Last Man Standing ©	Last Man Standing ©	Weekend News (N)	Instant Replay (N) ©	WGN News (N)
	Antenna	9.2	Family Ties	Two Dads	Wings ©	Coach ©	It's a Living	It's a Living	Designing
	Court	9.3	OJ25: "A Plaintive Wail."		OJ25 ©		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
	PBS	11	A Very British Romance with Lucy Worsley (N) ©		Sanditon on Masterpiece (N) © HD		Vienna Blood: "The Lost Child, Part 1." (N) ©		Check, Please!
	CW	26.1	Batwoman (N) © HD		Supergirl (N) © HD		Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Seinfeld ©
	The U	26.2	Ali (R,'01) ★★★ Will Smith. Based on the life story of legendary boxer Muhammad Ali.						Paranorml ♦
	MeTV	26.3	Columbo: "Blueprint for Murder." ©			Collector (N)	Flintstones	Honeymoon.	D. Van Dyke
	H&I	26.4	Star Trek ©		Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9		Star Trek ♦
	Bounce	26.5	♦ (6) Cop Out (R,'10) ★ ©		16 Blocks (PG-13,'06) ★★★ Bruce Willis, Mos Def. ©				Bad Co ♦
	FOX	32	The Simpsons (N)	Duncanville: "Pilot." (Series Premiere) (N)	Bob's Burgers (N)	Family Guy (N) ©	Fox 32 News at Nine Sunday (N) ©		Final Word (N) ♦
	Ion	38	NCIS: Los Angeles HD		Chicago P.D. ©		Chicago P.D. ©		Chicago ♦
	TeleM	44	♦ Exatlón EE. UU. (N)		La voz (N) ©				Noticiero
	MNT	50	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam
	UniMas	60	♦ (5:30) Man on Fire (R) ★★		Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG-13,'14) ★★				Parker ★★ ♦
	WJYS	62	Ever Increasing Faith		Truth of God		Pol-News		Van Impe (N)
	Univ	66	Mira quién baila All Stars				Crónicas: Historias		Noticias (N)
CABLE	AE		White House Down (PG-13,'13) ★★ Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx. ©						Live PD ♦
	AMC		El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie (NR,'19) Aaron Paul, Matt Jones. ©						El Camino ♦
	ANIM		The Aquarium (N)		Coyote P (N)	Coyote P (N)	Coyote Peterson (N)		The Irwins ♦
	BBCA		Doctor Who (N) ©		(8:10) Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief ★★ ♦				
	BET		♦ (5:30) National Security		Undercover Brother 2 (R,'19) Michael Jai White. © ♦				
	BIGTEN		♦ Women's College Gymnastics (N)			B1G Basketball & Beyond		The Journey	Basketball ♦
	BRAVO		Housewives-Atlanta (N)		Shahs of Sunset (N) ©		Watch (N)	Housewives-Atlanta	
	CNN		CNN Newsroom (N)		Race-Whte Hse (Season Premiere) (N)		Royal Dynasty (Series Premiere) (N)		Sp. Report ♦
	COM		♦ The Wedding Singer ★★★		(8:10) Mr. Deeds (PG-13,'02) ★ Adam Sandler, Winona Ryder. ©				
	DISC		Naked and Afraid: "EJ's Journey." (N) ©				Naked and Afraid (N) ©		Afraid ♦
	DISN		Zombies 2 (NR,'20) Meg Donnelly. ©			Gabby	Sydney-Max	Bunk'd ©	Gabby ♦
	E!		Zoey's-Playlist		Walk the Line (PG-13,'05) ★★★ Joaquin Phoenix. © ♦				
	ESPN		Inside Wil	Inside Wil	Inside Wil	Inside Wil	Roundtable	UFC Top 10	SportCtr (N)
	ESPN2		♦ College Softball (N)		USA Climbing		World/Poker		Poker ♦
	FNC		Life, Liberty & Levin (N)		The Next Revolution (N)		Watters' World ©		Life ♦
	FOOD		Restaurant: Impossible		Worst Cooks (N)		Beat Flay (N)	Beat Flay (N)	Beat Bobby
	FREE		♦ Matilda ★★★		(7:35) Despicable Me 2 (PG,'13) ★★★ © (SAP)			(9:45) Hook ('91) ★★★ ♦	
	FX		♦ (6) Iron Man 3 (PG-13,'13) ★★★ Robert Downey Jr.				Iron Man 3 (PG-13,'13) ★★★ © ♦		
	HALL		2020 American Rescue Dog Show: "Part 1." (N) ©				Unleashing Mr. Darcy (NR,'16) © ♦		
	HGTV		Home Town (N) ©		Extreme Makeover (Series Premiere) (N)		100 Day Dream Home (N)		Dream ♦
	HIST		Washington: "Loyal Subject." (Series Premiere) (N) ©				Washington: "Loyal Subject." © ♦		
	HLN		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
	IFC		♦ (6) Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13,'09) ★★ ©					Transformers: Revenge ♦	
	LIFE		Her Secret Family Killer (NR,'20) Brooke Nevin. ©				(9:03) You Can't Take My Daughter ♦		
	MSNBC		(6:00) Kasie DC (N) ©		What's Eating America With Andrew Zimmern (Series Premiere) (N)				Dateline ♦
	MTV		Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.
	NATGEO		Life Below Zero ©		Life Below Zero: Port (N)		Life Below Zero: Port (N)		Life Below ♦
	NBCSCH		Pregame (N)	NHL Hockey: Chicago Blackhawks at Winnipeg Jets. (N) (Live) ©					Postgame
	NICK		♦ (6) Shrek (PG,'01) ★★★		All That ©	Substitute	Friends ©	Friends ©	Friends ©
	OVATION		♦ (6) The Silence of the Lambs (R) ★★★★		Panic Room (R,'02) ★★★ Jodie Foster. ♦				
	OWN		20/20: Homicide		20/20: Homicide		20/20 on OWN		20/20 ♦
	OXY		Killer Affair (N) ©		Snapped: "Joy Aylor." ©		Murdered by Morning ©		Killer Affair ♦
	PARMT		(7:05) Bar Rescue ©		(8:05) Bar Rescue ©		(9:05) Bar Rescue ©		Rescue ♦
	SYFY		♦ Blade	Twister (PG-13,'96) ★★★ Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton. ©					Futurama
	TBS		2020 NBA All-Star Game: Team LeBron vs Team Giannis. (N) (Live) ©						Miracle
	TCM		The Lion in Winter (PG,'68) ★★★★ Peter O'Toole. ©					Silence-Lambs ♦	
	TLC		90 Day Fiancé: "Tell All Part 1." (N)				(9:03) Sister Wives (N)		90 Day (N) ♦
	TLN		IMPACT	Manna Fest	In Grace	Turning Point ©		Insights	King
	TNT		2020 NBA All-Star Game: Team LeBron vs Team Giannis. (N Subject to Blackout)						All-Star ♦
	TOON		H. Birdman	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Burgers	Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy
	TRAV		Paranormal Ca.		The Alaska Triangle (N) ©				Lost- Wild
	TVL		King	King	King	King	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men
	USA		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Dare Me (N) ©		Mod Fam ♦
	VH1		♦ (6) Think Like a Man (PG-13,'12) ★★ Michael Ealy.				Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out
	WE		Law & Order ©		Law & Order ©		Law & Order: "Bling." ©		Law ♦
	WGN America		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Married
PREMIUM	HBO		♦ (6) Shaft (R,'00) ★★		The Outsider (N) ©		Avenue 5 (N)	Curb (N)	Last Week
	HBO2		♦ (6:49) The Outsider ©		(7:50) Love Actually (R,'03) ★★★ Hugh Grant.				Notting Hill ♦
	MAX		Open Water (R,'03) ★★★ ©			(8:20) Open Water 2: Adrift (R,'06)			Manhattan ♦
	SHO		The Circus	Toon Pres.	Homeland (N) ©		Kidding (N)	Kidding (N)	Homeland ♦
	STARZ		Outlander (Season Premiere) (N) ©		(8:07) Wrong Man (N)		(9:05) Outlander ©		Wrong ♦
	STZENC		(7:03) Jackie Brown (R,'97) ★★★ Pam Grier. ©					Honeymoon in Vegas ♦	



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Photograph of bust statue by Hugo Hagen, based on life mask by Franz Klein done in 1812. (Source: identified as based on life mask by M.E. Whitehurst, 2010)

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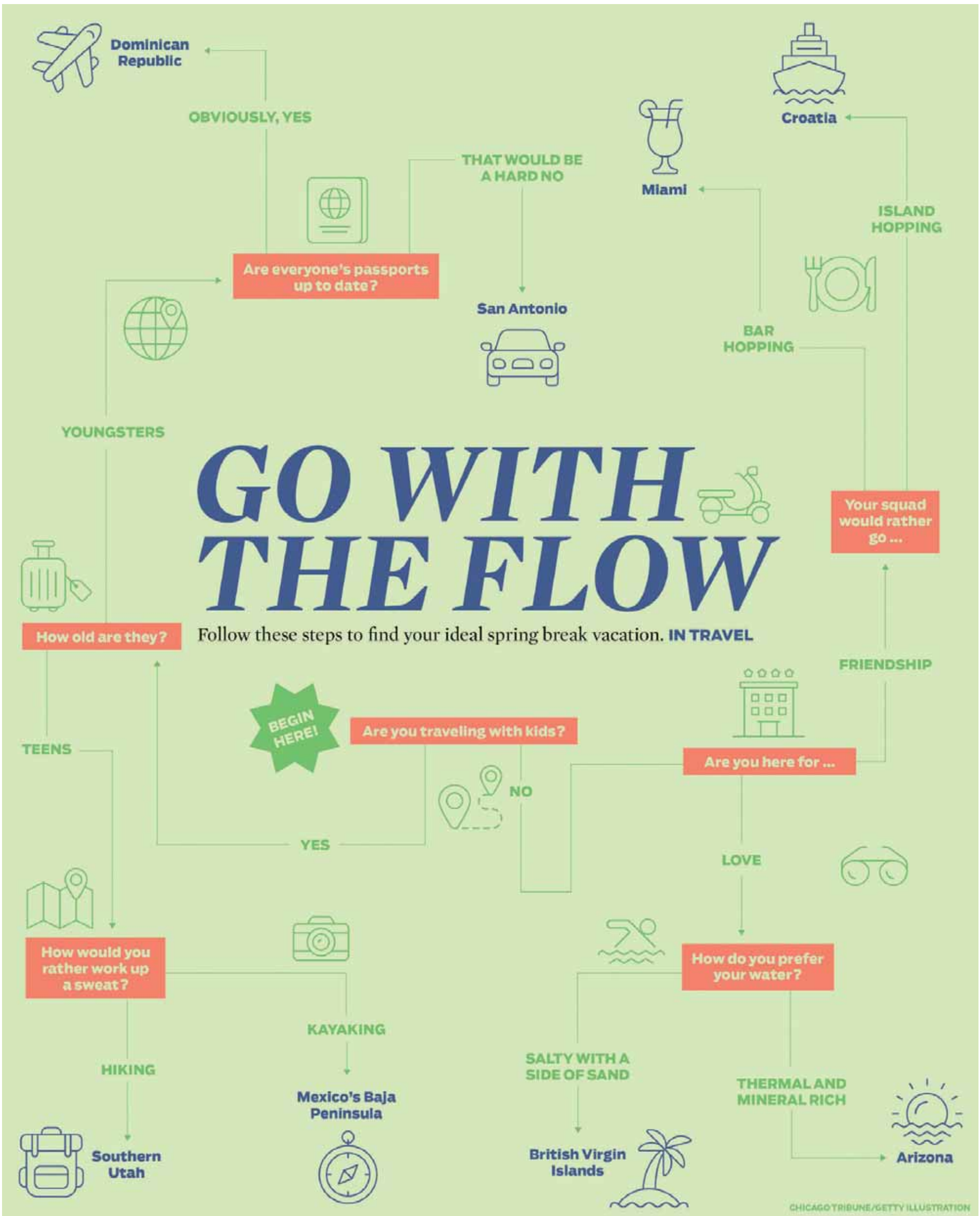
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Harvey Weinstein lawyer propelled toxic messaging about assault

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ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson | *askamy@amydickinson.com* | *@askamy*

Daughter-in-law fed up with baby talk

Dear Amy: I have an unconventional problem with my mother-in-law.

She does not meddle, undermine me, tell me how to raise my children or imply that I'm not good enough for her son. She provides free child care willingly and always brings gifts for the kids, most of which I approve of.

My problem is that she's unbearably annoying.

She has an extremely high-pitched voice, a thick Russian accent and a pronounced stutter.

I can't hold these things against her, and they are only mildly bothersome in normal conversation. But when she talks to my kids, especially the baby, it becomes unbearable.

She speaks exclusively in a mix of broken English baby talk and nonsense noises, and the level of repetition is borderline pathological.

She may repeat the same high-pitched sing-song "Oo goo goosh! Oo goo goosh!" sound to my baby literally hundreds of times over the course of an hour.

My level of annoyance is so high that I turn away, cringe and silent-scream expletives when it gets bad.

I don't know how to address this or if it's worth it. I want to stop dreading spending time with her and feeling stressed waiting for the next round of high-pitched baby-nonsense to start. Please help!

— *Annoyed*

Dear Annoyed: You say that you can't hold your mother-in-law's verbal tics against her, so ... don't.

Much of what you report comes off as very unkind. I'm going to assume that you are suffering from a short-term form of annoyance-onset psychosis.

This kind woman is your children's beloved grandmother. She cannot control her accent or her stutter. Her "goo goo gooshing" and baby talk are annoying to you, but she is really singing an ancient song — this is a song of human connection, passed from elders to babies since the dawn of time. She is also passing along part of her (and your kids') heritage.

When the kids are older, they may say to her, "Babushka, I'm a big kid now. Don't talk to me like I'm a baby, because I'm big."

All the same, I totally understand how aurally annoying this would be to grown-up ears.

When it gets to you, excuse yourself, and go in the kitchen to make a cup of tea. Take deep breaths while the water is boiling. Unleash your silent rant. And then congratulate yourself for being patient.

Dear Amy: I have an out-of-town guest visiting for a few weeks, both for work and relaxation.

It was an unplanned visit, and she has been very accommodating to scheduled activities I had prior to her arrival. We have a lot of fun together, and I'm including her in as many activities as possible.

I have been invited to an Oscar Night party, and she will still be in town during that weekend. I would like to include her in my plans, as she doesn't have anything else to do that night.

I asked the host if I could bring a plus one. The host replied that it was a small group, and they would prefer not to entertain an extra person.

Well, now what do I do? I can see the situation from all sides. The host shouldn't feel obligated to include another guest, and I shouldn't be expected to cancel. But I also feel bad that my guest has nothing to do that night.

What would be a good way to handle this situation and similar ones in the future?

— *Good Host*

Dear Host: You sound like a very thoughtful and accommodating friend. However, if your guest is with you for several weeks on an unscheduled visit, she is going to face a few instances where she will have to entertain herself. You have a previous commitment; she has a place to stay. She should be grateful for your hosting and understanding about your dilemma. She'll have to sashay solo down the Oscar red carpet this year.

Dear Amy: You answer a lot of questions about how to communicate across the political divide. Unfortunately, all of your questions seem to be from liberals who hate Trump supporters. Wow. Biased much?

— *Disenchanted*

Dear Disenchanted: My theory is that these days liberals simply feel more aggrieved. I assume this goes with the territory of the "underdog," but my advice — to talk and to listen — runs both ways.

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BALANCING ACT

By Heidi Stevens | hstevens@chicagotribune.com | @heidistevens13

What Harvey Weinstein's lawyer fails to grasp

Hollywood producer's lead defense attorney says she never put herself 'in that position' to be sexually assaulted



ALEC TABAK/FOR THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Donna Rotunno is representing Harvey Weinstein, in the background, at his rape trial in New York.

We should talk about minute 24.

It's the moment on "The Daily," the New York Times podcast, when reporter Megan Twohey asks Harvey Weinstein's lead defense attorney, Donna Rotunno, if she's ever been sexually assaulted.

"I have not," Rotunno answers. "I have not. Because I would never put myself in that position."

Twohey, co-author of "She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement," which chronicles the Weinstein story from start to publication, pauses.

"So you're saying — actually, I'm sorry," Twohey says after a beat. "So you're saying that you have never been sexually assaulted because you would never put yourself in the position of being sexually assaulted?"

"No," Rotunno answers. "I've always made choices, from college-age on, where I never drank too much, I never went home with someone that I didn't know, I just never put myself in any vulnerable circumstance. Ever."

Rotunno has a role to play, and she's not going to go off-script during an interview with the reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize for the reporting that took down her client. Rotunno's job is to cast doubt on Weinstein's accusers. Her answer attempts to do just that.

But it also propels an ugly myth about assault that we need to push back on when it rears its ugly head.

Rape is not caused by poor choices. Rape is caused by rapists.

You can try to minimize your risks of being raped, just as you can try to minimize your risks of becoming the victim of any number of violent crimes. But that's not always enough. And if it has, for you, been enough, you are also the beneficiary of some very good luck.

Good luck to have been born into a home in which no one preyed upon you. Far, far too many children aren't so lucky.

Good luck to have never crossed paths with a predatory coach or mentor or youth group leader or priest or classmate or instructor or medical practitioner or boss.

Good luck to have not been the victim of spousal rape.

Good luck to have never been abducted.

Good luck to have gone through life, so far, without someone using their power — power in the form of a weapon, power in the form of physical size, power in the form of authority — to rob you of your bodily agency.

I wish every woman and man, girl and boy had such luck. They don't.

Maybe Rotunno subscribes to the just-world fallacy — the belief that we live in a morally fair society, and people who encounter misfortune likely had some hand in causing that fate. That's certainly easier than accepting that terrible things sometimes just happen. Unprovoked. Unjustly.

Or maybe she answered in the way that felt, to her, as honest as possible while still being as strategic as possible.

Regardless, her answer was toxic.

Because it adds to the already far too prevalent messages that assault survivors are slapped in the face with repeatedly: that they could have prevented their assault, that they had some hand in causing their assault, that they should have known better than to become a victim of assault.

It contributes to a culture of doubt and denial and blame that victims have to navigate when deciding whether to come forward with their stories — stories that, if they are heard and heeded, can save more people from being victimized. How many athletes may have been spared Larry Nassar's reign of terror if coaches and parents and college administrators acted as soon as the gymnasts in his care started speaking up?

And it slows us down from learning what we really need to grasp and understand about sexual assault: that it is, above all, an abhorrent abuse of power. It is a stripping away of another person's autonomy. It is a debasing of that person's humanity. It says, "I matter. You don't."

No one puts themselves in that position. To surrender their autonomy and humanity. To not matter.

Rotunno is doing her job. Maybe it will work in court; maybe it won't.

But when her words float into the national dialogue as they did on that podcast, the rest of us get to make our own judgment. The rest of us get to reject that (il)logic.

The rest of us get to overrule that kind of toxic messaging and make sure it doesn't find a safe place to land and grow and spread.

Join the Heidi Stevens Balancing Act Facebook group, where she continues the conversation around her columns and hosts occasional live chats.

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"The Poop Diaries" looks at the most memorable service jobs that plumbers — local and international — have faced throughout their careers.

PIPE DREAMS

In 'The Poop Diaries,' Abby Ross gives us a peek into the lives of the people we can't live without: plumbers

By Darcel Rockett

Yes, plumbers have encountered fake vaginas, snakes, rats, weapons and drugs while on duty, but according to the plumbers who fill 10 chapters of Abby Ross' book, "The Poop Diaries," they wouldn't trade their jumpsuits for any other career.

Ross, a Chicago resident and Highland Park High School alumna, takes us behind the scenes of plumbers' service calls, so readers can get a firsthand account of some of the more memorable ones. What unfolds in the 200-plus-page book, released Thursday, are tales that are "disgusting, hilarious, or scary." But don't be fooled, as Ross says in her intro, this book is about poop — but so much more.

"At first I pictured the book to be pure humor, but as I interviewed these people, I realized that there was so much more depth to their experiences than just the sex toys and poop," Ross said. "And that's really the message that I wanted to send."

The "more" lies in the details, such as that many folks fell into the trade by happenstance — a neighbor or uncle asks for help on some jobs, or existing careers weren't challenging or paying enough.

"I never thought about contractors or plumbers, and most people don't," Ross said. "It's so funny because plumbers know so much about us, but we know so little about them."

It was when Ross met her plumber Jon (Ross only uses first names in the book) on a cold night in Chicago that she got the idea to write about this particular field of contractors.

"My toilet clogged on a Wednesday night," Ross said. "I called a plumber around 8-9 p.m. Jon came over and fixed the clog within 20 minutes. He obviously knew his stuff. I asked if he could tell me his five greatest hits, his best service calls, and he was so hilarious. I really enjoyed his stories and thought: I want to write a book about you."

Ross broadened her scope and talked with plumbers who grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, who make their home in Edmonton, Canada, and who work in Oakland, California, as well as several local plumbers, including a former president of the local Plumbing Contractors Association (PCA).



Ross

Not to give too many spoilers, but the stories from Carissa and Jac, women plumbers, are not to be missed. Carissa was installing a urinal in a bar when a customer approached her for a date. There's another story about a collection of condoms clogging a toilet, which leads to the client accusing Carissa of being a homewrecker. Jac fixed a restaurant's toilet pro bono and offered her advice and card to an employee to give to the business' owner. When asked why the owner didn't call her, the employee's response was: "I showed him your card. When he saw you were a woman, he did not believe anything you said."

"Their perspective adds so much to the book," Ross said. "These are the types of things that only a woman could experience. ... I think that with the #MeToo movement, women's rights have come a long way. Unfortunately in plumbing, it's just not there yet."

Ross went on to say that that's unfortunate, given that there is a shortage of plumbers, as mentioned by Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Amy Klobuchar on the campaign trail and numerous trades publications and learning institutions. Ross hopes her book encourages people to go into the trades.

"A lot of people think plumbers are blue-collar workers who have plumber's cracks and don't make a lot of money — that is so far from the truth," Ross said. She adds that many of the plumbers she interviewed have second homes and boats, lives they created after attending a trade school or doing an apprenticeship instead of going to college.

Kelly Castrogiovanni, president and owner of Terry Plumbing, preordered Ross' book. As a female owner of a plumbing company based in Countryside for almost 10 years, she says people are often shocked when they meet her in person. Many assume she must be male because she owns a plumbing company.

"There's always people who look at me and think: Why are you here? You don't fit in. You must be a front for a husband or brother or something like that," said Castrogiovanni, treasurer of the PCA. "That's my challenge: to try to prove myself. I feel like I have to prove myself 10 times harder than what a man would."

Castrogiovanni says becoming a licensed plumber takes five years of learning and training, but once the license is in hand, plumbers will always be able to find a job because they're always needed. That's what she's trying to get across to other women.

"It is a hard sell because there's a lot of heavy lifting. People think they don't want to be knee-deep in a sewer line," she said. "But you get out of school making $100,000 instead of getting out of college owing over $100,000."

Rachel Macias, 33, of Portage Park, is a plumber's apprentice at Castrogiovanni's company. She came in through Chicago Women in Trades, which helps women get into the building trades.

"It was something I wanted to do, but I didn't really know how to get into it," she said. "I wanted to have a skill. That was the main reason."

Macias works primarily in new construction and less on the service (on-call side) and is already making close to $30 an hour — which she says will go as high as $51 per hour when she becomes a journeyman. With two children, ages 14 and 9, she finds the working hours stable and the health care benefits amazing. She's thankful that she hasn't had the kind of experiences Jac and Carissa have had while on the job.

She's looking forward to reading Ross' book. When asked if a younger version of herself would have chosen plumbing as a profession, she says she's not sure.

"It's never been an out-there option for us," Macias said. "I thought I was going to be a lawyer or something, but if I had known it was possible, then yeah, I would have thought that I could be a plumber. Like my daughter now, she says she wants to be a plumber. I don't think she is, but it's motivation."

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SOCIAL GRACES

Crushing on your therapist? Here's what to do.

By Hannah Herrera Greenspan
Chicago Tribune

Q: What should you do if you have a crush on your therapist?

A: As a therapist, I recognize that a necessary component for effective therapy lies in "situational intimacy." Intimacy between a client and a therapist is expected to develop and serves as a necessary component to vulnerably and honestly address the issues discussed in therapy. A byproduct can be attraction; especially for those who strongly associate intimacy with sexuality. Therapists understand that attraction on the clients' end can occur, and follow strict ethical guidelines to minimize and eliminate potential exploitation of this intimacy.

Noticing yourself being or becoming attracted to your therapist can actually serve as a very positive sign that you greatly care about your therapist and the relationship you have developed. By no means does this make someone wrong.

— Jeffrey Kraft, licensed therapist at Pinnacle Counseling

A: First of all, please don't drop out of treatment! Strong feelings, like a crush, allow you to get past the "therapy as weekend update" to the "therapy as a living, breathing relationship laboratory." It becomes a place where relational patterns can be worked through in real time.

Talking about your feelings in the actual therapy allows you to talk about therapy itself and what your therapist brings out in you. These conversations can be difficult. They require bravery. It is possible that these conversations will reveal a great deal about who you are, what you long for and how you subconsciously respond to relationships. A good therapist will help you feel safe enough to "come forward" and will be able to think through your feelings with you in a way that feels responsive yet containing, thoughtful yet analytical.

— Edie Hitchcock, licensed therapist at Depth Counseling

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BYMURATDENIZ/GETTY

THE **KIDS**

HOW TO KEEP THEM BUSY THIS WEEK

Have some fun with engineering games

By Web Behrens

Monday

CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM COMMEMORATIVE DAYS

Where's a more appropriate place to celebrate Presidents Day than at this Lincoln Park museum? Illinois residents enjoy free admission, so you won't feel taxed by this day off. Storytelling, crafts and live music by the Chicago Brass Band celebrate those who've lived in the White House. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. chicagohistory.org/event/presidents-day-2/

ROTARY HILL SLEDDING

Sometimes the circumstances align perfectly for outdoor fun on a holiday. If the ground has more than 2 inches of snow on it, why hit the multiplex or the mall again when you can go sledding with the kids? Naperville's lighted Rotary Hill is a great choice because it stays open until 9 p.m. (10 p.m. on weekends). Plus, if the weather isn't too miserable, you'll probably find the nearby Riverwalk Cafe open for hot cocoa and coffee. At Rotary Hill, 443 Aurora Ave., Naperville. Free; bring your own plastic sleds (no wood or metal). napervilleparks.org/wintersports facilities

CHICAGO AUTO SHOW FAMILY DAY

Junior mechanics and pint-size drivers don't need an official reason to check out the Chicago Auto Show, but its final day falls on Presidents Day — which is also, by tradition, the show's annual Family Day. Kids will find games and safety-awareness activities, while a wide range of non-auto-specific businesses show up with giveaways and more. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive. $13, $8 for kids 7-12, free for kids 6 and under. chicagoautoshow.com/about-the-show/

ELMHURST ART MUSEUM: SCREENPRINT LANDSCAPES WORKSHOP

Typically closed Mondays, the under-the-radar Elmhurst Art Museum has a special family workshop to welcome guests on Presidents Day. Drop in on a print-making workshop inspired by a current exhibit, "Screenprint Landscapes." When you're done, explore a second exhibit, "Could Be Architecture: McCormick AfterParti," which adds playful new elements to the historic McCormick House, including a dedicated space for kids with building blocks. 1-4 p.m. at Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 S. Cottage Hill Ave., Elmhurst. $15, free for youth under 18. elmhurstartmuseum.org



MICHAEL COURIER



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART

TOP PICKS

SATURDAY: Engineering Fest

SATURDAY: Tolerance Quilt

Wednesday

TURTLE TIME!

The 101-acre Isle a la Cache forest preserve includes a museum/visitors center that is home to Taco, a rather large representative of the endangered Blanding's turtle. Come celebrate Taco at 6 p.m. during this reptile-rific meet and greet as he roams outside of his 300-gallon tank. Please register by Sunday: 815-886-1467. Isle a la Cache Museum, 501 E. Romeo Road (135th Street), Romeoville. Free. tinyurl.com/uk6fe4l

Saturday

TOLERANCE QUILT

Stitches of the Soul leads this interactive group project, inspired by the current exhibit, "Woven: Connections and Meanings." Drop in with young people aged 12 and up, any time from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Feb. 29, to contribute design elements to the quilt. At the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St. $5. tinyurl.com/t5c6csz

ENGINEERING FEST

Who wants to build your own elevator? How about your own train trestle? Those are among the engineering games for all ages during this annual two-day fest, which comes with the theme "Cities on the Move." Drop in on a multitude of Chicago Architecture Foundation family activities, including talking to design experts, taking a short outdoor tour of Loop landmarks and hitting the photo booth. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the Chicago Architecture Center, 111 E. Wacker Drive. $6, free for kids 11 and under. architecture.org/programs-events/detail/engineering-fest/

NAPERVILLE PLAYS

The city of Naperville gives families four times the fun in one outing, thanks to this special day of drop-in activities and story time. Representatives from Knoch Knolls Nature Center, Naper Settlement and Naperville Public Library come to the Children's Museum, so parents can easily discover what each institution offers. 9 a.m. to noon at DuPage Children's Museum, 301 N. Washington St., Naperville. $13. dupagechildrens.org/event/naperville-plays-at-dcm/

FLIP FABRIQUE

Say "bonjour!" to Quebec-based circus troupe Flip Fabrique as aerialists and clowns take over the Harris Theater at Millennium Park. The company performs "Blizzard," an acrobatic analysis of winter performed in a totally white room. The 75-minute show, part of the Harris' Exelon Family Series, is at 2 p.m. at Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive. $10-$15. tinyurl.com/ublgapt

Sunday

JUSTIN ROBERTS CONCERT

Grammy-nominated Justin Roberts brings his band, The Not Ready For Naptime Players, to the Old Town School. Expect some of his familiar hits, plus new tunes from his forthcoming release, "Wild Life." It's not on sale until the following week, but you should be able to score the new CD after the show! 10:30 a.m. at The Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. $15. tinyurl.com/uuwsvup

Web Behrens is a freelance reporter.

Signs you may be in a codependent relationship

By Daniela Ginta
Greatist.com



VADYM RYBIN/DREAMSTIME

A codependent relationship can lead to low self-esteem and emotional or physical abuse, or both.

At first glance, codependency sounds like a situation with equal gains for both parties. In reality, despite that friendly little "co," these types of relationships are anything but fair.

With all the confusing emotions that come with codependency, it can be hard to determine what these relationships look like and what to do if you're in one. Here, we've listed everything you need to know and how to get your independence back.

What is codependency?

Codependency is a type of dysfunctional relationship. In a codependent relationship, there are no clear boundaries between partners. One partner takes care of the other partner's needs at the expense of their own needs. This creates a one-sided relationship and can lead to low self-esteem and emotional or physical abuse, or both. Codependent relationships can also happen when one partner has a substance addiction.

All relationships involve a certain amount of give and take. But if one person is giving a lot more than the other person, they may be in a codependent relationship.

Symptoms of codependency

Although it might surprise you, codependency is actually a personality disorder. Symptoms may include:

- Lack of self-esteem to the point of depending on other people's opinion to feel better about yourself
- Tolerance of abusive behavior
- Finding excuses for abusive behavior
- Avoiding conflict
- Fear of being alone or having a relationship end
- Clingy behavior
- Obsessive thoughts about people and relationships
- Feeling insecure about the relationship you are in
- A desire to fix everything, even when that means neglecting yourself
- Blaming yourself for other people's problems
- Experiencing shame to the point of reducing or cutting contact with family and friends

Risk factors

Growing up in an emotionally restrictive, neglecting or abusive family can teach a child that love is conditional. It can instill a fear of being abandoned, which can lower your self-esteem and lead you to doubt your worthiness. This can lead to codependency later in life.

Growing up with substance addiction in the family is also a risk factor for codependency. A recent study concluded women whose fathers or husbands had an alcohol addiction had a higher risk of becoming codependent.

A history of depression may also be a risk factor for codependency. More research is needed to study the relationship between codependency and depression.

Seeking help

Identifying that you are in a codependent relationship is the first step to overcoming codependency issues. Working with a doctor can help you learn to build boundaries and engage in relationships in an emotionally healthy way.

Tell your doctor how you're feeling. They will work with you to create a treatment plan. Recovery can be a slow process, so be patient.

Here are some more things you can do to overcome codependency:

- Make time for yourself and the things you like. If there's a hobby you always wanted to try, take the time to try it out.
- Start a journal. Journaling can help you better understand your feelings. You can also use a journal to explore positive things about yourself, like your good qualities and things that give you a sense of worth.
- If you have a substance abuse problem, talk to your doctor or a counselor about ways to break your addiction.
- If your relationship with your partner does not involve abuse and you both want to stay in the relationship, go to couples counseling together. Learning to communicate openly with one another can help your relationship become healthy and fulfilling.
- Learn to say no. Being able to say no is an important step in creating boundaries.

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How to make a long-distance relationship work

By Alison Bowen

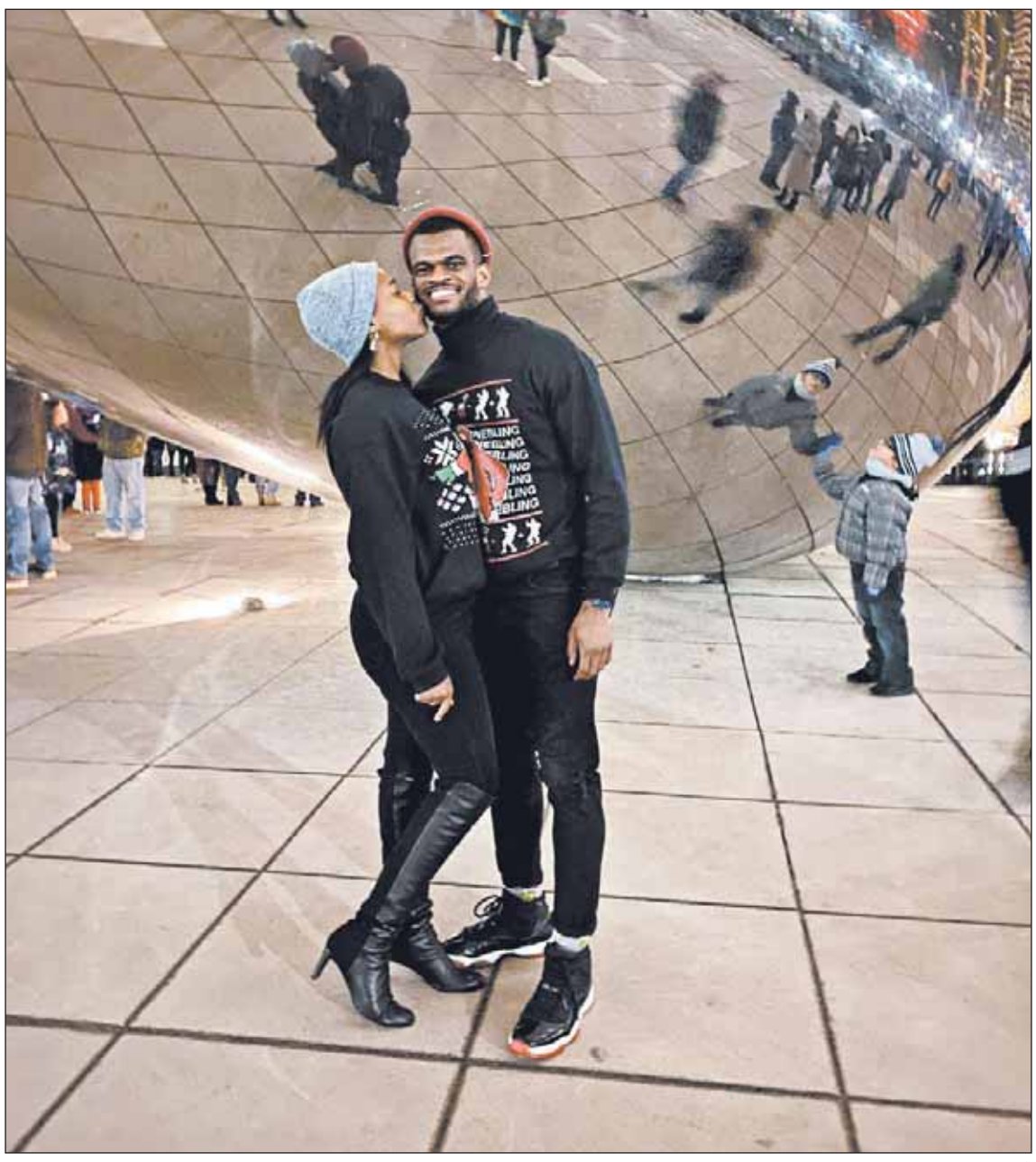
The longest distance Matthew Harris and Maya Thompson were ever apart was more than 20 hours in the air — or the amount of time it takes to fly from Chicago to Sydney, Australia.

That was in the beginning of their 2-year relationship, which has included long distance.

The couple both live in Chicago now, but for months, Harris, 24, and Thompson, 23, were in a long-distance relationship when she was finishing college in California and he was beginning his career in Chicago. Then, when she was working temporarily in Sydney.

What happens when there are unexpected roadblocks that force a relationship to become long distance — like a job offer in a new city or someone wanting to move closer to family? All of a sudden, a budding courtship could become rooted in separate places.

How can you make a long-distance relationship go the distance? The Tribune talked to experts to find out what to think about, talk about and do.



MATTHEW HARRIS

Maya Thompson and Matthew Harris made a long-distance relationship work. They both live in Chicago now.

Communicate

When Harris and Thompson began dating in 2017, it was after being friends since they were little kids. So they were comfortable communicating while dating during Thompson's senior year at Stanford University. Harris was just starting his career in Chicago.

