



Mueller's gaze lands on Trump Organization

Lawyer says company cooperating amid report of subpoena

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN AND JOSEPH TANFANI
 Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Russia investigation has landed squarely in the sleek black Manhattan skyscraper where President Donald Trump made his mark as a freewheeling real estate developer more than three decades ago.

Special counsel Robert Mueller reportedly issued a subpoena to the Trump Organization in recent weeks seeking an array of documents, including some related to Russia.

It wasn't immediately clear if the subpoena represents a broader inquiry into the president's business dealings before or during his White House bid.

Trump had mounted a failed attempt to build a hotel and condominium complex in Moscow — an effort his lawyer said was abandoned in January 2016, seven months after Trump entered the presidential race — and he staged the 2013 Miss Universe pageant there.

Turn to **Probe**, Page 11



SVEN HOPPE/AP

McMaster exit said to be ahead

President Donald Trump is expected to remove H.R. McMaster from his post as national security adviser and is looking at potential replacements, insiders say. **Nation & World**, Page 9

Study: \$2B shift to rich with Berrios

Assessment flaws hurt homeowners of lesser means

BY JASON GROTTO
 ProPublica Illinois

In the first effort to measure the cost of Cook County's error-ridden assessment system under Assessor Joseph Berrios, a new study estimates that at least \$2.2 billion in property taxes was shifted from undervalued Chicago homes onto overvalued ones between 2011 and 2015.

Because the county's assessment system is skewed in favor of high-priced homes, the errors amount to a staggering transfer of wealth that benefited Chicago's most affluent homeowners at the expense of people who own lower-priced homes.

The study, released Thursday by the Municipal Finance Center at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, was conducted by professor Christopher Berry, a critic of the assessor's office who testified at a County Board hearing in July about flaws in the county's assessment system.

The analysis involved calculating a citywide fair tax rate using the tax bills of homes that sold, then seeing how those tax bills



PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE 2017

Assessor Joseph Berrios' office dismissed the new U. of C. study as political.

differed from the amount that would be expected if the assessor valued property fairly.

Under Berrios, the study found, flawed assessments caused as much as \$1 billion to be shaved off the tax bills of Chicago's most expensive residential properties — those in the top 10 percent of value, or single-family homes and condos worth more than \$1 million on average.

Because the amount of property taxes collected each year is fixed, that means hundreds of thousands of other taxpayers made up the difference, with the lowest-valued homes shouldering a dis-

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COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR RACE

Leading candidates a study in contrasts

Cure for property tax system could hang on outcome

BY HAL DARDICK
 Chicago Tribune

The hottest Cook County contest on Tuesday's ballot is for the typically low-profile office of assessor — a race where the contrasts between the two leading candidates are stark, and the stakes for taxpayers and the political establishment are high.

Joe Berrios, who's seeking a third term, is an old-school Chicago Democrat who was raised in a public housing project and rose through the ranks of patronage politics to become chairman of the county Democratic Party.

Fritz Kaegi is a "nobody that nobody sent," the product of a progressive Hyde Park upbringing who set aside a lucrative investment job to make his first run for public office.

And in a last-minute turn, longtime property tax

consultant Andrea Raila was restored to the ballot Wednesday by an Illinois appeals court, adding to the mix a candidate who has worked both inside and outside the property tax appeals system.

The contest could determine whether and how a broken property tax assessment system that favors the wealthy at the expense of the poor gets fixed. It also could decide whether the progressive movement, or a female candidate in a time of #MeToo zeitgeist, can topple one of the key cogs in the once-vaunted Chicago Democratic machine.

Typically, a guy like Berrios would be a shoo-in to win a low-turnout, off-presidential year primary election. He's backed by powerful party bosses like House Speaker Michael Madigan, Secretary of State Jesse White and county Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough. Even in an era of diminished pa-

Turn to **Assessor**, Page 7



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

LOYOLA'S MARCH MOMENT

Loyola guards Marques Townes, left, and Donte Ingram celebrate after Ingram made the game-winning 3-pointer against Miami with 0.3 seconds left at the American Airlines Center in Dallas. Thursday afternoon's buzzer-beater had the team trending on Twitter and looking ahead to a matchup with Tennessee and a chance to make the Sweet 16. **Chicago Sports**



No. 3 Tennessee vs. No. 11 Loyola
 5:10 p.m.
 Saturday, TNT

Lofty plan for aerial tram encountering some friction

BY BLAIR KAMIN AND RYAN ORI
 Chicago Tribune

With the character of the Chicago Riverwalk and millions of dollars in tourist revenue at stake, a behind-the-scenes battle has broken out over an ambitious plan to construct an aerial tram that would link two of downtown's most popular attractions, Navy Pier and

the Riverwalk.

In recent weeks, the proposal has been quietly shopped to civic organizations by its chief backers, Chicago hotelier Laurence Geller and Lou Raizin, president of Broadway in Chicago. They say it will give Chicago an iconic tourist attraction on a par with the London Eye wheel along the River Thames.

But opponents contend

that the tram ride would be an eyesore and that it would crowd the narrow Riverwalk. It could also compete with four boats run by the Chicago Architecture Foundation and companies like Chicago's First Lady Cruises and Wendella.

"Aerial cable cars would damage the new Chicago Riverwalk and the beautiful

Turn to **Tram**, Page 8



DAVIS BRODY BOND

A proposed aerial tram called "The Chicago Skyline" would connect the Chicago Riverwalk with Navy Pier.

Crews search for bodies in bridge collapse

A 950-ton pedestrian bridge in Miami fell onto a highway, fatally crushing at least 4 people under slabs of concrete and steel. **Nation & World**, Page 9

Feds to probe United policy after dog's death

Business



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BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2017

There are reasons Michael J. Madigan is the longest-serving state House speaker in the U.S.: votes and control.



JOHN KASS One Illinois politician I respect: Boss Madigan

With the political primaries only days away, and the state of Illinois in the balance, do you want to know about the dark heart and ruthless brain that runs its politics?

You'll find evidence of it in a few empty parking spots behind the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture on the Southwest Side of Chicago.

Just drive east on 63rd Street until the northwest corner at Pulaski, and you'll see that gigantic American Indian, some 50 feet tall, arm raised in salute, dominating the intersection.

When I was a little boy, the giant Indian was owned by a cigar store. These days, the Indian is a frontman for an eye clinic now. He wears glasses, and a sign on his chest says: "Eye Can See Now."

Take a left at the Indian, drive a few blocks north and you'll find yourself outside the supermarket my family owned for decades, where I chopped chickens and bagged groceries.

But take a right, drive south, with the Indian at your back, and you'll find the Balzekas Museum. And on the second floor are two small, simple and unadorned offices belonging to the guy who runs Illinois and draws all the ward, legislative and congressional maps that control who wins and who loses in this state.

Boss Madigan. In the parking lot in the back, I spotted a young guy, neatly dressed. I asked if he worked for Mike.

Yes, he said, and asked if he could help.

Where're the tree trimmers? The trucks? They're always in the parking lot. Where are they?

"Not now," said the young guy. "You know what's going on. The trimmers are out there trimmin' trees."

I'm a journalist, I said. The kid's eyes widened, and he stepped back as if I had the Black Plague.

"Now I know who you are," he said, smile gone. "I've got nothing."

A well-trained lad, and I'm sure Boss Madigan was like him years ago, observant, courteous, but cautious.

The story goes that Madigan's 13th

Ward Democratic organization purchased tree-trimming equipment and a few trucks some years ago. Madigan is a planner. He doesn't want his ward politics subject to changing mayoral whims.

And this is election time. Voters want their trees trimmed. It isn't sexy politics, or tribal passion on Twitter. But it does get votes.

That's what Michael J. Madigan, longest-serving state House speaker in America, chairman of the Illinois Democratic Party and committeeman of the 13th Ward Regular Democratic Organization, is all about.

Votes. "He doesn't play at politics," said a longtime friend. "He's about hard work and detail year after year and taking care of his voters. The tree trimmers are the perfect example of what Mike Madigan is all about: detail."

Please don't cry and melt and think I'm going soft on Boss Madigan. And don't get hysterical. After Gov. Bruce Rauner reads this, he's apt to accuse me of being Mike Madigan's secret swarthy son.

I don't like the idea of a boss, and Madigan is all wrong for Illinois and has been for years, and I've written about him that way, for years, as the Khan of Madiganistan, as the Night King, as a dictator.

His press operation is snotty, and Democratic state reps — after bragging about how independent they'll be if elected — all drop to their knees at his approach.

He controls it all. And he makes a private fortune reducing property taxes through his law business while also controlling who becomes Cook County assessor, and this is a steamy pile of conflict of interest.

But he's not the only one. Republican politicians do it too. And 14th Ward Ald. Ed Burke, a Democratic wardlord, and Madigan friend, also makes a fine living in the law reducing property taxes.

Burke slipped up recently, stalling a proposed City Council order that could have raised property taxes for

buildings owned by clients of Burke's law firm. Yet Chicago's Board of Ethics, led by Chairman William Conlon, cleared Burke the other day, saying basically that Burke really didn't know what Burke was doing.

Burke didn't know what he was doing? Conlon, are you mad? That's a laugh the Chicago Way. But Madigan doesn't slip up like that.

Madigan, now 75, will never retire. And Burke, about the same age, who also runs a fine ward organization, won't either. Retirement isn't an option. For them it's either death or federal subpoena.

If they retire, they'll just be two old Irish guys with money. They love the work, the titles and the action.

The other evening at a political panel discussion for the Lincoln Forum — with Tribune colleagues Kristen McQueary and Eric Zorn — I was asked to name the one person in Illinois politics I most respect.

Michael J. Madigan, I told them. Oooh, the crowd laughed as if it were a joke. A few tweeted it out, for the shock value.

But it's no joke. Most politicians worry about their image. Madigan worries about votes and control. He wakes up earlier than they, he works harder, he's smarter, more disciplined and he keeps his mouth shut. Unlike some Republicans you know, he never lies to his friends.

That's why he's held power for so long. I don't love him. But I respect his will and craft.

"He has the best ward organization in the city," said another friend. "He pays attention to what his precinct captains do, what his voters want. Their dog gets out of the pound. Their jury summons is taken care of. It's all detail and hard work."

And he gets the trees trimmed at election time.

Listen to "The Chicago Way" podcast featuring John Kass and Jeff Carlin at <http://wgnradio.com/category/wgn-plus/thechicagoway>.

jkass@chicagotribune.com

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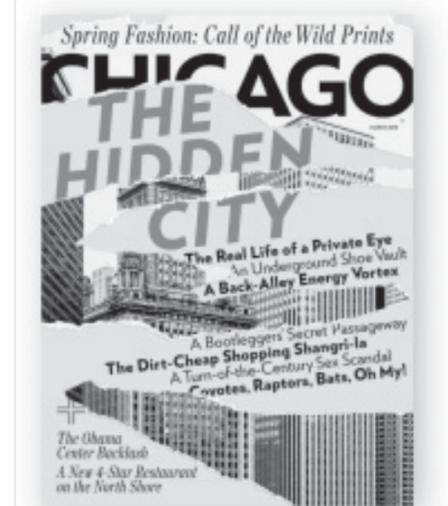
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Chicago Tribune (USPS 104-000) is published daily (7 days) at Tribune Tower, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-4041; Chicago Tribune Company, LLC, Publisher; periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes to the Chicago Tribune, Mail Subscription Division, 777 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60654. Copyright 2018 Chicago Tribune Company, LLC. All rights reserved as to entire content.

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CHICAGO INC.

By Kim Janssen, Tracy Swartz and Phil Thompson



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Brielle Biermann, left, and Michael Kopech at Guaranteed Rate Field before a White Sox game in 2017.

Sox prospect's relationship status varies via Twitter

In drama befitting reality TV, it appears White Sox top pitching prospect **Michael Kopech's** relationship status changes minute by minute.

Citing multiple unnamed sources, *Us Weekly* reported Kopech and "Don't Be Tardy" star **Brielle Biermann** ended their relationship Tuesday after nearly two years of dating because of their conflicting schedules.

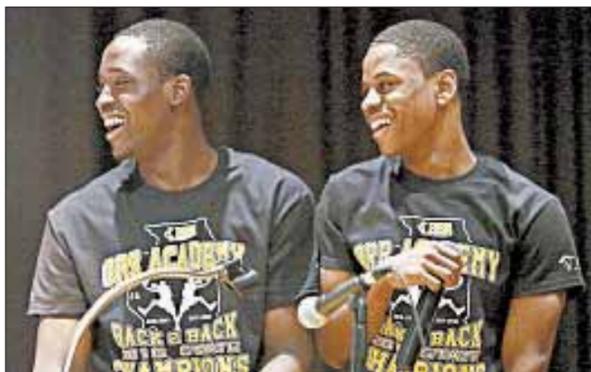
Biermann's mom, "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" star **Kim Zolciak**, denied the report Wednesday on Twitter. Biermann also seemed surprised to hear the news. When an Instagram commenter mentioned the split, Biermann wrote Wednesday: "What? (Where) did u read that?"

But on Thursday morning, Biermann tweeted: "It is true. We have a lot going on right now we decided it would be for the best. What's meant to be will always be." Then she deleted the tweet.

Eleven minutes later she tweeted: "Still together." She deleted that tweet too.

Biermann, 21, lives in Atlanta, where she shoots "Don't Be Tardy," a Bravo network show that follows her family. Kopech, 21, has been in Sox spring training camp in Arizona. Biermann and Kopech began dating long distance in May 2016. The pair attended SoxFest in Chicago in January.

— Tracy Swartz



KRISTEN NORMAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dannie Smith, left, laughs with teammate Chase Adams during Thursday's celebration of Orr Academy's state basketball crown.

Fresh off doc, Orr hoops takes another victory lap

Five-foot-8 guard **Chase Adams** placed an equipment case behind the podium in Orr Academy's auditorium, then stood on top of it next to 6-5 teammate **Dannie Smith**. "Feels good to be Dannie's height for a change," Adams said to laughs from students, faculty and alumni.

All season Adams had a chip on his shoulder roughly the size of that case, and he used it to elevate himself on the court, too, after two years of struggles after his brother, **Drake**, died of a health issue. Smith lost an uncle and two friends to gun violence over the past year but similarly he rose above his grief.

Last week, Orr coasted to a second straight 2A state basketball championship with a 76-49 win over Winnebago. On Thursday, the Spartans celebrated with fellow students at the West Garfield Park school.

"We put the naysayers to sleep because they said we can never do this," coach **Lou Adams** said after the rally.

During the ceremony, the audience was shown clips from "Shots in the Dark," the Fox Sports documentary that followed prior Orr teams and the gritty realities players faced on

the West Side (it will be screened at the school March 23).

Some of the central figures in that film lost friends to gun violence or were victims themselves, and it's something Smith can relate to today.

"Just last year when we came home from winning state I lost my uncle. During the season I lost my two twin friends to gun violence," Smith said.

Adams went through his own demons after his brother died. His play at Marian Catholic suffered and recruiters stopped calling. But things picked up after he transferred to Orr for his senior season. "Being here at Orr, there are people here that have lost close people, like Dannie lost his best friend, Ed. Me and Dannie got really, really, really close throughout the season. Lou definitely helped me through it a lot," Adams said.

Now Adams has caught the eyes of schools such as Illinois-Chicago; Smith leans toward Kent State. Asked about the schools that lost interest, Adams said — with a smile — "(they) are definitely going to feel it when I go to college."

— Phil Thompson

Comey to speak at Humanities Fest

Former FBI Director **James Comey** will speak in Chicago in April at a Chicago Humanities Festival event to promote his forthcoming book, the festival announced Thursday afternoon.



COMNEY

Comey's memoir "A Higher Loyalty" is hotly anticipated because the career law enforcement official was fired by President **Donald Trump** last year, a move widely believed to be linked to the investigation into the Trump

administration led by special counsel **Robert Mueller**.

The talk will take place at 7 p.m. April 20 in the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park.

Tickets for "CHF Presents James Comey: Higher Loyalty" go on sale to festival members March 22 and to the general public March 28; 312-605-8444 and www.chicagohumanities.org.

— Steve Johnson



MYUNG J. CHUN/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Melody Hobson, Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg and George Lucas in LA.

Lucas Museum breaks ground in LA

A photo-op that Chicago Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** would have loved to claim for himself instead went to Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** this week.

Billionaire filmmaker **George Lucas** and his multimillionaire businesswoman wife, **Melody Hobson**, broke ground on their Lucas Museum of Narrative Art in front of the media and celebrities including **Steven Spielberg**.

"I think it's important to have a museum that, as I was joking and saying, supports all the orphan arts that nobody else wants to see, but that everybody loves," Lucas told the crowd in

sunny Los Angeles before grabbing a silver shovel and throwing some dirt for the cameras.

Whether you feel, as Emanuel does, that Lucas' decision to build in LA over his first choice, Chicago, was a missed opportunity for Chicago or, as the Friends of the Parks organization does, that Lucas was attempting to run roughshod over local concerns and the law by building on the lakefront, Wednesday's ceremony was an opportunity to wonder what might have been.

— Kim Janssen

Contact Chicago Inc.: Kim Janssen (kjanssen@chicagotribune.com, Twitter @kimjnews); Tracy Swartz (tswartz@chicagotribune.com, Twitter @tracyswartz); Phil Thompson (plthompson@chicagotribune.com, Twitter @_phil_thompson)

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Chicago Tribune CHICAGOLAND



MARY SCHMICH

TrumPoem: Stormy time aboard this ship of state

It's stormy days and stormy nights
Here on the ship of state
I'm rocked and tossed as e'er I try
To make this country great.

Stormy! Stormy Daniels!
She's the blonde with big, um, hair
She says I cheated on my wife
She talks of an affair.

She claims there was a cover-up
She blabs of "nondisclosure"
I'll tell you what she really wants —
More money and exposure.

I'll fight that storm with all my force
My legal team is super
Just watch 'em squash her interview
With Anderson Hays Cooper.

But Stormy's not the only storm!
I'm lashed by wicked wind!
Thank God I've got my constant mate —
My iPhone, my best friend.

She's always there, she listens
She obeys me and she's sweet
It's thanks to her that I could fire
Rex Tillerson by tweet.

Yo, Rex, you called me moron
Now I've made you walk the plank!
Your dinghy on my ship of state
Was tiny and it sank.

Aye, stormy days and stormy nights
The gossip loud as thunder
Those lies that I love Putin?
That I use my clout to plunder?

THERE'S NO COLLUSION, ZERO
PROOF!
DON'T HEED THOSE LIB'RL
SAPS!
(YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN
TRUST ME
WHEN I TWEET IT ALL IN
CAPS.)

This ship of state gets lonely, sigh
My only Hope's resigning
My wife prefers her separate life
The press is always whining.

The waves keep crashing on my
prow
More men dive off the deck
Now Gary Cohn's jumped overboard
My Cabinet is a wreck.

So many have abandoned ship
But still I stay afloat
Despite the evil Fake News folks
Who try to sink my boat.

Yes, Cap'n Trump's courageous!
I've got grit and I've got guts
And I am here to tell you
How to save us all from nuts:

We need to arm our teachers
And we also need to pray
The thing we must not ever do
Is block the NRA.