"We just made the decision to be with each other," Harris said. "At the end of the day, I found myself comparing everybody to her."

He said he learned a lot about the ways to communicate. He sent flowers; he sent text messages to friends asking them to pick up the bill at dinner, from him.

They promised to never go to bed upset, and to see each other about every other month.

Dana Dorfman, a psychotherapist in Manhattan, said couples should develop a ritual about when they connect. "Oftentimes couples will check in in the morning, check in in the evening," she said. "Having those predictable check-in points can provide anchors for communication and anchors for the relationship."

Understand that long-distance visits aren't real life

In his Los Angeles practice, marriage and family therapist Allen Wagner works with clients who date long distance or who travel often, such as musicians. He said that daters should know that when you're seeing each other for weekend visits, it isn't the same as when a couple ultimately, hopefully, is in the same place.

"When they do connect, it's very intense and well-thought out," he said. Couples often make plans like they're touring their own city, and they spend all their time together. "It's not always going to stay like that," said Wagner. "It's kind of like a summer fling. There are going to be times where a person's going to be upset."

Dorfman suggests setting up expectations for visits. Maybe one person wants to have a low-key weekend, or wants to get out to exercise. "Otherwise, there could be competing desires and competing expectations that could have been preemptively ironed out," Dorfman said.

Know the next time you'll see each other

Harris and Thompson scheduled the times they would see each other in advance, usually every other month. Sometimes that meant missing things at work or with friends or family.

And it's good to set up talking time too. Consider something like organizing FaceTime dates — maybe you cook together, or just know you'll catch up at that time — so that you both prioritize the time. Or do things at the same time. Thompson and Harris went through a Bible study together.

Also, agree on an endgame, Dorfman said. "Know when there's going to be an end to the long-term nature of it," she said, even if it's a general sense of when you're likely to live in the same city.

Soak up the time to be independent

Both Harris and Thompson noted some positive parts of being independent.

"I think that time alone is beneficial in our relationship, because it allows us to focus on ourselves, develop ourselves," Harris said. "When we do get together, it's us."

Thompson advises other couples about to go the distance that it can be positive, not an obstacle.

"It really is a time for you to really be growing," she said. "It makes you appreciate your partner more, but it also makes you appreciate everything you also bring to the table in a relationship."

Dorfman said each person having individual lives is critical. "You don't want the relationship to necessarily detract from the quality of the rest of the life. You want it to enhance."

Don't feel bad enjoying individual experiences

Thompson faced this firsthand when she was excited about working in Sydney, but felt bad about being in a new place and having an amazing time.

"It just made it a little difficult for our conversations," she said. "Sometimes I would not be as open about things." She didn't want him to feel like he was missing anything, she said, but ultimately, holding back could create a bigger emotional distance.

Both said they want each other to live their own lives. "You don't ever want to feel like you're the reason that your partner is stuck in time," Thompson said.

After taking time, the couple said, to have their own lives separately, they are now back together in Chicago.

"Having her back, it just feels like my heart is full," Harris said. "Half of my heart was gone for so long."

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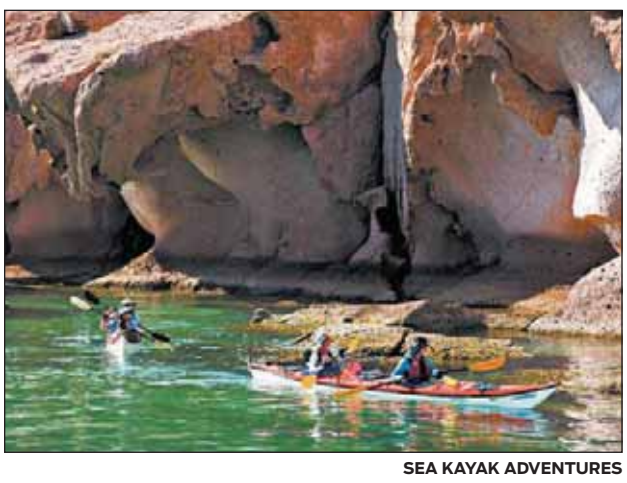
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SEA KAYAK ADVENTURES

Rancho Cacachilas and Sea Kayak Adventures offer a trip that includes paddling in the Sea of Cortez.



VISIT SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio's River Walk is especially scenic in spring, when wildflowers are blooming.



CASTLE HOT SPRINGS

The newly reopened Castle Hot Springs in Arizona features mineral-rich pools, plus a spa and an organic farm.



ROSEWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS

After closing for renovations in 2016, Rosewood Little Dix Bay is back in business on the British Virgin Islands' third-largest isle, Virgin Gorda. It's a good spot to snorkel, sail, soak up the sun and sip a rum-based Painkiller or two.

SPRING BREAK BOUNTY

Whether you want to go near or far, check out these ideas for your next vacation

By Elaine Glusac

The concept of spring break is a bright light on the horizon of the long, dark winter season. But what's a break to young families — playing with the kids at the beach! — is entirely different to a couple seeking reconnection. And while distant destinations perennially beckon (hello, Bali), domestic ones can more conveniently scratch the travel itch.

When it comes to getting your recommended dose of vitamin D, the following new resorts, trips and attractions offer seasonal refreshment at home and abroad for travelers of all stripes.

Families with young kids

If variety keeps your family engaged, consider a stateside spring break to San Antonio in March and April, when the Texas wildflowers are in bloom and temperatures hover in the mid-70s. The city, home to SeaWorld San Antonio and the accessible theme park Morgan's Wonderland, with a Ferris wheel designed for wheelchairs, is especially family-friendly.

In spring, the new Sea Life Aquarium is expected to open at the Shops at Rivercenter, including an underwater tunnel and more than 5,000 marine creatures. Nearby, the San Antonio Zoo recently added the city's 1925-vintage Kiddie Park, featuring rides for children ages 4 to 8.

Lodging options include the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa, home to walking and bike trails, a kids club and a 5-acre water park (rooms from about $250).

Abroad, round up your passports and head offshore to Club Med Miches Playa Esmeralda in the Dominican Republic. The just-opened resort, roughly 50 miles north of the La Romana airport in the eastern El Seibo province, comprises four "villages" — one themed around wellness, one for adventure, one that is kid-friendly and one for adults only.

For families, the Explorer Cove village resides near the kids club, offering programming for kids age 4 months to 17 years, including outdoor movie screenings, trapeze lessons and a "speakeasy" devoted to chocolate. While the children are at play, their minders can take advantage of the Zen Oasis, complete with a spa, pool and activities like yoga in a palm grove (from $245 per night, per adult, all-inclusive).

Families with teens

The upside of travel with teens is their physical stamina — no more carrying their gear — making active vacations appealing. Choosing a wilderness destination gives you a greater chance of separating them from their screens too.

At home, combine service and adventure by heading to southern Utah to volunteer at the no-kill animal shelter Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab. The 3,700-acre spread in Angel Canyon lies between nearby Zion National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, both of which are far less crowded to hike during spring break season. It's also next door to Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, where you can go sand boarding.



CLUB MED

The recently opened Club Med Miches Playa Esmeralda in the Dominican Republic is about 50 miles north of the La Romana airport in the eastern El Seibo province.

At the sanctuary, families can volunteer to work with homeless dogs, cats, horses, rabbits and even pigs. In town, the new Best Friends Roadhouse and Mercantile hotel invites guests to bring an animal home for an overnight by providing dog and cat beds and toys (rooms from $109). Warning: You run the risk of returning home with a new pet.

Abroad, head to Mexico's Baja Peninsula to explore the Sea of Cortez by land and water. Rancho Cacachilas, a nearly 35,000-acre solar-powered ranch with 37 miles of hiking and biking trails, has partnered with Sea Kayak Adventures to offer an eight-day trip. Half of it is spent kayaking from Isla Espiritu Santo, where guests will glamp — or camp in fully furnished tents — between excursions to view whales and sea lions (from $2,040 per person).

Couples

For couples seeking a spring-break warmup, the newly reopened Castle Hot Springs, about an hour's drive north of Phoenix, Arizona, provides that on two fronts: in the sun-soaked desert and via the property's thermal pools.

The Sonoran Desert ranch was established in 1896 as a luxury destination catering to 20th century elite, including members of the Wrigley family. Closed since 1976, Castle Hot Springs opened once again last fall with 34 rooms on 1,100 acres. The property boasts mineral-rich pools for soaking after hikes in the Bradshaw Mountains, tai chi classes, pickleball matches or spa treatments. An on-site organic farm provisions the kitchen with more than 150 varieties of fruits and vegetables (rooms from $650, including meals and activities).

In the British Virgin Islands, Rosewood Little Dix Bay is back in business as of January. The iconic resort was founded by Laurance Rockefeller as a means to protect a swath of verdant Virgin Gorda. Little Dix was closed for renovation in 2017 when Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the island, setting construction back. Now, the reopened 500-acre bay-front resort hosts 80 guest rooms and houses in view of an undeveloped stretch of beach. Come to snorkel, island hop, sail, practice yoga on a hilltop platform or sip a rum-based Painkiller (rooms from $1,500).

Friend groups

Gather your gal or guy pals for sun and sand and head off to explore Miami from your base at the upcoming Kimpton Hotel Palomar South Beach. Opening March 1, the stylish 96-room hotel lies just off buzzy, restaurant-and-bar-lined Lincoln Road and puts other attractions, including the beach, within a few blocks walk. A pool is part of the two-tier roof deck with lounge areas and panoramic views (rooms from $223).

Take a cultural timeout at Miami's two new museums: the Rubell Museum devoted to contemporary art in the emerging Allapattah area and the Museum of Graffiti in the mural-covered Wynwood district.

For a more ambitious trip, sign up with On the Go Tours to sail the coast of Croatia. The new six-day trip embarks from Dubrovnik — aka King's Landing in "Game of Thrones" — hitting a series of intriguing islands in the Adriatic on a small ship usually carrying no more than 32 passengers before disembarking in northern Split. En route, walk the medieval streets of Korcula, birthplace of Marco Polo, wine-bar hop on Hvar, sunbathe at the famous Zlatni Rat (Golden Horn) beach on Brac Island and swim in the turquoise Adriatic off the Pakleni Islands (from $695 per person).

Elaine Glusac is a freelance writer.

GeoQuiz What is the capital of Saudi Arabia? **Find out on Page 10**

Italy connoisseurs choose leisurely Lucca



Rick Steves
Tribune Content Agency



DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCCELLI/RICK STEVES' EUROPE PHOTOS

One of Lucca's surviving towers is the Torre Guinigi, with 227 steps leading up to a small garden of fragrant trees.



A visit to Lucca is incomplete without a leisurely evening "passeggiata" along the city walls.

On a sunny summer evening in Lucca, Italy, I was inspired by the simple joy of watching an old man bicycling with his granddaughter atop the wide, fortified wall that once protected this proud city from its enemies — and now seems to corral its Old World charm. Then, on rented bikes, a group of chatty tourists frolicked by. Their enthusiasm was contagious. Squinting at the energy in their smiles, surrounded by dazzling sunshine, it struck me that the sun in Italy seems to have a special glint. It's as if it's telling visitors, "Embrace life!"

The home of opera composer Giacomo Puccini, Lucca has no single monumental sight. It's simply a uniquely human and well-preserved city. Even its touristic center — the mostly traffic-free old town — feels more local than touristy (aside from a few cruise excursions from nearby Livorno that pass through each day). Neighboring Pisa has the famous tipsy tower you can climb, but lesser-known Lucca is a favorite stop for many Italy connoisseurs. Just a 30-minute bus ride from Pisa and an hour's drive from Florence, it's easy to do Pisa and Lucca in a one-day trip from Florence.

Lucca began as a Roman settlement. In fact, the grid layout of the streets (and the shadow of an amphitheater) survives from Roman times. As was typical for Roman towns, Lucca's two main roads quartered the fortified town, crossing at what was the forum (main market and religious/political center) — today's Piazza San Michele. The amphitheater sat just outside the original Roman walls.

The city is a bit of a paradox; while it has Europe's mightiest Renaissance wall, it hasn't seen a battle since 1430. My friend explained to me the difference between a Renaissance wall and a medieval wall. Medieval walls are thin, because with weapons like arrows and stones, there was no need for thick fortification. But in Renaissance times, the advent of powerful cannons introduced the need for thicker, more substantial walls.

These days, locals treat their ramparts like a circular park. And, with plenty of rental bikes available, visitors can enjoy a lazy pedal around its two-and-a-half-mile circuit. It's a wonderfully smooth 20- to 30-minute pedal, depending on how fast you go and how crowded the wall-top park is. The best people-watching — and slowest pedaling — is during "passeggiata" time, just before dinner, when it seems that all of Lucca is doing slow laps around the wall. Within the wall, Romanesque churches seem to lurk around every corner, as do fun-loving piazzas filled with soccer-playing children.

In its heyday, Lucca packed 70 churches and over 100 towers within its walls. Each tower was the home and private fortress of a wealthy merchant family. Towers were single rooms stacked atop each other: shop, living room, and then the kitchen, all connected by exterior wooden staircases. The rooftop was generally a vegetable garden, with trees providing shade. Later, the wealthy city folk moved into the countryside, trading away life in their city palazzos to establish farm estates complete with fancy villas.

The main pedestrian drag of Lucca is Via Fillungo. Strolling here, you'll connect the town's two busiest squares: Piazza dell'Anfiteatro and Piazza San Michele. Between the two, you can get a taste of Lucca's rich past, including several elegant, century-old storefronts.

At delightful Piazza dell'Anfiteatro, you'll feel the architectural ghost of the town's Roman amphitheater. With the fall of Rome, the theater (which seated 10,000) was gradually cannibalized for its stones and inhabited by people living in a mish-mash of huts. The huts were cleared away at the end of the 19th century to better show off the town's illustrious past and make one purely secular square for the town market (every other square is dominated by a church). While the arena's long gone, its oval shape is a reminder of the city's classical heritage.

Piazza San Michele also has ancient roots. It's hosted a market since Roman times, when it was the forum. Today it's dominated by the Church of San Michele. Towering above its fancy Romanesque facade, the archangel Michael stands ready to flap his wings — which, thanks to a crude mechanical contraption, he actually did on special occasions.

Nearby, the Church of San Giovanni hosts nightly concerts celebrating the music of Puccini — one of Italy's greatest opera composers (you may know La Bohème, Madame Butterfly, or Tosca). Puccini's delightful arias seem to capture the spirit of this wonderful corner of Italy.

If you have time for more than a touristy quickie at nearby Pisa, consider slowing down, grabbing a gelato, and basking in Lucca's genuine charm.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

Investigating suspicious rental car damage claim

By Christopher Elliott
King Features

I recently rented a car from Enterprise. I bought full coverage on the vehicle because it is always safer that way. When I returned the vehicle, a representative from Enterprise inspected the vehicle inside and out and gave me the green light that everything looked great and I was good to go.

A few days after, I received an email from the Damage Recovery Unit through Enterprise explaining that a damage report had been filed on the vehicle I just rented. I immediately called the Enterprise location from which I'd rented the car to inquire about the claim. A manager said that it must be a mistake and to delete the email and everything would be fine.

A few weeks later, I received a letter explaining that there was indeed a damage claim filed under my name. I called the Damage Recovery Unit and they explained that my local branch had filed the claim and that a manager said it was a mistake.

I was astounded at this news because I had not damaged the vehicle. I visited my local branch and a manager told me the same thing — the claim was a mistake. But the Damage Recovery Unit would not drop its claim.

Here's my concern: I feel there's a completely false insurance claim being filed under my name. Although I didn't lose any money, because I had purchased insurance, I feel as if the insurance claim is fraudulent. Can you help me get this claim dropped?

— Sarah Baker, Culpeper, Virginia

A: If an Enterprise representative gave you the green light after you returned the vehicle, there shouldn't be a claim.

A valid claim needs to be properly documented. Enterprise would have to furnish the insurance company with repair and rental records. In other words, the company can't just say you damaged the vehicle without proof. But you say you had "after" pictures of the car that show no damage (good job!) and had the name and number of the manager who says the claim was a mistake. So something's not right here.

Was this insurance fraud, as you suspect? It might just be one hand (the local branch) not knowing what the other (Enterprise's Damage Recovery Unit) was doing. Then again, I'm looking at another Enterprise claim case right now that looks almost identical to yours. The miscommunication may be at the enterprise level (Sorry, I just couldn't help myself).

Enterprise's damage claim looked a little suspicious. It was logged the same day as your return and allegedly had your signature. You would have remembered signing that document, wouldn't you?

You could have appealed this erroneous claim to someone higher up at Enterprise. I list the names, numbers and email addresses of Enterprise's executives on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.

I contacted Enterprise on your behalf. Separately, you also contacted the police and filed a report. Enterprise dropped its claim.

Christopher Elliott is the ombudsman for National Geographic Traveler magazine and the author of "How to Be the World's Smartest Traveler." You can read more travel tips on his blog, elliott.org, or email him at chris@elliott.org.

CELEBRITY TRAVELER

Job is like a ticket to everywhere

By Jae-Ha Kim
Tribune Content Agency



SABIN HOLLOWAY

Born and raised in Canada and currently based out of New Zealand, Tami Neilson has been on the road for three decades.

"From the age of 12, I was on tour all across North America in a 35-foot motor home with my family's band the Neilsons," Neilson said. "It consisted of my mom, dad and two brothers, Jay and Todd. I met and married a Kiwi and moved across the world to New Zealand 15 years ago. I am lucky enough to be a dual citizen of both countries."

Singing in a style reminiscent of Patsy Cline, the 42-year-old country star sings about living out of a suitcase in "Hey, Bus Driver!," a track from her latest album, "CHICKA-BOOM!"

An edited version of our conversation follows.

Q. What was the first trip you took as a child?

A. I grew up in Toronto, so our summer holiday spot was Wasaga Beach, a couple hours north. It holds so much nostalgia for me. My brothers and I would play on the beach from early morning until our dinner of fish and chips. I still recall my first little purple sand pail and tiny plastic shovel, flip-flops with a rainbow strap between my toes, watching "Back to the Future" at the drive-in movies while eating ice cream.

Q. If you could only pick one place to eat, would you choose a street cart or fine dining?

A. A street cart or food truck. When I'm on tour, I see most of the world from inside a tour van or from a hotel room window and spend most of my time at the venue where I'm performing. I always try to sneak out and walk around between soundcheck and the show to soak up what I can in a couple of hours. If I'm lucky, we get a day off to explore, so I'd rather grab food along the way that I can eat as I wander.

Q. Where are your favorite weekend getaways?

A. Wellington, New Zealand. It's an hour flight from where I live in Auckland, and it has the best food, fashion and music. The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa is one of my favorite places. I recently went on a weekend getaway with my husband to Melbourne (Australia), which is such a vibrant, stylish city. Colorful, artistic architecture and lovely cafes along the river and great vintage clothing shops.

Q. If you've ever gone away for the holidays, which was the best trip?

A. Going back to Canada for my first white Christmas three years after relocating to New Zealand. I'd been so homesick each Christmas, which is summer in New Zealand, decorating the tree while wearing shorts, crying as I listened to "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby.

Q. What would be your dream trip?

A. Flying first class somewhere tropical where I don't have to be anywhere for the duration of the trip — just a beach and a book. That would be a real holiday. Besides my honeymoon, I don't think I've ever had a trip that wasn't music- or work-related. We tend to plan our trips around shows. I always feel incredibly fortunate that music takes me places I would probably never be able to go without it. From singing for delegates in Beijing to seeing the princess of Denmark watching my show side-stage at Tonder Festival, I can't believe where music has taken me.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

"The Police State" by Sebastian Errazuriz has the look of classical Roman statuary — but the figures are contemporary world leaders Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Donald Trump.

A hotel with high ambitions

Curator of new River North property isn't afraid to be provocative

By Cindy Dampier



A young man on a bison by artist The Kid is showcased in the hotel's lobby.

"We ask people to question the big things, the pillars of society," says Adia Sykes, directing her gaze around an art-filled, white-walled space with floor-to-ceiling windows that face the expressway-bound traffic of Ontario Street, just west of Michigan Avenue.

"When you walk in, it's kind of a spectacle," Sykes adds. "You're met with heavy, timely things. But it's also super awesome."

Sykes is a curator, and her title is museum manager. But the space she's explaining isn't quite a museum — instead, it's a hotel lobby, with high-flying ambitions.

Welcome to Chicago's new 21c Museum Hotel, which opened in early February. The 297-room property represents a first foray into a major metro market for the art-driven 21c hotel group. In the former James Hotel building, 21c has a reconfigured lobby (a brass-railed staircase has been shifted to open up the gallery spaces), a range of freshly redecorated rooms and a formidable collection of contemporary art that extends into typically prosaic areas, such as elevator lobbies and meeting rooms.

The concept was pioneered in Louisville by contemporary art collectors Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, who wanted to increase public access to thought-provoking art. That's why 21c's hotel lobbies don't feature miles of sink-in seating or fancy amenities. Instead, they are high-end art galleries with works from a range of contemporary artists, such as Kara Walker, LaToya Ruby Frazier and Nick Cave. They are also open to the public and free of charge — anyone, hotel guest or not, is welcome to stroll the galleries. Arresting works of art, such as a massive sculpture of a young man riding a bison or a menorah made of repurposed handguns, command the streetside windows, engaging and enticing passersby.

Though Brown and Wilson have since sold a controlling interest in 21c to Accor's MGallery Hotel Collection, the assembled art, most of which the hotel group owns, remains a key asset. The collection (sometimes supplemented by borrowed works) is reconfigured roughly every nine months by in-house curators into main exhibits for each property.

The curation doesn't pull punches. For Chicago's inaugural 21c exhibition, 21c chief curator and museum director Alice Gray Stites gathered pieces from 56 artists to compile "This We Believe," a show intended to challenge belief systems centered around religion, politics and economics, among other things. Just inside the front door, a gleaming white sculpture has the look of classical Roman statuary — but the figures are contemporary world leaders Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Donald Trump. The American flag also figures prominently in several pieces, evoking protest and challenging the notion of symbolic meaning. Jesus is juxtaposed with Michael Jordan.

Sykes says 21c isn't worried about being too provocative.

"That's part of what art does," she says. "And using a hotel as a platform for art means that you can have exposure to this incredibly diverse population, and get them questioning."

Sykes and other employees will happily field questions about the hotel's artwork, as well as lead regular public tours of the galleries at 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.



Artist Zak Ove's Umbilical Progenitor is on display at the new 21c Museum Hotel.



Guns and artillery provide the raw materials for pieces by Al Farrow in the 21c gallery. The hotel offers docent-led tours to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays.

In a hotel landscape that has evolved from mushy floral paintings and safe color schemes to kicky wallpaper and Instagram stations, 21c's strategy may represent a parallel progression toward a visually engaging hook. Event spaces, which include a ballroom and two cozier meeting spaces, one with a tiny library, also feature art from the collection, a unique selling point for event bookers. Yet the emphasis on high-quality art and curation helps the brand remain true to its purpose: When not booked, the ballroom is open for gallery-goers to wander.

On the lodging floors above, dark hallways mark the transition from public space to private, a decision designers made to encourage guests to keep quiet. Guest rooms feature marble baths, modern blonde wood furniture and brushed brass accents in the form of pendant lighting and drawer pulls. Two 21c suites on floors 16 and 17 have corner windows with large sectional sofas that snuggle up to city views, oversize bathrooms with big bathtubs and hidden televisions that pop up from a console at the foot of the bed.

There's a small lobby gift shop with the usual supplies plus things you might consider for actual gifts: cool jewelry and art books, or if you're the straight souvenir type, the company's trademark penguin statuettes in a Chicago-specific shade of dark green.

There is no on-site restaurant at the moment, though one is planned for the former David Burke's Primehouse spot. Once open, it will have access to the hotel galleries. A full-service spa, 24-hour fitness center, and business center are located on the hotel's lower level, and valet parking is available. Introductory overnight rates start at $125.

The hotel is also pet-friendly and kid-friendly: "We welcome everyone," says Sykes. And, nope, no one at 21c is losing sleep over the idea of kids or dogs wrecking the art.

Even though, for toddlers or canines, art like that giant bison near the front desk might not challenge you so much as ... make you want to touch it. Or bite it. Or hug it. After all, it is kind of a glorified stuffed animal.

"Hopefully," Sykes says, "we've got enough employees looking out that we can redirect that."

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NEWS TO USE

Get up close to see butterflies in Michigan



FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

Get an up-close look at butterflies at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

By Phil Marty
Chicago Tribune

Here are some of the more interesting events, deals, websites and other travel tidbits that have come across our desk recently:

■ The very popular "Butterflies are Blooming" exhibit at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan, opens March 1 and runs through April 30. The 25th annual exhibit will include roughly 60 species of butterflies and moths from Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Philippines and Kenya flying freely in the five-story tropical conservatory. About 185,000 visitors visit the exhibit each year. tinyurl.com/y99v7psk

■ The Big Muddy Film Festival runs Feb. 24 to March 1 at a variety of venues in Carbondale, Illinois. The festival, put together by students from Southern Illinois University, will screen 66 films from 278 submissions. More than 20 of the films are by female directors. bigmuddyfilm.com

■ Tattoo lovers will fill the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center from Feb. 28 to March 1 for the 25th annual Motor City Tattoo Expo. More than 300 tattoo artists will be on hand, and there will be judged competitions each day. themotorcitytattooexpo.com

■ The fourth annual Bluegrass Showcase will be held Feb. 29 in the historic Civic Center in Neosho, Missouri. Twelve bluegrass bands will perform during the all-day event. tinyurl.com/rv2jhqk

■ The Fat Bike Birkie opens the famous Birkebeiner cross-country ski course to fat-tire bikes on March 7. There will be competition in the Big Fat 47K, the Half Fat 21K and the un-timed Fun Fat 10K Tour. All three will start from Cable, Wisconsin. The day before will be the Fat Bike Birkie Expo with lots of fat-tire bikes and gear on display. It's also in Cable. tinyurl.com/yxkr8mkw

■ The fourth annual Savor Lebanon Craft Beer, Wine, Spirits & Food Fest will be held Feb. 29 at the Boone County 4H Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Indiana. More than 25 Indiana craft breweries, wineries, distilleries, meaderies and cideries will be offering unlimited samples. Tickets are available online or at the door if they haven't sold out. savorlebanon.com

■ The seventh annual Hamtramck Music Festival will be held Feb. 27-29 in Hamtramck, Michigan, a city that's within the borders of Detroit. More than 200 bands will perform during the festival in a variety of bars, restaurants and other venues. A $15 wristband covers admission for all three days. tinyurl.com/v2puwqs

■ Recreational racers will compete Feb. 29 and March 1 in the NASTAR Midwest Championships at Crystal Mountain ski resort in Thompsonville, Michigan. Men and women racers will be divided by age classes, and no qualification is required. There also will be live music after the Saturday competition. tinyurl.com/vnoqx33

■ Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin in Spring Green, Wisconsin, is selling tour tickets for the 2020 season. Weekend tours will begin April 3, and daily tours begin May 1. Booking in advance is recommended. tinyurl.com/y9khx35b

■ The 2020 Official Galena Country Visitors Guide for the Galena, Illinois, area is available online at tinyurl.com/wnpm2dp, or you can order a printed copy at tinyurl.com/tfnkzlg.

■ Check out the latest discounts on Indiana lodging and attractions at tinyurl.com/wqxxy8b.

■ The Iowa/Illinois Quad Cities area has released its 2020 Quad Cities Experience Guide. You can view it online or order a paper copy at tinyurl.com/ublsuqs.

Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time. Listings are not an endorsement. Send tips at least a month in advance to ChicagoTribTravel@gmail.com.

Phil Marty is a freelancer.

GEOQUIZ ANSWER

Riyadh. It has a population of about 7.2 million people and is in the center of the country.

Tallest tower in Las Vegas finishing remake

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — After more than a year and $100 million upgrading restaurants, guest rooms, the casino floor and more, The Strat in Las Vegas is nearing the end of its renovation project.

Golden Entertainment representatives told the Las Vegas Review-Journal they hope the renovations encourage guests to stay longer at the 24-story hotel and its landmark 1,149-foot tower with a restaurant, thrill rides and observation platform 921 feet above the Las Vegas Strip.

The investments "were aimed to really offer a full-resort experience that can't be replicated elsewhere," company chief executive Blake Sartini said. New signage and video screens also remind guests that the property now goes by a new name.

The property opened in 1996 as the Stratosphere. Golden Entertainment bought it in October 2017 and began renovations in mid-2018. It renamed the property The Strat Hotel, Casino and SkyPod a year ago.

Stephen Thayer, vice president and general manager, said remodeling the 80,000-square-foot casino created an open layout and new color scheme including natural lighting, blues and golds. Nearly half the 2,472 rooms have been renovated, with more scheduled, Thayer said.

Food and drink options have been expanded, with the observation deck cocktail bar now called 108 Drinks and an updated Top of the World restaurant featuring a new menu, carpet and furniture.

Outside, a 30,000-square-foot tent houses the new acrobatic show, "Celestia."

Brent Pirosch, consulting director at CBRE's Global Gaming Group, told the Review-Journal the renovations should help the property compete for walk-in customers on a stretch of the Strip resort corridor experiencing a resurgence.



RACHEL ASTON/AP

Musicians Sammy Hagar, left, and Rick Springfield make drinks at The Strat in Las Vegas.

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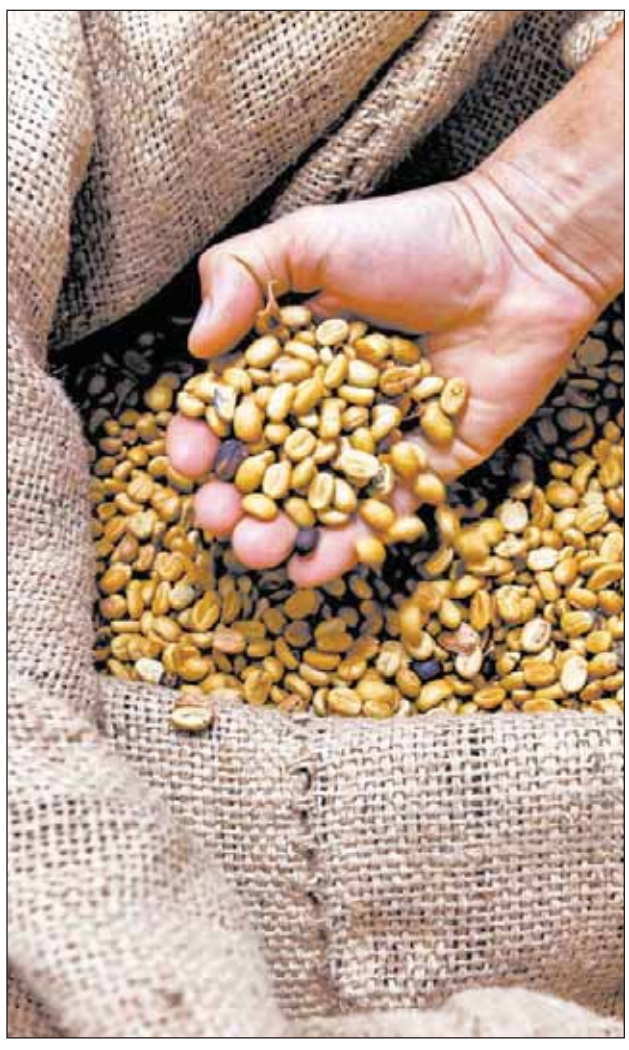
WHAT TO EAT WHEN YOU GET THERE



The beans progress from freshly picked to fully roasted at the Hacienda Alsacia in Alajuela, Costa Rica.



Tour guests get to see the various steps in the roasting process at Hacienda Alsacia.



Dried coffee beans at Finca Rosa Blanca Coffee Plantation Resort in Alajuela.

Savoring Costa Rica

Tasting journey to haciendas and plantations follows coffee beans from tree to cup, sip by sip

By Bryan Miller
The New York Times



TOH GOUTTENOIRE/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

Coffee plantings at Hacienda Alsacia, Starbucks' global agronomy complex and visitors center in Alajuela.

"Coffee," said Buzzy O'Keeffe, owner of New York's renowned River Café in Brooklyn, "is the last thing a restaurant diner tastes — so it better be good."

For O'Keeffe, it seems, it's never good enough. Every couple of weeks he assembles his chef and several staff members for a blind tasting of brews from around the world. Those that pass muster — typically under 20% — might find their way into the restaurant's ever-changing house blend, which typically contains beans from Colombia, Brazil, Sumatra and Costa Rica.

"I have been searching for the perfect coffee since my 30s," said O'Keeffe, now in his discriminating 70s. "I have found that even the perfect blend will vary from time to time, depending on the year's crop — something like wine but not quite as fickle."

Last year, when I learned that he was planning a trip to coffee plantations in Costa Rica, I asked if I could tag along, a caffeinated cohort one might say.

On a balmy Sunday evening we arrived in San José, the country's sprawling capital.

O'Keeffe was interested in comparing freshly roasted Arabica coffee (Arabica beans are the highest quality; robusta beans are generally for the mass market) with what he purchases once the beans are exported to New York. (They should be very similar if delivered promptly and shielded from air and sunlight.) Our first destination was a coffee company outside of San José called Café Britt. It was founded in 1985 by Steve Aronson, an American now living in Costa Rica and a world authority on coffee whose career dates to the early 1970s as an apprentice taster in Manhattan.

"At that time all of the good Costa Rican coffee was exported, and the inferior stuff stayed here," Aronson explained. He wanted to change that. He launched the first gourmet coffee growing and roasting company in the country and began domestic distribution while at the same time building his export trade. Today Britt coffee is sold throughout much of Central and South America.

The company conducts hour-long tours of its half-acre educational plantation, followed by a discussion and a short film. Guests are taken through the steps of coffee bean processing from planting seedlings to harvesting what are called "coffee cherries," large red pods that hold two coffee beans each. Newly planted coffee bushes require three to four years to produce cherries. Once removed the beans are dried, husked in a special machine, graded and packed for transport. Some operations, like Britt, roast their beans in house before shipping. At the end of our tour came a "cupping," the professional term for coffee assessments. (The cupping is not part of the basic tour; there is a $20 supplement per person.)

"OK, when we begin will the coffee still be hot?" O'Keeffe inquired, sitting at a big round table holding about 20 half-filled ceramic cups. As with wine, the temperature at which coffee is served at professional tastings alters its characteristics — hot coffee releases more aromatics.



The cupping, or tasting, of coffee at Finca Rosa Blanca Coffee Plantation Resort, which offers a coffee program and overnight lodging.

The coffee cups on the table contained brews from Arabica beans cultivated at different altitudes. Among them: Tarrazu, which thrives in the high mountains southwest of San José (typically characterized as medium-bodied and high in acid, with hints of chocolate); Tres Rios, east of the capital (also with ample acid and a full, smooth body); Central Valley (the high altitude region west of the capital and known for smooth and full-bodied brews); and Orosí, to the southeast, said to be almost floral, although that eluded us amateurs.

Aronson called out instructions. "Stir the coffee, then place your nose so it's almost touching it. Sniff. Then lift the cup over your lip and slurp." Expectoration optional.

O'Keeffe tasted each brew methodically, returning to several for another slurp. He said that, for the most part, the differences were more subtle than he had expected.

"Being down here, I thought I'd be tasting peaches or something," he laughed.

The Britt tour, about an hour, concludes with a Costa Rican buffet lunch.

Heading to Starbucks central

The following morning we drove 5,000 feet above the lushly carpeted valley on the slopes of the irascible Poás Volcano, to the 2-year-old Starbucks global agronomy complex and visitors center called Hacienda Alsacia. I would go for the view alone. Situated on a 600-acre working plantation, it is where the company conducts farming research and development, creates programs to help small-scale coffee farmers around the world boost their income and educates the public about what Starbucks calls sustainable coffee.

The 1 ½-hour tour is similar to that at Britt but more hands-on. It starts with demonstrations on how seedlings are planted and allowed to mature, and on how to dry beans by raking them over hot cement. At one point the tour guide asked for a volunteer to help dry the beans under a wilting sun. There were no takers. He drafted O'Keeffe, who stepped forward wearing the bemused expression of someone called onto the stage by a magician. Four round trips with the rake was enough. A cupping followed, and O'Keeffe noted that, not surprisingly, the darker the roast the more intensely acidic and flavorful the coffee. Think of Starbucks' sharp and heavily roasted — some say over-roasted — product.

Winding down the mountain we happened upon La Casona de Doña Julia, two large barnlike structures with a sign reading "Comida Auténticamente Costarricense" (Authentic Costa Rican Cuisine). We sat at a long picnic table and sipped chilled Imperial, a Costa Rican beer. Actually, by the time it arrived it was only half chilled. A word about dining in Costa Rica restaurants: Service is slow, really slow, take-a-walk-between-courses slow.

A luxurious brew

If you're looking for a little opulence with your Arabica, it can be found half an hour from the airport at Finca Rosa Blanca Coffee Plantation Resort. It's snuggled amid 30 undulating acres of coffee — everything is assiduously eco-friendly and sustainable — with 13 tropically themed rooms and two suites (doubles around $350 with tax).

The daily 2 ½-hour coffee program, which is open to non-guests with reservations ($40 per person), is as much about rainforest ecology and preservation as what you sip at breakfast. Those of an avian bent can roam the heavily shaded 30-acre property to seek out some of the nearly 250 species of tropical birds.

"We're all about being green and sustainable," said the farm supervisor and head roaster, Carlos Sanchéz. "Even the hotel — we built it with recyclable materials."

Our final stop was in the town of Naranjo, another short hop from the city, at the Espíritu Santo Coffee Tour. The coffee itinerary — by now I could moonlight as a tour guide — in a 600-acre plantation is unveiled in seven stages, from planting to merchandising. It can be a long lesson, but the engaging guides sense when to pick up the pace. And not least, they are great with children.