And out along the borders
Where the world is full of strangers
Big Cap'n Trump will shield us
From the evil, foreign dangers

I put a tariff on our steel
On solar panels too!
I fought off those free-traders
Who were crying boo hoo hoo.

I lied for fun! Because I could!
To cute Monsieur Trudeau.
I said we had a deficit
He said, "That isn't so!"

It doesn't really matter
If I'm wrong or if I'm right
What matters is survival
Who's the last man in the fight.

Aye, Cap'n Trump is sailing
Where you've never gone before
And sometimes it may feel a bit
Like sailing into war.

And so I guide my shaky ship
Into uncharted seas
I'm gonna meet with Rocket Man!
I want some credit, please!

I said I'd never meet that dude
But I was the worst!
But I will do most anything
If I can do it first.

These storms may last forever
But I say, "Full speed ahead!"
I'm going where I want to go
Despite my people's dread.

mschmich@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @MarySchmich

\$8.5B O'Hare plan advances after late deal with American

BY JOHN BYRNE
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan to spend \$8.5 billion upgrading O'Hare International Airport sailed through its first City Council test Thursday, soon after American Airlines agreed to a late-night deal to drop its opposition.

The council Aviation Committee adopted an ordinance allowing for new lease and use agreements for the gates at O'Hare to pay for the eight-year project, though some details remained elusive hours after sources said City Hall agreed to speed up construction of three new gates American would use in the future. The vote was unanimous despite concern from African-American and Latino aldermen about minority hiring on the project, suggesting the full project is on track for eventual approval.

The kumbaya moment at City Hall came after American spent weeks behind the scenes protesting the agreement. The airline said the city had secretly agreed to provide five more gates to its rival, United Airlines. American sought its own gate deal.

Emanuel publicly framed American's opposition in recent weeks as a normal negotiating tactic. On Thursday morning, he appeared on WGN-AM 720 and said the airline decided to get on

board as the Aviation Committee vote loomed and American understood it wasn't going to be able to stop the O'Hare deal from advancing.

"I think the basic way to look at this, there's a vote today in committee, everybody realized what was going to happen, the writing was there," Emanuel said on "The Steve Cochran Show." "And my view is, I've always had this when I represented President (Barack) Obama, President (Bill) Clinton, my whole thing in contracts with organized labor, my door is always open if you're going to try to figure out how to get to a 'Yes.'"

"If your position is 'No way,' that's not really cooperative. And when people realized that we were going to win today, I think there was a lot of focus and things that were not possible, all of a sudden people realized 'OK,' and I'm happy American's part of the winning team and that means they're going to be part of the O'Hare and Chicago winning team."

Reflecting the last-minute nature of the agreement, city Chief Financial Officer Carole Brown told aldermen Thursday that the specifics of the expedited gate construction are still being worked out. She said the city had originally planned to build the three gates starting in late 2021, when a communications facility in that part of the airport had been moved. Instead, the city

will work with American to try to figure out a way to do so sooner.

"We can't tell you, and we aren't clear what that will look like or what that plan is, because we did just agree to this late last night," Brown said. "And so, what we will be doing in the coming weeks is working with, actually, all the airline carriers to kind of see what that plan looks like, and working specifically with American to see if we can figure out a way to build those gates while AT&T is working to relocate that facility."

The lease ordinance still must get backing from the full City Council, and a separate bond deal of up to \$4 billion also is awaiting aldermanic approval. But Thursday's vote is a clear indication the huge project — which Emanuel wants to point to as a massive job creator and infrastructure improvement when he runs for re-election in 2019 — is on its way.

The full cost is to be covered by airline ticket fees, with no taxpayer money slated to be used, according to Emanuel.

There will be ongoing pressure from African-American and Latino aldermen to try to make sure minority businesses and residents get big enough shares of the 60,000 jobs city officials claim will be created through the overhaul. But the council black and Latino caucuses have not tried to band together to use

their votes to hold up the deal until they get more ironclad assurances.

Far South Side Ald. Carrie Austin, 34th, called for city aviation officials to give frequent updates on which companies are getting contracts at the airport project and how many minorities they have hired.

And South Side Ald. David Moore, 17th, said that given the size of the deal, the city should look to codify minority participation numbers within the ordinance or specific contracts, rather than simply including minority and women-owned business goals, which contractors often don't meet.

Brown said the city could potentially codify the reporting to aldermen of minority participation in specific airport construction contracts but said federal aviation contracting rules likely constrain what the city can do in terms of guaranteeing minority job numbers.

Latino Caucus Chairman Ald. Gilbert Villegas, 36th, said he and Black Caucus Chairman Ald. Roderick Sawyer, 6th, would craft an ordinance to create a City Council commission charged with monitoring the minority participation in the O'Hare project and directing contractors to reach out to groups that could benefit from the opportunity to apply for jobs.

jebyrne@chicagotribune.com



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Esperanza Perez is comforted after hearing that her son Miguel Perez, a veteran facing deportation, was denied U.S. citizenship on Thursday.

U.S. denies veteran's bid for citizenship

Government cites
green card holder's
felony drug conviction

BY MANYA BRACHEAR
PASHMAN
Chicago Tribune

In a significant setback, an Afghan War veteran and green card holder who later served time in prison on a felony drug conviction has been denied citizenship, immigration officials said Thursday.

Miguel Perez Jr., 39, had petitioned immigration officials to be granted retroactive citizenship dating to when he joined the military in 2001. He interviewed with two immigration officials Thursday morning.

But despite the hopes of Perez and his backers, including U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, his bid was denied.

"To be eligible for naturalization, you must demonstrate that you are a person of good moral character," the letter from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said. "Because you have been convicted of an aggravated felony on or after Nov. 29, 1990, you are unable to demonstrate good moral character; therefore you are permanently ineligible for naturalization."

Chris Bergin, the attorney for Perez, was called back to the immigration offices hours after the interview and handed the decision in a sealed envelope.

"It said they were denying

him citizenship based on a lack of good moral character — once again the drug conviction," said Bergin, adding that he would appeal the ruling. "So I went and talked to Miguel and gave him the bad news. He was disappointed, obviously. But he said, 'I'm not giving up. We're going to keep fighting.'"

The ruling is not the end of Perez's battle to remain in the U.S., though it represents a significant defeat. Last month, Duckworth, an Illinois Democrat, used a little-known legislative maneuver by introducing a private immigration relief bill for Perez, who served two tours in Afghanistan but has no access to veteran benefits and has been ordered to return to his native Mexico. Private bills, which are intended to help specific individuals, have been introduced by dozens of members of Congress this past year. Their success rate is generally low.

"Mr. Perez has been detained for months, separated from his family and left without access to the care he needs, deserves and has earned," Duckworth said Thursday. "If the military and our government hadn't failed Mr. Perez multiple times, he'd never have been in this predicament to begin with. He earned the opportunity to remain in this country when he vowed to defend it in our military, but today's decision is yet another

example of our nation failing him once more."

U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., also condemned the decision to deny Perez citizenship, calling it "un-American."

"Miguel Perez Jr. bravely served our country in America's longest war and today he was denied the privilege of citizenship after selflessly fighting for our shared American values. This is immoral," Rush said in a statement.

Perez enlisted in the military before 9/11 and served until 2004, Duckworth said this week in a letter to the top official for the Chicago district of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Perez was deployed to Afghanistan and served with the 2nd Battalion 3rd Special Forces Group, where he participated in numerous classified missions, Duckworth said.

After his military service, Perez sought treatment at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Maywood, where doctors diagnosed him with post-traumatic stress disorder. He was to return for more tests to determine if he also had a traumatic brain injury.

In the meantime, he reconnected with a childhood friend who provided free drugs and alcohol. On Nov. 26, 2008, while with that friend, Perez handed a laptop case containing cocaine to an undercover officer. Perez pleaded guilty to the drug charge

and served half of a 15-year prison sentence.

While Perez was convicted of delivering less than 100 grams of cocaine, prosecutors have said he was arrested for delivering much more and received a reduced sentence after a plea deal.

Prosecutors also pointed out that Perez was given a general discharge from the military after a drug infraction.

Perez said he discovered the citizenship oversight when he was summoned to immigration court before his September 2016 release from Hill Correctional Center in Galesburg, Ill.

Instead of heading home to Chicago from prison, Perez was placed in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and transferred to a Wisconsin detention center for immigrants awaiting deportation.

While in ICE custody, Perez this year went on a hunger strike that has since ended. He was transferred to a detention center in Kankakee after the center in Kenosha placed him in solitary confinement.

In an interview from the center in Kankakee, Perez said he would defend the U.S. again in a heartbeat. "I went through the system because I knew the system was going to come back and look out for me. It's the people who get into difficult positions. That's not the Constitution or the country's fault."

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5 men won't get innocence certificate

Serving probation, not prison time, made them ineligible

BY MEGAN CREPEAU
Chicago Tribune

Five men whose drug convictions were thrown out because of the involvement of corrupt former Chicago police Sgt. Ronald Watts were denied certificates of innocence Thursday because they had been given sentences of probation, not prison.

Cook County Judge LeRoy K. Martin Jr. said he had no choice, citing a state law that requires an exoneratee be sentenced to "a term of imprisonment" to qualify for a certificate of innocence.

"Maybe the Appellate Court will reverse me, and it would probably be the first time that I'd be OK being reversed by the Appellate Court," Martin, presiding judge of the Criminal Division, said at a hearing in the Leighton Criminal Court Building.

The five denied certificates were among 15 whose Watts-related drug convictions were tossed out by Martin in November during what is believed to be the county's first mass exoneration.