Hurtling through so many cups of coffee in four days was educational, O'Keeffe noted, as coffee, like wine, is a moving target — and the tasting never stops.

This reminded O'Keeffe of a little story he sometimes pulls out of his wallet when in the presence of wine connoisseurs, about a television skit about wine tasting. "One actor said 'I taste raspberries!' and another said 'I taste pears, peaches, cherries!' and so forth," he said. When it came to the final actor, "He said, 'I taste crushed grapes.' It's like that with coffee tours."

HOME

MAKE YOUR SPACE

Life on the water

A first-time homeowner's custom houseboat makes waves on HGTV — and in its marina

By Sandy Deneau Dunham
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — We can't speak for all reality TV, but we can say this: When Sarah J. Haggard first sees her brand-new custom houseboat, in the HGTV show "Home Afloat," her reaction is giddily genuine. That is real-life surprise. She hadn't set eyes on her very own afloat home since it'd been framed.

You'd be all smiles, too, if you had this Epiphany.

Haggard has had several — including the official name of her home.

"I knew I wanted to live on the water from the moment I first stepped foot on a houseboat," says Haggard, the founder and CEO of the mentorship app Tribute. "The peacefulness of the water combined with the bohemian lifestyle appealed to me. A few years ago, I decided to take a chance and signed a five-month lease on a rental."

Four months into that lease, life on the water got a little rough: The owner of her rental houseboat was going to start renovations. Haggard had gone through a breakup and had nowhere else to go. But then, she says, "Something incredible happened." Her longtime friends Todd Filer and Kent Perry (houseboaters who owned their own design/renovation business for 20 years) had been approached by HGTV to star in its new show.

"They just needed a client to build a boat for — and so they called me," Haggard says. "I'm a believer in universal energy, but this was too good to be true. I immediately said yes, although I had no idea how it would all work out."

The universe came through, energetically. "Literally at the last hour, the houseboat owner said I could stay. I said I couldn't afford it on my own, and he dropped the rent $1,000 a month. I stayed there while we built the houseboat. So many stars were aligning."

Following city law, Haggard says, she could not build a new houseboat unless it replaced an existing one. "You have to be mindful; you can only build in the footprint." She found a 60-by-15-foot houseboat for $55,000 but then couldn't find a loan to build her new one.

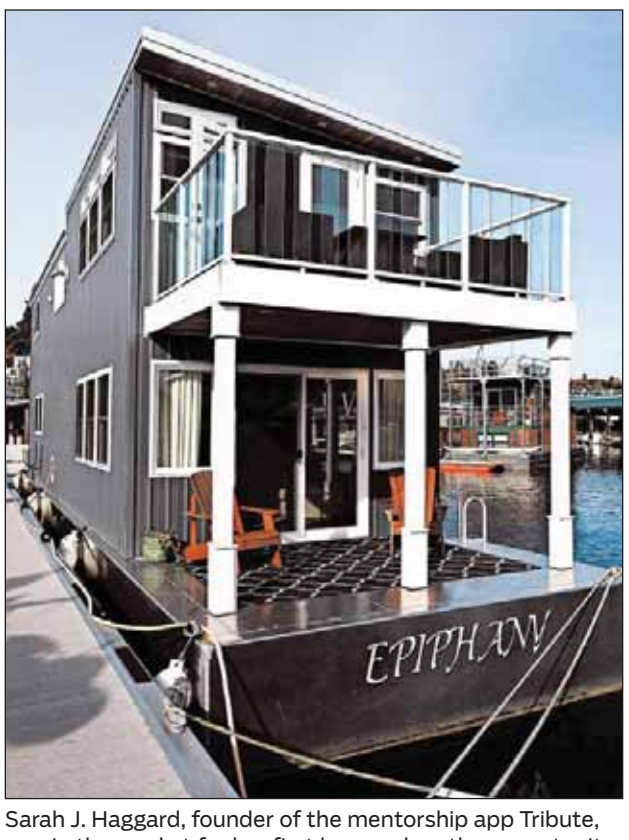
This is where Haggard's own mentor turned into one of those aligning stars. Haggard had worked with Eileen Kollmeyer at Microsoft; she and her husband, Charlie Kollmeyer, had built their own floating home, and also knew Filer and Perry.

"They're kind of like my parents," Haggard says. "This is the first home I ever had. Eileen said, 'You'd better get used to asking friends and family for money.' I called Eileen and said, 'I know who I'm going to ask: you.' They gave me money from their own home so I could build my dream home."



KEN LAMBERT/PHOTOS FOR THE SEATTLE TIMES

The master bedroom opens to an upstairs deck, with a propane fireplace and glass railings. There's another, more public, deck on the lower level, with access to the lake.



Sarah J. Haggard, founder of the mentorship app Tribute, was in the market for her first home when the opportunity arose to build a houseboat through HGTV's "Home Afloat."

Armed with a $450,000 budget and a dream that wouldn't sink, Haggard joined the show and shared her water-life wish list: an open floor plan (plus outdoor spaces) for entertaining, a real bathtub, a dedicated laundry area, a killer view of Seattle and a boatload of light.

Filer, Perry and Charlie Kollmeyer got to work at Seattle's Canal Boatyard. ("Normally, you have to hire an architect, engineer and interior designer. These three were all of that in one," Haggard says.) HGTV filmed the whole process, on a rigorous schedule. "From the barge up, everything was built in six weeks," says Perry. "We had to prove we could do it." (They did, but "Home Afloat" was scuttled before it became a series; Filer and Perry were featured in the first two episodes.)

Haggard's dreamy two-story, 1,400-square-foot Epiphany is now the star of the airwaves and of the watery waves of its Lake Union marina. "It's a mixture of seaside cottage meets Midwest farmhouse, with a modern spin on houseboat living," says Haggard. Everything she had hoped for is here. ("You have to visualize your dreams before they happen. The view from the master bedroom is exactly what I had envisioned," she says.)

And then there were even more genuine surprises:

A fantastic, expansive plywood bookcase filled with actual books that are actually read hides a secret powder room between the kitchen and the living room on the lower level. "The bathroom is a crowd-pleaser," Haggard says.

Following the hidden-happy-surprise concept, a good-sized square of the floor in the kitchen opens to reveal a wine cellar below. Beyond this stretches a play area for Haggard's three nieces — or for Mr. Pants, her prancing cat, when strangers pop over for a tour.

Even her houseboat's name was a fitting surprise. When Haggard registered her new custom houseboat with the Coast Guard, she discovered the original houseboat — the one she gave away before building the home of her hopes — was named Epiphany. And even modern mariners know you shouldn't change the name of a boat.

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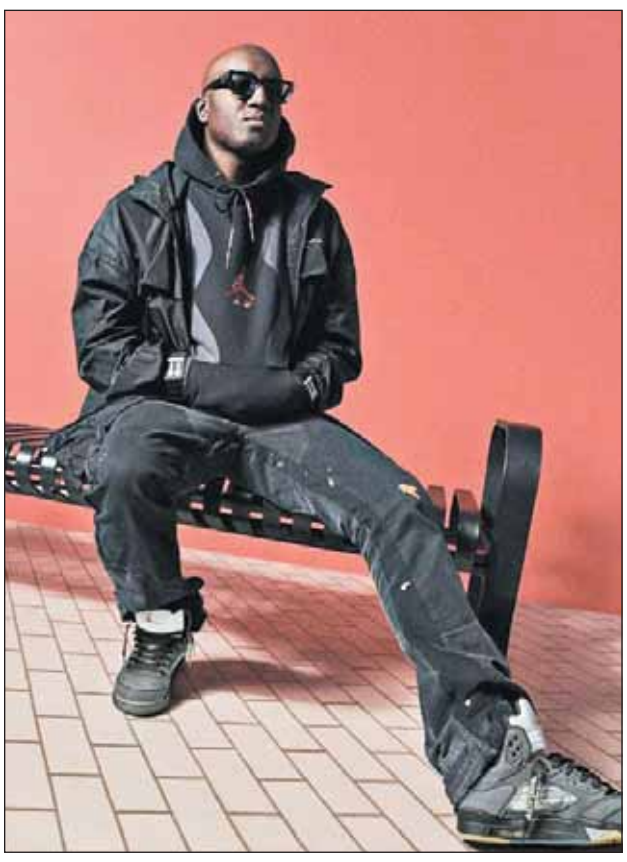
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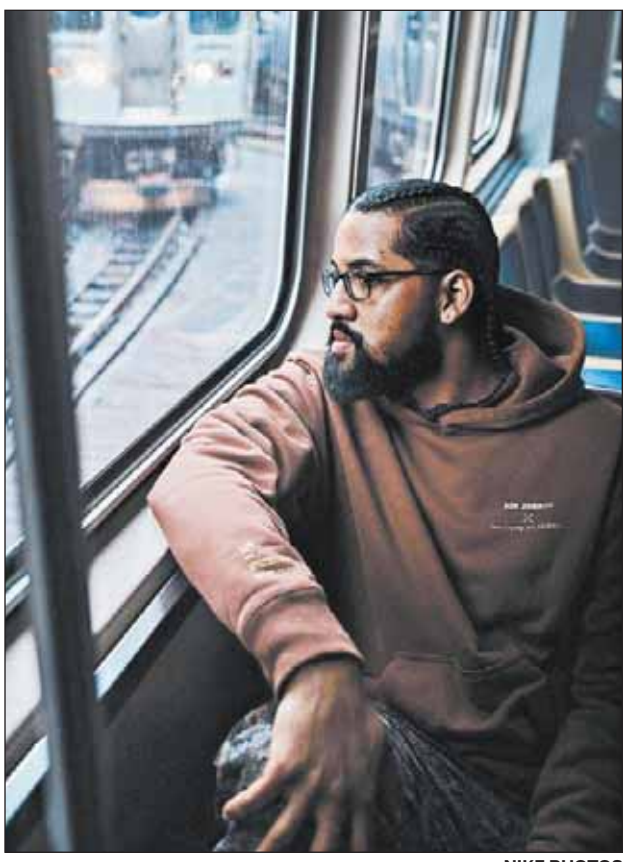
WHAT TO WEAR NOW



Virgil Abloh created apparel and Air Jordan V Retro SP for the Jordan Chicago Collaborators' Collection.



Jake "JB" Brode and Cole Bennett, the team behind the innovative multimedia company Lyrical Lemonade.



NIKE PHOTOS

Andrew Henderson (aka Drew the Barber) designed hoodies and a long-sleeved T-shirt with the Brown Line in mind.

Embodying the city's connectivity

Meet the local artists behind the new Jordan Chicago Collaborators' Collection

By Darcel Rockett

The hype is here for the 2020 NBA All-Star Weekend. And rightly so; the event hasn't stopped in our city since 1988. So, off-the-charts enthusiasm is not unwarranted. Add to that all the celebrities, entertainment and fans that will be on site to partake of all the greatness that Chicago offers.

That greatness seeps from the pores of local Chicagoans and comes forth in the work of local creatives who were tapped to be a part of the Jordan Chicago Collaborators' Collection, a streetwear collection of clothing and kicks that embody our city's connectivity and attitude.

Eight Chicagoland artists were each assigned a color from the CTA's eight colored train lines and tasked to use it to create items that reimagine what the term "unite" means to them and to the city, said Israel Mateo, Jordan Brand's Footwear Energy Designer.

The group consists of: Designer Virgil Abloh (Red Line), Artist Cody Hudson (Orange Line), Designer Shelia Rashid (Purple Line), Chance The Rapper's SocialWorks (Blue Line), streetwear boutique SucceZZ (Yellow Line), multimedia company Lyrical Lemonade (Pink Line), and four students from Wings organizations and programs that mentor urban youth for success (Green Line).



Brode and Bennett created apparel and shoes with the Pink Line in mind. They designed this Jordan Aerospace 720 UC shoe for the collection.

"By collaborating with these eight local creatives to create a collection that directly ties back to Chicago, we believe it will inspire the community. We hope each piece lets Chicago locals feel proud to wear today and moving forward" Mateo said.

Artists like painter/sculptor Hudson decorated his orange-colored hoodie and long-sleeved T-shirt with graphics and a reimagined six-point star from the Chicago flag. Chicago native and Louis Vuitton's men's artistic director Virgil Abloh infused the Red Line with his Off-White brand.

"Virgil has a very real connection to the Air Jordan V because he remembers how great Michael Jordan played in the shoe," Mateo said. "He didn't want to over-design the shoe or make drastic changes to it. It was about highlighting the original shoe and bringing it to a new generation so they could get the same feeling he had when he got Vs through his lens."

We talked to a few of the creatives selected to contribute to the collection and what it means to them: Andrew Henderson (aka Drew the Barber), a Country Club Hills native and founder and president of the West Town barber shop No Cuts No Glory, whose hoodie and tee reflect the Brown Line, and Plano native Cole Bennett and Kalamazoo native Jake "JB" Brode (the team behind the innovative multimedia company Lyrical Lemonade), who took the color pink and punched it up for the Jordan Aerospace 720 shoe along with a hoodie and long-sleeved T-shirt. The interview has been condensed and edited.

Q: Can you share your design process?

Drew the Barber: I really wanted to use it to pay homage to a time in 1988 when the All-Star Game was last here. Through that, my wife actually came in and helped me through that process and brought up the idea of the coins (tokens) and the transit and the time that it was, so I did a lot of research on that and just really brought that idea to life. I sketch a lot, so from what she told me from her childhood, and and me sketching it out, it really came to life.

Bennett of Lyrical Lemonade: We were given the Pink Line and put our spin on it. Our colors at Lyrical Lemonade are blue and yellow, so that pastel look works perfectly with pink.

JB of Lyrical Lemonade: We just wanted to add elements of shoes that are nostalgic for us, elements from those mixed in with a modern look.

Q: What does it mean to have your work showcased in your hometown?

Drew the Barber: It means a lot. Being somebody who grew up in a family of seven siblings, we couldn't afford to do the whole Jordan shoe thing. But when my auntie finally got me a pair, it was something that I got hooked to. So to be somebody who grew up to really see the impact the brand has and now be part of the impact, is really special.

Bennett of Lyrical Lemonade: Collaborating with Jordan brand is a dream of mine as well as JB because it was the shoe of choice growing up. And whoever thought that we'd be able to work with such a company? It's really just surreal.

Q: What is it about Chicago? What's our secret sauce?

Drew the Barber: There's a certain pride that comes along with that ... putting on a pair of Jordans. Being a barber and being in the shop, you see guys literally bring out a brand new pair of shoes to come to the shop just so he can show that he has them. It's just a sense of pride that we all carry that I think lives throughout the city and it kind of affects everybody.

All pieces will be available at jordan.com and Jordan Brand's All-Star activation space, HUB23 (5200 S. Cottage Grove Ave.),leading up to and during All-Star Weekend.

drockett@chicagotribune.com

Getting cash for vintage wedding gowns



Ellen Warren
Answer Angel

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: I have two wedding dresses, one was worn in 1957 and the other in 1989. Both were professionally dry cleaned and boxed. I am hoping to sell them but have no idea who might be interested in buying them. Any suggestions?

— Pat S.

Dear Pat: Wow, those dresses are a blast from the past. Because both of the gowns are old enough to be classified as vintage your best bet is to contact vintage stores near you. That said, they might be a tough sell. There's not a huge demand for wedding gowns that are over a quarter-century and a half-century old. You also could try listing them on eBay or a similar auction site. Fashions from the '80s are enjoying a burst of popularity so maybe you'll get lucky. If all else fails, you could donate them as costumes to a local nonprofit theater company and take a tax deduction.

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: I often wear leggings with socks and sneakers. Do the socks go under the leggings, over, or either way?

— Jessica

Dear Jessica: Neither. Buy some no-show socks and avoid the problem altogether. You often can find socks six-packs for under $10 at Marshalls and big-box stores. Socks under leggings are bulgy and not a good look. Socks over leggings aren't great either but if you insist on wearing socks that show, wear them over the leggings.

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: Can you explain the purpose of the teeny purses that I see in fashion ads like one I saw recently for Dolce & Gabbana? They seem impractical.

— Meredith P.

Dear Meredith: They're awfully cute and totally ridiculous. Some I've seen are even too small to hold a credit card or lipstick — and certainly not a cellphone. Consider them a novelty item and if you must wear one, be sure to also carry a real purse for your keys, sunglasses, phone and other necessities.

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: I have a king-sized, adjustable split bed; that is, two separate twin mattresses. It is so hard to find good sheets. With so many department stores gone, online shopping seems to be the only option, but it is hard to determine the quality and "feel" of the sheets. What I want are heavy-feeling crisp, cotton sheets — the kind that feel like they have been hanging outside on the line. Separate sheets are hard to find, though I have purchased fitted twin XL sheets sold separately. Individual flat XL top sheets are not to be found. I am left to buy sets with XL pillowcases, which are not needed.

— Seymour

Dear Seymour: I don't know whether the crispness level of their sheets will satisfy you, but hardtofindsheets.com sells individual XL twin fitted and flat sheets and lots of more obscure sizes. I've had a similar problem — being stuck with XL pillow cases that come with the king sheet set when I want regular size cases or, better yet, no cases at all. You're entirely right that it's getting ever harder to buy individual sheets instead of a four-piece set with unwanted pillowcases. As for crisp sheets in general, my favorites are Pinzon (amazon.com's house brand) in the lowest possible thread count in white (no dyes). They only come in four-piece sets, alas, but are very well priced.

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: Help! My daughter is getting married in August 2021 on the beach in Indiana. I'm plus size and 53 years old. What kind of dress and shoes would you recommend? I not only want to be comfortable, but my little grandson will be 2 then and I will be helping with him. Any suggestions?

— Sherry N.

Dear Sherry: Dress for hot weather but bring a wrap or sweater just in case. How about a loose, flowy mid-calf small floral print? The length would enable you bend to pick up that little grandson without fear of your dress hiking up. Flat shoes are a must if you're walking on sand, and sandals would be totally acceptable. My friend Karen R. swears by Anne Klein "Oalise" ballet flats, which are kind of dressy, and she says the pointed toe is amazingly comfortable. You can find them on zappos.com and amazon.com starting at around $45.

Angelic Readers

From Chris G.: "Here's an experience I want to share. If your readers are mystified by peach-colored stains on sheets, towels, washcloths or clothing, they might be caused by chemicals in their face cream. Mine were apparently caused by the SPF 15 in Olay Total Effects moisturizer. The stains have been impossible to remove.

I called Procter & Gamble's 800 number (they own Olay) and learned that the SPF has chemicals that react with the iron one might have in their water.



DREAMSTIME

A vintage clothing store is your best bet for selling wedding gowns that are more than 25 years old.

Once it's been laundered, it is impossible to remove the stains. There should be some sort warning on the label! Do your readers know of a laundering product or procedure to remove the stains?"

Reader Rant

From Frank: "Your advice to Naomi in a recent column was off and basically showed you're not a frequent flyer. Naomi's luggage being put on the incorrect flight was the problem of the airline and they are responsible for getting the luggage to the owner. All Naomi needed to do was go to customer service and inform them of where she was staying and her luggage would have been delivered to her at no charge. I have over 3 million miles on American Airlines, and yes it does happen, and I have the luggage delivered to my hotel or even to my home."

Dear Frank: I too am a frequent flyer and that's why I advised Naomi to wait at the airport when she learned her suitcase was coming in on the next flight in a couple hours — and to ask for a voucher to be used on a future flight to compensate her for the inconvenience. I've had airlines deliver my lost luggage, but it often has arrived much later than promised, frequently well after the event I was attending.

Now it's your turn

Send your questions, rants, tips, favorite finds — on style, shopping, makeup, fashion and beauty — to answerangelellen@gmail.com.

THE GOODS

YOUR HUNT IS OVER

Creature comforts

How to create a relaxing retreat at home

By Debbie Carlson

Raise your hands if this seems like the longest winter ever. Wait, aren't they all?

OK, to be fair, as Chicago winters go, this one thankfully has been pretty mild. We've made it this far, and nothing has come close to last year's polar vortex.

That said, it's still a grind. The seemingly never-ending gray skies, and plenty of cold, damp days.

The beginning of the new year can be a fresh start, but it also has brought its own stressors: post-holiday letdown, presidential impeachment hearings, the start of a new election cycle and other daily soul-sucking events. It all just wears you down.

We don't blame you if you're feeling slouchy. Join the club. You have our permission to stay in, take it easy and seek out creature comforts.

Here are a few ways to transform your space into a retreat that you won't want to leave.

Debbie Carlson is a freelance writer.



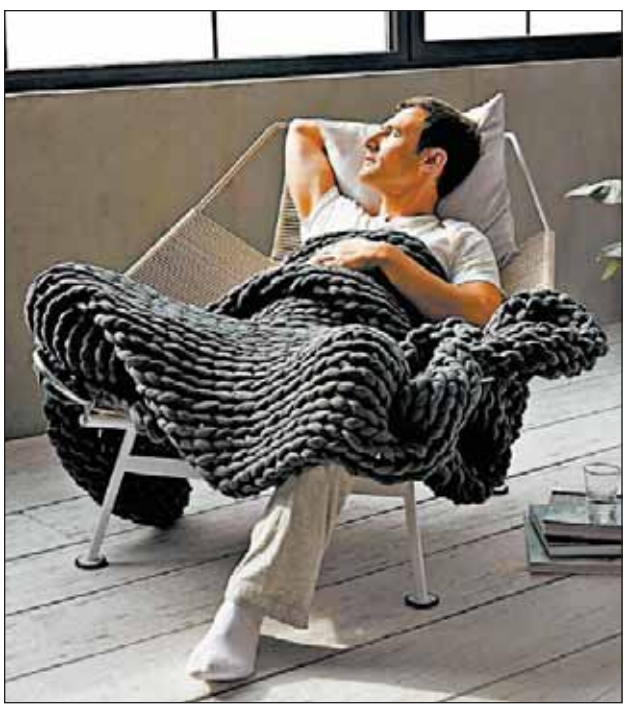
PERIGOLD

Commune with nature: Bring in the tropics with the Amazonia four-panel wallpaper mural by Brewster Home Fashions. The muted green color scheme of palm trees and flowers brings a calming botanical element to any room. perigold.com



HIVE MODERN

Curl up with a classic: Nestle into Eero Saarinen's classic, midcentury modern chair and never get up. Designed to facilitate a relaxed sitting posture, it's perfect for curling up and seeking a sense of security, especially in this soft, ecru color. No wonder it's called the Womb chair. Chair and ottoman. hivemodern.com



BEARABY

Take an epic nap: Bearaby's weighted blankets are perfect for soothing anxiety and encouraging restful napping. Bearaby Classic Napper, westelm.com



Aromatherapy that works: Alleviate muscle stress and strain with milk + honey's fragrant muscle soak. It's made with eucalyptus, arnica, rosemary and sweet marjoram, all known for their relaxation properties. A little in a hot bath and the outside world will melt away. neiman marcus.com

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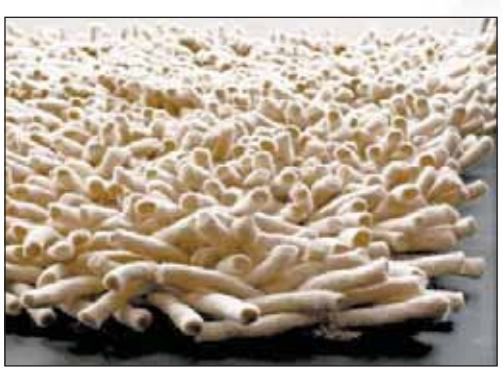
Chill with a warm cup of tea: Evoke memories of playing in the garden when you were young with Palais des Thes Childhood Garden tea. This herbal infusion is stunning to look at and contains organically grown apples, rosehip, hibiscus and other fruits and flowers. It's caffeine-free so you drink it at night to wind down. 3.9-ounce metal tin. us.palaisdes thes.com

PALAIS DES THES



Soak away your stress: Nothing like a deep soaking tub to invite relaxation, especially one that's aesthetically pleasing, too, with tapered edges all around. This Japanese-style, freestanding, oval-shaped soaking tub by Wetsyle lets you lie deep in your own sanctuary. A wooden board allows you to add a candle or cup of tea to complete the experience. perigold.com

PERIGOLD



Shag gets supersized: Start the softness from the ground up with this wool shag and flokati handwoven rug by De Funiak Springs. Your feet will beg to wiggle into the chunky, deep pile. Or just lay down and sink in. wayfair.com

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Host mixologist Danielle Dang and host chef Thai Dang from HaiSous Vietnamese Kitchen



Matt Rodrigues and Cortney Hall



Glenn Eden and David Whitaker



Louie Alexakis and Lou Canellis



JJ Kim, from left, Hayuan Cho, Michelle Park and Wonbin Yang

CANDID **CANDACE**

By Candace Jordan



First Bites Bash kicks off Chicago Restaurant Week

First Bites Bash, the kickoff celebration for Chicago Restaurant Week, drew over 2,000 food-loving fans to the Field Museum on Jan. 23.

Organized by Choose Chicago, the event featured sweet and savory tastings from some of Chicago's top restaurants and chefs, plus wine, beer and spirits. The event supported culinary and hospitality scholarships for the James Beard Foundation and Choose Chicago.

The event's host couple, chef Thai Dang and his mixololgist wife, Danielle Dang, greeted VIP guests during a dessert reception in the Founders' Room. The couple later presented tastings from their James Beard-nominated restaurant, HaiSous Vietnamese Kitchen, including grilled prawns and pomelo salad, a traditional Thai salad with coconut, shallots, roasted peanuts and chili flakes.

Samplings from some of the city's other top restaurants included sausage and peppers from Gene & Georgetti; a poke bowl of tuna, salmon and avocado from Ocean Prime; olive oil-braised octopus from Wicker Park Seafood & Sushi; and pork and lobster bisque from The Clubhouse.

During the event, Choose Chicago presented a check for $10,000 to the James Beard Foundation for its Chicago Eats Week Scholarship Fund, which provides financial support to local students interested in pursuing a career in the culinary arts.

"Bon Appetit magazine named Chicago 'Best Restaurant City' in 2018, and even though there's a lot of great food cities, our dining scene is definitely one of our sweet spots," said Choose Chicago President and CEO David Whitaker. "First Bites Bash gives our restaurants a chance to showcase the diversity of our neighborhoods and cultures."

The tastings offered a preview of what the chefs served during the 13th annual Chicago Restaurant Week, which began Jan. 24 and ended Feb. 9.

Freelance writer Candace Jordan is involved in many local organizations, including some whose events she covers.

MORE ONLINE: Find more photos and video of this event at **www.chicagotribune.com/candidcandace**

HILARY HIGGINS/PHOTOS FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Marissa Golliday and Taelor Lanier



Peter Chicoine and Vanessa Delasquez



Laurence and Martial Noguier



Bob Sirott, Marianne Murciano, Terri Lorenz and Tony Lorenz

Don't worry, teenagers. You won't be at kids' table forever.



Judith Martin
Miss Manners

Dear Miss Manners: Would you enlighten us as to when children's tables are appropriate? My brother and I are 17 and 15, and we were required to eat a holiday meal in a separate room with the host couple's 7-year-old son. We have never shown our relatives anything but good table manners, and are always respectful and reserved as guests. This arrangement insulted us, but was it a breach of etiquette?

Gentle reader: Hosts faced with limited room at the dining room table are forced to make a cutoff age for the children's table — and Miss Manners is guessing that in this case, it was 18. The good news is that this is a problem that you will soon age out of — at which point Miss Manners will good-naturedly entertain your complaints about the boring adults, and your desire to return to the children's table so that you can gossip about them.

Dear Miss Manners: At family gatherings, everyone prepares several dishes for a buffet-style meal. My sister-in-law will visually assess what I put on my dinner plate. She then verbally calls me out in front of everyone if she feels I did not take enough (or any) of the food she prepared. At one gathering, she told me I have to try what she made and I cannot leave her house until I do. How do I respond?

Gentle reader: "Thank you, I am full. I wasn't planning on spending the night, but if you are insisting, perhaps I can have it for breakfast." And then hope that this public response garners laughs, and not an invitation.

Miss Manners further recommends that in a less heated moment, you suggest that if your sister-in-law feels that it is so important for her guests to eat only what she cooks, then she should not be giving potluck dinners.

Dear Miss Manners: What is the proper action when a guest accidentally breaks an item, other than apologizing and offering to replace it? What does a guest do if the item is of great sentimental value but of little or no monetary value?

How about if the item's monetary value is higher than what the guest can afford? Or if the item is part of a set: Does the guest just buy a replacement for the broken item, or an entire new set? Will cash work?

These are not theoretical questions: I have broken a fine bone china mug out of a set of six mugs, each with a different design. My hostess did not inherit this set, but it is antique, and, like most everything in her house, there is a story about how and when she bought it.

I have apologized profusely and offered to replace it. She has laughed it off and said not to worry about it.

Gentle reader: Clumsy guests should do the maximum amount of groveling — and make reasonable attempts at replacing broken items — without themselves becoming the nuisance. You do not wish to be a friend, Miss Manners warns, whom hosts are willing to chuck if only to get you to stop harassing them.

Gracious hosts need only thank their destructive guests for their efforts and do their best to reassure them that for anything less valuable than a statue, it was old and they were looking to get rid of it anyway.

Dear Miss Manners: Each Christmas, we host a party for friends and neighbors. This year, our neighbors brought along their adult daughter and her partner, who were visiting from out of state.

They arrived intoxicated and were very loud and obnoxious, making rude comments to other guests. Some of our invited guests left early as a result, as did her parents. We're uncertain about how to address this problem without alienating our neighbors.

We certainly don't want a repeat performance next year. What is the appropriate way to handle party guests who behave in a rude or disorderly manner?

Gentle reader: When even their own parents give up on them and go home, it is a problem indeed.

Miss Manners suggests that next year, you enlist their help: "Your children seemed to have such a wonderful time at our party, but in our quiet neighborhood, we feel ill-equipped to keep up with them. Perhaps they would be happier with a livelier set."

With unrelated misbehaving adults, you may say the same, omitting — if heavily insinuating — the part about being children.

To send a question to the Miss Manners team of Judith Martin, Nicholas Ivor Martin and Jacobina Martin, go to missmanners.com or write them c/o Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

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Chicago Tribune
REAL ESTATE



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Michael Valente's Chicago firm, Renovation Sells, makes minor renovations to help owners make their homes more desirable to buyers.

'They slap lipstick on a pig'

What Chicago real estate experts think of HGTV shows, 'Windy City Rehab' woes

By Carisa Crawford Chappell

The HGTV effect is nothing new, with real estate agents and renovators long grappling with sky-high expectations of buyers and sellers who assume outdated interiors can be fixed at the drop of a hat and homes will sell in a snap — because that's what they see on TV.

But Chicagoans have glimpsed the less-than-perfect underbelly of such reality shows, as "Windy City Rehab" continues to make headlines for city-ordered halts on work that lacked the right permits and, more recently, as the subject of an ongoing lawsuit accusing stars Alison Victoria Gramenos and Donovan Eckhardt of selling a "defective property" to a Chicago couple for $1.36 million.

In addition to being bombarded with complaints of shoddy rehab work, the show reportedly used actors as stand-ins for homeowners who didn't want to appear on camera — a TV practice Gramenos deemed "pretty common" on Twitter.

But when the reality being peddled is less than real, it can be an uphill battle to get homeowners to set realistic expectations, Chicago real estate agents and contractors said.

Some, like Michael Valente, have capitalized on the shift in what buyers want. Putting a house on the market used to require just a little paint here and there, but it's now the norm to pay more attention to prepping homes for sale, he said. Valente's firm, Renovation Sells, specializes in minor renovations to prepare homes to sell faster.

"What they do on TV, that's my day job," he said. "If you're not doing some sort of work to give potential buyers what they're looking for, you're doing yourself a disservice."

Whether the shows are misleading or not all depends, Valente said. His firm, he said, makes the TV polish possible, with most projects taking an average three weeks and $20,000.

"We really try to give that TV experience and that look that people are looking for," said Valente. "We're trying to get Instagram-worthy homes for our sellers."

Others hope to better educate consumers and taper expectations gleaned from TV. Here are some of the most frequent myths they want to bust.

You don't need experts to get the job done

When a home sells in a 30-minute episode, it can seem easy enough to tackle the task yourself. But licensed experts can make the process smoother, whether it's buying, selling or rehabbing a home.

"The TV shows remind me of an eight-second elevator pitch to capture the attention of the audience in the shortest amount of time," said Lineata Carter, a real estate broker with Prince Realty Group.

Carter watches a handful of broker and rehab shows, including "Fixer Upper," "Flip or Flop" and "Million Dollar Listing." She said some shows stretch the truth about the ease of selling a home. Others who see extensive rehabs on TV might think selling their own home is out of reach without sinking tens of thousands of dollars into renovations.

While "Fixer Upper" is one of her favorites, Carter said the projects on the show seem to be geared toward savvy investors, adding that rehabs don't always go as smooth as it seems on the big screen.

"It only provides a snapshot of the projects and not the true timelines of what actually happens behind the scenes of home renovations," said Carter. The timeline can go from three months to a year or more, complicated by unpredictable circumstances such as weather, staff changes, budgets, inspections and city code compliance — most of which are glossed over on TV.

Brokers cash in big on luxe listings

Maurice Hampton, president of the Chicago Association of Realtors and owner of Centered International Realty, also used to watch real estate reality shows — but not anymore.

"Being in the industry, you realize just how exaggerated many of the scenes are, so it kind of loses its luster," he said.

He also takes issue with shows always portraying brokers as making a lot of money on the "Million Dollar Listing"-type shows.

"They don't really go into how that commission is split, what fees are paid, the fact that they're up-fronting the cost prior to you closing," Hampton said. "And if you don't close, they don't get paid. They don't show those scenarios at all."

Rehabbing your home can easily be a DIY project

When it comes to rehabs, Hampton said he thinks the shows do an injustice to the industry. Putting an addition on a home, for example, takes a lot more heavy lifting than blowing the walls out, running a drawing by the city and wrapping up in a couple weeks.

"This is Chicago, and things don't happen that fast," Hampton said.

Turn to ***Rehab, Page 7***

ELITE STREET

Schwimmer sells home in Near West for $965K

By Bob Goldsborough

Actor David Schwimmer sold his longtime, three-bedroom, 2,300-square-foot brick and concrete loft condominium on the fifth floor of a vintage Near West Side building, which was on the market for $965,000.

Schwimmer, 53, grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from Northwestern University before embarking on an acting career. His signature role as Ross Geller on TV's long-running sitcom "Friends" paid him a $1 million-an-episode salary before the show ended its run in 2004.

Schwimmer also co-founded Chicago's nonprofit Lookingglass Theatre Company in 1988. Despite his Hollywood stardom, he has remained part of the Lookingglass ensemble, including adapting certain works for the stage at Lookingglass.



Schwimmer

During production of "Friends," Schwimmer also lived in Los Angeles, where his first home was a modest house in West Hollywood. He later owned a nine-bedroom, 11,336-square-foot mansion on South Hudson Avenue in Los Angeles' Hancock Park neighborhood, which he bought in 2001 for $5.5 million and sold in 2012 for almost $8.9 million.

In recent years, however, Schwimmer's principal residence has been in New York City, where through a limited liability company, he bought an 1852 town home in Manhattan's East Village neighborhood for $3.9 million in 2010 and then demolished it, replacing it with a newly constructed, five-level brick townhouse.



VHT STUDIOS

David Schwimmer's condo is in a seven-story building that was converted to lofts in the late 1990s.

In Chicago, Schwimmer's pied-a-terre was in a seven-story building that was converted to lofts in the late 1990s. Through a bank trust, he paid $425,000 in cash for the unit in 1998.

Schwimmer first listed the condo Sept. 19 for just under $1.15 million. The home, which is in the northwest corner of the building, has two baths; 11-foot ceilings; light gray hardwood floors throughout; hand-blown glass light fixtures; a balcony; and an all-white kitchen with hand-painted millwork, a 21-foot island and stainless steel appliances. The master suite has a seating area, an all-white master bath with double sinks and an oversized shower room, and a custom walk-in closet.

Listing agent Michael Rosenblum declined to comment on the listing. Public records do not yet identify the buyers.

Schwimmer's New York City home recently has been in the news as an intruder in his

Turn to ***Elite, Page 7***

Pocket listings can be bad for sellers

By Ilyce Glink and Samuel J. Tamkin
Tribune Content Agency



DREAMSTIME

Quite a few pocket listings have brokerage signs saying "coming soon."

Q: I'm annoyed with some of the things I see going on in the real estate market, including pocket listings.

Sellers should avoid brokerages that list properties internally before they are exposed to the market. The brokerage will brag that it sold the home before it hit the market as a good thing, when it is not. It is good for the brokerage because it received the buyer and seller commissions. However, the seller not only forfeited seeing if one of the thousands of other agents had a buyer willing to pay more, but research shows getting more than one offer usually increases bids by $10,000 or more.

The only time a pocket listing may benefit the seller is if there is only one agent involved and the commissions are discounted significantly. That discount should be at least $10,000, even for a small house.

It is also true that the most important factor to get right when selling is price. Statistics show the overpriced homes sell for less in the end. When I have examined homes by type, price point or location, homes that sell in less than 30 days generally sell for more money.

Overpricing homes is a tactic many agents use to convince sellers that they can sell homes for more than other agents. Sellers should ask agents for the past two years of listings to see how much agents lower their list price or had their listings canceled or expired because they are overpriced. Realtors will try to show the last list price to make their numbers look better, but they may have lowered the price several times before the home was bought.

Most sellers don't know that money given back to buyers to cover closing costs is not reflected in the sold price. For example, if the sold price for a house is $300,000 but the seller had to give $10,000 back, the seller only received $290,000. Therefore, sellers need to make sure that they are comparing the original sales price to the sold price minus money given to the buyers to finance the buyer's closing costs.

One last tip: Most sellers are not aware that they're paying commissions on the money they are giving back to the buyers to finance the buyer's closing costs. In the example above, the seller would pay commission on the $10,000 they are not receiving because commissions are based on the sold price. Sellers need to make sure to negotiate this with their agent in advance.

A: Thank you for your long comment on pocket listings and some of the ins and outs of the home selling process. You make some excellent points. We, too, have noticed that more homes are appearing to go on the market without really being on the market.

Lately, we've noticed quite a number of homes with brokerage signs on their front yards with a note stating that the home was "coming soon." There is no information available about this home either on the listing company's website or on online.

These homes are called "pocket listings," meaning the homes are not technically listed but the real estate agent is expecting to get calls from prospective buyers about the home. In a hot market, where the number of buyers outnumbers sellers, this would potentially allow the real estate company to capture both sides of the deal far more often.

We agree that this does a disservice to the seller. A seller should want the entire inventory of buyers to know that the home was available for sale and that all these buyers would want to see a new home as it comes on the market.

In a bad market, we suspect the listing broker wants to test the waters on price. If a property is listed at $500,000, all the online websites would show that the home was listed at $500,000. But if the listing broker is wrong, and the prices drops to $450,000, that will also get reported online.

Once websites report that the home price has dropped 10%, buyers may suspect there is something wrong with the home, may wait for further price drops or may bid even less for the home thinking that the sellers might be desperate. We suspect that some listing brokers want to avoid this appearance and so go with the pocket listing first to try to gauge what buyers may want to bid for the home without tying the home to a specific amount that will show up online.

We don't quite understand pocket listings in a strong sellers market. In those situations, as soon as the home goes on the market, you'd expect tons of buyers to want to bid on the home; and there would be no need to have the pocket listing, unless, as you pointed out, the listing agent is trying to keep the home to sell in-house (where an agent for the buyer and seller are in the same company) or where the listing agent feels they may get something better than if the listing is out in the open.

Ilyce Glink is the CEO of Best Money Moves and Samuel J. Tamkin is a real estate attorney. Contact them through the website ThinkGlink.com.

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Mortgage Guide

Institution	30 yr APR	30 yr Fixed	Product	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR	Phone / Website	NMLS # / License #
Mutual of Omaha Mortgage	3.500% 30yr Fixed APR	Rate: 3.500 Points: 0.000 Fees: $900 % Down: 20%	30 Yr Fixed FHA	3.000	0.000	$800	5%	3.123	312-388-2176 https://mutualmortgage.simplenexus.com/ujsyj	NMLS# 110495
			30 Yr Fixed Jumbo	3.750	0.000	$1,250	25%	3.830		
			7-1 Arm Jumbo	3.375	0.000	$1,250	20%	3.430		
			15 Yr Fixed	3.000	0.000	$800	20%	3.125		
			30 Yr Fixed	3.500	0.000	$800	5%	3.712		
			10-1 Jumbo	3.500	0.000	$1,250	20%	3.612		
			30 Yr Fixed VA	2.875	0.000	$800	5%	3.040		
			Investor 1-4 unit fixed rate and arm options available							
Liberty Bank for Savings	3.481% 30yr Fixed APR	Rate: 3.375 Points: 0.000 Fees: $999 % Down: 20%	20 yr fixed	3.250	0.000	$999	20%	3.398	847-737-9020 www.libertybankmortgage.com	NMLS# 787575
			15 yr fixed	3.000	0.000	$999	20%	3.190		
			10 yr fixed	2.875	0.000	$999	20%	3.151		
			Ask about our NEW early rate lock and verified pre-approval (competes with cash offers). Same great rates for loan amounts up to $1,500,000. Competitive rates on multi-family properties. Apply online – Fast approval. We service our own loans!							

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SAVINGS UPDATE

How Americans are paying for their new homes

Each year, the National Association of REALTORS publishes a profile of statistics on home purchases during the past year. In our previous installments here, we've dug into who bought the homes, the types of homes they purchased, and how they navigated the buying process. Now, in Part 4, we take a look at the NAR's findings on how Americans financed their home purchases.

Financing is far and away Americans' leading method for affording the purchase of a new home. Among all buyers during the 2018-2019 twelve-month period, 86 percent opted to finance their purchase with a mortgage.

Among first-time buyers, the amount they financed averaged 94 percent of the home's value, while repeat buyers financed just 84 percent on average. Across all buyers, the typical loan-to-value ratio was 88 percent.

For about 1 in 8 buyers (13 percent), the most difficult step in the home-buying process was saving up a sufficient down payment. Sixty percent indicated their down payment source was personal savings, while the next most common source was proceeds from the sale of a primary residence, which 38 percent reported as funding their down payment.

For buyers who indicated saving for a down payment was difficult, more than half (51 percent) said that student loan obligations were their biggest financial obstacle. In second rank, 45 percent cited credit card debt. Auto loan payments were reported to make saving for a down payment difficult by 38 percent of this year's home buyers.

Still, Americans find it worth it, with 81 percent saying they view purchasing a home as a good financial investment.

The REALTORS' annual survey was conducted in July 2019, capturing homebuyers who purchased between July 2018 and June 2019. Responses were received from over 5,800 buyers, with results weighted to represent U.S. population demographics.

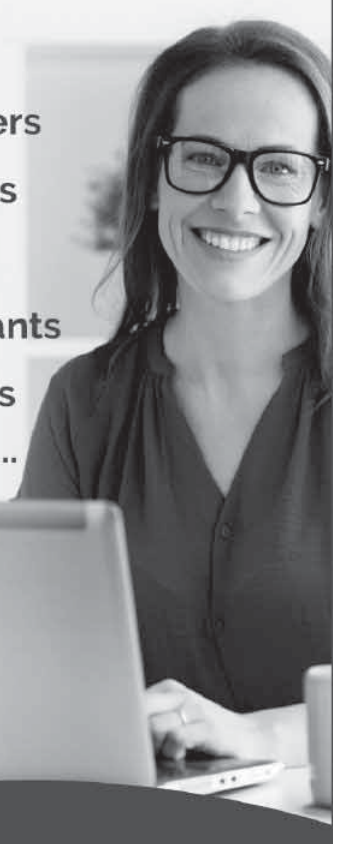
Rate Criteria: The rates and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 02/11/20. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. The institutions appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 740. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of $165,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of $484,351. Lock Days: 30-60. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. FHA Mortgages include both UFMIP and MIP fees based on a loan amount of $165,000 with 5% down payment. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. VA Mortgages include funding fees based on a loan amount of $165,000 with 5% down payment. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. To access the NMLS Consumer Access website, please visit www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.

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POSITIVE IMAGE PHOTOS

HOME OF THE WEEK

Roscoe Village home with custom-built pergola: $1.48M

ADDRESS: 1722 W. School St. in Roscoe Village
PRICE: $1,475,000
Listed on Jan. 14, 2020

This Roscoe Village home has five bedrooms and six bathrooms. The brick home includes a garage deck with a custom-built pergola. Inside, the home features custom millwork, a formal foyer leading to an open living and dining space with 10-foot ceilings and a fireplace. The kitchen includes two dishwashers, a wine refrigerator and custom cabinets. Floor-to-ceiling windows line the entire back of the home. The master suite includes an additional fireplace and Juliet balconies, as well as a master bathroom with a soaking tub and steam shower. The lower level has radiant heat throughout.
Agent: Kate Waddell of Compass, 773-517-2666

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Wholesaling tactics

'We Buy Houses' investors target seniors with below-market offers

TNS

By Willoughby Mariano
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ATLANTA — Debbie McGauley considered moving from the house she loved to become the at-home caregiver for her 80-year-old uncle. Its hallways were too narrow for an ambulance stretcher, which the bedridden man would surely need in the years to come.

When a friendly investor offered to buy it for $95,000, she signed a form thinking that she was agreeing to continue discussions, she said. In fact, she had agreed to sell the home for some $25,000 less than what she could have gotten through a real estate broker, according to her attorney and other estimates.

McGauley, 60, had lived in the west Atlanta home for 22 years and owned it free and clear. It is where four generations of her family had gathered for Thanksgiving dinner, and her mother danced all night long on her last Christmas alive. The home was her family's refuge and an inexpensive place to live in a region where affordability is growing scarce.

"If they were going to take it, they weren't going to take it without a fight," said McGauley, who is disabled. She lives on Social Security payments of about $1,040 a month, according to court records.

A growing number of homeowners, often seniors, are being coaxed by real estate investors into selling their homes for far less than what they're worth.

These investors, often known as wholesalers, have blanketed parts of the city with "We Buy Houses" signs, leaflets, mailers and cold calls, searching for houses that are not on the market. They convince homeowners to sell at a discount, then resell them — often on the same day — for at least thousands of dollars more. They do so without making a single upgrade.

Experts warn that wholesalers and other investors are stripping longtime residents of tens of thousands of dollars in hard-earned wealth. Homeowners too often sell without knowing the real value of their home, and realize too late that they cannot afford a new place to live with cash from the deal.

The impacts can reach across generations, experts warn. A house is often a family's most valuable asset, especially among African Americans, research shows. The profit from a sale can send a grandchild to college, or help the next generation put down payments on their own homes.

Jacob Naviaux, a representative for SMQ Properties LLC, the investment company that offered to buy McGauley's house, said he treated her fairly and followed the law during her sale. Some wholesalers may deserve criticism for their tactics, but he explained his deal with McGauley carefully.

"She breached her contact on her house," Naviaux said. "Sellers can't just choose one day to back out of a sale."

Tough tactics

Wholesaling is legal in many cases and can provide a useful service. Investors offer cash deals and fast closings. Industry-savvy homeowners who are willing to take a financial hit can use them to unload a property quickly.

But in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods, where homes purchased for less than $20,000 30 years ago are now worth $200,000 or more, residents complain wholesalers are using hardball tactics to make money off of inexperienced sellers.

The barrage of solicitations has gotten so bad that Atlanta Legal Aid Society hands out cards to seniors to post on their doors that say, "No Soliciting. This House Is Not For Sale."

In some neighborhoods, wholesalers have turned the real estate market into the Wild West. Seminars tout wholesaling to inexperienced investors as a way to enter real estate without a license or cash reserves. Courses teach how to coax an unwilling buyer into selling. Some wholesalers market properties for sale well before they own them, attorneys and real estate agents familiar with their practices said.

In some cases, wholesalers report houses they're interested in purchasing to authorities for code violations, said Lisa Flowers, executive director of the home repair nonprofit HouseProud Atlanta, which serves low-income seniors, veterans and disabled people. A senior who can't afford to make city-required repairs may decide to sell under financial strain.

In one case referred to Atlanta Legal Aid, investors gained the trust of a homeowner near the booming Westside Beltline by bringing over meals and offering to pick up her prescriptions, said Robin Andrade, a Realtor who tried to help the senior find a new home after the sale.

"They gained her trust and took her house out from underneath her," Andrade said.

The senior, who declined to be interviewed, sold her house to an investment company for $95,000 on July 30, records show. It resold that same day to another investor for $130,000.

The senior failed to find a new place before demolition day. Investors streamed the demolition on Instagram with her lamps and other furniture still inside.

Not for sale

McGauley said she found SMQ Properties as she mulled selling. She signed a contract in April 2018 after Naviaux made a 20-minute visit to her home, she said.

McGauley said he did not send her a copy of the contract immediately after she signed as he promised. Naviaux said emails show he did, and their text messages show that she understood she sold her home.

Soon after, McGauley found a nursing home for her bedridden uncle and decided to stay. SMQ filed suit against her in Fulton County Superior Court and later asked for $35,000 in damages.

With the help of Legal Aid, McGauley filed bankruptcy and halted the sale of her home. But she must pay SMQ $8,000 over about three years as part of a settlement agreement.

On a recent afternoon, barbecue grills and other cooking tools sat at the ready in McGauley's backyard, in preparation for a feast. McGauley, a mother of seven, has so many children, grandchildren and other relatives that they can no longer fit in the 1,175-square-foot ranch.

Wholesalers continue to send mailers and make cold calls.

"I tell them no. It's not for sale," McGauley said.

The home will stay in the family.

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The Breakers at Edgewater Beach Chicago, IL 60640	888-864-1801	$1,655	$1,895	$3,100	RC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bright Oaks of Aurora 1340 River Street, Aurora, IL 60506	630-892-8800	From $3,500	From $3,575	$5,400	AL		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
GreenFields Of Geneva Geneva, IL 60134	630-232-9105	Life Plan Community	From $2,632	$3,451	RC, SA, AL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Friendship Village of Schaumburg Schaumburg, IL 60194	847-490-6265	From $1,517	From $2,276	From $2,898	RC, SA, AL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

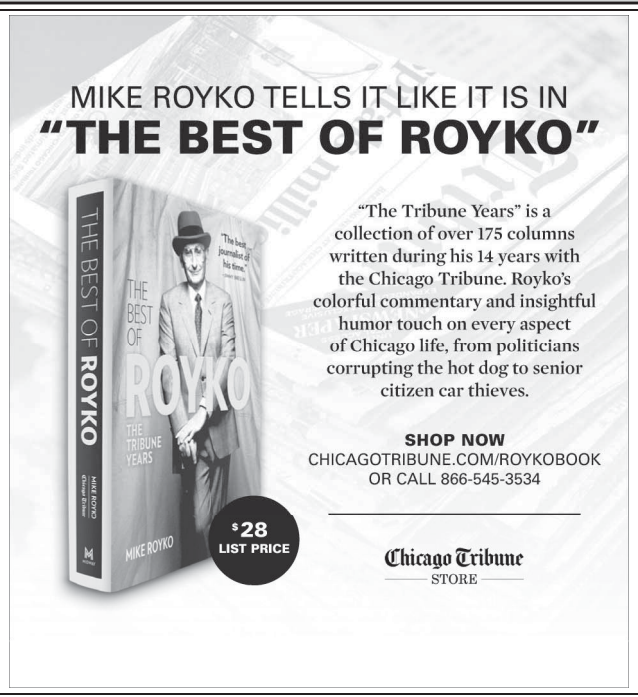
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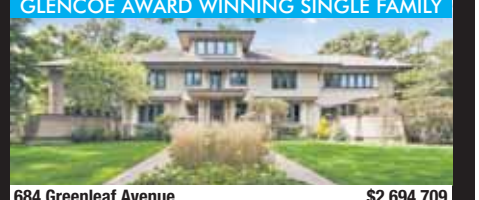
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OPEN SUNDAY 11-1 ROGERS PARK



3153 West Wallen Ave $959,959
Modern elegance in this 5 bed/5.1 bath home. Custom high end finishes. Main level and lower level kitchens. 2 Car garage.
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OPEN SUNDAY 11:30-1:30 MILLENNIUM PARK



60 East Monroe St Unit 5004 $874,960
The Legacy! 2 bed/2 bath Up to 13 feet of floor to ceiling unobstructed park, lake and city views. Richly appointed.
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1484 Thor Drive $659,767
Custom home in serene setting on over an acre of land. 4 bedroom, 3.3 baths. Main level master suite. 3 car garage.
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OPEN SUNDAY 12-2 HIGHLAND PARK



1885 Keats Lane $628,990
Contemporary Designed Ranch sitting on a beautiful lot. Grand living on one level with finished basement. 2+ Car Garage.
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GOLD COAST CONDO



21 West Chestnut St 1501 $575,000
Awesome 2 bed/2 bath corner unit just updated in great 126 unit boutique building. Brazilian hardwood floors throughout.
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MCHENRY COUNTY



101 Lake Shore Drive $259,900
Oakwood Hills updated 3 bed, 2.1 bath home on large lot. Granite/Stainless kitchen. Finished basement with theatre room.
Call Chaz 773-868-3080

OPEN SATURDAY 12-2 PETERSON PARK



5903 North Artesian Ave Unit 1 $129,869
Pristine one bedroom, one bath condo. Granite/stainless kitchen. In unit washer/dryer Parking space included!
Call Chaz 773-868-3080

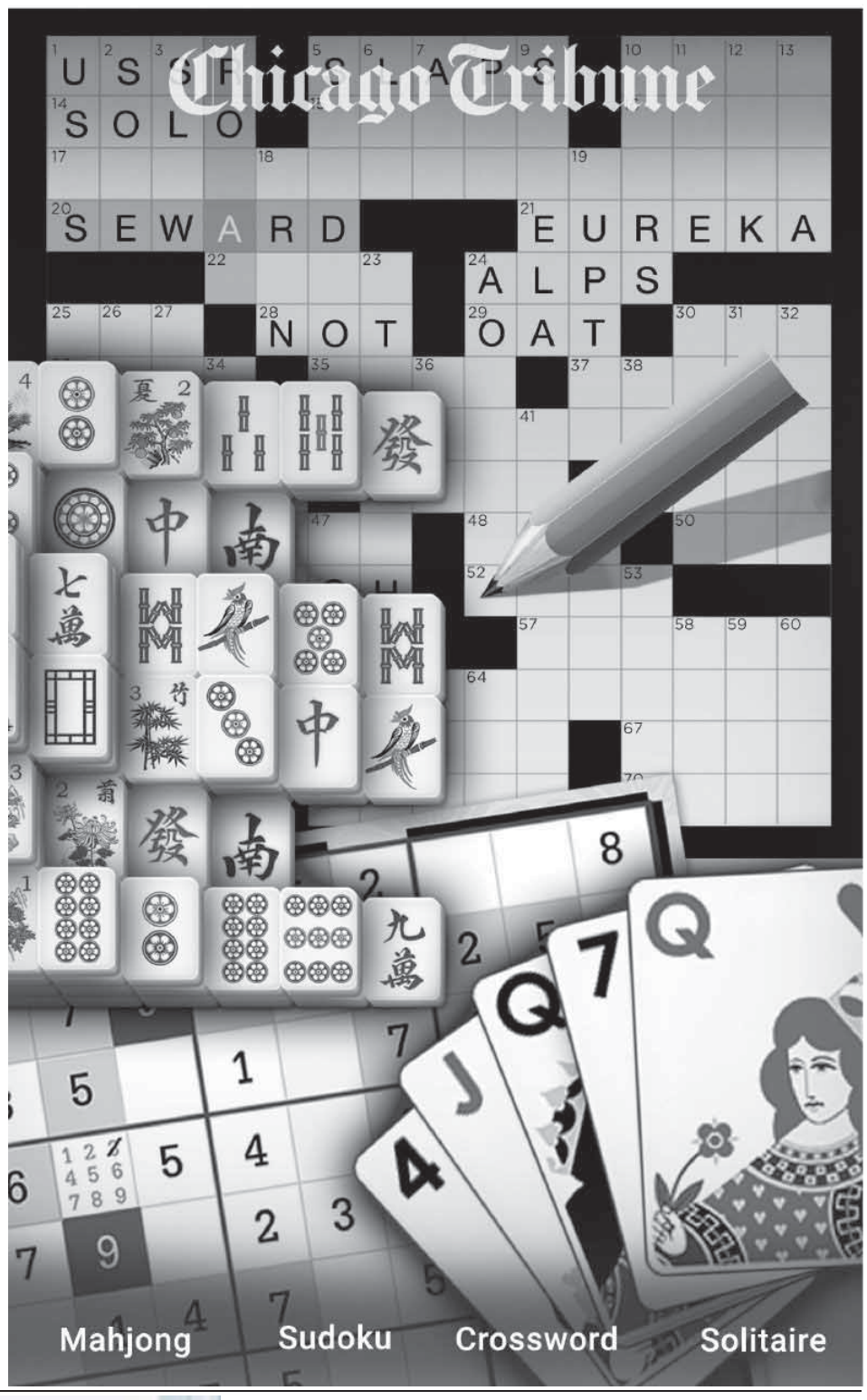
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854 W. Webster Ave. 3.1 baths
$3,495,000 | 4 Beds | 3.5 Baths

Lincoln Park



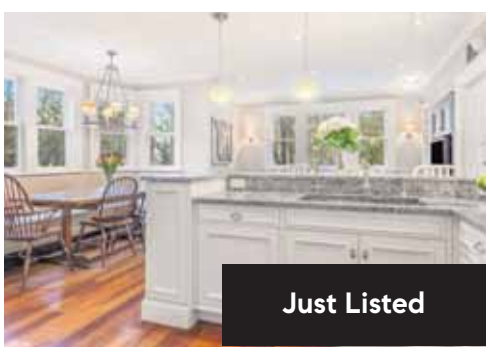
1811 N. Fremont St. 5.1 baths
$2,675,000 | 5 Beds | 5.5 Baths

Lincoln Park



2702 N. Racine Ave. 3.1 baths
$1,340,000 | 5 Beds | 4 Baths

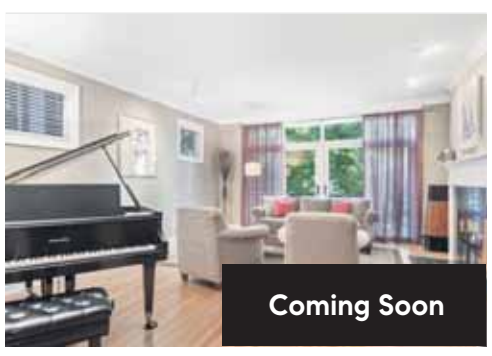
East Lincoln Park



Just Listed

2145 N. Sedgwick St.
$2,095,000 | 5 Beds | 4.1 Baths

Lincoln Park



Coming Soon

2509 N. Bosworth Ave. 4.1 baths
$1,595,000 | 4 Beds | 4 Baths

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Elite

Continued from **Page 1**

backyard tossed a brick at the actor's window in October, according to news reports.

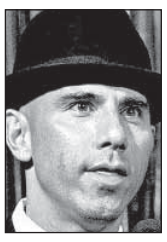
Restaurateur Billy Dec lists Lincoln Park mansion for $2.7 million: Longtime Chicago restaurateur and club owner Billy Dec and his wife, Katherine Stephans, on Monday placed their six-bedroom, 5,414-square-foot mansion in Lincoln Park on the market for $2.7 million.



COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Restaurateur Billy Dec put his six-bedroom Lincoln Park mansion on the market for $2.7 million.

A longtime Lincoln Park native who divides his time between Chicago and Nashville, Dec is the CEO and co-founder of Rockit Ranch Productions, a restaurant and nightclub development and management company.



Dec

In 2018, Dec and the company's co-founder, Brad Young, split the company, with Young taking control of the company's onetime namesake restaurant, Rockit Bar & Grill, which Young then closed in July. Dec's company continues to own the River North restaurant Sunda New Asian and the nightclub Underground Chicago, and he also has acted and appeared on TV in a variety of productions, as well as producing his own movies through his Elston Films company.

In Lincoln Park, Dec and his wife paid $1.65 million in 2009 for the limestone house, which was built in 2007 and sits on a corner lot. The house has seven baths, two fireplaces, a large great room, an elevator and an extra-wide living room with two walls of windows. The kitchen features white cabinetry and a built-in desk, while the second-floor master suite has a private terrace and a steam shower, and the lower level touts wine storage and a media room.

Outside on the property is a roof deck atop the two-car garage.

Co-listing agents Emily Sachs Wong and Mary Sellen declined to comment, specifically, on Dec and Stephans or confirm that the couple owns the property. However, Sellen noted that at the time that her clients bought the home, "it was basically a shell."

"The kitchen and master bath had been done, but they turned around and quickly remodeled both of them and were able to customize the house to be exactly what they wanted it to be for their family," Sellen said. "They also enclosed two decks on the upper floor to become two more rooms inside the home, so they each got a nice office space."

The couple previously tried to sell the house in 2017, listing it for four months for just under $3 million, and they then listed it for rent in 2018 at $15,000 a month.

Dec and his wife paid $3.9 million in late 2017 for a six-bedroom, 14,864-square-foot mansion in Nashville's Oak Hill area, according to public records.

Former White Sox manager Robin Ventura sells downtown condo for $950,000: Former Chicago White Sox manager Robin Ventura and his wife, Stephanie, on Friday took a loss on their two-bedroom, 1,902-square-foot condo on the 37th floor of a tower in the New East Side area downtown, selling it for $950,000.

Ventura, 52, played in the major leagues for 16 years — including for a decade with the Sox, and then was manager of the Sox from 2012 to 2016. He guided the Sox through four-straight losing seasons before resigning after the 2016 season.

In 2014, the Venturas paid $1.08 million for the condo. They first listed it in December 2018 for $1.5 million and cut the asking price to $1.49 million in March, to $1.39 million in April and to just under $1.3 million in May. The couple then reduced their asking price further, to $1.2 million in July and finally to $1.1 million in August.

Located in the 64-story 340 on the Park condominium building, the unit has 2½ baths, a balcony, north and east views, closets with custom built-ins and a Snaidero kitchen with quartz countertops.

Listing agent Ilona Kazmer, who also represented the buyers, could not be reached for comment.

Public records do not yet identify the unit's buyer.

The Venturas' permanent residence is in southern California.

Bob Goldsborough is a freelance writer. Join our Chicago Dream Homes Facebook group for more luxury listings and real estate news.

Rehab

Continued from **Page 1**

As for budgeting, because TV shows rehab in volume, their margins are much different than the average Joe, he said. Picking up an inexpensive property and rehabbing it as cheaply as possible could be disastrous.

"They run the risk of destroying the property worse than what it was," he said. "It creates a lot of part-time rehabbers that don't know what they're doing. That's what happens when somebody sits in front of a television for 30 minutes and says 'Oh, I can do that,' and they slap lipstick on a pig."

K. Tyler, partner with Morgante Wilson Architects, sometimes watched "Windy City Rehab" and said the narrative portrays the construction process as fast and fluid — and almost always with a happy ending — when it's actually a long, winding road that takes a lot of patience and stamina.

"That one snafu they actually show in a TV episode was just one of a series of many unexpected challenges that had to be negotiated in order to get to the finish line," she said.

Decision-making process is a breeze

Many of the reality shows like to focus on home purchases, be it first-time homeowners or luxury buyers. But Jeff Benach, co-principal of Chicago-based Lexington Homes, said the concept of whittling the decision-making process down to three homes with vastly different locations, amenities, home ages and amount of needed rehab is completely unreal.

"To be choosing between a cottage in the country versus a high-rise in the city is just not reality," he said.

He said it's important to remember that half of "House Hunters" episodes focus on rentals rather than purchases, making it a lot easier to make a quick decision.



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Michael Valente of Renovation Sells, right, confers with general contractor John Bura in a home he's rehabbing.

"We also never see anyone who just decided they needed a change so they picked up and moved to Chicagoland," he said, using the example of "House Hunters International," where he said the storyline often depicts couples bored with their lives in suburban Boston, so they pick up and move to Bangkok.

What you see is what you get

Real estate professionals warn buyers to not expect things to happen at a reality show pace. Tyler said there are hundreds of hours of site observation, general contractor questions and coordination of finishes and fixture selections that go into achieving the kind of results witnessed on television.

Benach said he and his wife, interior designer Denise Benach, have about 130 episodes of "House Hunters" crowding their DVR. He said either "House Hunters," "Love It or List It" or "My Lottery Dream Home" is on when he walks in the door.

"We also love 'Windy City Rehab,' even though we know from being in Chicago and hearing local news that the process isn't as smooth as they'd want you to believe," he said.

Bob Zuber, partner with Morgante Wilson Architects, doesn't watch home improvement shows these days. However, he used to watch "Trading Spaces" and especially "This Old House," from childhood through college.

"Those shows were often more realistic and less 'staged' than what you see today," he said.

There are, admittedly, some benefits to homeowners tuning in.

The shows can be helpful, Benach said. "House Hunters" offers lots of ideas on interior finish trends and shows like "Windy City Rehab" and "Rehab Addict" depict affordable ways to rehab an existing home — or they may encourage potential buyers to consider a home that needs work.

And at the end of the day, Carter said, what matters is that buyers and homeowners do their research and know what they're getting into as they embark on one of life's biggest investments — even if it means watching a few episodes for inspiration.

"They should have a memorable real-life experience," he said, "not a reality show perception."

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1233,1267,1295 RUSHMORE & 1030 RIDGE INVESTMENT PROPERTY
Dekalb Location! 4 Bldg package w parking lots 18 3br Tenants pay util $1.5 mill Adolph Miller RE 8157567845 Broker has interest 815-756-7845

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CISSNA PARK 1.8 ACRES SF 60924
999 N. HIGHWAY 49 TIRE BUSINESS, STORAGE BUILDING AND 3+ BEDROOM, 1-BATH HOME
Rural, country living. Well-established tire business (car, truck, tractor, combine tires) in farming community in east central Illinois. Will teach business if needed. Behlen building for business. Great small schools nearby in Cissna Park. Current owner of 58 years ready to retire. Priced to sell at $350,000 plus inventory. Call Lee at 815 457-2884/2423.

APT FOR RENT CITY SOUTH

CHICAGO $900 60619
CALL TO SHOW APARTMENT
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Mamie Lake Lodge & Boathouse in Land O' Lakes WI. Border of WI & MI. On the Cisco Chain of 15 lakes. New Lodge finished 2020. 3600 sf, 4 bedr/4 bath; sleeps 18+. Boathouse is restored 1929 home ON Mamie Lake. 3 bedr/2 bath; sleeps 9. Includes 3 private piers, 2 canoes, fire-pit with wood, screened-in porches, hammock; very peaceful! Lodge $3700, Boathouse $1700/week. Mention ad. www.mamielakelodge.com. 262.224.7859 email:mamielake@gmail.com

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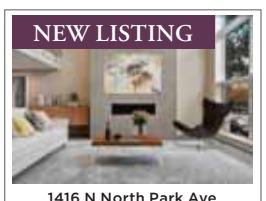
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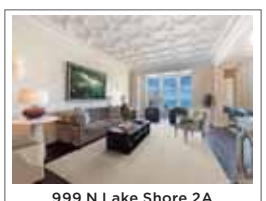
4431 N Hamilton Ave
$3,295,000
7 bedrooms & 4.2 baths
MARTA KAZMIERCZAK
773.572.6508



1739 N Mohawk St
$2,995,000
5 bedrooms & 4.1 baths
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NEW LISTING
1416 N North Park Ave
$2,495,000
5 bedrooms & 7.1 baths
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999 N Lake Shore 2A
$2,350,000
3 Bedrooms, 3 ½ Baths
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312.268.0700



NEW LISTING
1555 N Astor St 41EW
$2,250,000
5 bedrooms & 4.2 baths
IVONA KUTERMANKIEWICZ
312.475.4588



1325 N Astor St 4
$2,099,000
3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
JANET OWEN
312.268.0700



NEW LISTING
600 N Kingsbury St 506
$1,999,900
3 bedrooms & 4.1 baths
IVONA KUTERMANKIEWICZ
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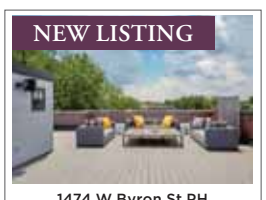
NEW LISTING
800 N Michigan 4802
$1,799,000
2 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
ROBYN LEE BROOKS
312.264.1249



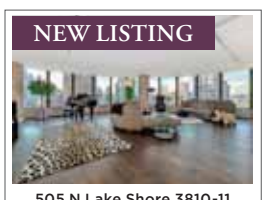
3734 N Lakewood Ave
$1,699,900
5 bedrooms & 3.2 baths
IVONA KUTERMANKIEWICZ
312.475.4588



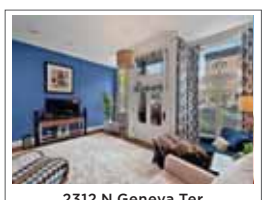
NEW LISTING
180 E Pearson St 5702
$1,699,000
3 bedrooms & 4 baths
MICHAEL ROSENBLUM
312.893.8162



NEW LISTING
1474 W Byron St PH
$1,425,000
4 bedrooms & 3 baths
KLOPASSTRATTON TEAM
312.927.0334



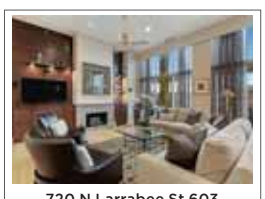
NEW LISTING
505 N Lake Shore 3810-11
$1,400,000
4 bedrooms & 3 baths
ANDREA ALLEN
312.343.2050



2312 N Geneva Ter
$1,399,000
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
MARIA THANASOURAS
312.475.4555



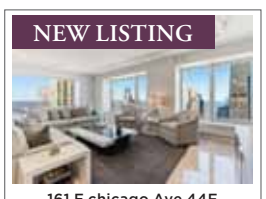
505 N Lake Shore 1112
$1,395,000
4 bedrooms & 3 baths
LAURA TOPP
773.419.0076



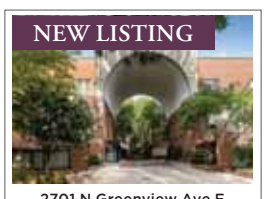
720 N Larrabee St 603
$1,295,000
3 bedrooms & 3 baths
TERRI MCAULEY
312.330.3211



1418 N Lake Shore 19
$1,295,000
3 bedrooms & 3.1 baths
MARLA NYBERG
312.893.8118



NEW LISTING
161 E chicago Ave 44F
$1,249,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
KEITH GOAD
773.750.5201



NEW LISTING
2701 N Greenview Ave E
$1,245,000
3 bedrooms & 4.1 baths
LEN ALTIMARI
312.859.5050



OPEN SUN 1-2:30
1355 S Clark St
$1,197,750
3 bedrooms & 2.2 baths
COLLEEN BEIERLE
312.264.1200



OPEN SUN 12-2
3313 N Bell Ave
$1,075,000
4 bedrooms & 3.1 baths
DAVID HUNT
312.368.3282

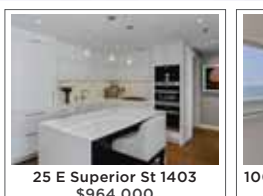


4246 N Kedvale Ave
$1,070,000
5 bedrooms & 4.1 baths
TERRI MCAULEY
312.330.3211

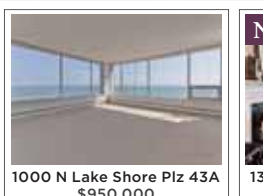




NEW LISTING
500 W Superior St 2602
$997,747
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
MICHAEL ROSENBLUM
312.893.8162



25 E Superior St 1403
$964,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
TERRI MCAULEY
312.330.3211



1000 N Lake Shore Plz 43A
$950,000
2 bedrooms & 3 baths
MONA HELLINGA MCCULLOUGH
847.814.1855



NEW LISTING
1366 N Dearborn Pkwy 9C
$875,000
2 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
SUZANNE ROSE
312.451.5515



NEW LISTING
3100 N Sheridan 9A
$850,000
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
WADE MARSHALL
312.291.1960



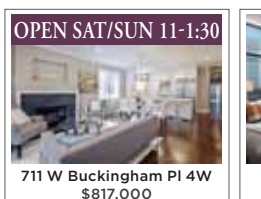
NEW LISTING
950 N Michigan 2604
$849,500
2 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
BARBARA LAKEN
312.642.1400



NEW LISTING
175 E Delaware Pl 6406-07
$849,000
4 bedrooms & 4 baths
MARGARET NAGEL
312.944.8900



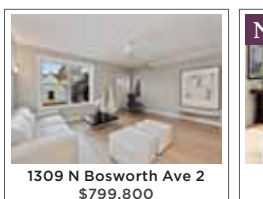
NEW PRICE
1320 N State Pkwy 8-D
$825,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
MEREDITH MESEROW
312.893.3554



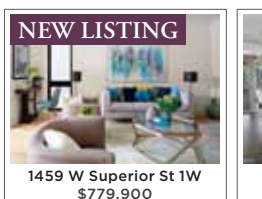
OPEN SAT/SUN 11-1:30
711 W Buckingham Pl 4W
$817,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
FELICIA MARINESCU
773.447.3617



547 S Clark St 1103
$800,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
SHAY HATA
312.600.7510



1309 N Bosworth Ave 2
$799,800
2 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
TATIANA PERRY
773.551.6554



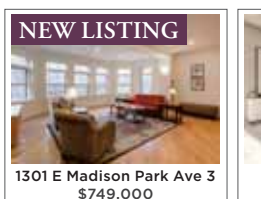
NEW LISTING
1459 W Superior St 1W
$779,900
4 bedrooms & 3 baths
IVONA KUTERMANKIEWICZ
312.475.4588



201 W Grand 701
$775,000
2 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
KAREN RANQUIST
312.475.4542



NEW LISTING
1910 W Addison St A
$759,000
3 bedrooms & 3.1 baths
BRENT PAIGE
312.264.1149



NEW LISTING
1301 E Madison Park Ave 3
$749,000
4 bedrooms & 3 baths
ROBERT SULLIVAN
773.793.0458



1423 W Catalpa Ave 1
$729,000
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
RICHARD DIVITO
312.475.4189



OPEN SAT/SUN 11-1
2038 W Crystal St 1
$725,000
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
MARIAH DELL
630.673.7042



400 E Randolph 3313
$699,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
SHELLEY AND WALTER STUNARD
312.540.9000

NEW LISTING
1414 N Wells St 505
$695,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
LISSA WEINSTEIN
312.642.1400

OPEN SUN 12-2
1729 N Sheffield Ave 1B
$659,900
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
EVAN NAPOLITANO
312.642.1400

NEW LISTING
1612 W Pierce Ave B
$659,900
2 bedrooms & 2.2 baths
IVONA KUTERMANKIEWICZ
312.475.4588

3346 N Marshfield
$650,000
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
KLOPASSTRATTON TEAM
312.927.0334

NEW LISTING
5712 S Dorchester Ave 1
$649,000
4 bedrooms & 2 baths
ROBERT SULLIVAN
773.793.0458