Nine of the men who had each served time in prison had already been granted the certificates last month.

The final individual, Shaun James, who was initially sentenced to probation but ended up serving time in prison for violating that probation, was granted a certificate Thursday by Martin.

Another man, Leonard Gipson, who had three separate convictions tossed out during the mass exoneration in November, had been granted a certificate last month for the lone conviction for which he served time in prison. On Thursday, Martin granted Gipson certificates for the two other Watts-related convictions after determining his boot camp sentences qualified him for the certificates.

A certificate of innocence further clears exoneratees' names and allows them to recoup tens of thousands of dollars from the state for their wrongful imprisonment.

Attorney Joshua Tepfer, who has represented all 15 men, has argued that the state statute's definition of "imprisonment" should be broadly interpreted to include probation, county jail and boot camp as well as prison.

Martin said Thursday he took that stance into consideration but ultimately had no choice but to exclude the men who served probation instead of time in custody.

"I believe that the correct interpretation of the statute is that you do have to serve a period of imprisonment to qualify for a certificate of innocence," he said. "I read it as liberally as I possibly can."

Tepfer said he intends to appeal Martin's denials, though Clarissa Glenn, whose Watts-related drug conviction was tossed out in 2016, has an appeal pending after Martin denied her a certificate of innocence because of her probation sentence.

The Chicago Tribune has written several front-page stories detailing the scandal over Watts' nearly decadelong run of corruption at a South Side public housing development. Watts has repeatedly been accused of forcing residents and drug dealers alike to pay a "protection" tax and putting bogus cases on those who refused to do so.

Watts and an officer under his command were sent to federal prison in 2013 for stealing money from a drug courier who had been working as an FBI informant.

After the mass exoneration of the 15 men in November, Chicago police officials said that one sergeant and six officers who worked with Watts were removed from street duties and placed on paid desk duty while their conduct years ago was investigated.

Nearly two dozen people have had their Watts-related convictions thrown out in recent years. Reviews of potentially hundreds more are underway by the state's attorney's office's Conviction Integrity Unit.

mcrepeau@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @crepeau



NANCY STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ald. Edward Burke's law firm represents clients seeking to reduce their property taxes on appeal.

Ethics board: Burke didn't violate city conflict rules

Alderman found not to have known move could affect firm's tax clients

BY HAL DARDICK
Chicago Tribune

Ald. Edward Burke has been cleared by an ethics panel that looked into whether he violated city conflict-of-interest rules when he sidelined an effort to increase the property taxes paid by the owners of two buildings his law firm represents.

Board of Ethics Chairman William Conlon issued a statement Wednesday that said the alderman "submitted compelling evidence" that he did not know the proposed City Council "order" he stalled could have affected firms represented by his law firm, Klaffer & Burke, in property tax appeals cases.

"He had never received a copy of the order and never prior to the meeting informed of the order or what the order contained," Conlon said. The ethics board also posted its opinion online.

Although Conlon did not name Burke specifically, in keeping with ethics board rules, the facts he recited were identical to those in a complaint about Burke referred to the board.

Burke, who is now aware that the order could affect his firm's clients, has pledged to withdraw

his motion to refer the order to the Finance Committee that he controls as chairman, Conlon added.

The order, which sought to have the council require Mayor Rahm Emanuel's administration to take steps to increase the property tax assessment on seven commercial properties, was introduced at a January meeting by Ald. Ricardo Munoz, 22nd. Munoz passed around copies of his proposal at the meeting but did not specifically give one to Burke, he said.

As the Tribune first reported, Munoz asked to send the order to the Housing Committee, whose chairman had agreed to give it a hearing, but Burke called for it to instead go to Finance. When there are conflicting calls for committee assignment, matters are sent to the Rules Committee, where they often wither on the vine.

The seven properties cited in the order were sold for more than twice as much as Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios valued them, Munoz contends.

Two of the properties are owned by companies that Burke's law firm has saved millions of dollars in property taxes by appealing to lower the assessments that are used to determine tax bills. The lower the assessment, the less paid in taxes.

If Munoz's proposal passed, and the city succeeded in in-

creasing assessments, the owners of the seven buildings, including the two represented by Klaffer & Burke, would pay more in property taxes.

City code states that "no official or employee shall make or participate in the making of any governmental decision with respect to any matter in which he has any financial interest," earned money from during the past year or expects to earn money from in the coming year.

Munoz's proposal was spurred by "The Tax Divide" an investigation published by the Chicago Tribune and ProPublica Illinois that found that many large commercial properties are undervalued, punishing small businesses and shifting more of the tax burden onto homeowners.

In a coda to his statement, Conlon said "the board finds it surprising and inefficient that the City Council does not have a rule requiring that written orders, resolutions and the like be circulated to all members of the council in advance of their introduction and consideration."

"To allow documents obviously prepared in advance not to be circulated to alderpersons and the administration undercuts the integrity of the process and diminishes public confidence in the operation of city government."

hdardick@chicagotribune.com

Slain Cmdr. Bauer was shot 6 times, including in head, autopsy shows

BY JEREMY GORNER
Chicago Tribune

Slain Chicago police Cmdr. Paul Bauer was shot six times, including twice in the head, according to autopsy records released Thursday by the Cook County medical examiner's office.

The first paramedic to Bauer's side shortly after he was shot last month outside the Thompson Center in the Loop found no pulse, the records show.

Shomari Legghette, a four-time felon, was arrested at the scene and indicted on 56 felony counts of first-degree murder, armed violence, and weapons and drug offenses. Prosecutors intend to seek a life sentence for Legghette, 44, if he is convicted in Bauer's killing. He has pleaded not guilty.

Bauer, 53, a 31-year department veteran who led the Near North patrol district, was shot twice in the head, twice on the right side of his chest, once on the left side of his neck and once in his right forearm, the autopsy report showed.

He suffered scrapes to the right side of his forehead, right knee and left leg, as well as contusions to his right wrist and right knee, according to the report.

One of two cellphones in

Bauer's possession was damaged by the gunfire, according to the records.

Dr. Timothy Fagen, the assistant medical examiner who performed the autopsy, determined that Bauer died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Authorities have said tactical police officers approached Legghette at State Street and Lower Wacker Drive about 1:45 p.m. Feb. 13 to ask him about a shooting that happened in the area several days earlier, but he took off running.

Bauer, downtown for a meeting with aldermen after attending training for mass shootings earlier in the day, heard the radio call of a fleeing suspect. Moments later, he saw Legghette running nearby and gave chase on foot, authorities said.

Bauer chased down Legghette at the top of a stairwell outside the Thompson Center and tried to detain him, authorities said, but the two struggled. Legghette stumbled down the stairs, and Bauer either fell or followed him down the stairs to a landing.

The struggle continued there before Legghette drew a handgun and fired seven shots, fatally wounding Bauer, authorities said.

At 1:54 p.m., a "10-1" emergency call of an officer in need of assistance went out over the

police radio, according to an investigative report enclosed in the autopsy records.

A Fire Department paramedic from Ambulance 42 heard "officer down, send an ambulance" over the police radio, according to a Fire Department report also made public Thursday.

When the paramedic arrived, Bauer was lying prone on the below-street stairwell landing, the report said. His weapon was still holstered, and his police radio and handcuffs were found next to his body.

Paramedics spotted at least one bullet wound to the back of Bauer's head, according to the Fire Department report. A paramedic then turned Bauer over and cut open his jacket and shirt to look for any other wounds, the report said. He was given CPR.

Several police officers helped move Bauer onto a stretcher and up the stairwell, the report said. Bauer was then rushed to the ambulance. He was pronounced dead at Northwestern Memorial Hospital at 2:12 p.m.

Officers found a loaded 9 mm handgun with an extended clip in Legghette's coat pocket, as well as heroin, marijuana and cocaine, authorities said.

jgorner@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @JeremyGorner

Jury clears officer of excessive force

Mother of fatally shot teen: 'My son did not get justice in this life'

BY NICK SWEDBERG
News-Sun

A jury sided with a Zion police officer Thursday, rejecting claims he used excessive force and doctored the scene in the shooting death of a teenager nearly three years ago.

Jurors also found that the city of Zion, also named in the civil lawsuit brought by the family of 17-year-old Justus Howell, was not liable for damages in the shooting.

Officer Eric Hill shot the teen twice in the back during a brief foot chase in April 2015 in the 2300 block of Gilead Avenue in Zion.

Jurors deliberated over three days after attorneys rested their cases Tuesday afternoon.

"My son did not get justice in this life," said the teen's mother, LaToya Howell, 36, after the verdict.

Hill testified in a Chicago federal courtroom that the teenager turned during the pursuit and pointed a gun at him. His attorneys argued that Hill felt he was in imminent danger.

"We're happy that Officer Hill has been exonerated," defense attorney Thomas DiCianni said.

Forensic evidence and testimony about surveillance video presented at trial by attorneys for the plaintiff indicated the teen was nearly doubled over when he was shot. Attorneys for Howell's family argued this was inconsistent with Hill's original story after the shooting.

They also accused the officer of "doctoring" the scene of the shooting and orchestrating a cover-up to hide his mistake.

The chase was sparked by a call to police reporting a fight between two men and gunshots, authorities have said.

Howell tried to steal a semi-automatic handgun from a man whom he arranged to meet and buy the weapon from for \$600, authorities said.

Video shows the two men fighting, and the gun discharged during the scuffle. Hill responded to the call along with a college intern who was riding with him that day.

In closing statements Tuesday, attorneys used surveillance video of the shooting to craft different stories of what happened. Jurors had access to both the original video and an enhanced version during deliberations.