1228 N Bosworth Ave 302
$629,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
KIMBER GALVIN
312.339.6900

NEW LISTING
2448 W Bloomingdale Ave 1W
$625,000
4 bedrooms & 3 baths
VICKI L. LOEVY
312.264.1218

1021 W Rundell Pl 4
$619,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
RICHARD DIVITO
312.475.4189

OPEN SUN 2-4
3232 N Seminary Ave 3
$614,900
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
KEITH GOAD
773.750.5201

NEW LISTING
1038 N Marshfield 1
$599,999
3 bedrooms & 3.0 baths
JESSICA SMITH, ESQ.
312.264.1158

NEW LISTING
500 W Superior St 1201
$587,747
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
MICHAEL ROSENBLUM
312.893.8162

NEW LISTING
60 E Scott St 502
$587,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
MONIQUE CROSSAN
312.893.8104

NEW PRICE
910 S Michigan 1706
$585,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
WENDY COBRIN
312.446.4406

OPEN SAT 12-2
240 E Illinois St 1206
$575,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
MICHAEL MAIER
312.520.6572

1459 W School St 1
$575,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
KAREN CUNNIFF
847.510.5071

OPEN SAT 12-2
240 E Illinois St 607
$569,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
MICHAEL MAIER
312.520.6572

NEW LISTING
740 W Fulton St 1101
$550,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
MORGAN SAGE
773.551.4267

2521 N Ashland 2S
$550,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
DANIELLE DOWELL
312.391.5655

NEW LISTING
500 W Superior St 1102
$537,747
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
MICHAEL ROSENBLUM
312.893.8162

NEW LISTING
3809 N Lincoln 2
$534,900
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
SOUKBANGONE SUPANTAVONG
312.642.1400

500 W Superior St #709
$530,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
CHARLES HEAVER
312.404.2861

NEW LISTING
100 E Huron St 1202
$515,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
KAREN RANQUIST
312.475.4542

1464 S Michigan 1601
$499,900
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
AKOS STRAUB
312.620.0420

1728 N Damen Ave 108
$499,900
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
KELLEY LYNCH
312.501.1852

OPEN SUN 12-2
3015 N 76th Ct
$499,000
5 bedrooms & 3.1 baths
ALICE MCMAHON
708.267.2549

3848 N Nottingham Ave
$495,500
4 bedrooms & 3.1 baths
AKOS STRAUB
312.620.0420

NEW LISTING
195 N Harbor Dr 3301
$495,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
ERIC CASPER
920.242.3396

5946 W Berenice Ave
$489,000
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
EDIN ESCOBAR
312.642.1400

NEW LISTING
1703 N Sheffield Ave 2
$485,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
RICHARD DIVITO
312.475.4189

1430 W Lexington St 1A
$485,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
BRIAN PISTORIUS
312.343.3795

NEW LISTING
1945 W Erie 3W
$485,000
2 bedrooms & 2.baths
PAUL WAITZ
312.893.8179

NEW LISTING
6249 N Ridgeway
$475,000
4 bedrooms & 4 baths
TED KUHLMANN
773.640.1089

2735 N Wilton 1
$475,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
KATHLEEN BUTLER
847.707.9685

4956 N Kilpatrick Ave
$474,900
5 bedrooms & 3 baths
KIMBERLY SAYDAK
312.602.6437

OPEN SUN 11-1
1875 N Sheffield Ave B
$470,000
2 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
PATTY MORAN-BAROCIO
773.851.2475

OPEN SAT 12-2/SUN 11-1
421 W Huron St 1001
$469,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
MICHAEL ROSENBLUM
312.893.8162

5404 S Drexel Ave
$465,000
4 bedrooms & 3 baths
TIFFANY WEBB
773.510.5301

NEW PRICE
849 N Franklin St 1017
$465,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
JAMES STREFF
773.490.1578

NEW LISTING
4743 N Clark St 3S
$459,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
ANDREA ALLEN
312.343.2050

NEW LISTING
175 E Delaware Pl 4504
$450,000
1 bedroom & 1 bath
LISA HUBER
312.264.1210

NEW LISTING
1310 N Ritchie 14B
$449,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
CARLA & JIM WALKER
312.264.1236

NEW LISTING
1151 E 56th St 1
$438,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
SUSAN O'CONNOR
312.893.8144

NEW LISTING
40 E Delaware Pl 801
$434,900
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
CAROL BROWNE
312.440.4004

NEW LISTING
110 E Delaware Pl 1804
$434,900
2 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
MARY ANN GOEING
312.368.5300

505 N Lake Shore 1712
$430,000
1 bedroom & 1 bath
KAREN GAST
715.617.0197

1350 N Astor St 10B
$430,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
CINDY WILSON
773.383.9388

NEW LISTING
3044 N Oakley Ave 3N
$424,999
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
CINDY WILSON
773.383.9388

NEW LISTING
717 N Elizabeth St 1
$424,900
3 bedrooms & 2.1 baths
LAURA TOPP
773.419.0076

NEW LISTING
900 N Kingsbury St 826
$419,900
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
NANCY A. HEARON
312.475.4595

4880 N Paulina St 2S
$415,000
3 bedrooms & 2 baths
MARCELLA KANE
773.490.6811

5107 N Menard Ave
$415,000
4 bedrooms & 2 baths
SUZANNE CIMINO
773.859.8800

NEW LISTING
333 W Hubbard St 1010
$410,000
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
NANCY YOCKEL
312.893.3536

3150 N Lake Shore 34E
$409,900
2 bedrooms & 2 baths
PEARCE LASHMETT
312.731.1800

NEW LISTING
1139 E 50th St
$399,999
2 bedrooms & 1 bath
SHIRLEY WALKER
773.230.9883



2020 Toyota Corolla Hybrid

This new hybrid is affordable and fuel-efficient. **Page 3**

Answers from Motormouth

Sensor batteries are key to tire pressure monitor lights, Bob Weber says. **Page 3**

Chicago Tribune
RIDES

Diesel power moves

Weighing fuel economy, towing gains against hefty price tag

By Travis Langness | Edmunds



FIAT CHRYSLER AUTOMOBILES

The 2020 Ram 1500 EcoDiesel. The 3.0-liter diesel engine adds $4,995 to the price tag, but maximum towing capacity nearly doubles to 12,560 pounds.

Once exclusive to heavy-duty pickup trucks, diesel-powered engines have recently come to full-size light-duty trucks as well.

The Ford F-150, Ram 1500 and Chevrolet Silverado 1500 were the three bestselling vehicles in the United States last year, and each one now offers a diesel engine. But is it worth getting a diesel in a truck that isn't meant for heavy-duty use?

Diesel-powered engines for pickup trucks typically offer big gains in fuel economy, towing capability and driving range compared to regular gas-powered engines.

But there's a catch: They cost thousands of dollars more than their gas engine counterparts. Figuring out whether it's money well spent can be difficult, especially when a gasoline V8 might work just as well for most light-duty truck shoppers' needs.

Edmunds compared each truck's maximum potential towing capacity and maximum potential fuel efficiency with gasoline engines versus the diesels. Just know that real-world fuel economy results will vary based on your particular truck's configuration and use.

Fuel costs in your area will also play a part in the decision.

Ford F-150

Ford gives its F-150 a standard 3.3-liter V6 that gets an EPA estimated 22 mpg combined (19 city/25 highway). Towing capacity with this V6 is up to 7,700 pounds.

The F-150's optional diesel engine is a turbocharged 3.0-liter V6. While not officially rated for 2020 at publication time, the 2019 F-150 with the diesel got an EPA estimate of 25 mpg combined (22/30). Ford charges $4,995 more for the diesel compared to the standard V6. Towing capability jumps to 11,500 pounds.

The F-150 does offer some strong gasoline engine upgrades, however. The optional turbocharged 3.5-liter V6, for example, loses some efficiency compared to the diesel — 19 mpg combined (17 city/23 highway) — but is capable of towing as much as 13,200 pounds.



CHEVROLET

The 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500. The cost to upgrade to the diesel is $3,890, but the EPA estimate for the Chevy's diesel is 27 mpg combined.

Verdict: Compared to the Ram's diesel option, Ford's diesel fuel economy gains are similar, but the towing gains aren't as dramatic. Most F-150 buyers will be better off sticking with one of the F-150's turbocharged gasoline V6s.

Ram 1500

The standard engine in the 2020 Ram 1500 is a 3.6-liter V6. The V6's top EPA estimate is 22 mpg combined (20 city/25 highway). Maximum towing capacity with the V6 is 7,710 pounds.

The 3.0-liter diesel engine adds $4,995 to the price tag, which is considerable, but maximum towing capacity nearly doubles to 12,560 pounds. Fuel economy gets a significant increase too, with an EPA estimate of 26 mpg combined (22 city/32 highway).

The other optional engine in the lineup, Ram's available 5.7-liter V8, can tow a little more than the diesel — 12,750 pounds — but it gets an EPA estimate of just 19 mpg combined (17 city/23 highway) and requires mid-grade gasoline.

Verdict: The gains in fuel economy and towing power for the Ram 1500 diesel are significant. The diesel engine is easy to recommend for many Ram shoppers.

Chevrolet Silverado 1500

Chevy's base engine for the Silverado is a 4.3-liter V6 with a maximum towing capacity of 7,900 pounds and an EPA estimate of 17 mpg combined (16 city/21 highway). As with Ford, Chevy has several optional gasoline engines to choose from.

The Silverado's diesel is a turbocharged 3.0-liter six-cylinder and is rated to tow a maximum of 9,300 pounds. That's the lowest number of the three trucks by a pretty large margin. Unfortunately, you can't get the diesel on the base-level Work Truck trim as you can with the Ram.

The lowest trim level you can get the diesel with is the mid-level LT. On that trim level, the base engine is the 2.7-liter four-cylinder, and the cost to upgrade to the diesel is an additional $3,890. The EPA estimate for the Chevy's diesel is 27 mpg combined (23 city/33 highway).

That's the biggest fuel economy difference of the bunch, and worth the cost of an upgrade if you're willing to take the hit on maximum towing. Chevy's available V8s, however, are more appealing for towing. The optional 6.2-liter V8, for example, can tow as much as 13,400 pounds — the highest of the bunch. However, it returns an EPA combined estimate of 17 mpg (16 city/20 highway) and requires premium fuel.

Verdict: If you're looking for a nice compromise between pulling power and fuel economy, the Silverado's diesel engine is an appealing choice.

All three of America's top-selling full-size light-duty pickup trucks now offer diesel engines as options. They are more expensive up front, but depending on the truck and your needs, it might be worth the money to make the upgrade.

Make sure to also research local fuel prices and the higher maintenance costs associated with modern diesel engines before making a decision.

Independent car concierges disrupting system

By Phoebe Wall Howard
Detroit Free Press

MACOMB TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A year ago, Brian Carroll was dumped because his boss needed to trim costs. No warning. No dip in performance. Just a handshake goodbye on that Monday in late January.

"The owner came up to me and said, 'I've been thinking, why should I pay you when I can do what you do?' And he let me go," said Carroll, 51, of Macomb Township.

Then a guy called wanting a car. Carroll said he didn't work at the dealership anymore. The buyer said he didn't care.

Carroll decided then that he would go solo. Not as the usual car "broker," who tends to charge a direct fee to shoppers, but as a car "concierge" who planned to charge customers nothing. He would work on commission.

After all, he figured, fewer people have time to go to dealerships and people like the idea of enhanced personal service.

Carroll now is selling about 30 to 35 cars a month and has worked with clients in Michigan, New York, Florida and Wyoming. He works with a network of dealers so he can find the best price and offer options to his clients.

"Consumers are looking for personalized experiences tailored to their specific needs and preferences. Their expectations and demands are getting higher," Jessica Stafford, senior vice president and general manager of Autotrader and Kelley Blue Book, said.

While car brokers often charge a flat fee from buyers who want to avoid haggling, the idea of an independent car concierge working with buyers and getting paid by dealers is shaking things up.

"The auto industry from top to bottom is being disrupted, and the dealership experience is no different," said Michelle Krebs, an executive analyst at Autotrader.



MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Ferndale, Michigan, fire Sgt. Miles Bracali had his Silverado delivered to the firehouse by car concierge Brian Carroll.

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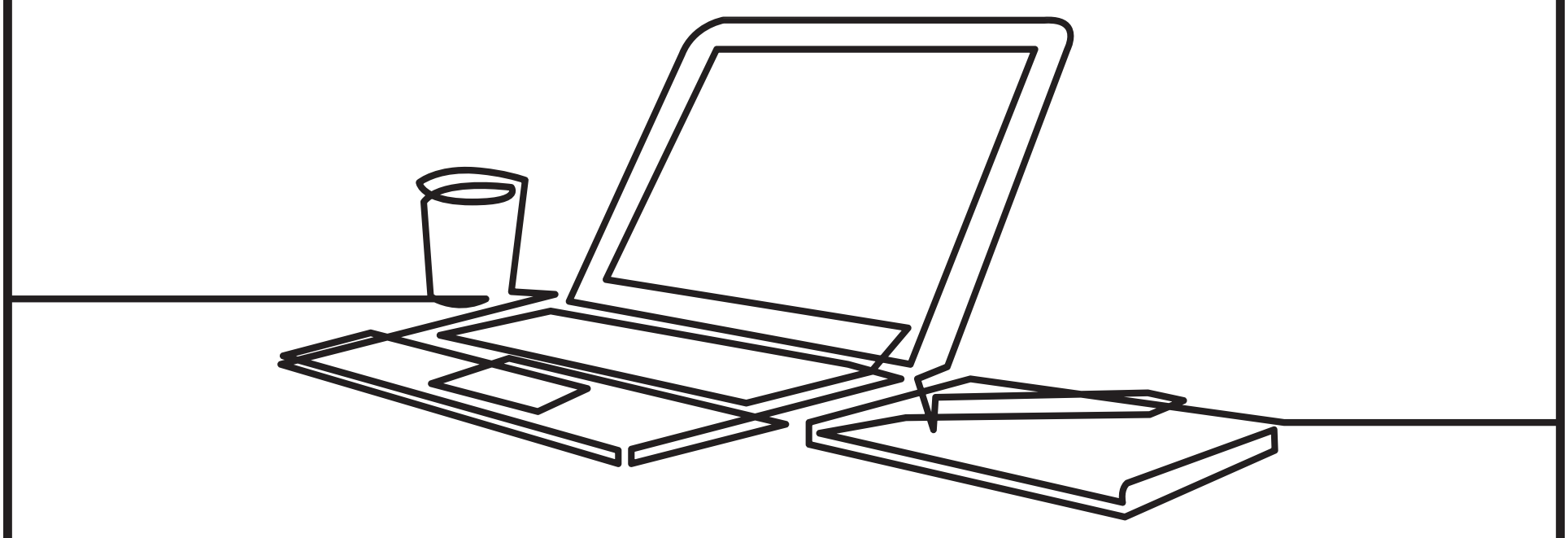
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TOYOTA

The 2020 Toyota Corolla Hybrid's real competition comes from the Prius.

Fuel-efficient and affordable, 2020 Corolla Hybrid delivers

By Larry Printz
Tribune News Service

Did you know that a corolla is "the ring of petals around the central part of a flower?" And here I thought it was a ubiquitous four-door compact car. But, of course, it's both. It just depends on whether you capitalize the word or not.

Yet the Corolla with the capital "C" is the bestselling nameplate in the world, with more than 46 million copies sold since 1966. Redesigned last year using Toyota's New Global Architecture that's employed for the Camry and RAV4, the Corolla is offered in comfort-oriented L, LE and XLE grades with a 139-horsepower 1.8-liter engine from the previous-generation Corolla, or in sportier SE and XSE trim with a more powerful 169-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine.

But now there's a third option: the first-ever Corolla Hybrid, powered by a 1.8-liter four-cylinder gas engine and a 53kW electric motor mated to the continuously variable automatic transmission that generates 121 horsepower and returns EPA-rated fuel economy of 52 mpg in combined city/highway driving. That's far more efficient than the 31-34 mpg seen in other Corollas.

The Corolla Hybrid's real competition comes from the Prius, which starts at $24,325, $1,225 more than the Corolla Hybrid's $23,100 base price. Considering they both use the same drivetrain, and the Prius returns fuel economy between 50 and 54 mpg depending on model, the Corolla holds an advantage over the Prius because it lacks Prius' peculiar alien spacecraft styling.

2020 TOYOTA COROLLA HYBRID

Base price: $23,100

Engine: 1.8-liter Atkinson-Cycle four-cylinder

Battery pack: Nickel-metal hydride

Net horsepower: 121

EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 53/52 mpg

The Corolla Hybrid is far more visually appealing, with its lower, leaner look accentuated by gently flared fenders and capped with LED headlamps. Its clean, energetic edge is far easier to live with and, unlike the Prius, doesn't constantly remind you of its hybrid nature. It's for drivers who are secure enough to not shout their environmental credibility to the world.

Toyota was nice enough to send a Prius along for comparison, but it was the Prius Prime Plug-In Hybrid, meaning fuel economy surpassed that of the Corolla by a considerable margin, as did its $28,705 starting price.

The Prius Prime delivers 25 miles of pure electric driving and is rated at the equivalent of 103 mpg. But when it reverts to standard hybrid mode, it returns 54 mpg, close to that of the Corolla Hybrid. According to the EPA, you'll spend 20% less fueling the Prius Prime – $600, rather than $750 – but given the Prime's price premium, the Corolla comes out ahead in affordability. In addition, the Prius Prime feels ethereal in its responses, delivering performance without a scintilla of feel or emotion.

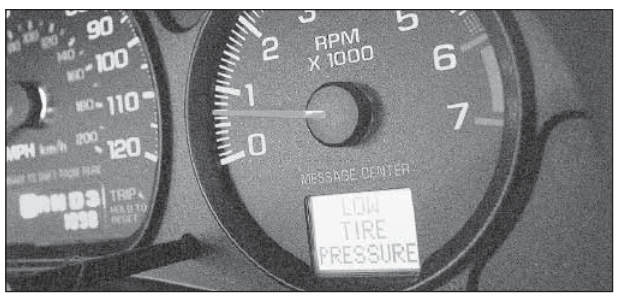
Thankfully, the Corolla Hybrid feels and acts like its conventional siblings, although it's livelier off-the-line thanks to the electric motors' added punch. Toyota equips the Corolla Hybrid with Eco, Normal and Sport driving modes, although there seems to be little difference between Normal and Sport. Although it's far from the fastest compact, it is among the most fuel-efficient.

The 2020 Corolla Hybrid's fuel efficiency, sensible size, impressive suite of safety features and reasonable price make it the compelling commuting device, a transportation butler of the first order.

Sensor batteries are key to tire pressure monitor light



Bob Weber
Motormouth



ERIK UNGER/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Batteries that monitor tire pressure last about 10 years.

Q: My tire pressure monitor light is constantly on for one or more of the original tires on my 2009 Subaru Impreza with 40,000 miles. We love the car and plan on keeping it as long as possible. My repair shop said that there is a limited life on the sensors and the batteries, and when we replace the tires, which I am doing soon, to just replace all the sensors. However, the sensors are $80 apiece.

Can I just put in the old-fashioned valves and just keep an eye on the pressure, or do I need new sensors?

—S.W., Downers Grove, Illinois

A: Tire pressure monitoring sensor batteries are designed to last 10 years. If sounds as though yours may have died. The law does not demand that you replace the sensors, but for your peace of mind, convenience and safety's sake, it makes sense to replace them. I have found much lower prices for aftermarket ones.

Q: I have a 2002 Hyundai Accent and the spark plugs have removable terminal nuts made of aluminum. I have found that after about 5,000 miles or so the engine will give a brief miss when I load the engine too much in lower gears. I have found that if I take emery board and clean the aluminum bullet tips the problem is fixed for another 5,000 miles or so.

The aluminum corrodes as evidenced by the blackish gray on them. I am wondering if you have any suggestions for getting brass tips or to prevent the aluminum corrosion?

—E.S., Allentown, Pennsylvania

A: I am not aware of replacement tips for spark plugs, but that isn't really what you need. Go to your local auto parts store and buy some dielectric grease. Sometimes it is sold as tuneup grease. Squeeze a dab into each spark plug boot. Not only does it prevent corrosion, it makes boot removal easier the next time.

I use it on all automotive bulbs, battery terminals and other electrical contacts, as well. Although you can buy a tube for a few bucks, some stores sell small, one use packets.

Q: Rear window wipers have become the norm for hatchbacks, SUVs and station wagons. Why are they not offered for passenger cars (sedans and coupes)?

—M.H., Racine, Wisconsin

A: Rain, road scum, dust and such gets on the back glass of square-shaped vehicles. This goes for SUVs as well as semis. Because cars are more streamlined, they do not suffer the same problem.

Q: I have a 2017 Subaru which I bought used from CarMax. I absolutely love all the safety features. I'm not sure I am getting correct information from my Subaru dealer, however. On a monthly basis, I get a report card on my computer that says my windshield water is low. This is not true. My concern is that if that is incorrect, what else is incorrect. My dealer brushes it off.

—J.D., Westchester, Illinois

A; As long as you know that the reservoir has washer fluid, this should not be a major concern. The fluid level sensor may be shot or, from personal experience, some washer fluid brands may contaminate the sensor. I had to replace mine.

Q: Back in the day, it was common knowledge that every once in a while you had to rev up and railroad your car to get the carbon out. Was that true then, and is it true now?

—S.P., Chicago

A: Not sure about back then, but it's not any more. But a friend's wife was pulled over driving her Mustang. She told the trooper that her husband told her to gun it from time to time to get the carbon out. She didn't get a ticket.

Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Chicago Tribune

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LS FWD #C200198 Sale: $17,505* OR LEASE PER MONTH FOR: $139 for 39 mos.^



NEW 2020 CHEVROLET **MALIBU**

1LS FWD #C200096 Sale: $17,593* OR LEASE PER MONTH FOR: $125 for 39 mos.^



NEW 2020 CHEVROLET **BLAZER**

LT FWD #C200399 Sale: $29,000* OR LEASE PER MONTH FOR: $199 for 39 mos.^



NEW 2019 CHEVROLET **SILVERADO**

FWD #C190806 $23,850* OR LEASE PER MONTH FOR: $299 for 39 mos.^

1500 REG. CAB LONG BOX WT



NEW 2020 CHEVROLET **SPARK**

HB LS Auto #C200232 Sale: $10,732*



NEW 2020 CHEVROLET **TRAX**

FWD LS #C200203 Sale: $13,839*



NEW 2019 CHEVROLET **IMPALA**

LT #C190959 Sale: $23,897*



NEW 2020 CHEVROLET **TRAVERSE**

FWD 1LT #C200033 Sale: $29,179*



NEW 2020 CHEVROLET **TAHOE**

FWD LS #C200747 Sale: $44,479*

★ ★ ★ THIS WEEK'S PRE-OWNED SPECIALS! ★ ★ ★



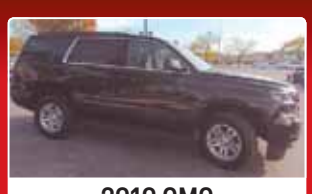
2017 CHEVY **TRAX** LS #S4914 **$11,800***



2017 BUICK **ENCORE** PREFERRED #S4937 **$13,900***



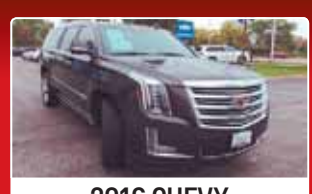
2017 CHEVY **VOLT** LT FWD HB #S5031 **$15,850***



2019 GMC **SIERRA** 1500 #S5026 **$18,995***



2017 ACURA **RDX** AWD #S4993 **$20,889***



2016 CHEVY **SUBURBAN** LT 4WD W/NAVI #S4902 **$28,900***

*Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. ^Lease for 39 months w/$3,990 down, $0 security deposit plus tax, title and doc fee with approved credit. 10K miles per year. Extra fees may apply at lease termination. Plus tax, title, license, and doc. fee. †0% for 72 months figured at $13.89 per $1,000 financed; 0% for 60 months figured at $16,67 per $1,000 financed. Both w/$0 down to qualified buyers w/approved credit on select models. ~Lease loyalty available to qualified current Chevy owners on select models. MSRP may not be the price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area. Photos for illustration purposes only. Great effort is made to ensure accuracy of this ad, however, errors do occur. Offers/prices may change per manufacturer. Please verify information with a customer service rep or visit the dealership. All offers and pricing expire 3 days from publication.

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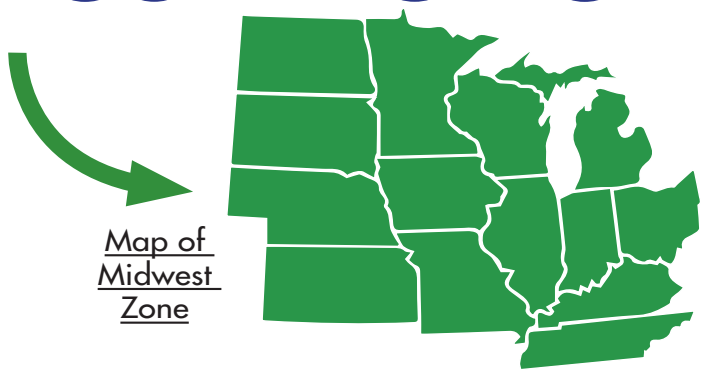


Muller Acura of MERRILLVILLE

ACURA

Your Local Indiana Acura Dealer Is
#1 in the Midwest Zone

In BOTH Customer Sales
And Service Satisfaction....
For All of 2019



Where Would You Rather Buy & Service Your Acura?

Customer Satisfaction SALES Rankings

Rank	Organization	Score
1	Muller Acura of Merrillville	98.0
1	[redacted] Acura	98.0
3	[redacted] Acura	97.8
4	[redacted] Acura	97.7
4	Acura [redacted]	97.7
6	[redacted] Acura	97.6
7	[redacted] Acura	97.5
8	[redacted] Acura	97.7
9	[redacted] Acura	97.3
10	Acura [redacted]	97.2
... total of 52 Acura dealerships		

Customer Satisfaction SERVICE Rankings

Rank	Organization	Score
1	Muller Acura of Merrillville	96.5
1	[redacted] Acura [redacted]	96.3
3	[redacted] Acura	95.1
4	[redacted] Acura	94.2
4	[redacted] Acura [redacted]	94.0
6	[redacted] Acura	93.9
7	Acura [redacted]	93.5
8	[redacted] Acura	93.2
9	[redacted] Acura	93.1
10	[redacted] Acura [redacted]	93.0
... total of 52 Acura dealerships		

Muller Acura of Merrillville was awarded Number One for Customer Sales & Service Satisfaction in the Midwest Zone for all of 2019 by American Honda Motor Corp..

NO DOWN PAYMENT!

Did You Know?

Acura has been named a "BEST VALUE in AMERICA" brand in the Luxury SUV & Crossover Category.*

New 2020 Acura
TLX



Base Model

New 2020 Acura
MDX



9 Speed Automatic FWD

PRESIDENTS' DAY EVENT

$269† MONTH
NO DOWN PAYMENT!

$369† MONTH
NO DOWN PAYMENT!

Come Visit Us... You Will Not Be Disappointed.

Muller Acura of MERRILLVILLE

ACURA

MullerAcuraOfMerrillville.com

3301 W Lincoln Highway (US 30) Merrillville IN 219-472-7000

† 2020 MDX, 9 Spd Automatic 36 mo/22,500 mile special lease. MSRP $44,400. Excludes $995 destination. 1st payment due at delivery. No security deposit required. Excludes taxes & title. *2020 MDX 9 Spd Automatic SHAWD, $409 mo. 36 mo/22,500 mile special lease. MSRP $46,400 Excludes $995 destination. 1st payment due at delivery. No security deposit required. Excludes taxes & title. For well-qualified lessees approved by Acura Financial Services. Includes Acura Loyalty /Conquest Offer. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by Mar 2, 2020. †† 2020 TLX - 36 mo/22,500 mile special lease. MSRP $33,000. Excludes $995 destination fee. No security deposit required. Excludes taxes, title and $199 doc fee. For well-qualified lessees approved by Acura Financial Services. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by Mar 2, 2020 . *For 2020, By Automotive analysis firm Vincentric

Chicago Tribune COMICS



CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/COMICS
Check out more than 75 comic strips, from "Barney Google and Snuffy Smith" to "Zippy the Pinhead."

CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/GAMES
Crossword, Sudoku and 30 more games and puzzles.

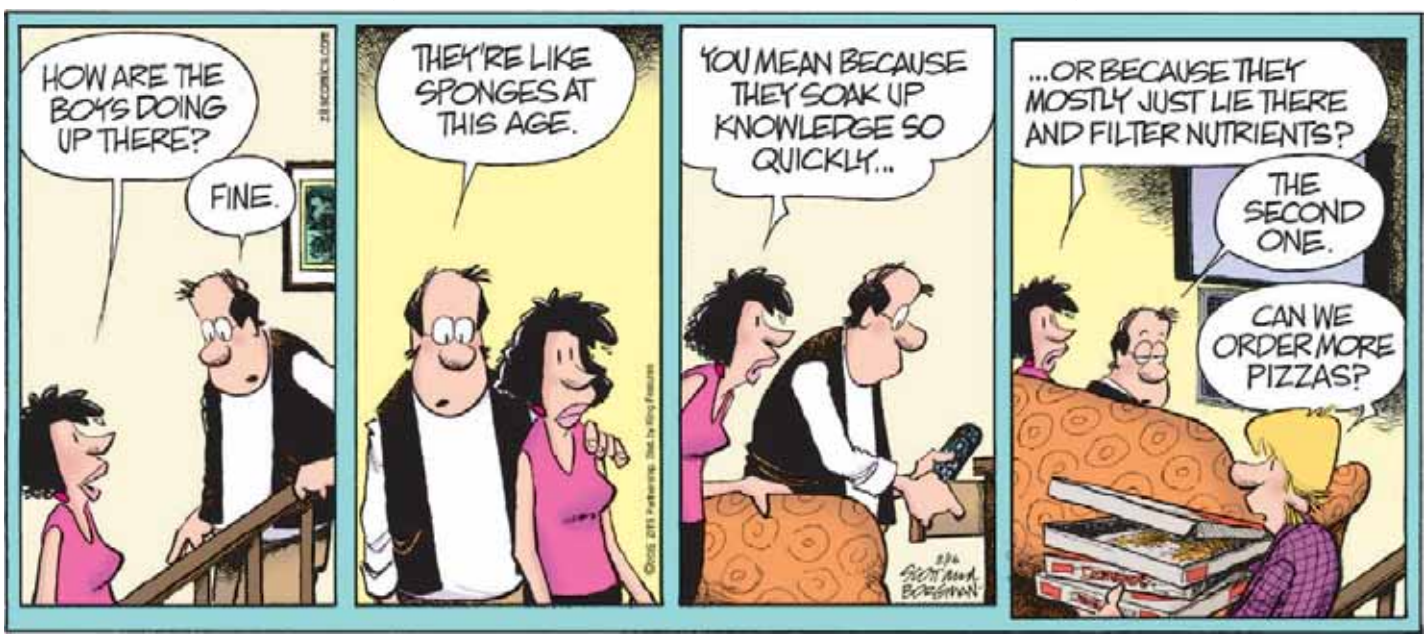
Dilbert By Scott Adams



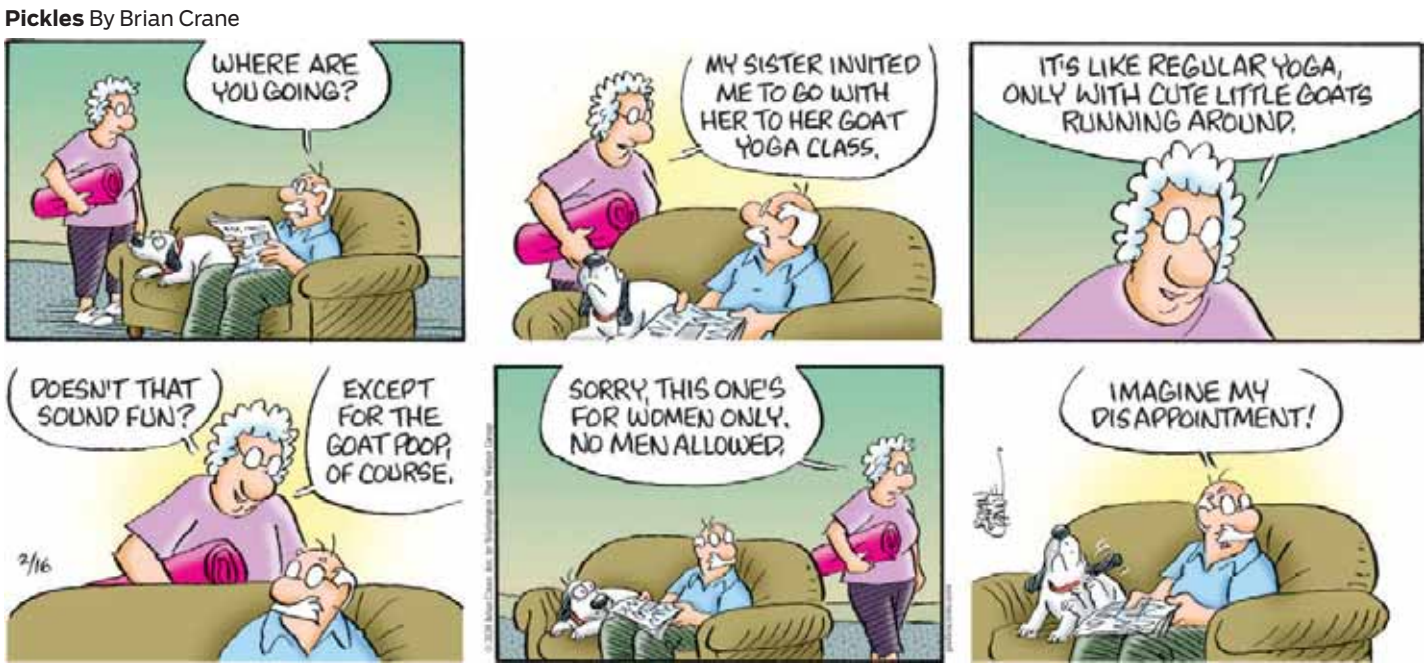
Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman (Zits is on vacation until March 1. Please enjoy this strip from 2015.)



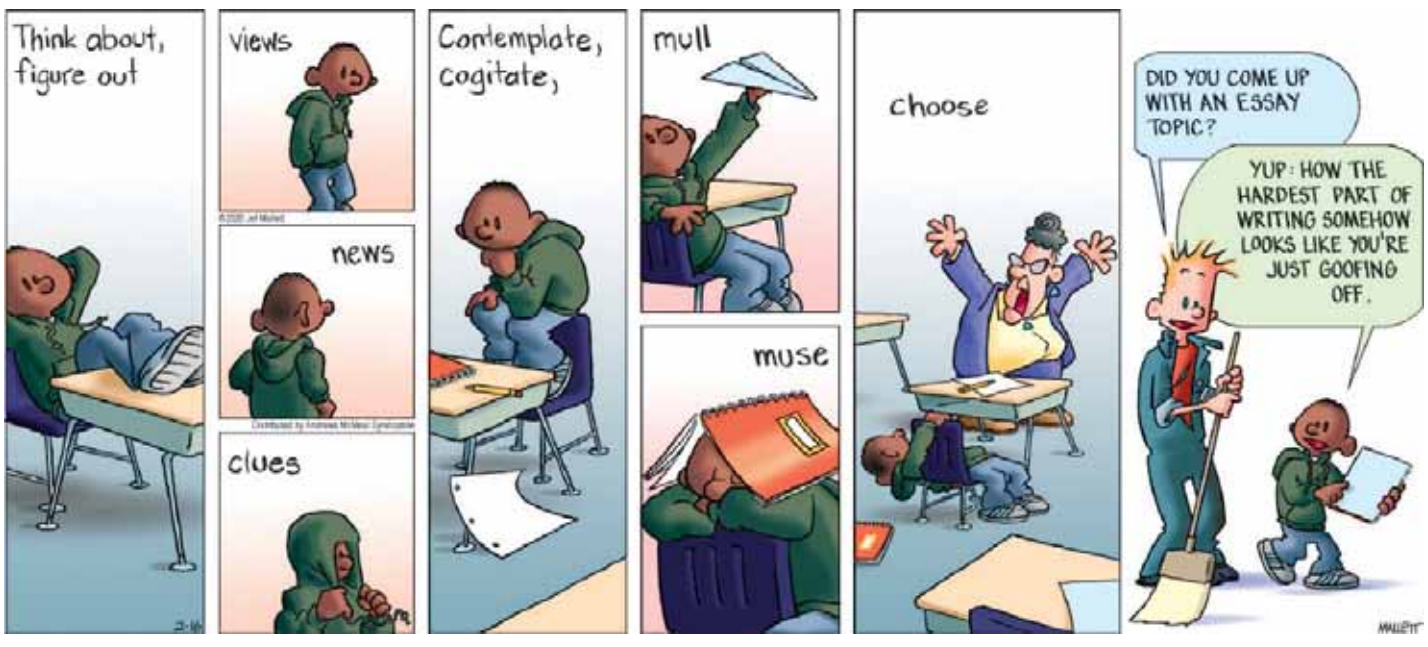
Pickles By Brian Crane



WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Frazz By Jef Mallett



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For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Mister Boffo

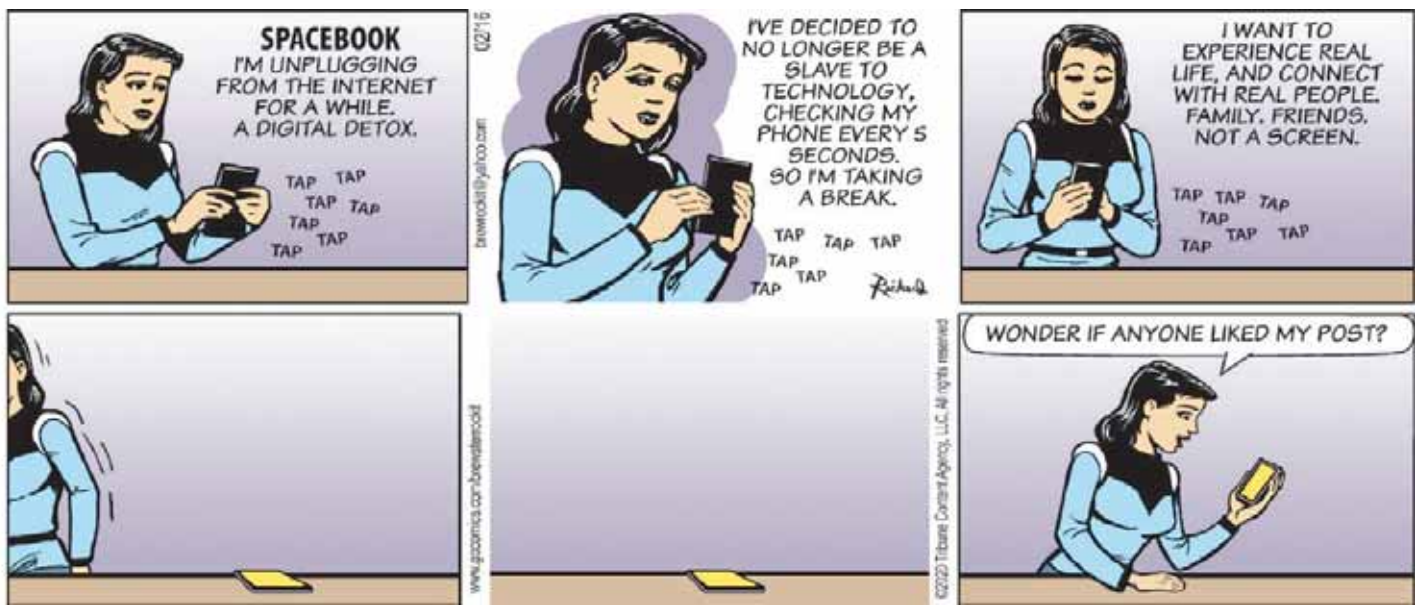
By Joe Martin



Brewster Rockit

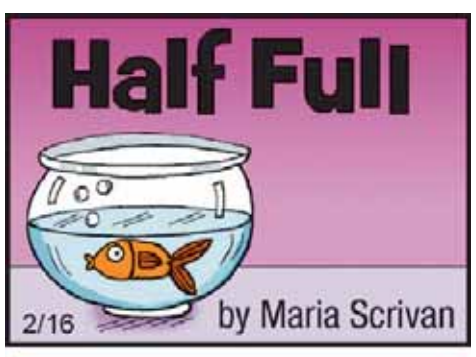
By Tim Rickard





Half Full

By Maria Scrivan





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Take It From the Tinkersons

By Bill Bettwy



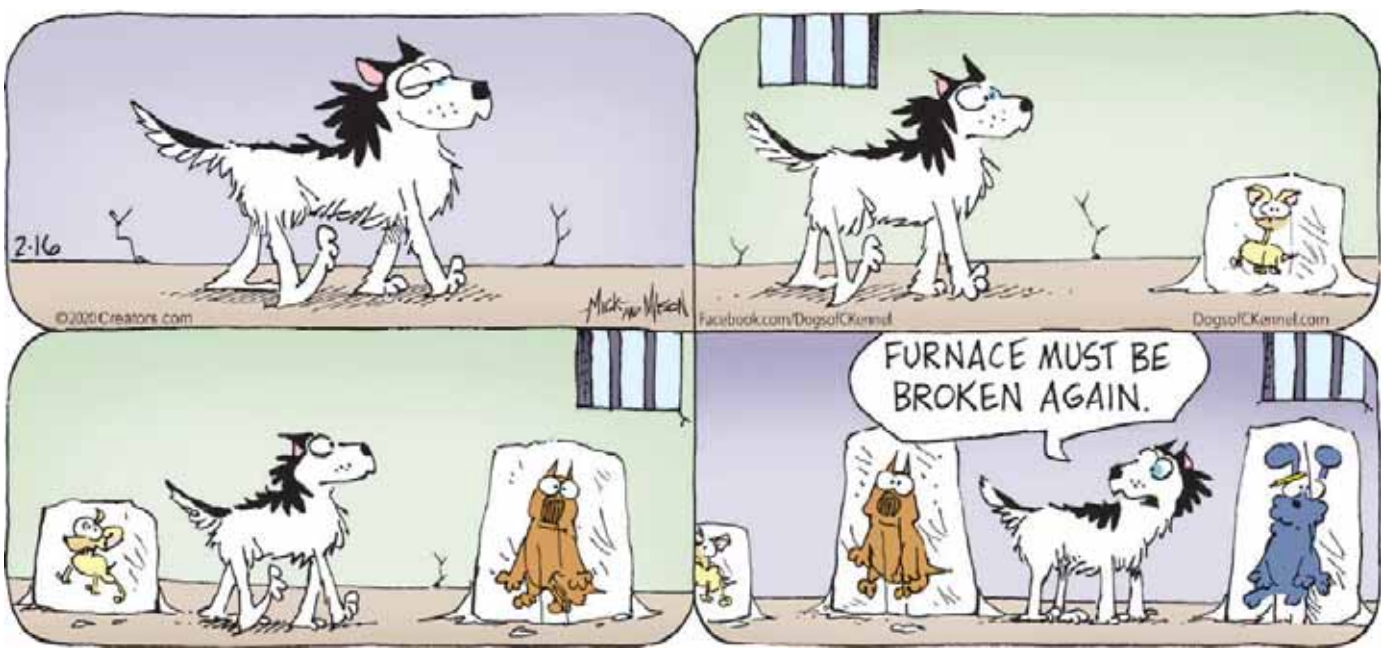
FoxTrot

By Bill Amend



Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz





Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



The Lockhorns
By Bunny Hoest and John Reiner





Sherman's Lagoon by Jim Toomey



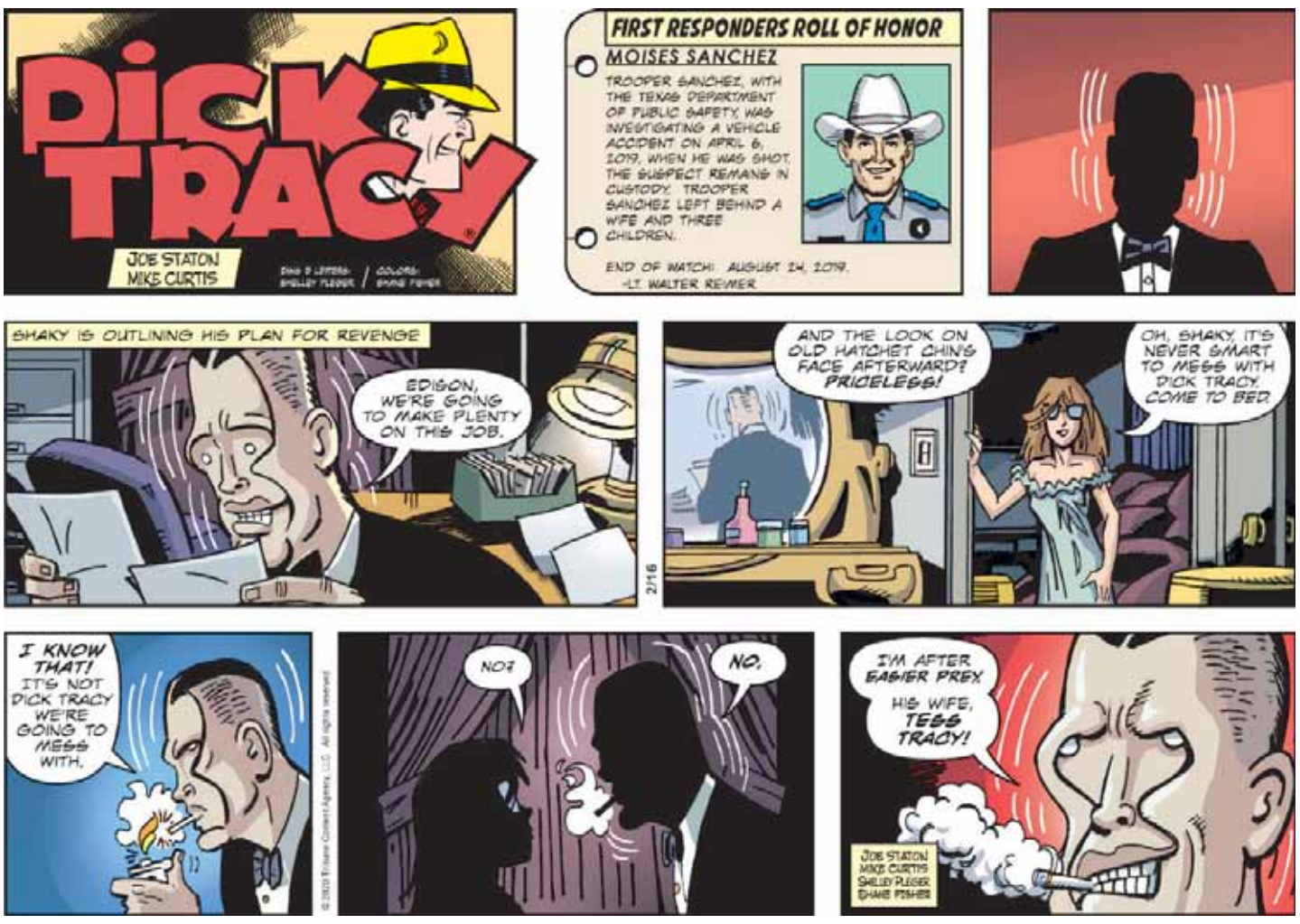
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



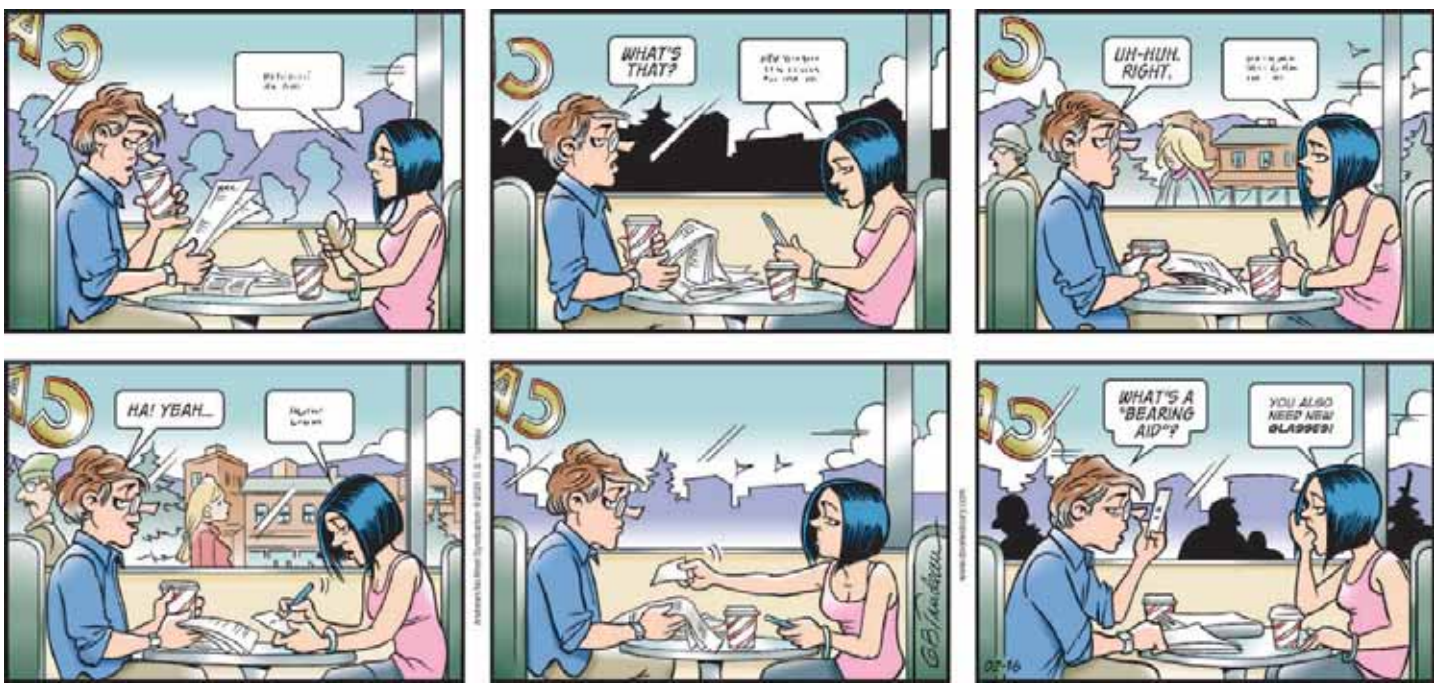
The Middletons By Ralph Dunagin and Dana Summers



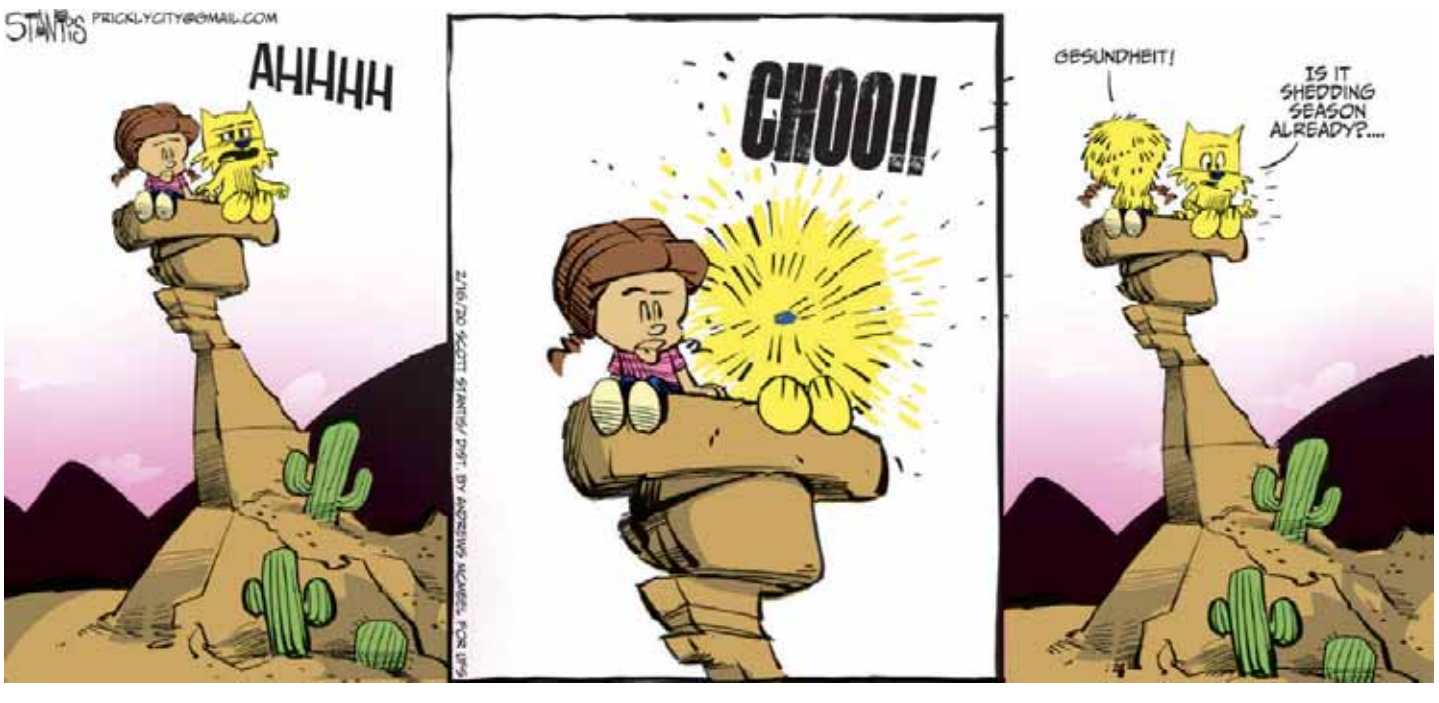
Dick Tracy



Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Prickly City By Scott Stantis





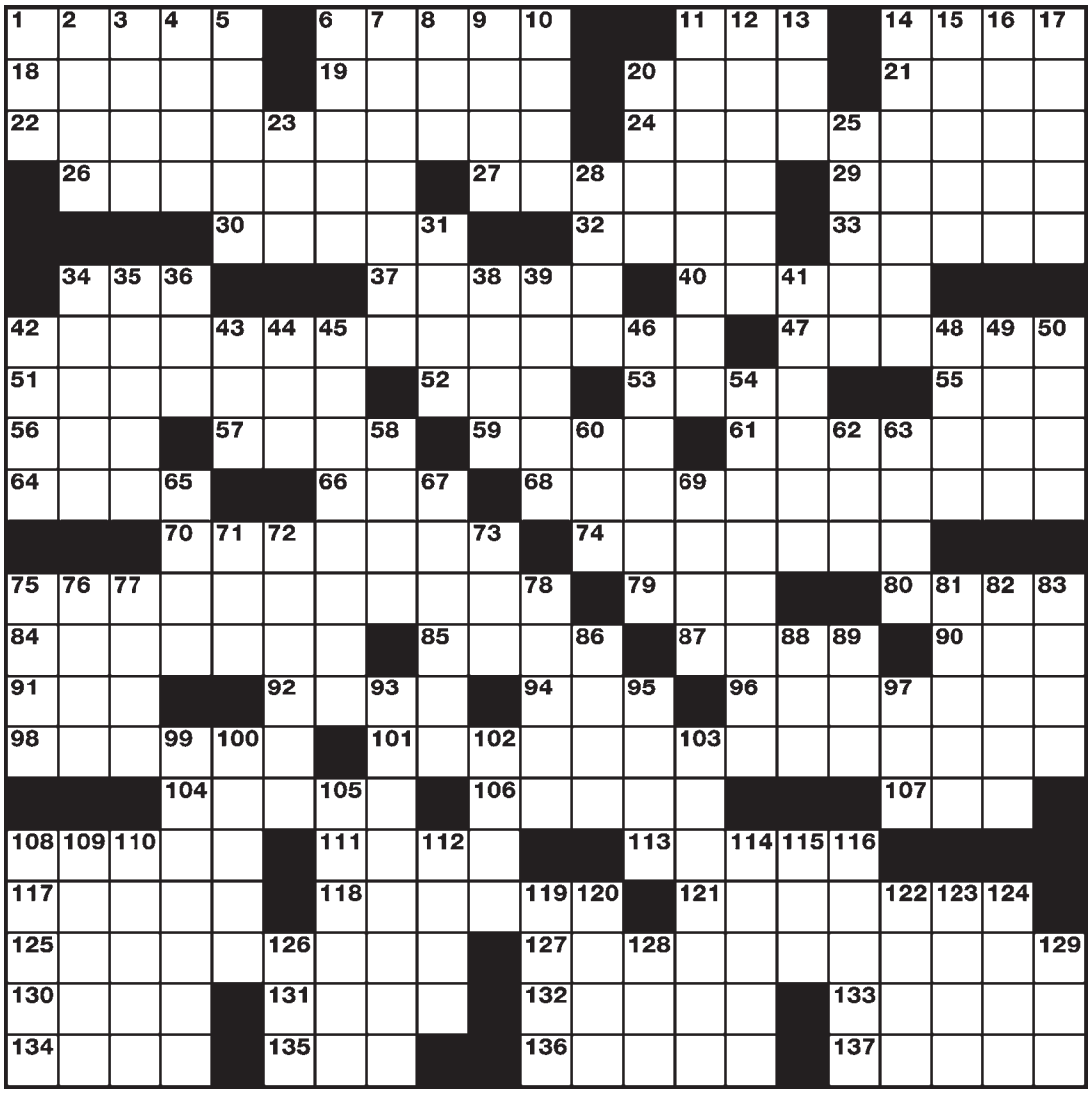
puzzle island

For interactive puzzles and games go to **chicagotribune.com/games**

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JARRING SEPTET: Explained at 127 Across

By Fred Piscop | Edited by Stanley Newman
(stanxwords.com)



Across

1 Malia Obama's sister
6 Teakettle output
11 Eight ounces of water
14 Random stack
18 Novelist Joyce Carol —
19 Chain where dogs are welcome
20 "Horrors!"
21 Heavy burden
22 [SORRY, NO CLUE]
24 [SORRY, NO CLUE]
26 Called names
27 Mousetrap morsel
29 Actress Zellweger
30 Statements in court
32 Creatures in colonies
33 Toboggans, e.g.
34 Go wrong
37 Nobles above viscounts
40 "How much — much?"
42 [SORRY, NO CLUE]
47 How some fish is cured
51 Legendary screen dancer
52 Long sandwich
53 Spill the beans
55 Briny body
56 Fudge the facts
57 Variety show routines
59 Eatery easel display
61 Made an attempt at
64 Prescriptions, for short
66 IRS regulation expert
68 [SORRY, NO CLUE]
70 Lavoisier of chemistry
74 Space Needle city
75 [SORRY, NO CLUE]
79 Taking time, in brand names
80 Mushroom stalk
84 "Give that to me!"
85 About 2.2 pounds, for short
87 Days before holidays
90 Wood chopper
91 Hanks or Cruise
92 — spumante
94 Angry emotion
96 Shoulder ornament
98 Came down in a blizzard
101 [SORRY, NO CLUE]
104 German industrial city
106 Legendary wish granter
107 Superlative suffix
108 Insertion mark
111 "Not to mention ..."
113 Unforeseen obstacles
117 British singer of "Skyfall"
118 Princess' crowns
121 Seasonal assignment
125 [SORRY, NO CLUE]
127 What you are, by completing the puzzle
130 Swelled heads
131 Club member's cost
132 Family auto
133 Rustic
134 Monocle's glass
135 Sci-fi beings, for short
136 Electric car company
137 *East of Eden* surname

Down

1 Rescue request
2 Sounds of delight
3 Store away
4 Medal of Honor recipient
5 Houston baseballer
6 Picky eater of rhyme
7 Grew new molars
8 Pilot's announcement: Abbr.
9 Two-way power letters
10 Dance wildly, perhaps in a "pit"
11 Criticize severely
12 Except if
13 Veep or prez
14 Large citrus fruits
15 Silly
16 Drew in
17 Double-curve letters
20 Sign of the future
23 "C'mon, — pal and ..."
25 Welles of *Citizen Kane*
28 Daybreak's direction
31 Wood-cutting tools
34 Borden's cow
35 Sized up
36 First color TV brand
38 Baba au — (pastry)
39 Defamation in print
41 Semi-hard yellow cheese
42 Chapped-lips soother
43 Korean automaker
44 Pendulum's path
45 Bottom line expenses
46 Chopin piano pieces
48 "— sow, so shall ..."
49 Furtive look
50 Tiny amounts
54 Remaining on a serving tray
58 Whirl
60 — in "Norman"
62 NBC satirical show
63 Eras
65 Very wise person
67 Luke Skywalker's father
69 New England Ivy League school
71 Homer Simpson neighbor
72 Three-note chords
73 Seismological prefix for center
75 Vamooses
76 Privy to
77 Jules Verne captain
78 Slippery goo
81 Stories from the Grimms
82 Apply, as influence
83 Big Apple baseballers
86 Algerian city
88 Clean-water agcy.
89 Anatomical pouch
93 Results of sunbathing
95 69 Down students
97 Luau instrument
99 Little Scottish girl
100 Fragrant organic compound
102 Frankenstein's aide
103 Time zone of Illinois
105 Go to a restaurant
108 Desert caravan beast
109 Wise saying
110 Info-gathering mission
112 Fresh talk
114 Cigna competitor
115 Detroit-based truck maker
116 Bowling or boxing
119 Aide: Abbr.
120 Captain Hook's aide
122 Soup du —
123 Creole veggie
124 Skewed view
126 Poem of praise
128 Classified listings
129 Antlered animal

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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Quote-Acrostic

1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the quotation.

Clues **Words**

A. Think long and hard ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
45 99 129 159 142

B. Solomon's mother ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
39 61 150 80 138 6 71 126 21

C. Aerobatics pioneer ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
140 86 20 105 50 76 2 66 156

D. Steam engine inventor ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
136 9 84 69 152 119 53 31

E. Educator of the deaf ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
161 110 14 124 120 40 64 132 100

F. Success ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
36 74 127 139 91 60 112 102 148 83

G. Sandpiper Air home ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
109 167 88 94 147 35 16 81 134

H. Reality denier? ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
117 41 164 12 75 149 52

I. Style promoter ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
146 144 26 128 42 165 82 70 154 62 11

J. Opening: 2 wds. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
33 29 106 10 47 22 59 130 143 89

K. Siberian city ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
57 90 118 155 38 78 8

L. Dolt ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
157 97 55 79 114 44 131 1 17 67 93

M. Recruit ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
133 153 18 32 96 73

N. QB for undefeated NFL team ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
137 56 151 107 28 13

O. Canadian coin ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
115 95 48 37 65 162

P. Antique, defunct ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
49 108 145 24 98 163 92 4

Q. Unreal ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
46 168 43 51 101 87 27 135 123

R. Martial arts mentor ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
5 63 121 23 77 34

S. Haphazardly ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
7 68 54 158 116 104

T. Chinese pejorative: 2 wds. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
111 125 3 72 15 160 58

___ ___ ___
141 85 30

U. Fluctuated: hyph. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
103 122 19 25 113 166

1 L	2 C	3 T	4 P	5 R	6 B	7 S	8 K	9 D	10 J								
■	11 I	12 H	13 N	■	14 E	15 T	16 G	17 L	18 M								
19 U	■	20 C	21 B	22 J	23 R	■	24 P	25 U	26 I								
27 Q	■	28 N	29 J	30 T	31 D	32 M	33 J	34 R	35 G								
36 F	37 O	38 K	■	39 B	40 E	41 H	42 I	43 Q	44 L								
45 A	46 Q	■	47 J	48 O	49 P	50 C	■	51 Q	52 H								
53 D	54 S	■	55 L	56 N	57 K	58 T	59 J	60 F	61 B								
62 I	63 R	64 E	■	65 O	66 C	■	67 L	68 S	69 D								
70 I	71 B	72 T	73 M	■	74 F	75 H	76 C	77 R	78 K								
■	79 L	80 B	81 G	82 I	■	83 F	84 D	85 T	■								
86 C	87 Q	88 G	■	89 J	90 K	91 F	92 P	93 L	■								
94 G	95 O	■	96 M	97 L	98 P	99 A	■	100 E	101 Q								
102 F	103 U	■	104 S	105 C	106 J	107 N	■	108 P	109 G								
110 E	111 T	112 F	113 U	114 L	■	115 O	116 S	117 H	118 K								
■	119 D	120 E	■	121 R	122 U	■	123 Q	124 E	125 T								
126 B	■	127 F	128 I	129 A	■	130 J	131 L	132 E	133 M								
134 G	135 Q	136 D	137 N	■	138 B	139 F	140 C	141 T	■								
142 A	143 J	144 I	145 P	■	146 I	147 G	148 F	149 H	150 B								
151 N	152 D	153 M	154 I	■	155 K	156 C	157 L	158 S	159 A								
160 T	161 E	162 O	163 P	■	164 H	165 I	166 U	167 G	168 Q								

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

By Robert ONeill. Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.

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Around the World

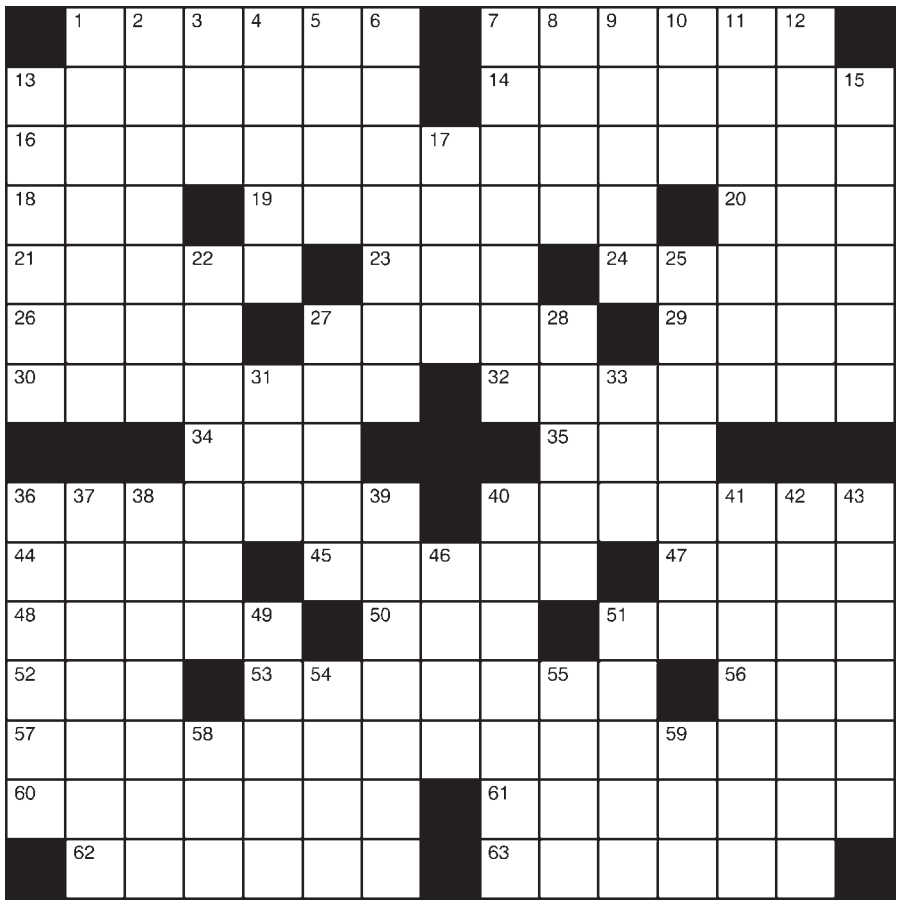
By Charles Preston

Across

1 Generate
7 Power tool
13 Touring car
14 Not X, NC-17 or anything else
16 Mediterranean landmark
18 Large mammal
19 Upright piece between windows
20 Corroded
21 Satyrical looks
23 To a man
24 Russian country house
26 A Johnson
27 Commencement
29 Word with cow or water
30 Disobedient
32 Rubbers
34 Human chaser
35 Sports assn.
36 Peace pipe
40 Jottings
44 Danish measure
45 Reciprocate
47 Fortitude
48 Smooths
50 Make lace
51 Kapok
52 I love, to Livy
53 Boarish
56 Petrolatum, *e.g.*
57 Area off FL
60 Voided a bequest
61 Stored greens
62 Flowers
63 Oozed

Down

1 Intestinal ill
2 Clamorous
3 Exclamation of fright
4 Isotopes
5 Soybean curd
6 Greenwich' locale
7 Celebration
8 Japanese pill box
9 Splendid
10 Actor Mineo
11 Hard case
12 Pull through
13 A curriculum
15 Phobic states
17 Infirmities
22 Readied for replay
25 Relieve
27 Edict
28 Gould's detective
31 Point
33 Swiss river
36 Melon
37 Shady walk
38 Character in *The Raven, et al.*
39 Foursomes
40 Lampoons
41 Twist and turn
42 Defamed
43 Dried out
46 Agreement
49 Froth
51 ___ fire
54 European river, mostly in Poland
55 Thayer's Mudville group
58 Gathered
59 Hit the bottle



Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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Change for a Buck

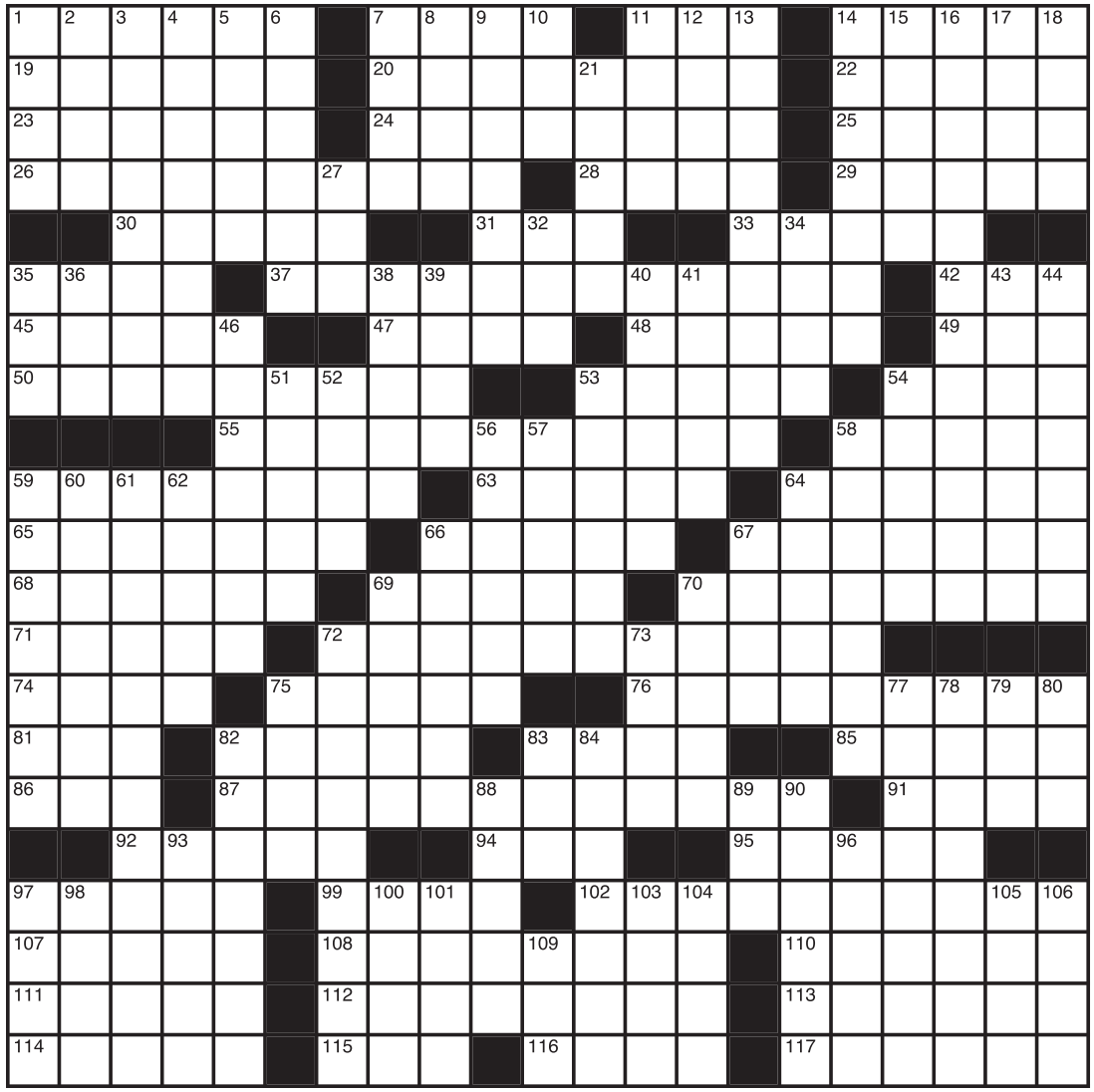
By Ed Sessa
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

Across

1 Ports in a storm
7 Queens stadium namesake
11 HUN neighbor, to the IOC
14 Wasn't indifferent
19 Reading disorder
20 Car thief's contact
22 Cremona strings master
23 How to handle fine china
24 "In your dreams!"
25 Encouraged through chicanery
26 *Ball game record
28 Was indebted to
29 One way to solve crosswords
30 Nomadic Kenyans
31 Need an eraser, say
33 __ New Guinea
35 Near-eternity
37 *One may be six feet long
42 Asian holiday
45 Leveled, with "up"
47 Like many indie films
48 Some interruptions
49 Music to a matador's ears
50 "Try it"
53 Diner menu info
54 Apple starter
55 *Historic site in Paris' Latin Quarter
58 Indian title of respect
59 Early Earth life forms
63 "The Great Dictator" Oscar nominee Jack
64 As an example
65 Either of two Indy 500 racers
66 Not fulfilled
67 Wanted poster listings
68 Weaken
69 Sheik's land, in song
70 Most ready for trouble
71 Baltic people
72 *Epithet for a fair British maiden
74 Burden
75 Yucatán "you"
76 Ready for trouble
81 __ Lingus
82 "The Jungle" author Sinclair
83 Smoothie berry
85 Reliever's stat
86 Born, in some bios
87 *Totally ripped
91 Woodwind piece
92 Courtroom pro
94 "The Black Cat" author
95 Blood of the gods
97 First name in furniture
99 Intent look
102 1971 Stones hit, or what can be found in the answers to starred clues
107 Level and plane
108 Mix thoroughly, as oil and vinegar
110 "Rabbit" series author
111 Musician Minaj
112 Poppycock
113 E Street Band notable Van Zandt
114 Hydrocarbon group
115 Enjoy a run, perhaps
116 Director's challenges
117 Most affected by a workout

Down

1 Baddies with pointy hats
2 Actor Guinness
3 Like cobras, but not pythons
4 Web system allowing outside access
5 Frasier's brother
6 Obeys a stick-wielding doctor
7 Bad marks in high school?
8 "If it fits" item
9 Most popular
10 Lead monitor, for short
11 Word with line or hound
12 Climbing gear
13 Slanted column
14 Islamic leaders
15 "Can we see __?": diner's request
16 *Car coolant carrier
17 Thames campus
18 Tennis drop shot
21 Fleeced
27 "... __ you home to dinner": Shak.
32 Flat fish
34 Summit
35 Motion maker: Abbr.
36 Period of time
38 Mrs. Gorbachev
39 Roughly
40 "Shoot!"
41 Weimaraner's complaint
43 Eatery seen in the film "Manhattan"
44 Car and Driver yearly listing
46 Can't brook
51 Number of singers in The Chipmunks
52 Estate beneficiary
53 Cans for cons
54 Jeweler's measure
56 Clown mascot's first name
57 Thumper's friend
58 Evening parties
59 Banking misjudgment
60 Property recipient, in legal language
61 *Tourist's eye-opening experience, perhaps
62 Letter-shaped fasteners
64 Crayola color renamed Peach in 1962
66 Like a "Stat!" instruction
67 Way more than some
69 Composer Bruckner
70 Links army leader
72 Ovarian hormones
73 Frosty coat
75 Knowledgeable about
77 Manhattan, say
78 Causing avoidance
79 Peggy or Brenda of song
80 Hallucinogenic letters
82 Fork, for instance
83 Japan's largest active volcano
84 Pondering, with "on"
88 Cars that sound like gems
89 "__ you really just say that?"
90 Run down a mountain
93 Blathering
96 "__ it!": "Get moving!"
97 Italian hot spot
98 Hard work
100 Berserk
101 Pueblo people
103 "That being the case ... "
104 Soapmaker's supplies
105 Just makes, with "out"
106 Mailed
109 Watch



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Jumble

Unscramble the six Jumbles, one letter per square, to form six words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

SIPEMO

SCAREO

GRAOFE

SITUHA

ONTARU

SFEEDU



PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

This week's answers appear on the next page

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Sudoku

2/16

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Level: 1 2 3 4

	5		6	2		3		7
		7		5		1		
					4			
2				9		6		
		6				2	8	
		3		7				5
			5					
		1		3		7		
3		8					1	

Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Horoscopes

Today's birthday (Feb. 16): Expand through community connections this year. Accomplishments arise with consistent planning. Recuperate this winter, before resolving a community puzzle next summer for fresh energy. Shift gears with a romance next winter, before your team wins the gold. Friends bring goodness, laughter and love.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 9. Move forward boldly over the next six weeks, with Mars in Capricorn. Pour energy into your career. Your influence is on the rise.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 9. Business grows stronger. Travel can strengthen a long-distance connection. Explore new frontiers over six weeks, with Mars in Capricorn. Mix work with fun.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 9. Collaboration gets results. Revise your budget for growth, with Mars powering into Capricorn. Sock away windfall profits. Keep costs down by working together.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 9. Pull together for common gain. Take action to deepen partnerships, with Mars in Capricorn for the next six weeks. Act on a mutual attraction.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 9. Have fun with someone charming. Release stress through rest, meditation and exercise. Mars in Capricorn energizes your physical performance over six weeks. You're growing stronger.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Domestic matters have your focus. Take action for what you love, with Mars in Capricorn over six weeks. Deeds speak louder than words.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 9. You're especially brilliant. Creative ideas flow like water. Implement domestic renovations over the next six weeks, with Mars in Capricorn. Energize your household.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 9. Rake in the profits. Research, study and dig for clues, with Mars in Capricorn. Write your discoveries over six weeks. Complete a creative project.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 9. You're empowered with confidence and creativity. Dedicate action toward lucrative projects over six weeks and stash the surplus. Mars in Capricorn inspires profitable ventures.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 7. Recharge and rest. Your personal confidence gets energized by Mars in Capricorn over the next six weeks. Develop your unique skills and talents.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 8. Your team can win. Organize, plot and plan. Use the next six weeks, with Mars in Capricorn, to clear clutter and create space for what's next.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 9. Business could interfere with your social life. Your team can make great strides forward over the next six weeks, with Mars in Capricorn. Together, anything's possible.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

Bridge

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A 10 2 ♥ 2 ♦ K J 9 7 6 ♣ A Q 6 2

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

Q.2—North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ J ♥ A Q 10 8 6 ♦ A K 10 2 ♣ K 7 6
With the opponents passing, you open 1H and partner raises to 2H. What call would you make?