Notes sent from the jury to U.S. District Judge Thomas Durkin during deliberations indicated jurors had been at an impasse over one of the charges in the lawsuit, although the notes did not indicate which charge had stalled jurors, before Thursday's ruling.

Clyde McLemore, founder of Lake County Black Lives Matter, attended some of the proceedings prior to Thursday and said he was "really devastated" to learn of the jury's decision.

"This is a fine example of what is wrong with the justice system in America," he said, adding that he viewed video during the trial that was shown frame by frame and, "It showed he didn't have a gun in his hand."

McLemore added that he felt some of the jurors didn't seem like they were buying the police officer's testimony.

"He was so nervous he spilled an entire cup of water on the stand," he said, adding that he could have understood a hung jury after two days of deliberations but not a dismissal of the lawsuit.

"If one police officer gets away with it, then there will be more and more," he said.

According to McLemore, the trial was hard on the family, with Howell's mother having to leave the room when the video of the shooting was shown.

On Thursday, the plaintiffs' attorney, Andrew M. Stroth, said the Howell family was "devastated by the decision."

Nick Swedberg is a freelance reporter for the News-Sun. News-Sun reporter Frank Abderholden contributed.



HOWELL FAMILY

Justus Howell

Study: Rich got \$2B tax windfall

Taxes, from Page 1

proportionate amount of the tax shift.

"Everyone — even the assessor — now agrees that the system is regressive," Berry said. "But I wanted to know how much money is at stake. The answer is easily in the billions. These dollars are being taken from some of our citizens who can least afford it and used to pay the taxes of the wealthy. It's unconscionable."

The assessor's office dismissed the U. of C. study as a political ploy aimed at influencing the March 20 primary election. Officials also accused Berry of having an ax to grind because the office did not adopt a new residential valuation model he helped design in 2010 with a grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

"Clearly, Professor Berry is upset that his model was exposed to have flaws and deficiencies," the assessor's office said in a statement. "We are saddened by Professor Berry's lack of professionalism in releasing this report four days before the election and not giving us the opportunity to review it."

Berrios, who doubles as chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party, is fighting for reelection against two opponents: Fritz Kaegi, a money manager from Oak Park, and Andrea Raila, a property tax consultant who was put back on the ballot Wednesday after being disqualified weeks earlier.

The U. of C. study comes a month after the Civic Consulting Alliance, a nonprofit organization that provides pro bono technical expertise to local government, confirmed the county's residential property tax assessments are riddled with errors that cause "a wealth transfer from owners of lower-value homes to those of higher-value homes." That study did not put a dollar figure on the wealth transfer.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle commissioned the CCA study in July following publication of the Chicago Tribune's series "The Tax Divide," which found deep inequities in

the county's residential assessment system.

Berrios' office, which denied for months that a problem existed, now is vowing to fix the issues with residential assessments before reassessing Chicago's roughly 730,000 homes this year.

The Tribune's investigation, which continued in partnership with ProPublica Illinois, also revealed severely regressive and inaccurate assessments of commercial and industrial properties, but Preckwinkle has said the county currently has no plans to study or address that problem.

"We're focused on residential — one thing at a time," she said at a news conference last month.

"The Tax Divide" series found that residential assessments produced under Berrios were highly regressive, meaning the assessor's office tended to undervalue higher-priced homes and overvalue less expensive properties.

Most assessors conduct statistical analyses to ensure that tendency falls within acceptable limits, but Berrios' office said it did not follow that practice.

To estimate the cost of the problem on Chicago taxpayers, Berry compiled data on single-family homes and condos that sold in arm's-length transactions — sales that involve unrelated, nondistressed parties.

About 2.5 percent of all homes in Chicago were sold in such transactions during the study period, and the analysis assumes they are representative of other, similar residential properties in the same neighborhood.

Berry then calculated a "fair" tax rate by adding up the total property taxes billed on the sold homes and dividing that number by the total sales price of the same homes. Applying this rate to all of the sold homes produced an estimated "fair" tax bill for each one.

To calculate the tax shift, Berry summed the differences between the estimated fair bills and the actual bills that owners of undervalued homes received. That shift was then extrapolated out to cover the entire city, using four different statistical methods. For example,



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The University of Chicago's Christopher Berry called the tax shift to poorer homeowners "unconscionable."

one method involved calculating the tax shift for each neighborhood before arriving at a citywide number.

Each method produced a similar answer: a total tax shift in excess of \$2.2 billion over the study period.

"I start with homes that sold, since we have good information about their market value and their taxes," Berry said. "Then I make some pretty standard assumptions to extrapolate the number to the whole city in a representative way."

Experts said the approach he used is fair and reasonable.

"Berry is definitely on solid ground," said Richard Almy, a former executive director of the International Association of Assessing Officers, an organization that set standards used by assessment officials around the world. "These types of analyses are usually done to evaluate proposed changes to assessment systems."

Experts also said the U. of C. analysis may understate the amount of the property tax burden shouldered by low- and middle-income homeowners because the analysis does not take into account inaccuracies in commercial and industrial property assessments.

The total tax shift from flawed assessments also would be far larger if the entire county were

included in the analysis. The study focuses on Chicago because it is the largest taxing district. Other districts have different tax rates.

Berry, the academic director of the Center for Municipal Finance and faculty director of the U. of C.'s Master of Science Program in Computational Analysis and Public Policy, appeared in "The Tax Divide" series because of his involvement with a grant-funded effort to develop a computer model that would reduce regressivity in the county's residential assessments.

Berry also co-taught a graduate-level class with a Tribune reporter in 2016 that examined the county's robust appeals process, finding that it added to the system's problems with regressivity.

The project to improve residential valuations dated to the era of former Assessor James Houlihan and was inherited by Berrios when he took office in late 2010.

Berry said technical limitations prevented officials from using the most accurate models the team created. But eventually the assessor's office settled on a compromise that balanced improvements to the system with the office's capabilities.

In July 2015, Berrios' office issued a news release saying it had implemented "a new state-of-the-art residential assessment mod-

eling technique that assesses the value of homes in different price ranges to improve accuracy." Berry was quoted in the release.

But the Tribune eventually determined the assessor's office never fully implemented the new model, which Berry said came as a surprise.

When questioned by Tribune reporters, officials offered a series of changing responses but ultimately said that the model was flawed and that Berry and others involved had a vested interest in the county using it.

Robert Weissbourd, president of the economic development consulting firm RW Ventures, led the team that retained Berry's services and said both assertions are false. The assessor's criticism distracts from the office's ongoing failure to fix the assessment system, he added.

"Our models are beside the point," Weissbourd said. "It is clear that the systematic overassessment can and must urgently be fixed, and that the public needs full transparency and independent monitoring to ensure the fix is implemented this time."

This report is a collaboration between the Chicago Tribune and ProPublica Illinois, an independent, nonprofit journalism organization.

Contrasts stark, stakes high in Cook assessor race

Assessor, from Page 1

trona, those folks still command troops who can turn out the vote. Berrios also controls campaign accounts that started the year with nearly \$2.4 million and have collected more than \$300,000 since then.

But Kaegi's central campaign theme of unfairness in the assessment system got a big boost in June, when the Chicago Tribune and ProPublica Illinois began publishing "The Tax Divide." The investigation found that assessments under Berrios tended to make property taxes lower than they should have been on more expensive homes and higher than warranted on less expensive ones, with minority communities being hit particularly hard.

Those findings were recently corroborated by an independent study commissioned by County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and Berrios.

The problems with the assessment system also have led some Democratic leaders to break ranks with Berrios. Several congressmen, including U.S. Reps. Bobby Rush and Robin Kelly, aldermen and county officials have endorsed Kaegi — and a handful of ward committeemen left the assessor's race off their palm cards that indicate whom they are backing, Democratic sources said. Kaegi also is backed by independent Democrats trying to catch a party reform wave spurred on by U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential bid.

In the wake of the independent study, Berrios has pledged to fix the system, contending the identified problems are 40 years old. But critics point out that when he first ran in 2010 he promised to "fairly assess properties at market value" and in 2015 never fully implemented a new assessment model designed to address known flaws in the system. Kaegi says he'll start fixing the system on "Day One," and Raila also says she'll take steps to make the system fairer.

Also fueling Kaegi's campaign are Berrios' ethics disputes. The assessor has been called out by the county Board of Ethics for hiring relatives and accepting campaign contributions exceeding county limits from property tax appeals lawyers who seek decisions from his office that benefit their bottom lines. Berrios went to court to overturn the ethics panel decisions, maintaining the County Board was trying to place constraints on him that it didn't have



Kaegi



Raila

the power to impose.

The appeals cases, both to his office and the county Board of Review on which Berrios served for 22 years, only make the problems with assessments worse, the Tribune concluded and the independent study confirmed. And successful property tax appeals benefit Berrios' political allies: Madigan, who's also chairman of the state Democratic Party, and 14th Ward Ald. Edward Burke, who plays a key role in the county Democratic Party. Both own tax appeals law firms.

Early in his tenure, Berrios was called out by the courts for violating so-called Shakman rules that bar political considerations in most hiring and promotion decisions, a reprimand that cost county taxpayers \$529,000. Berrios' office is still under court oversight in that arena and has been slow to adopt reforms, according to court-appointed watchdogs.

There's also an issue of perceived weakness in Berrios' 31st Ward power base. In the past four years, his daughter, Maria Antonia "Toni" Berrios, lost a race for state representative to a progressive newcomer, and Ald. Ray Suarez lost a re-election contest to a candidate backed by a Berrios political rival. The assessor chalks up those defeats to changes on the city's Northwest Side.