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A Q 6 3 ♥ Void ♦ Q 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ Q 7

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ Q 10 6 3 ♥ K 9 2 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ A K 2
Partner opens 1H and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

— Bob Jones
tcaeditors@tribpub.com

Word Game

This game challenges you to find as many words as you can, as quickly as you can, in one master word.

ACCLIVITY (uh-KLIV-ih-tee): An upward slope.

Can you find 21 or more words in ACCLIVITY?

Average mark: 15 words
Time limit: 30 minutes

Here are the rules:
1. Words must be four or more letters. 2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of an "s," such as "bats" and "cats," are not used. 3. Use only one form of a verb — either "pose" or "posed," not both. 4. Proper nouns and slang terms are not used.

Answers to the word game:

italic; vial; vita; vital; tail; talc
lactic; laic; laity; licit; icily;
city; civic; civil; clay; lacy;
alit; cavil; cavity; cavy; cilia;

— Kathleen Saxe, distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS



puzzle island
solutions

Last week's crosswords

"FAMOUS LAST WORDS"

D	I	D	N	T	I	■	C	L	A	N	G	S	■	S	C	H	U	S	S	■
O	N	E	T	O	N	■	R	E	F	I	L	L	■	O	P	E	N	T	O	■
T	H	E	H	O	U	S	E	A	T	P	O	O	H	C	O	R	N	E	R	■
C	A	M	■	T	I	E	D	■	■	■	W	O	U	K	■	S	E	E	K	S
O	L	E	G	■	T	A	O	I	S	M	■	P	R	A	Y	■	A	L	I	A
M	E	D	O	C	■	■	■	R	O	A	R	■	■	W	E	S	T	E	N	D
■	■	■	A	M	O	V	E	A	B	L	E	F	E	A	S	T	■	■	■	■
S	P	O	T	L	E	S	S	■	A	L	B	A	N	Y	■	E	V	I	C	T
T	O	R	I	■	D	I	S	■	D	O	O	M	S	■	W	I	E	N	E	R
A	L	I	T	O	■	G	E	M	■	F	R	I	■	M	O	N	T	A	N	A
L	E	O	■	F	I	N	N	E	G	A	N	S	W	A	K	E	■	S	T	D
E	N	L	I	S	T	S	■	D	A	M	■	H	E	X	■	M	I	T	R	E
S	T	E	N	O	S	■	T	I	M	E	D	■	L	I	D	■	G	E	A	R
T	A	S	E	R	■	D	I	N	E	R	O	■	S	N	O	W	O	W	L	S
■	■	■	T	H	E	C	A	T	I	N	T	H	E	H	A	T	■	■	■	■
B	A	S	S	S	A	X	■	■	E	C	O	N	■	■	■	S	I	T	A	R
A	C	H	E	■	S	T	E	T	■	A	R	T	I	S	T	■	T	O	D	O
T	R	I	T	T	■	R	A	R	E	■	■	■	N	O	E	L	■	R	H	O
■	O	N	T	H	E	O	R	I	G	I	N	O	F	S	P	E	C	I	E	S
■	S	T	E	A	L	S	■	P	A	C	I	N	O	■	I	N	S	E	R	T
■	S	O	R	T	I	E	■	E	D	I	T	O	R	■	D	A	I	S	E	S

"J-Walking"

G	R	A	S	S	■	A	L	I	V	E	■	B	A	C	H
H	A	S	H	■	T	O	R	E	N	■	E	C	H	O	■
I	B	A	R	■	L	U	M	E	T	■	I	R	I	S	■
J	I	P	I	J	A	P	A	■	R	E	J	E	C	T	■
■	■	■	N	O	N	E	■	J	O	N	I	■	■	■	■
J	A	C	K	E	T	■	J	A	P	A	N	N	E	D	■
U	G	H	S	■	A	G	O	N	Y	■	G	O	R	E	■
L	I	E	■	■	■	O	N	E	■	■	■	L	O	B	■
E	L	E	E	■	T	R	E	S	S	■	J	A	D	A	■
P	E	R	J	U	R	E	S	■	I	R	O	N	E	R	■
■	■	■	E	R	I	N	■	C	L	I	I	■	■	■	■
J	O	Y	C	E	S	■	J	A	V	A	N	E	S	E	■
A	B	U	T	■	T	A	U	P	E	■	T	R	I	M	■
P	A	R	E	■	A	L	T	E	R	■	L	I	L	I	■
E	N	I	D	■	N	E	E	D	Y	■	Y	E	L	L	■

"No More Tears"

Z	I	N	E	S	■	G	M	A	T	S	■	A	B	U	T	■	H	A	L	L
U	N	I	T	E	■	A	I	M	A	T	■	R	U	N	E	■	A	L	I	A
N	O	T	H	I	N	G	L	I	K	E	A	G	O	O	D	T	H	I	G	H
I	N	S	A	N	E	S	T	■	E	N	J	O	Y	■	T	E	A	S	E	T
■	■	■	N	E	A	T	■	■	■	G	U	N	■	V	A	T	■	T	R	I
S	P	E	C	■	R	E	A	C	H	E	S	■	P	O	L	E	S	■	■	■
L	I	E	O	V	E	R	S	P	I	L	T	M	I	L	K	■	A	D	A	M
U	N	R	E	A	D	■	I	A	M	■	■	E	A	T	■	A	R	E	S	O
M	C	I	N	G	■	P	C	S	■	W	H	E	N	■	O	P	T	S	T	O
S	H	E	■	A	M	O	S	■	T	H	E	T	O	W	N	P	R	I	O	R
■	■	■	T	R	A	N	■	S	E	A	R	S	■	W	E	R	E	■	■	■
A	D	Y	E	I	N	G	S	H	A	M	E	■	L	I	S	I	■	M	S	S
S	E	M	T	E	X	■	A	R	L	O	■	D	U	I	■	S	N	A	P	E
P	E	C	O	S	■	N	N	E	■	■	H	A	I	■	S	E	E	G	E	R
S	P	A	N	■	B	O	Y	W	H	O	S	I	G	H	E	D	W	O	L	F
■	■	■	S	P	I	R	O	■	A	N	T	S	I	E	R	■	C	O	T	S
M	I	A	■	U	S	A	■	F	D	R	■	■	■	X	E	N	A	■	■	■
S	H	R	I	F	T	■	A	R	E	A	S	■	B	A	N	I	S	H	E	S
D	O	N	T	F	R	Y	F	O	R	M	E	A	R	G	E	N	T	I	N	A
O	P	I	E	■	O	A	R	S	■	P	A	L	E	O	■	E	L	V	I	S
S	E	E	M	■	S	P	O	T	■	S	T	E	R	N	■	R	E	E	D	S

Last week's Quote-Acrostic

(Somerset) MAUGHAM: SHADOWY FIGURES: ...if the proper study of mankind is man, it is evidently more sensible to occupy yourself with the coherent and significant creatures of fiction than with the irrational and shadowy figures of real life.

Last week's Sudoku

5	3	2	6	4	9	8	7	1
6	7	1	2	5	8	3	4	9
4	8	9	7	3	1	2	5	6
8	5	3	4	9	2	1	6	7
1	4	7	8	6	5	9	2	3
9	2	6	1	7	3	4	8	5
2	1	5	9	8	7	6	3	4
3	6	8	5	1	4	7	9	2
7	9	4	3	2	6	5	1	8

This week's Jumble

IMPOSE FORAGE OUTRAN
COARSE HIATUS DEFUSE

He got an advance on his credit card at the ATM because he was —

PRESSED FOR CASH

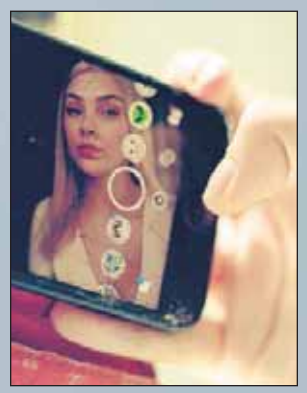


Chicago Tribune
IS insideshopper



ANSWER ANGEL

GENERATIONAL EXPLANATIONS



FASHION

GEN Z SHOPPERS PREFER CHEAP, CUTE

ROB LOWE HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST IN ROLE ON '9-1-1: LONE STAR'

FIRED UP

JEFF SPICER/GETTY

Rob Lowe has personal interest in latest role

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Rob Lowe knows a little something about the vital roles of first responders, and he's bringing that to TV with his latest role.

He co-stars with Liv Tyler in "9-1-1: Lone Star" as a New York fire captain who relocates to Austin, Texas, to launch a firehouse from the ground up.

Lowe lives in Santa Barbara, California, which has endured wildfires and flooding in recent years. The actor has hosted and fed firefighters and police on his property.

"I was really interested in why these men and women do what they do, what does it mean to them, how do they go and sleep in the dirt for weeks on end if it comes to that," Lowe told a TV critics panel. "It was fortuitous that I had that in my own life leading up to this."

Lowe said he already knew medical lingo from his time on "Code Black," a CBS series that aired from 2016-18.

"9-1-1: Lone Star" marks his return to a starring role on U.S. TV for the first time in four years, and it is Tyler's first network series.

Lowe's favorite part of the new show is "it's the only network procedural you'll see where the male hero is obsessed with men's skin care." And there's a keto diet joke in the pilot. (Lowe promotes the Atkins eating plan and has his own skin care line in real life.)

Ryan Murphy ("Nip/Tuck"), Brad Falchuk and Tim Minear co-created and co-executive produce the show.

"Let's face it, I'm not a stranger to looking in the mirror," Lowe said. "They knew how to write for me, so any of that crazy stuff is probably coming from them knowing me as well as I know myself."

Murphy once wrote a role in "Nip/Tuck" for Lowe, but his agents never passed it on to the actor even though he loved the show.

"It's the humor, the weirdness, the randomness that we get to weave into this," Lowe said. "There's a lot of 'Nip/Tuck' tone in this."

The series debuts Jan. 19 on Fox after the NFC championship game, with a second episode airing Jan. 20 in its regular time slot.

In preparation for the role, Lowe trained with a Los Angeles Fire Department unit near Dodger Stadium. But his famous face posed a problem with real-life victims.

"People are like, 'I don't feel safe with Rob Lowe standing there. I don't feel like the real experts showed up,' " he said.



CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP

"I was really interested in why these men and women do what they do ... how do they go and sleep in the dirt for weeks on end if it comes to that."

— Rob Lowe, about his interest in playing a fire captain

X, Y or Z? Generational confusion



ELLEN WARREN

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: A friend of mine was ranting about "millennial hippies." I was too embarrassed to ask her what age ARE millenials anyhow. Can you help me out on what's what in terms of millenials versus centennials vs. baby boomers versus Gen(eration) X and Gen Y and Gen Z. And what will follow Generation Z?

— Kathy K.

Dear Kathy: You shouldn't be embarrassed. These labels are confusing and inconsistent, depending on who's doing the counting. Here are some guidelines derived from the U.S. Census Bureau — but they're not carved in stone.

Baby boomers: Born 1946-64.

■ Gen X: Born 1965-1981.

■ Gen Y (aka millenials): Born 1982-2000.

■ Gen Z (aka centennials): Born 2001-present.

As for what will be the next generation's shorthand name — since we've come to the end of the alphabet with Gen Z — good question! We'll have to see what catches on. In the meantime, let's hear some readers' suggestions for a name for whatever follows Gen Z.



DREAMSTIME

A group of millennials. Or are they? These labels are often confusing and inconsistent.

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: I was vacationing at a sunny, casual spot so I packed sporty, casual clothes. I hadn't planned to find myself invited to any dressy events but I was wrong. A last-minute invitation to a special party came up and I had nothing to wear! I had to skip the event and I'm kicking myself for poor wardrobe planning. Is there some simple clothes solution that won't take up much space in my suitcase so I'll never have to turn down a party invite again when traveling?

— Maribeth J.

Dear Maribeth: You can't go wrong with a simple black dress (or black pants and a basic black top) in a forgiving, no-wrinkle fabric like a rayon blend. Pack a pair of simple (not bulky) sandals or flats (depending on the temperature where you're vacationing). And be sure to bring along one eye-popping necklace or scarf. My current go-to is a heavily beaded "Arvan" collar necklace in sparkly jewel colors that I bought on sale for under $30 on aldoshoes.com. It totally cranks up the volume on my basic black.

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: I got to the airport in plenty of time, checked a suitcase and ... guess what? My luggage didn't get on the plane. I thought this didn't happen any more because of computerized tagging. Wrong! The airline checked the computer and said — their fault — that the suitcase was on the next flight and would arrive two hours later. The woman at the counter told me my best bet was to wait around until the plane with my suitcase arrived. That's what I did but that plane was late and I didn't get to my hotel — angry and exhausted — until well past midnight. Doesn't the airline owe me something for their mistake?

— Naomi N.

Dear Naomi: Nope. You're not (legally) entitled to anything from the airline for your trouble. After all, you did get your suitcase before you left the airport. But, it can't hurt to ask. Yelling and screaming is less effective than simply, politely asking for a travel voucher to be used toward the cost of your next flight. All they can do is say no. Best to ask before you leave the airport. And if the airline staffer approves a voucher, consider saying that you'd be a lot happier if they doubled the amount of their first offer. You've got nothing to lose. If all that fails, at least try to extract some free drink coupons for having to hang around the airport waiting for that suitcase.

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: While I was on vacation I ordered some shoes from Nike and another vendor to be sent to my apartment. I got emails saying they'd been delivered to my address but when I got home, the two packages weren't there. Clearly somebody stole them from the unlocked mailroom. (There are several apartments in my building that owners rent out through Airbnb and there's a steady stream of strangers in the building and I suspect one of them took the shoes.) Doesn't my landlord have to reimburse me for my loss?

— Charlie K.

Dear Charlie: Check your lease but my best guess is no. Stolen packages are an epidemic nationwide. It won't hurt to try and guilt the landlord into replacing the shoes, but I'm not optimistic. A better bet is to call Nike and the other shoe company and plead with them to send you free replacements. That's worked for me in the past. If you do prevail, have the new packages sent to your workplace or to a pickup site specified by Nike and the other company. Don't have them sent to your home since clearly you can't be sure they won't be stolen again from your building. Lean on the landlord to provide a secure theft-proof site for deliveries.

Angelic Readers

Patricia M. writes: "Consider cautioning your readers about the environmental impact of too much online shopping. Especially for clothing. So much of the stuff purchased online is returned, I'm not sure people understand that a large percentage of returned items end up in landfills.

"Sellers receiving returned items must employ people to inspect the item, repackage it and then determine where to resell it. Often it is cheaper for them to simply trash the goods. They don't even donate or mark down the items for fear of damaging the value of their brands. In addition to the burden on landfills, there is the use of packaging and transportation impact of these goods."

Now it's your turn

Send your questions, rants, tips, favorite finds — on style, shopping, makeup, fashion and beauty — to answerangelellen@gmail.com.

FASHION

Gen Z shoppers want cheap and cute

By Elizabeth Paton and Taylor Lorenz
The New York Times

For every Greta Thunberg and school-skipping climate change protester, there is another member of Generation Z buying inexpensive clothes on a smartphone.

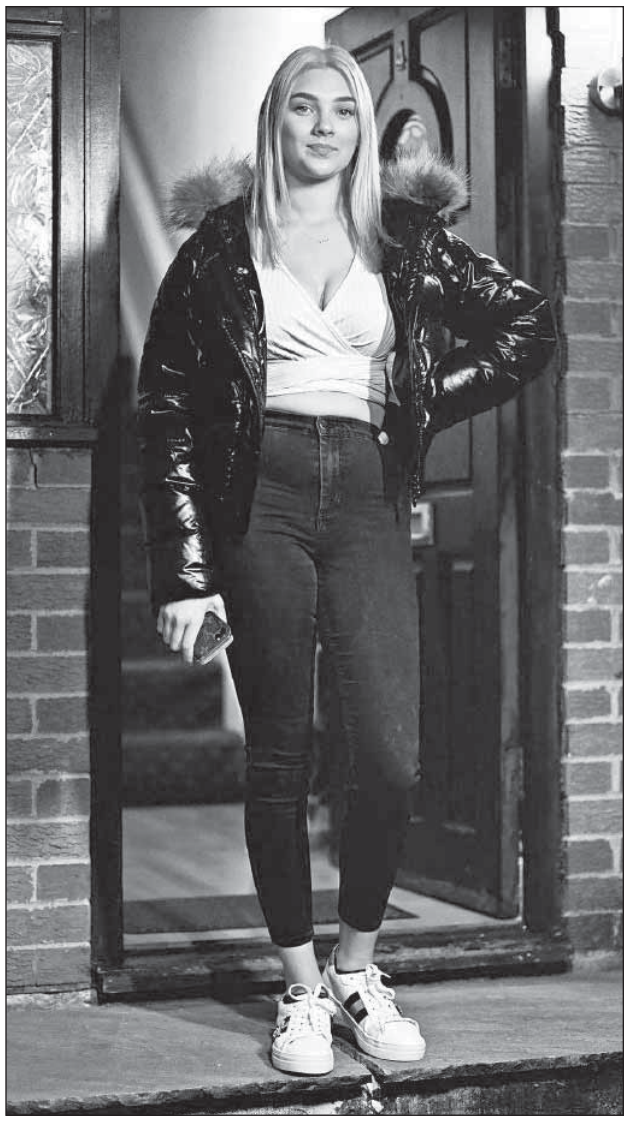
Their purchasing choices — fueled by influencer culture and catered to by a new wave of ultra-fast-fashion retailers such as Fashion Nova, PrettyLittleThing and Missguided — are as much about how an outfit will look on social media as in the real world.

Two Gen Z shoppers, one in America and one in Britain, invited us into their homes to talk about what they buy, and why. All of them work after school or save money to pay for their own purchases.

Mia Grantham is a 16-year-old British high school student. She lives with her father and her younger sister in Wilmslow, England. Her bedroom is small but immaculately kept, with a pillow shaped like a speech bubble reading "You've Got This" on her bed.

Mia's interest in clothes ramped up about 18 months ago, when she started getting an allowance and attracting followers on her social media accounts. She has more than 1,500 followers on Instagram, gets around 500 views per story on Snapchat and spends three hours per day on her iPhone XR (about five hours on weekends).

Her favorite going-out look is a red dress. She owns 14 of them.



ROSIE MATHESON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mia Grantham's interest in clothes skyrocketed about 18 months ago, when she started getting an allowance.



KRISTA SCHLUETER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

"If I have a shirt in one of my previous pictures, I try not to take a picture again in it," Andrea Vargas says.

Q: How often do you shop?

A: I browse every single day — at least once — on the PrettyLittleThing phone app. It's my favorite, and I don't look anywhere else, except if I see something on an Instagram influencer I like. Normally I look at shopping apps at the end of the day before bed for about 10 to 15 minutes. But if there is an event coming up that I want a new outfit for, then I could browse for more than an hour. I don't really go to bricks-and-mortar stores.

Q: Why is PrettyLittleThing your favorite fashion brand?

A: I pay 8.99 pounds as part of a yearly subscription, which gives me unlimited next-day delivery on anything I buy. I know all the delivery people really well now — they always know when I have plans on a Friday or Saturday night. I buy something at least once a week. Seventy percent of the time I send some ordered items back.

Q: How many pieces of clothing do you think you've bought in 2019?

A: Eighty? One hundred? Those are pieces I've kept.

Q: What is your favorite piece that you've bought?

A: The ones I probably wear the most are gray leggings that cost 2.50 pounds. For going out, I bought a silky red dress with a cutout for a house party. I've worn it out three times, which is a lot for me.

Q: What else do you look for?

A: Social media is a big consideration. I'm on Snapchat and Instagram, and occasionally Facebook. I take selfies for social media every single time I go out. I'm on Snapchat the most because of its messenger function, then Instagram, where I have both a public and a private account and spend an hour per day.

Andrea Vargas, an 18-year-old freshman at Hofstra University, loves hunting for sales. She looks for them on websites such as PrettyLittleThings and Boohoo, as well as physical stores like H&M.

"I go shopping when the season sales are on," she said one Saturday night at her family's home in Farmingdale, New York. She commutes to school and spends most weekend nights out with friends. Her plan for this particular evening was to go to P.F. Chang's with three girlfriends.

Her absolute favorite piece of clothing is a red plush jacket."It's just so cute," Vargas said. "I feel like it dresses up an outfit."

Vargas pays for her clothes herself, using money she earns by working at Target. The red jacket cost her around $40, and she said it was worth every penny.

But, she said, "I feel like there's no point in spending $40 on a T-shirt. Especially since I'm in college, I need to buy all these books."

Vargas guessed she had purchased between 100 and 200 items this year, including shoes and jewelry, and that her wardrobe comprises 500 or 600 total pieces.

She doesn't generally check where her clothing is made, and she doesn't feel guilty about how much of it she has. After she's done wearing something, it can have a second life.

"My mom is from El Salvador and my dad is from Nicaragua," she said. "They're not wealthy countries, so I like to give back to people who don't have a lot."

She estimates she wears each piece 15 times before ultimately donating it or selling it on Depop — but she also doesn't want to be seen wearing the same thing every day on Instagram.

"If I have a shirt in one of my previous pictures, I try not to take a picture again in it," she said. "I don't like to repeat."

Stylish ways to celebrate the 'Year of the Mouse'

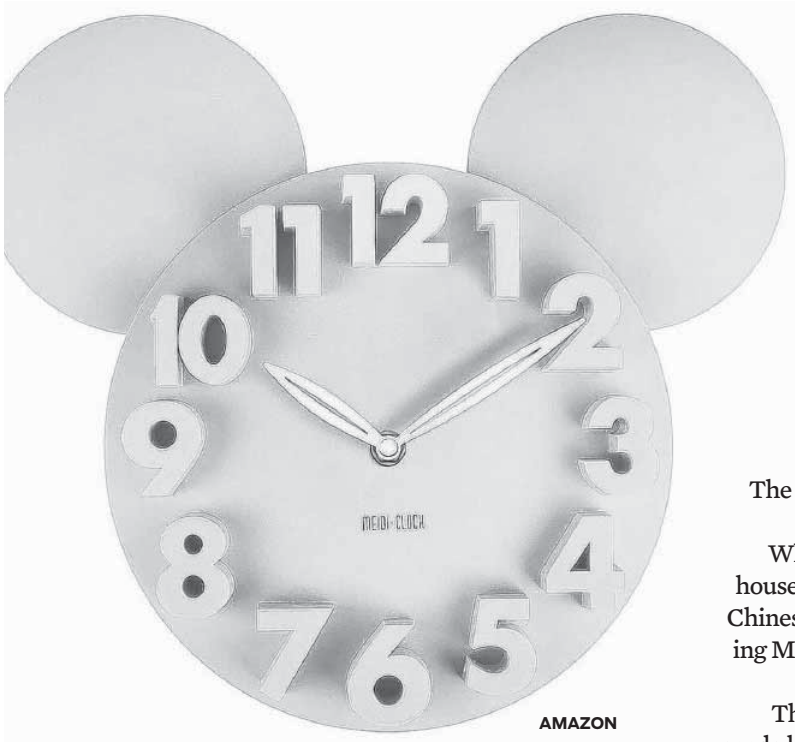
By David Syrek | Chicago Tribune

The humble mouse just got a major style boost as a symbol of the Lunar New Year, which started Jan. 25.

While others celebrate it as the Year of the Rat, fashion house Gucci has joined forces with Disney to celebrate the Chinese New Year with a collection of over 75 pieces featuring Mickey Mouse on everything from sneakers to clothing to luggage accessories.

The famed mouse in red shorts and yellow shoes, who made his debut in 1928, is also making a splash in the kitchen on high-end kitchen line Le Creuset's cookware. Coral & Tusk, the chic home decor shop, has embroidered mice on cool tooth fairy pillows and even created an embroidered mouse note card that's perfect for framing after it's sent.

So go ahead, let a mouse into the house.



AMAZON

Add a pop-art touch to your space with Meidi Clock's Big Digit Mouse 3D wall clock. $13.99, amazon.com



MAILEG

Maileg's Chef Mouse comes dressed in his chef's hat and stylish houndstooth pants and travels in his cotton drawstring bag. $27, mailegusa.com



GUCCI

Gucci's Disney x Gucci Ace sneakers feature Mickey Mouse resting on the brand's iconic logo background. $670, gucci.com



Coral & Tusk's Luck Tooth Fairy pillow has a tiny pocket perfect for placing gifts, notes or small treasures. $58, coralandtusk.com

CORAL & TUSK



Cufflinks' silk tie blends our favorite mouse into a plaid pattern. $55, cufflinks.com

CUFFLINKS



Add a touch of whimsy to your kitchen with Le Creuset's Mickey Mouse ramekins. $50 for a set of 2, williams-sonoma.com

WILLIAMS SONOMA



SAVVY SHOPPER

Fashion and friends in the same online spot

By Breena Kerr
The New York Times



RIAH BETH PHOTOGRAPHY VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES

Kate Lindello, 36, a stylist, fashion blogger and stay-at-home mother, started Noihsaf Bazaar on Instagram in 2013. It now has more than 30,000 followers.

Emily Useche, who is 27 and lives in Arkansas, had just put her baby down for a nap one afternoon when she decided to post some family photos on Facebook. But she didn't simply upload them for friends and family to see.

She also posted the photos to a private Facebook group for a whole other community: a fan club for Pyne & Smith Clothiers. Useche was wearing one of that brand's dresses in the photos — a style she had posted about once before when she saw it being sold secondhand — and was ready to show it off. Minutes after she posted, other members replied with compliments for her, and praise for the sunflower check dress she was wearing.

The group, Pyne & Smith Clothiers BST and Chat, is one of a number of so-called buy-sell-trade communities.

Part social club and part marketplace, the groups have sprung up on Instagram and Facebook and have, for some users, become a daily place to socialize and shop.

While many serve enthusiasts of mass market brands, others are powered by dedicated followers of idiosyncratic indie brands, the sort rarely featured in glossy magazines and often escape the notice of major retailers. But they have devoted followers, many of whom are attracted by the idea of slow, ethical fashion.

Facebook and Instagram communities can be a very real alternative to traditional retailers, providing shoppers with not only products, but also friends.

"A lot of us are millennials who are trying really hard to take steps toward sustainability," said Lacey Camille Schroeder, 32 and a jewelry designer who lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She created the PSC buy-sell-trade Facebook group. "People buying these dresses tend to be like-minded when it comes to fashion. A lot of them are in the 'crunchy' category."

That line was founded by Joanna McCartney. She stumbled into making clothes in 2014 when she couldn't find a linen dress she liked during the hot Los Angeles summer.

Made of flax linen and produced in California, the dresses look like the kind you could wear to a dinner party and to collect eggs from your free-range chickens the next day. Their prices range from $146 to $186, though by the time the dresses make it to this group, they're usually sold for about $120 each.

Schroeder set up the group, which has 2,888 members, two years ago when a follower of the Pyne & Smith Clothiers Instagram said she was looking to sell a gently used Pyne & Smith dress that was taking up space in her closet.

Schroeder got on the phone with McCartney and hammered out the group guidelines.

Civility and a promise to be kind when posting critical feedback are among the few requirements for membership, and Schroeder said she rarely has to moderate conversations.

In some cases, a single dress may be sold and passed among three or four members, who connect with each other and facilitate their own sales along the way.

Groups range from small pop-up Instagram hashtags like #JamieandTheJonesForSale, with fewer than 100 posts, to accounts like Noihsaf Bazaar, which was started on Instagram in 2013 and now has more than 30,000 followers.

Noihsaf was founded when Kate Lindello, 36, a stylist, fashion blogger and stay-at-home mother, wanted to sell a pair of Rachel Comey flats that didn't fit.

Today Noihsaf, which focuses on emerging and independent designers, operates multiple Instagram accounts, including one for vintage and one for beauty products, and posts 1,200 to 1,500 items weekly on its main resale account.

Lindello employs three freelancers to help her sort through the hundreds of daily submissions and choose items to post. Unlike volunteer-run accounts, Noihsaf charges a $3.80-per-sale fee.

"Tech is a blessing and a curse," Lindello said. "We're behind our phones so much, but you also have the chance to make this human connection." In 2017, after posting a pair of her own denim jeans on the account, she was surprised to see that the buyer lived only 2 miles down the road.

"I could have mailed those jeans to Allison in Duluth, but I wanted to know who this person was," she said. "I emailed her, and she said she'd just drop by my house. She ended up being a New Yorker who had just moved here, and we're buddies now. She's my kid's dentist."

Around that same time, Nicolle Rountree, an African American logistics manager who lives in New Orleans and wears plus-size clothing, was fed up with feeling unwelcome in stores and buying new pants every month when fast fashion ones fell apart.

Through online research, Rountree discovered Elizabeth Suzann, a label that offers classic staples in natural fabrics in sizes XXS through 4XL — and then discovered that used Elizabeth Suzann clothing was being sold on Instagram accounts like Sell/Trade Elizabeth Suzann and Sell/Trade Slow Fashion.

One day, a fellow Instagram shopper tagged her in a post for a used pair of black Clyde pants in size 16 that she had spotted. Rountree bid by commenting on the post and bought them from the seller for $125 (normally $245), becoming the third owner of the pants and a committed Elizabeth Suzann customer.

This year, Rountree became a volunteer moderator of the Sell/Trade Slow Fashion Instagram account (more than 18,000 followers), which hosts and curates sale posts for slow fashion items, hosts trade forums and prompts weekly discussions about ethical fashion.

It's an online community that became even more real in October, when Rountree met two other moderators of the group and road-tripped to the Elizabeth Suzann sample sale in Nashville.

"I got out of the car, and there's this line of women, many of whom I knew, mostly by their Instagram handles, and they ran up to me and hugged me. It blew me away," she said. "We were all there waiting and shopping in terrible 90-degree Southern summer heat, all stripped down to just bras and underwear. And people are handing you stuff to try on, and you're handing them stuff to try on, and you don't even know them. They're strangers who aren't strangers.

"I'm a black woman who lives in the South," Rountree said. "I have never felt that safe around that many people before."

Easy ways to elevate your sweater and denim uniform

By Aramide Esubi
Tribune Content Agency

This time of year our typical uniform of sweater, jeans and boots can quickly become monotonous and a bit lackluster. Dare I say that we get stuck in a rut when it comes to dressing in finicky weather? Luckily there are simple ways to add a bit of a spark to your basic outfit. Elevate your ensemble and keep seasonal sameness at bay with these six tips.

Add accessories: From hats to jewelry or statement boots, eye-catching accessories will take your winter uniform from basic to chic. Feel free to add a fun knit hat or fuzzy coat to punch things up. If you don't want something too dramatic, go small. Something as simple as a bold pair of sunglasses can give even your most tried and true sweater and pair of jeans an added cool factor.

Experiment with colors: In case you forgot, denim doesn't just come in blue. With a simple internet search, you can find plenty of denim jeans in a multitude of colors. White sweater? Pair it with bright yellow jeans. If you'd rather keep things neutral, opt for a black pair of jeans — I've been really into this lately.

While you experiment with color, don't forget about prints. For example, pair some leopard-print jeans with a red sweater and black booties — the pop of red with the golden spots will be a hit.

Play up proportions: Skinny jeans will always be classic, but if you're itching for a change, add some diversity to your denim collection this season. Different cuts have come back into play in a major way and have shown no signs of disappearing again. So, if a skinny leg really isn't your jam, go for a pair of wide-leg or bootcut jeans to wear with your favorite ankle boots.

Little touches make a big difference: A small adjustment can completely switch up even the dreariest outfit. Try tucking your favorite chunky knit into your jeans and adding a belt as a focal point. Any little modifications you add to your look will differentiate it from your other outfits. Adding a blazer or even a vintage brooch can take your sweater from "blah" to "wow."

Focus on footwear: Jazz up your wardrobe routine with a pair of statement shoes like a pair of cutout booties or a pair of trend forward animal print boots or loafers. It's been said that the first thing people look at are your shoes so why not give them something to really focus on? My current favorite shoes are my snakeskin booties. They make quite the statement with any of my outfits. Go for it with your shoes and make your uniform feel completely new.



Use accessories, different shapes, shoes and layers to keep these staples from going stale.