Kaegi, a successful mutual fund asset manager now living in Oak Park, has the cash to get his message out. To date he's pumped more than \$1.5 million of his own money into his campaign and raised another \$400,000, using the cash not only to run TV ads but also to wage a legal battle to try to keep Raila off the ballot. Raila had \$35,000 to start the year and put in \$100,000 of her own money last month amid the costly court battle that restored her to the ballot.

Who's Kaegi?

The campaign pitch from Kaegi, 46, is rooted in his upbringing. His father is a retired University of Chicago history professor who liked to talk about invest-

ments and politics at the dinner table, and his mother is a onetime Peace Corps volunteer who took part in Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign and worked for a public relations agency hired by the late Mayor Harold Washington.

Although Kaegi used his education — a bachelor's in economics and political science, a fellowship studying emerging businesses in Russia, a Stanford MBA — to rise to a high-level job as a senior portfolio manager at the Columbia Acorn mutual fund, he had a toe in the political waters all along. He did canvassing work for utility regulation and volunteered in campaigns including Barack Obama's U.S. Senate run and first presidential campaign. Kaegi also has contributed to several Democratic congressional campaigns, a few local Democratic organizations, Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union.

About six years ago he was a fellow in Leadership Greater Chicago, which was something of a training ground for many a future politician. One of his "classmates" was Gilbert Villegas, who in 2015 defeated a Berrios-backed candidate to become 31st Ward alderman. Kaegi said that win, in part, made him think he might have a role to play, and at any rate, he was getting tired of being on the "sidelines."

So, in consultation with a handful of people that included his wife, Rebecca, and Dan Seals, an old Kenwood Academy classmate and former congressional candidate, Kaegi decided to run for assessor. Given his background in "valuing assets," Kaegi figured that was a place he could make a difference. In a recent City Club of Chicago speech, he pledged to make the office "fair, ethical and transparent" — all of which he contends it lacks under Berrios.

Berrios' story

Berrios, by contrast, started working for the 31st Ward Democratic organization while at Lane Tech, after his family moved from Cabrini-Green to Humboldt Park. He earned an accounting degree from what was then University of Illinois at Chicago Circle. He went to work for the city, running parking meter collections before moving over to what was then known as the Board of (Tax) Appeals and is now the Board of Review.

In 1982, with the sponsorship of Democratic machine politicians,

Berrios became the first Hispanic elected to the Illinois House. Six years later he was elected as a commissioner of the Board of Review — a position he held until 2010, when he was first elected assessor.

Along the way he started a lobbying firm and climbed in the county party through alliances with many politicians who later got themselves in trouble with the law. Among them were former 31st Ward Ald. Thomas Keane, state Sen. Edward Nedza and 10th Ward Ald. Edward Vrdolyak. In 2007, Berrios was chosen party chairman by committeemen.

"I love being in politics," Berrios said. "I started when I was 17 years old, working precincts, and I worked my way up through the system. I've been able to achieve things that people have always said I wouldn't be able to do. And I'm very proud of what I have done."

Raila bio

Raila, 57, is a Chicago native, the daughter of a radiologist and mental health therapist. During the 1980s she worked as an appeals case analyst for then-Board of (Tax) Appeals Commissioner Pat Quinn. She later worked as a taxpayer advocate when Quinn served as comptroller under Mayor Washington.

For many years, she's been a property tax consultant, helping homeowners and small businesses appeal their assessments. She filed to run for assessor in 2010, when Berrios was first elected, but withdrew amid a challenge to her petition signatures.

In 2011, the Tribune reported that she was receiving a homeowner's exemption on a second Chicago condominium to which she was not entitled, which saved her more than \$8,000 in tax payments over a decade. At the time she said she did not know she was getting two homestead exemptions.

Now she fashions herself as the person in the race who best understands the system. "I am the only one who has fought hard for homeowners for 30 years," Raila said. "I'm the only taxpayer advocate and expert on that ballot."

The rhetoric

Berrios has served nearly two terms and points to accomplishments such as getting the tax bills out on time for the first time in 34

years so local governments don't have to take out short-term loans; increasing property tax exemptions for homeowners, with even bigger breaks for qualifying seniors; and collecting tens of millions of dollars from people who were getting exemptions to which they were not entitled.

"In any other city, I would have been on the front page, a hero," Berrios said.

Berrios also noted that his office has shrunk — with 278 jobs today, which is about 30 percent fewer positions than when he took over.

And Berrios, the son of Puerto Rican immigrant factory workers, dismisses Kaegi as a "multimillionaire" who's trying to start a political career in a high-level post. "He wants to buy the office, and I'm not going to let him buy the office," Berrios said.

Berrios' Democratic organization, however, has endorsed billionaire J.B. Pritzker in the primary for governor — in large part because Pritzker has the wealth to fund an aggressive campaign.

On the campaign trail, Kaegi has pointed out that the bulk of Berrios' campaign contributions over the years have come from attorneys who file tax appeals. Like Raila, Kaegi has pledged not to accept contributions from anyone involved in the appeals industry. Kaegi also jokingly said he won't hire his grade-school children to work in the office and pledges to hire workers based on qualifications, not whom they know.

"People say, 'The values he stands for are not my values as a Democrat,'" Kaegi said. "Pay-to-play, transferring wealth from the poor to the rich, delivering the vast majority of benefits to your campaign donors and the clients of them, preventing the emergence of other young, talented candidates in your role as party chairman. ... People are fed up with all of that."

Raila is trying to fashion herself as the candidate not beholden to any established powers, whether they be old-school Democrats or members of the party's progressive wing. And she frequently notes she's the only woman running for an office men have controlled for decades.

"Joe Berrios and Kaegi are insiders," Raila said. "They have the machine and the so-called progressives with them. I have always been an outsider."

hdardick@chicagotribune.com

Cop alleges sex discrimination

1st woman to lead marine unit says boss harassed her

By JASON MEISNER
Chicago Tribune

A Chicago police lieutenant who rose to become the first woman to ever command the department's Marine and Helicopter Unit filed a federal sex discrimination lawsuit Thursday alleging she was harassed by a sexist boss and ultimately demoted because he didn't want to see a woman in her post.

Lt. Allison Schloss alleged in the 19-page complaint that at the time of her appointment in May 2014, she was among only a handful of women assigned to the Police Department's so-called Special Functions Division, which includes the bomb squad, SWAT team and mounted patrol in addition to the Marine and

Helicopter Unit.

In fact, as of May 2016, only eight of 175 positions available in Special Functions were held by female officers — and only one of those was assigned to the marine unit, according to the lawsuit.

The "abominable" record also included no women on a SWAT team of nearly seven dozen members, the suit alleged.

Schloss, who was appointed as marine unit commander by then-Superintendent Garry McCarthy, alleged that her immediate supervisor, Deputy Chief Steve Georgas, "resented and bridled" at her being named to the position.

"He did not place her there, and he did not want a woman in that post," the suit alleged.

Over the next two years, Georgas harassed Schloss by assigning her busy work, overriding her personnel decisions and denying her

the opportunity for additional training that he'd approved for her male counterparts, according to the suit.

The situation came to a head over Memorial Day weekend in 2016 when the marine unit was called to search for a missing boater in Lake Michigan who ultimately drowned, the suit alleged. Schloss was off-duty on the day of the drowning but showed up at the scene anyway to help coordinate the search, according to the suit.

On the Tuesday after the holiday weekend, Georgas ordered her into his office and removed her from her command, the suit alleged. After Schloss filed a complaint with the legal department a week later, she was transferred "involuntarily" to the Major Accident Investigation Unit, where she remains as the unit commander.

Schloss alleged that

Georgas used the tragedy of the accidental drowning as an "opportunistic" excuse to get rid of her. Meanwhile, a male sergeant who was on-duty at the time of the drowning faced no discipline, according to the suit.

Georgas has since been redeployed to Detached Services and currently heads security for the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, which operates Navy Pier and McCormick Place, records show.

The lawsuit named the city of Chicago as the lone defendant. A spokesman for the city's Law Department declined to comment Thursday. Georgas could not be reached.

Schloss also filed a sex discrimination and retaliation complaint before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, according to the suit.

jmeisner@chicagotribune.com

Kids found safe day after mom's slaying

By MADELINE BUCKLEY,
ELYSSA CHERNEY,
STEVE SCHMADEKE
AND TED GREGORY
Chicago Tribune



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

Nearly two days of heartbreak and anxiety ended with a measure of relief Thursday afternoon, when two toddlers who went missing in the south suburbs after their mother was fatally shot in Markham were found safe.

Jordyn Washington, 2, and her 3-year-old brother, Lynn Roby, were at the home of their father's mother in Harvey about 3:40 p.m. Thursday, when a police detective "circled back" after visiting the home on Wednesday, Markham police Chief Mack Sanders said.

"They weren't there when we went to the home yesterday," he added.

Authorities say the children's father, Lynn Washington, 40, is a person of interest in the shooting of the children's mother, Lakisha Roby, 27. Washington remained at large Thursday evening and "is considered armed and dangerous, based on his criminal history and our investigation," Sanders said.

Embroided in a contentious divorce with Roby, Washington was barred by a court order from having contact with her or the children.

Roby, 27, was killed in a domestic-related shooting at a BP gas station at 167th Street and Pulaski Road about 1:35 a.m. Wednesday, Sanders said. On Thursday afternoon, the Cook County medical examiner reported that Roby was killed by a "gunshot wound of the back" and determined her death was a homicide.

Roby "was one who was hopeful," her mother, Wilfreda Roby, said Thursday afternoon. "She had a hard path in life but she was turning things around and getting things together."

Lakisha Roby had talked about returning to school, her mother said. "This was the last thing we expected," Wilfreda Roby said.

"I hurt for my grandkids, but his (Washington's) family are not bad people," Roby said, "and I know they're hurting as well."

Lakisha Roby was returning from a club outside of Markham when she got into an argument with Washington at the gas station, Sanders said. A man with Roby in the car drove north on Pulaski to a gas station in Robbins and sought help. The man was cooperating with police, the chief said. His relation to Roby was not known.

Hours later, Washington picked up the children about 2 p.m. from a family friend, who had been watching them and was not aware of the shooting, Sanders said.

Police learned the children could be in danger later Wednesday afternoon while investigating the homicide, Sanders said.

"Once we realized kids were involved, it was a race against time," Sanders said.

He said investigators believe the children may have been shuttled among several baby sitters and ended up with members of Washington's family.

Illinois State Police issued an Amber Alert for the two children about 10 p.m. Wednesday from the first block of East 156th Street in Harvey. By Thursday afternoon, the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force had been activated, Sanders said, allowing police agencies throughout the region to join in the search for Washington and his two children.

"Basically, we are able to cover more ground," Sanders said of the task force. Washington "may be laying low, just waiting and contemplating his version of events," he added.

Roby and at least two other women had obtained orders of protec-

tion against Washington in Cook County, records show. Sanders said Washington had been prohibited from contact with Jordan and Lynn by an order of protection issued Nov. 30.

Roby alleged he threatened to beat her and drove off with their son last March. "He has a history of abuse with myself and other women," Roby wrote in her petition. "I do feel like I'm at (risk) of being hurt or worse by him."

She wrote in another court filing that he had attacked her when she went to pick up her children from his home.

Washington owns a company called OTC — a phrase also tattooed on his neck, records show — that stands for One of the Coldest, according to court records. The company "includes a dog kennel business, a clothing line, and an entertainment company," according to a court filing by his attorney.

Roby had lost custody of a child, born on June 25, 2010, whom she had with a Glenwood man. A judge awarded him custody after Roby allegedly moved out of state and failed to use her parenting time with the child, records show.

Both Roby and Washington had attended a parenting education class called Focus on Children last fall as part of the divorce proceeding, records show.

Washington has been charged in a handful of domestic battery cases going back to the 1990s, and most recently was charged in a misdemeanor domestic battery case in October, Cook County court records show. That case was continued in January.

In 2016, he was charged in a warrant with domestic battery and theft, but the warrant was later quashed, according to the records.

Jasmine Carter, 25, said she had been close friends with Roby since they met at Bloom High School in Chicago Heights.

"She was like an angel in physical form," Carter said. "She didn't have any enemies. That's why it came by surprise that she was shot and that someone had so much anger toward her."

Carter said she never met Washington and that Roby didn't divulge all the details about her relationship. But her friends knew the couple had been separated for a few years and Washington did not play an active role in the children's lives.

Carter said she last talked to Roby last week while making plans for a visit. Roby seemed to be doing well.

Carter said she was scared knowing he could be on the run with the children. "I really didn't want to go to sleep yesterday. I was up praying at midnight."

Roby most recently worked for the U.S. Postal Service and enjoyed spending her free time with her children.

"She didn't party much or go out unless it was with them," Carter said.

The alert describes Washington as black with brown hair and brown eyes. He is about 5-foot-9 and about 180 pounds. He has tattoos on his neck, left arm, right arm and chest. Anyone with information on his whereabouts is asked to call 911.

Freelancer Howard Ludwig contributed.

mabuckley@chicagotribune.com
echerney@chicagotribune.com
schmadeke@chicagotribune.com
tgregory@chicagotribune.com



DAVIS BRODY BOND ILLUSTRATION

Opponents contend that pylons for a proposed aerial tram would crowd the Chicago Riverwalk's narrow space.

Debate grows over plan for aerial tram

Tram, from Page 1

architectural perspectives of Chicago's downtown," Bob Agra III, vice president of Chicago's First Lady Cruises, said in a statement Thursday. Cable cars "carrying 3,000 people an hour above the Riverwalk would have a terrible impact on the city," he said.

The proposal lacks official backing at this stage, nearly two years after it was unveiled at the City Club of Chicago. But in an apparent effort to line up political support, its sponsors have been showing it to influential groups like Choose Chicago, the city's official tourism sales and marketing organization.

Raizin, who is Choose Chicago's treasurer and a contributor to Mayor Rahm Emanuel's campaign fund, insisted that the meetings are more of a listening tour than an attempt to amass support for the tram network, which is called "The Chicago Skyline."

"It's all about listening, so

we can understand what resonates and what doesn't," Raizin said. "All we're doing now is listening. There is no formal project to present to anyone."

Boat tours are big business, giving tourists a chance to see Chicago's world-famous buildings — the Wrigley Building, Tribune Tower, Willis Tower and others — from the unique vantage point of the river.

Tax records from 2016 show the Chicago Architecture Foundation had more than \$15.6 million in revenue from tours. The figure includes other types of tours, such as by train and bus, as well as the boat tours.

When the tram project was unveiled two years ago, backers said it could attract 1.4 million visitors a year to Chicago and that it would cost about \$250 million to build.

The plans called for the attraction to accommodate 3,000 people an hour in

"pods" operating every half-hour day and night along the south bank of the river. It would run from Wacker Drive and Lake Street on the west to Navy Pier on the east. There would be stops along the way, with a station at Columbus Drive being the closest to Millennium Park.

A digital presentation obtained by the Tribune says that the project would be "100% funded by private investment." It also would be the world's first environmentally friendly tram system, the document says, because it would encourage tourists to explore Chicago without cars, taxis, ride-sharing vehicles or buses, thus "leaving behind a much smaller carbon footprint."

But opponents, who include the nonprofit group Friends of the Chicago River and Chicago architect Carol Ross Barney, the Riverwalk's co-designer, take a much dimmer view of the tram's environmental and economic impact.

Friends of the Chicago River, which recently reviewed the latest gondola proposal, has sent a letter to Emanuel opposing the idea. The group laid out its concerns Thursday in an email to the Tribune, contending that:

■ The tram would divert crowds and hurt businesses along the river, including those that have signed leases with the city and are helping Chicago to pay off a federal loan that enabled the Riverwalk's construction.

■ The tram's pylons would block views of the river, the Riverwalk and the buildings along the river.

■ The pylons also would block pedestrians along the Riverwalk "and reduce the number of visitors it could accommodate. In addition to these pylons, even larger turning stations and boarding stations will be required."

"We as a city and a region spent too many years looking down on the Chicago River literally and figuratively and we don't want that to happen again," said the group's executive director, Margaret Frisbie, referring to the city's habit of using the river as an open-air sewer.

Barney agreed with the group's critique.

"It just seems like physically there's not enough space (for the pylons)," she said. Alluding to the hordes of visitors who flock to the Riverwalk's bars and restaurants in the warm months, she added: "Right now, it's hard enough to get on the Riverwalk if you want to drink."

"It doesn't make me think of Chicago," Barney said. It's "just sort of Disneyland."

Emanuel's office is aware of the aerial tram concept, but has not received a formal plan, mayoral spokesman Grant Klinzman said. Ald. Brendan Reilly, 42nd, whose ward includes the Riverwalk, did not return a phone call and an email seeking comment.

bkamin@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @BlairKamin
rori@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @Ryan_Ori

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Chicago Tribune

NATION & WORLD

Pedestrian span collapses in Miami

At least 4 killed, 9 hurt in crush of debris, officials say

BY ADRIANA GOMEZ
LICON
Associated Press

MIAMI — A pedestrian bridge under construction collapsed onto a busy Miami highway Thursday, crushing vehicles beneath its massive slabs of concrete and steel and killing at least four people, authorities said.

Search crews worked into the night, using dogs, search cameras and sensitive listening devices in a frantic search to find survivors among the debris.

“Everybody is working hard to make sure we rescue anyone who can be rescued,” Gov. Rick Scott said.

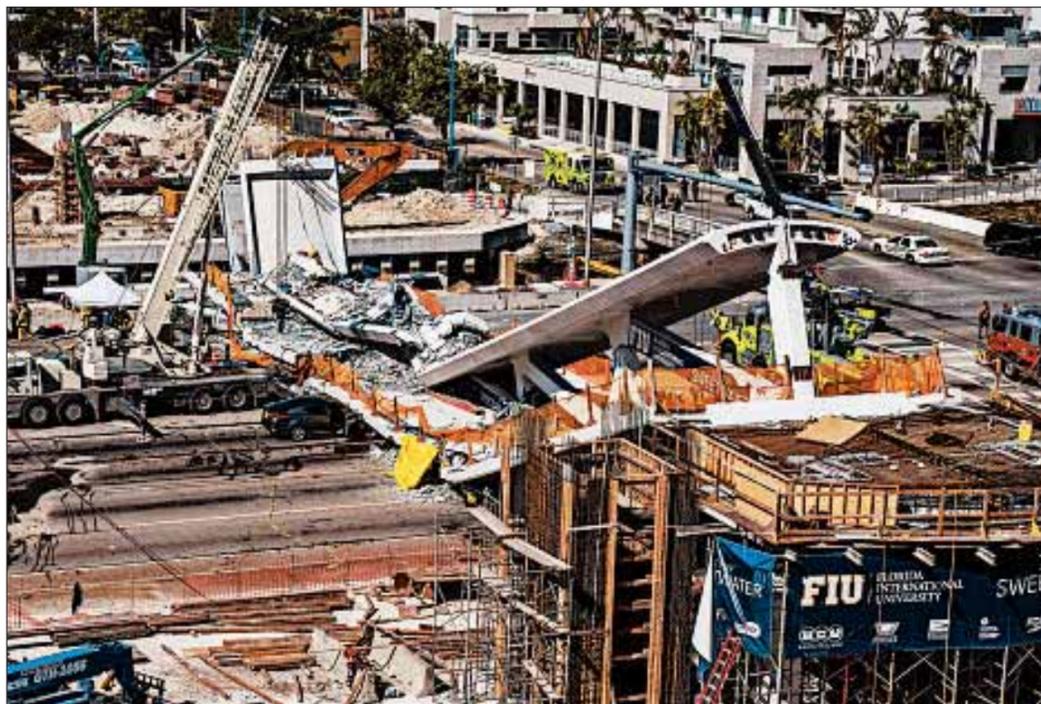
But Miami-Dade police director Juan Perez said hopes were dwindling with the passing of time. “We know that there’s going to be a negative outcome at the end of the day,” Perez said.