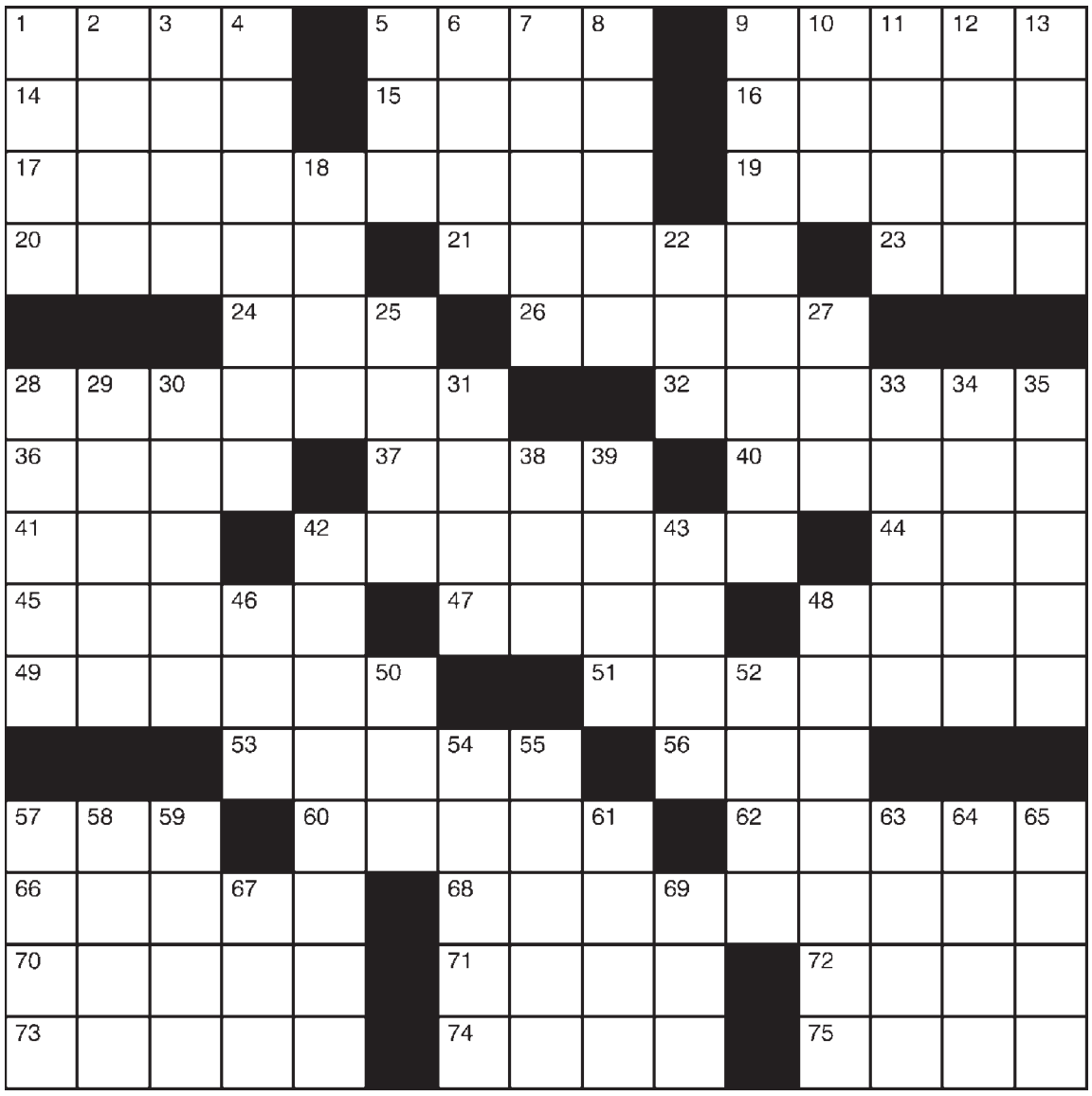
ARAMIDE ESUBI

Layering adds dimension: Adding a simple layer underneath your sweater can instantly transform the vibe of an outfit. Try pairing your sweater with a turtleneck or a white button-down top to give new life to your winter gear. You might even stumble upon a new favorite outfit.

A touch of creativity can keep your winter must-haves from being drab. Sweaters and denim are a tried-and-true combo for warmth and fashion, so they shouldn't be retired simply because they've gotten boring. Use the tips above (and come up with a few of your own along the way) to keep your look alive all season long.

MIND GAMES

Xed



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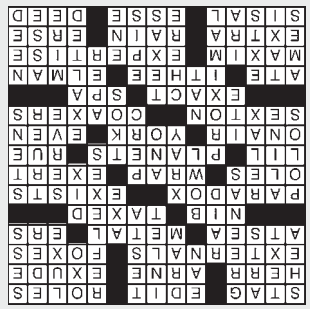
ACROSS

1. Kind of party
5. Prepare for publication
9. Actors' concerns
14. Mister, in Munich
15. Judith and Abel composer
16. Ooze
17. Outward parts
19. Hellman's The Little ___
20. Bewildered
21. Gold, e.g.
23. Speech hesitations
24. Pen end
26. Burdened
28. Contradictory phenomenon
32. Lives
36. Spanish cheers
37. Package
40. Use energy
41. Abner or Diamond
42. Solar-system units
44. Regret
45. Walking ___
47. Famous US sergeant
48. Tied
49. Bell ringer
51. Animal trainers, often
53. Precise
56. Health center
57. Noshed
60. "With this ring ___ wed"
62. Celebrated violinist
66. Adage
68. Skill, in any field
70. Additional
71. Shower
72. Gaelic
73. Rope fiber
74. Actual being
75. Action

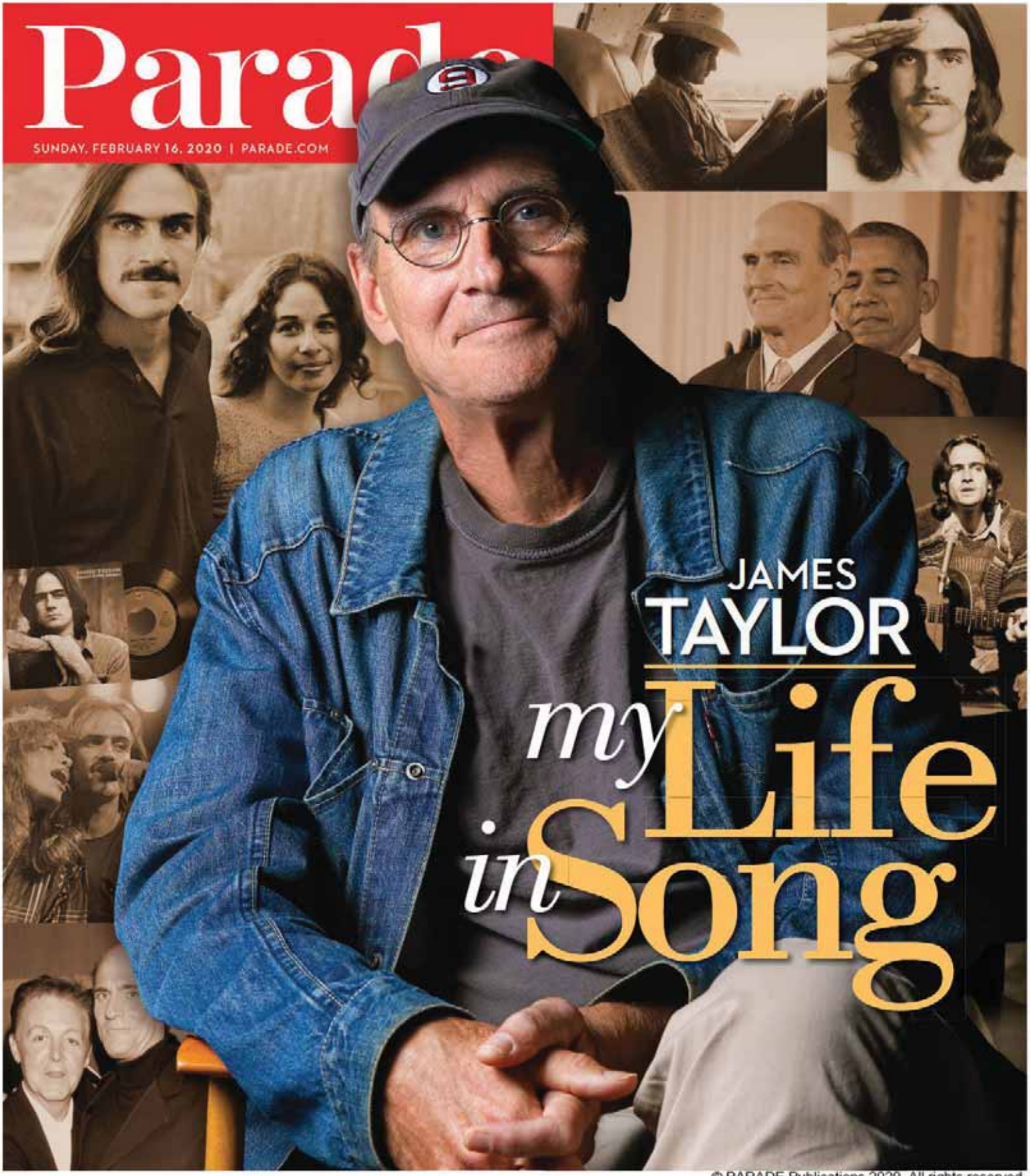
DOWN

1. Ball park
2. Kind of book
3. Fine things
4. ___ grass
5. Lamb
6. Liquid measure
7. Cove
8. Seed coat
9. Involuntary muscle movements
10. Chem. combining form
11. De___
12. German river
13. Scottish land tax
18. Police ploy
22. Remove, as an employee
25. Yale or Rose
27. NJ fort
28. Marco and shirt
29. Adjust in a row
30. Take it easy
31. Medical photo
33. Tennis opener
34. More exact
35. British guns
38. Spanish year
39. Orch. section
42. Nearest
43. Ring decisions, for short
46. Resident
48. Glorified
50. King Cole
52. Mimic
54. Dear, in Dieppe
55. League variety
57. Iowa State's city
58. Memorable sitcom
59. Certain phone nos.
61. Finials
63. Mud
64. African fox
65. Require
67. George's brother
69. Compass dir.

SOLUTION







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WALTER SCOTT'S

Personality

Parade

WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

JANE LEVY



All grown up now, the *Suburgatory* star, 30, has a leading role in the new musical series *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist* (Feb. 16 on NBC). She plays Zoey Clarke, who after a CT scan becomes aware of the innermost thoughts of people around her when they burst into songs that only she can hear.

Who is Zoey? She's a hardworking computer coder with a mathematical, logistical mind dealing with the tragedy of slowly losing her father to a neurological disease. She's trying to control things around her.

How does she adjust to this new power? As with any superpower comes a responsibility, and her empathy is increased. So when she sees that other people are struggling, she can't not help.

Does she want to make any more scary movies, like *Evil Dead* and *Don't Breathe*? Go to ***Parade.com/levy*** to find out.

Are you a big music person? I do love music very much. It's been fun working with a bunch of musical theater actors [Peter Gallagher, Alex Newell], because they're constantly referencing musicals—even big ones like *Hamilton*—and I've not seen any of them. In that way, I'm very much like Zoey. But I'm getting a whole education on musical theater.

Is there a soundtrack to your life? I have songs that I listen to when I'm feeling nostalgic or feeling sad, if I want to get excited about something or if I want to turn my mind off. Music is really powerful.

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS FOR WALTER SCOTT TO
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FROM *DOWNTON ABBEY* TO SPACE INVADERS

H.G. Wells' space-alien science-fiction novel *The War of the Worlds* has been retooled again, this time as an eight-part TV series (Feb. 16 on Epix) starring **Elizabeth McGovern**, 58, and **Gabriel Byrne**, 69. It's set in present-day Europe, where astronomers detect a transmission from another galaxy—just ahead of an alien attack. "I can't tell you what fun that was, just to be in a pair of tight jeans and to roll around in dirt," says McGovern, who enjoyed being free of her restrictive *Downton Abbey* period clothes. "I loved getting my nails dirty."



MARK WAHLBERG
Is Spenser, Private Eye



It's hard to forget the late Robert Urich in *Spenser: For Hire*, playing the detective from the novels of Robert B. Parker. Now, Wahlberg, 48, takes on the role in the Netflix original action-comedy movie *Spenser Confidential* (March 6). Spenser returns to Boston and pairs with an aspiring MMA fighter (Winston Duke, 33) to solve a murder conspiracy. "Their relationship starts off with a fair amount of hostility and then turns into something much more emotional," says director Peter Berg.

YOU CAN CALL HIM AL



Al Pacino, 79, leads a band of Nazi hunters circa 1977 in the new conspiracy-thriller series ***Hunters*** (Feb. 21 on Amazon Prime). Here are some fun facts about the Academy Award–winning native New Yorker, who played Teamster honcho Jimmy Hoffa in director Martin Scorsese's mobster epic *The Irishman*.



He dropped out of high school at 17 and worked odd jobs as a janitor, busboy, theater usher, postal clerk and mail-room employee.

His grandparents came to the U.S. from Corleone, Sicily—as did his *Godfather* character **Michael Corleone**'s father, Vito.





Pacino lost out to **Paul Newman** for the lead role in the ice-hockey comedy ***Slap Shot*** (1977) because he couldn't ice-skate.

During the filming of ***Scarface*** (1983), he sustained burns when he picked up a hot gun by the barrel.





He's never married but has been romantically linked over the years with actresses Jill Clayburgh, Tuesday Weld, Debra Winger, Penelope Ann Miller and Diane Keaton, and he has a twin son and daughter with **Beverly D'Angelo** and a daughter with acting teacher Jan Tarrant.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MASTERTOC BOB D'AMICO/UNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES; TAYLOR HILL/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; CHRISTOPHER SAUER/DREAMSTIME; SILVER LOREN COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; EVERETT; THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES; TCD/PROD.DB/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

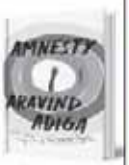
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Books We Love

Armchair Travel

Traverse the world with these new releases. —*Megan O'Neill Melle*

Australia



In this thriller, Danny (an undocumented immigrant who fled Sri Lanka for Australia) is certain he has information on a murder. Does he keep quiet (and safe) or come forward and face deportation? That's the central moral conflict in ***Amnesty*** (Feb. 18, Scribner) by Aravind Adiga. **$26**

London



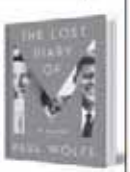
The macabre underworld of Victorian-era London comes to life in ***Things in Jars*** (Atria) by Jess Kidd. You won't forget the cast of fascinating characters, including female sleuth Bridie Devine, who is investigating the kidnapping of a child who just might have supernatural powers. **$27**

Caribbean



Set on a fictional Caribbean island, ***Saint X*** (Feb. 18, Celadon) by Alexis Schaitkin is a gripping page-turner about two sisters—one who goes missing on a family vacation and the other who becomes obsessed with finding out what happened to her. **$27**

Camelot





Travel to Cold War–era Washington in two new JFK-inspired books—***The Lost Diary of M*** (Feb. 25, Harper), **$27**, by Paul Wolfe and ***JFK and Mary Meyer: A Love Story*** (Skyhorse Publishing), **$25**, by Jesse Kornbluth. Both have fictionalized the story and diary of JFK's rumored longtime lover, Mary Pinchot Meyer, who was murdered just 11 months after Kennedy.

Available in bookstores and online



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Parade

Picks

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FIERCE FINDS

Run wild with animal motifs and safari-spotted prints. —*Megan O'Neill Melle*





















1. Bookshelves, Beware

Gilded gators are on the loose! Corral your favorite tales with this set of two **Alligator Bookends. $30, cb2.com**

2. Sofa Style

Luke Edward Hall's **Leopard Ruby Cushion** pairs a vintage-style leopard illustration with bright and contrasting colors. **$225, therugcompany.com**

3. Wild Thing

Exotic birds, flamingos, zebras—they're waiting for your morning cup of joe in the **Multicolor Hand-Painted Safari Mug. $9, worldmarket.com**

4. Roaring Art

Tigers hosting a pool party? Paul Fuentes turns quirky ideas into fascinating photography and art, as seen in the **Tigers at the Pool Art Print**. From **$32, society6.com**

5. King of the Savannah

This **Cheetah Rug** mixes an earthy ochre yellow with whimsical motifs of the world's fastest mammal. From **$68, anthropologie.com**

6. The Skirt of the Year

Join the sisterhood of the animal print skirt with this silky, flattering and calf-length **Moon River Leopard Print Skirt. $64, shopbop.com**

7. Wildlife Wares

Microwave and dishwasher safe, the **Cheetahs Dinnerware Plate** is fit for a wild night with friends. **$26, katiekime.com**

8. Lion's Share

A beverage's best friend, **Animalia Coasters** feature a menagerie of your favorite safari creatures. Set of four, **$78, jonathanadler.com**

9. Seeing Spots

As animal prints are reclassified into wardrobe neutrals, try the **Leopard Print Calf-Hair Belt** to dress up basic colors, including black, beige, olive, poppy and mustard yellow. **$17, target.com**

10. Animal Instinct

Stylishly spotted, the **Cheetah Print Turtleneck Top** makes a sleek statement from day to night. **$50, anntaylor.com**

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Stay Healthy

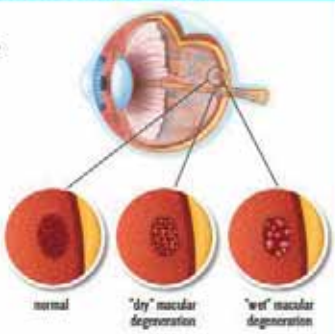
Are You at Risk for These Eye Conditions?

Many Americans fear losing their sight more than they fear cancer, stroke or heart disease. And many don't know the symptoms of major eye conditions and diseases, says Aleksandra Rachitskaya, M.D., vitreoretinal specialist and assistant professor of ophthalmology at Cleveland Clinic's Lerner College of Medicine. A lot of conditions can be prevented with regular exams with an ophthalmologist and knowing your risk factors. The following information will help. —*Sheryl Kraft*

AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (AMD)

WHAT IT IS: The leading cause of vision loss in people 65 and over, AMD occurs when the macula, a part of the retina, becomes damaged. The retina is a layer of nerve cells that line the back wall inside your eye, responsible for sensing light and sending signals to your brain so you can see.

"Many people think AMD causes total blindness, but it does not," says Rachitskaya. People with AMD lose their central vision and are unable to see fine details (even if they're viewing something close-up), but their peripheral (side) vision remains normal.



SYMPTOMS: AMD is usually detected during an eye exam, before symptoms are noticed. Once it has progressed, symptoms may include blurry or fuzzy vision, straight lines that appear wavy and sometimes impaired color vision.

YOU'RE AT RISK IF YOU...

- Smoke cigarettes
- Are over 60
- Are obese
- Consume a diet high in saturated fat (found in foods like cheese, butter and meat) and cholesterol
- Have heart disease or high cholesterol
- Have a family history of AMD
- Are Caucasian
- Are female
- Have high blood pressure



CATARACTS

WHAT THEY ARE: Cataracts occur when the clear lens in our eye becomes cloudy as its normal proteins begin to break down. They can be treated with surgery.

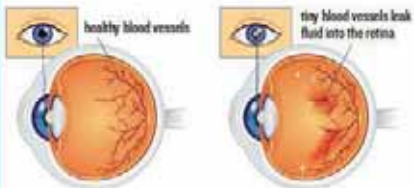
SYMPTOMS: Although the changes begin around 40, symptoms—including blurry vision, double vision, trouble seeing at night and changes in the way you see color—may not appear until 60.

YOU'RE AT RISK IF YOU...

- Suffer an eye injury
- Have diabetes or high blood pressure
- Drink alcohol excessively
- Use steroids long-term
- Are obese
- Have had eye surgery
- Smoke cigarettes
- Get too much sun

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

WHAT IT IS: A complication of diabetes (Type1 or Type 2), when high blood sugar levels damage blood vessels in the retina, causing them to swell and leak blood and other fluids, close off or grow abnormally. The longer someone has diabetes, the greater their risk of developing diabetic retinopathy, which usually affects both eyes.



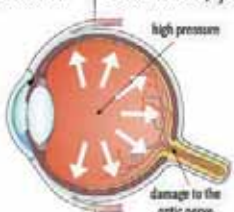
SYMPTOMS: Spots or floaters, blurred vision and vision loss. Sometimes colors will look faded or washed out, or you'll have trouble seeing at night or have blank or dark areas in your field of vision.

YOU'RE AT RISK IF YOU...

- Smoke cigarettes
- Have high blood pressure or high cholesterol
- Have trouble controlling your blood sugar
- Are pregnant and develop gestational diabetes
- Are Hispanic or African American

GLAUCOMA

WHAT IT IS: This condition develops when fluid buildup in the front of the eye damages the optic nerve (the nerve that connects the eye to the brain). Open-angle glaucoma happens slowly over time and is the most common type, affecting about 3 million Americans. The other form, angle-closure glaucoma, strikes when eye pressure rises suddenly and is a true emergency. If left untreated, glaucoma can cause permanent vision loss or total blindness within a few years.



SYMPTOMS: Open-angle glaucoma has no symptoms at first; once it's advanced, you might have blind spots in your peripheral or central vision, usually in both eyes. Angle-closure glaucoma symptoms may include eye pain, severe headache, nausea, vomiting and blurred vision.

YOU'RE AT RISK IF YOU...

- Have a family history of glaucoma
- Are over 60
- Are African American and over 40
- Take medications that increase pressure in your eye (like corticosteroids)
- Have thinner-than-normal corneas
- Suffer a blow or injury to the eye
- Have diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure

ALL ISTOCK

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Ask Marilyn

By Marilyn vos Savant

Certain people have voices that carry far beyond others. What is it about those voices that dominates in a crowd? It's not just volume.

—Bruce Erickson, New York, N.Y.

It's volume and pitch. The resonant frequencies of the human vocal tract are known as "formants." Those loud-talkers have what voice experts call the "speaker's formant," meaning that their voices will be heard well at greater distances. This kind of voice is learned. Some people simply want to get attention when they speak. Others acquire it while training to sing. Readers can learn it too, just by trying, finding a pitch that works and making it a habit. You too can pierce through a crowd!

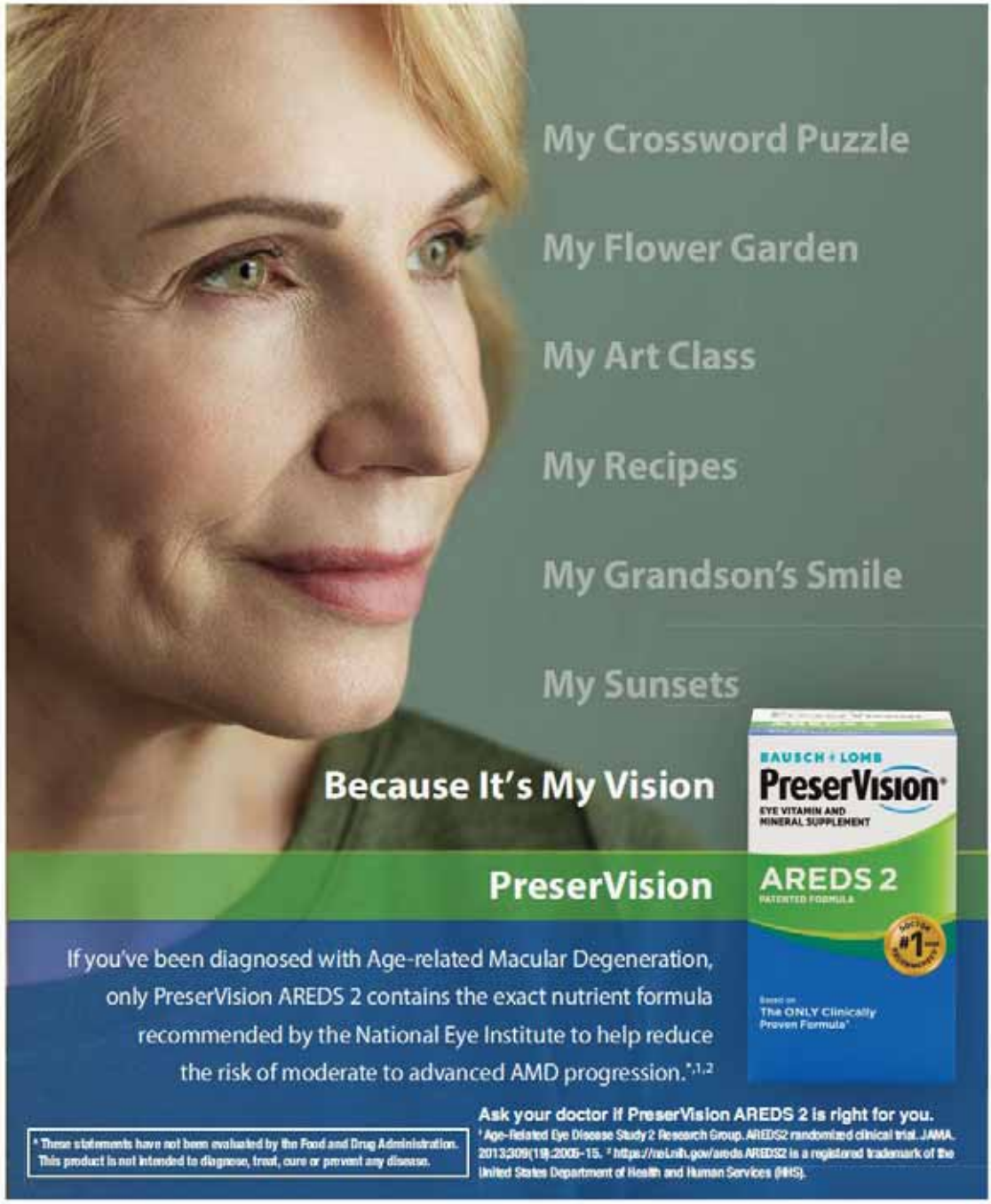
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15								33
7		5		3		25		27

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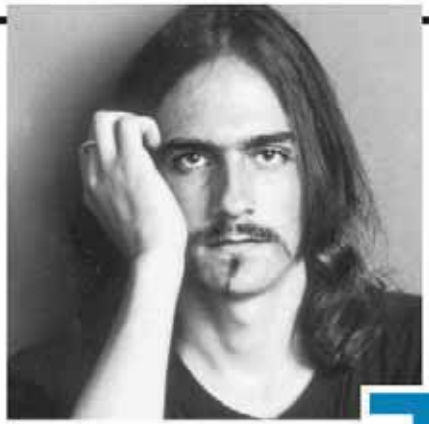
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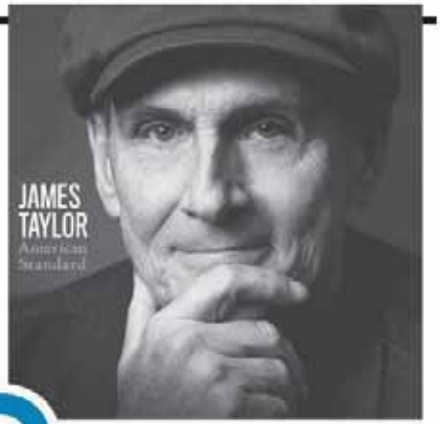
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the Life & Times of JAMES TAYLOR



The iconic musician on love, marriage, a new album and memoir—and a lifetime of ups and downs that shaped them all. BY JIM FARBER

On a chilly afternoon, James Taylor begins building a fire. Standing in the cavernous barn on the compound he owns in western Massachusetts, he slowly feeds pieces of wood into a small antique fireplace, nurturing the flames until they roar. "It's amazing," he says, "how warm these little flames can keep us."

Warm enough, it seems, to heat a space that doubles as the private recording studio where Taylor has cut parts of his past five albums, including his latest, *American Standard*.

As its title suggests, the album salutes the Great American Songbook with Taylor's signature take on songs by writers of the 1920s through the '50s, from Rodgers and Hammerstein to Cole Porter. Its release Feb. 28 will coincide with a major anniversary in Taylor's life: It's been 50 years since the release of *Sweet Baby James*, an album that made him a superstar at 21 and ushered in the singer-songwriter movement of the early '70s, fleshed out by friends and/or lovers of Taylor's, including Joni Mitchell, Carole King and Carly Simon.

When asked if it feels like half a century has passed since songs like "Fire and Rain" from *Sweet Baby James* raced up the charts, he says, "Yes! I feel the full weight of those 50 years of touring, raising children, of my relationship with my wife and with my former wives. I feel it all."

> **"I'm really lucky to have survived it. I would tear out what's left of my hair if I saw my kids doing the same s—t I did."**

At the same time, the past is still very present. Today, he's wearing a denim shirt not unlike the one he sported on the cover of *Sweet Baby James*. And he just released an audio-only memoir, *Break Shot: My First 21 Years*, through Audible, in which he recounts all the drama that defined his life before he achieved fame, including a stay in a mental hospital, dangerous experiments with drugs, his parents' divorce and his father's alcoholism.

He discusses all of this—and his music—in the living room of his restored farmhouse with unbroken views of the Berkshire Mountains.

A CREATIVE SPARK

He and his wife, Kim Smedvig—whom he married in 2001—designed the house to their specifications, in much the same way the singer has "Taylored" the American standards on his latest album to his particular style. Instead of grand, orchestral takes on classics like "Moon River" and "The Nearness of You," he focused on his voice and guitar. "We avoided dressing the songs up too much," he says.

These are the standards that sparked his own creative life, he says in *Break Shot*: "I was emulating these songs when I was first trying to write. 'Carolina in My Mind' is informed by 'Oklahoma.' Paul McCartney said that when he heard my song 'Mean Old Man,' he thought that it was a standard. That's as good a review as I've ever gotten. To me, the standards are the pinnacle of Western popular music."

Standards take Taylor back to his youth, where he spent hours absorbed in music at the house he grew up in in Chapel Hill, N.C. Today, he finds himself longing for that dreamy time, before the interruptions of cell phones and social media. "That kind of space allowed you to construct

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more coherent and larger thoughts," he says. "Distraction is a modern curse."

At the same time, he experienced significant traumas during his youth. While his father had enough fortitude to become the dean of medicine at the University of North Carolina, he also abused alcohol to the point where it killed his marriage and blinded both him and his wife to their son's growing mental issues during his teens. "They didn't have time to notice what was happening with me," Taylor says. The singer's belief that we, as a society, "don't shepherd young people into adulthood" is one reason he decided to focus his memoir on his first 21 years. That's "the time when you're formed as a person," he says. "We don't consider it enough."

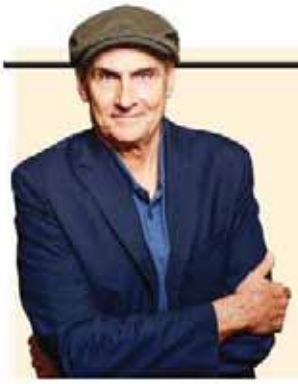
'CRAZY AND DANGEROUS'

In Taylor's case, the turmoil in his teens forced him to leave boarding school and enter a mental institution, where he was treated with antipsychotic drugs. After being released, he began to develop his already promising musical talent, while at the same time escalating what became 20 years of addiction. "It was crazy and dangerous," he says of that period. "I'm really lucky to have survived it. I would tear out what's left of my hair if I saw my kids doing the same s--t I did."

Taylor's reliance on drugs was his way of self-medicating. "I was trying to get normal," he says. "I have been diagnosed and treated for depression my whole life." But he says that his isn't a "debilitating, clinical depression." Instead he labels himself "mildly depressed," a state that remains to this day. At the same time, he has been proudly drug-free for the past 35 years, almost "more than half of my life," he beams. A key part of his recovery has been physical exercise. "It's the one piece of advice I give to people in recovery: You've got to start moving," he says. "It's the only way to get your nervous system back."

As he approaches his 72nd birthday next

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my life in Seven Songs



Song That Made Me Famous

"'**Fire and Rain.**' It seemed like a matter-of-fact song, but it was heavy. When I wrote it, I played just the chorus for Joel O'Brien, who was the drummer in the band we had in New York. He said, 'You've just written your hit. That's the song.'"



Song I Wish I'd Written

"'**You Don't Know Me**' is a great tune, particularly the way **Ray Charles** performed it. Then, there's that great song by another singer-songwriter, who's gone now, Dan Fogelberg, about meeting his old lover in a grocery store, 'Same Old Lang Syne.'"

Song I Like to Sing the Most

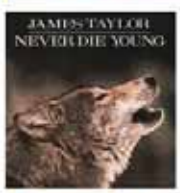
"Because my audience responds well to it, and because it wears well, I like '**Carolina in My Mind.**' I play it almost every time I perform, and I haven't tired of it."





Song I Sing in the Shower

"I don't sing in the shower anymore, but when I was a kid there was this stall shower in my parents' house that had a threshold that was really high and my mom would put all five kids in there. The room was tiled and it was so reverberant that it sounded like a squash court. I'd sing with the echo. '**Oklahoma**' is a great loud song to sing in the shower."



Songs I Wish More People Knew

"'Mean Old Man.' It's got a sophisticated melody and it's well-constructed. Also, '**Never Die Young**' is a song I think is one of my best that only some of my audience knows."

Best Song I've Ever Written

"'**Sweet Baby James**' has a rhyming scheme that's positively Byzantine. For every line, there are three internal rhymes. Every verse is like a Chinese puzzle. It starts as a lullaby for my namesake, [my nephew] baby James, imagining a young cowboy song for him. The second verse is about my own life. It goes from the specific to the general and talks about the spiritual food that music is. The song does a lot."



My Biggest Hit Song

"'**You've Got a Friend.**' In spite of the fact that **Carole King** was recording her own album at the time [*Tapestry*], she let me have that tune. We just ripped off a quick version. I sheepishly brought it to Carole and said, 'Listen, I'm sorry we've cut this tune of yours.' She had written it in response to the line in 'Fire and Rain' where I said, 'I've seen lonely times when I could not find a friend,' and she said, 'Well, you've got a friend.' So it was profound for me. And it went No. 1."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DAN HALLMAN/INVISION/AP PHOTO; REPORTERS ASSOCIES/GAMMA-RAPHO VIA GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT COLLECTION

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from page 9

month, he says he's less fanatical about exercise, but he remains fit, aided by a trainer and a good diet. Though he also keeps active by touring regularly, he finds himself increasingly focused on personal time with his third wife, Kim, and their twin 18-year-old sons, Rufus and Henry. They're a generation younger than Taylor's first children, Ben and Sally, both of whom are also musicians, born to him and his first wife, singer-songwriter Carly Simon, more than 40 years ago. As the father of two families, separated by decades, Taylor says he believes it's better to be an older parent, "without question. There's a point where you're ready," he said. "You're settled down enough; you're not constantly trying to find your place."

LOVE AND MARRIAGE

Taylor thinks it's also better to marry later, especially for men. "Generally, men don't make good partners until they're—at the very youngest—35," he says. "You haven't finished experimenting and hoping for someone different or better."

He believes his addiction ruined his earlier relationships, including his marriage to Simon. "You could fall in love, but if one of the people is addicted, it's not going to work," he says. "The whole person is simply not available."

He has credited his second wife, the actress Kathryn Walker, with helping him get off heroin, but that marriage ended in 1996. Soon after, he met his current wife, who was then head of public relations for the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

continued on page 12

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from page 10

Through all of these changes, Taylor's career has never faltered. A five-time Grammy winner and an inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (in 2000), his well-known radio hits include a long line of decade-spanning pop tunes, including "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)," "Handy Man," "Carolina in My Mind," "You've Got a Friend," "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight," "Mexico," "Shower the People," "Your Smiling Face" and "Everyday." He has earned gold or platinum albums in every one of the past five decades, and his previous release, *Before This World* (2015), gave him the first No. 1 album of his career.



Taylor and his wife, Kim, in 2014

He's increasingly aware of the limitations of time. "I'm essentially playing out my hand, which is as it should be.

"When I was 17, I couldn't believe that people who were 70 years old weren't an entirely different species. But when you get to be 70, you're still the same person. I'm deeply grateful for where I ended up—for my marriage, my family, my job. It's great."

Visit ***Parade.com/taylor*** to watch 10 of the crooner's best duets—with Carly Simon, Carole King and others.

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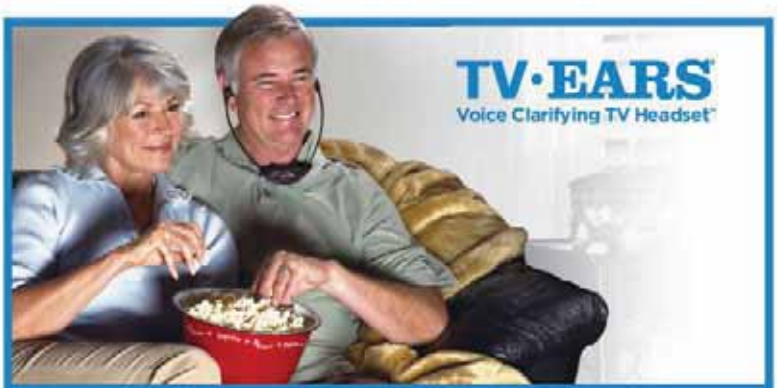
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Customer Rating

$4

~~$5.99~~

SAVE 50%

COMPARE TO FARM & RANCH $8.99

ITEM 63385/62388 62409/62698 30900 shown

34763316

SUPER COUPON

AMMO DRY BOX

Customer Rating

$4

~~$5.99~~

ITEM 63135 61451 shown

SAVE 59%

COMPARE TO RANGEMAXX $9.99

34767157

SUPER COUPON

ALKALINE BATTERIES AA, AAA - 24 PK

Customer Rating

YOUR CHOICE $5

~~$7.99~~

Item 92404 shown

• Also available in C - 6 PK, D - 6 PK, and 9 volt - 4 PK sizes

SAVE 66%

COMPARE TO ENERGIZER $14.94

34769287

SUPER COUPON

MECHANICS GLOVES

Customer Rating

~~$5.99~~

AVAIL. IN SM., MED., LG., XL., XXL

$5

COMPARE TO VALEO $14.99

SAVE 66%

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62433, 64179, 62432, 62429, 62428, 64178 shown

34769402

SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE, 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWNS

$7

~~$12.99~~

SAVE 69%

COMPARE TO KEEPER $22.88

ITEM 90884/63056 63057/63150/56668/63094 shown

Customer Rating

34772585

SUPER COUPON

18" x 12", 1000 LB. CAPACITY MOVER'S DOLLY

Customer Rating

$8

~~$10.99~~

ITEM 61095/63095/63096 60497/63097/63098 shown

SAVE 65%

COMPARE TO BUFFALO TOOLS $22.99

34774692

SUPER COUPON

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

Customer Rating

$10

~~$14.99~~

SAVE 44%

ITEM 69845/60625 shown

COMPARE TO PERFORMAX $17.99

34783370

SUPER COUPON

CLICK-TYPE TORQUE WRENCHES

Customer Rating

~~$19.99~~

SAVE 88%

YOUR CHOICE $10

DRIVE	ITEM
1/4"	69067/61277/63021
3/8"	60749/61276/63020
1/2"	62431/61275/63022

COMPARE TO HUSKY $89.97

34783810

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