Four people were found dead amid the chaotic scene, and nine victims were taken “early on” to hospitals, Fire Chief Dave Downey said.

At least eight vehicles were crushed.

The 950-ton bridge had been assembled by the side of the highway and moved into place Saturday to great fanfare. The span stretched almost 200 feet to connect Florida International University with the city of Sweetwater.

“This bridge was about goodness, not sadness,” said FIU President Mark Rosenberg. “Now we’re feeling immense sadness, uncon-



GIORGIO VIERA/EPA

Emergency workers scramble to find survivors and secure the collapsed pedestrian bridge Thursday in Miami.

trollable sadness.”

Scott said an investigation will uncover “why this happened and what happened,” and he vowed to hold accountable those responsible.

Jacob Miller, a senior at FIU, was visiting a friend in a dorm when he heard sirens and horns. He went to a balcony and could see rubble coming down. “I saw there were multiple cars crushed under the bridge. It was just terrible,” he said.

National Transportation Safety Board chairman Robert Sumwalt III said a team of specialists was heading to Miami.

An accelerated construction method was supposed

to reduce risks to workers and pedestrians and minimize traffic disruption, the university said. Renderings showed a tall, off-center tower with cables attached to the walkway to support it. When the bridge collapsed, the main tower had not been installed, and it was unclear what the builders were using as temporary supports.

Robert Bea, a professor of engineering and construction management at the University of California at Berkeley said it was too early to know what happened, but the decision to use what the bridge builders called an “innovative installation” was risky, es-

pecially because the bridge spanned a heavily traveled thoroughfare.

Sweetwater police Detective Juan Llera was in a nearby meeting when the bridge collapsed. “I heard a ‘boom’ like a bomb had exploded,” he said. “At first I thought it was a terrorist attack.”

He said he saw three construction workers who had been injured. One had a head injury and was passing in and out of consciousness, another had a leg injury and the third was lying on the street unconscious. He started performing CPR on him. “We were able to keep him alive to send him to the hospital,” Llera said.

Kendall Regional Medical Center received several injured people. Two were in “extremely critical” condition and others were stable with injuries such as broken bones, bruises and abrasions, said Dr. Mark McKenney, the hospital’s director of general surgery.

The main companies behind the \$14.2 million construction project have faced questions about past work, and one was fined in 2012 when a 90-ton section of a bridge collapsed in Virginia.

Munilla Construction Management, or MCM, the Miami-based construction management firm that won the bridge contract, took its website down for a time

Thursday. But an archived version featured a news release touting the project with FIGG Bridge Engineers, a Tallahassee firm.

MCM said on Twitter that it was “a family business and we are all devastated and doing everything we can to assist. We will conduct a full investigation to determine exactly what went wrong and will cooperate with investigators on scene in every way.”

FIGG said in a statement, “In our 40-year history, nothing like this has ever happened before.”

Court documents show that MCM was accused of substandard work in a lawsuit filed this month. The suit said a worker at Fort Lauderdale International Airport, where the company is working on an expansion, was injured when a makeshift MCM-built bridge collapsed under his weight.

A review of Occupational Safety Health Administration records shows that MCM has been fined for 11 safety violations in the past five years. The fines totaling more than \$50,000 arose from complaints about unsafe trenches, cement dust and other problems at its Florida work sites.

FIU is the second largest university in the state, with 55,000 students, most of whom live off-campus. A student was killed in August while crossing the road that the bridge was supposed to span.

President Donald Trump tweeted that he was monitoring the “heartbreaking bridge collapse,” calling it “so tragic.”

Washington Post contributed.

Trump to oust McMaster, insiders say

President said to be weighing shake-up to his inner circle

BY ASHLEY PARKER AND
JOSH DAWSEY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has decided to remove H.R. McMaster as his national security adviser and is discussing potential replacements, according to five people with knowledge of the plans, preparing to deliver yet another jolt to the senior ranks of his administration.

Trump is now comfortable with ousting McMaster, with whom he never personally gelled, but is willing to take time executing the move because he wants to ensure that the three-star Army general is not humiliated and that there is a strong successor lined up, these people said.

The turbulence is part of a broader potential shake-up under consideration by Trump that is likely to include senior officials at the White House, where staffers are gripped by fear and uncertainty as they await the next move from an impulsive president who enjoys stoking conflict.

For all of the evident disorder, Trump feels emboldened, advisers said —

buoyed by what he views as triumphant decisions last week to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum and to agree to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The president is enjoying the process of assessing his team and making changes, tightening his inner circle to those he considers survivors and who respect his unconventional style, one senior White House official said.

Just days ago, Trump used Twitter to fire Rex Tillerson, the secretary of state whom he disliked, and moved to install his close ally, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, in the job. On Wednesday, he named conservative TV analyst Larry Kudlow to replace his top economic adviser, Gary Cohn, who quit over trade disagreements.

And on Thursday, Trump signaled that more personnel moves were likely.

“There will always be change,” the president told reporters. “And I think you want to see change. I want to also see different ideas.”

This portrait of the Trump administration in turmoil is based on interviews with 19 presidential advisers and administration officials, many of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to offer candid perspectives.

The mood inside the

White House in recent days has verged on mania, as Trump increasingly keeps his own counsel and senior aides struggle to determine the gradations between rumor and truth. At times, they say, they are anxious and nervous, wondering what each new headline may mean for them personally.

Many aides were particularly unsettled by the firing of the president’s longtime personal aide, John McEntee, who was marched out of the White House on Tuesday after his security clearance was revoked.

“Everybody fears the perp walk,” one senior White House official said.

McEntee lost his job because an investigation found he was a frequent gambler whose habit posed a security risk, according to two people familiar with his departure.

A background investigation found that McEntee bet tens of thousands of dollars at a time, making him unsuitable for a sensitive position close to the president, according to a person with knowledge of the situation. There was no indication his gambling was illegal, but there was concern that the 27-year-old could be vulnerable to outside influence, the person said.

McEntee, who was a

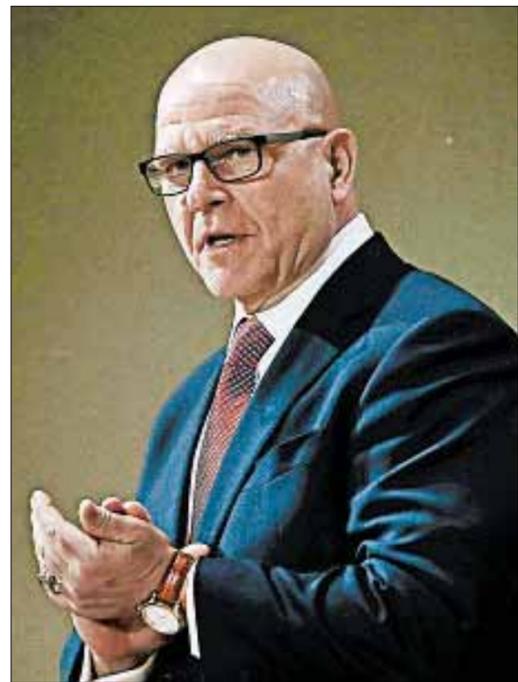
starting quarterback at the University of Connecticut and then worked as a production assistant at Fox News, declined to comment.

Trump recently told White House chief of staff John Kelly that he wants McMaster out and asked for help weighing replacement options, according to two people familiar with their conversations. The president has complained that McMaster is too rigid and that his briefings go on too long and seem irrelevant.

Several candidates have emerged as possible McMaster replacements, including John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and Keith Kellogg, the chief of staff of the National Security Council.

McMaster is not the only senior official on thin ice with the president. Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin has attracted Trump’s ire for his spending decisions as well as for general disorder in the senior leadership of his agency.

Others considered at risk for being fired or reprimanded include Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, who has generated bad headlines for ordering a \$31,000 dining room set for his office; Environmental Protection Agency Administra-



MARK WILSON/GETTY

President Donald Trump reportedly believes H.R. McMaster, above, is too rigid and that his briefings go on too long.

tor Scott Pruitt, who has been under fire for his first-class travel at taxpayer expense; and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, whose agency spent \$139,000 to renovate his office doors.

Meanwhile, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos drew attention this week when she stumbled through a pair of high-profile television interviews. Kelly watched DeVos’ sit-down

with Lesley Stahl of CBS’s “60 Minutes” with frustration and complained about the secretary’s apparent lack of preparation, officials said. Other Trump advisers mocked DeVos’ shaky appearance with Savannah Guthrie on NBC’s “Today” show.

Philip Rucker, Carol D. Leonnig and Greg Jaffe contributed.



JUSTIN TANG/AP

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, meets with workers at Essar Steel Algoma in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Trump: ‘I know’ U.S. has Canada trade deficit

Office of U.S. Trade Representative says there isn’t one

BY CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump continues to insist the United States has a trade deficit with Canada, following reports that he claimed at a fundraiser that he talked trade with the country’s prime minister without knowing all the facts.

Trump wrote on Twitter on Thursday: “We do have a Trade Deficit with Canada, as we do with almost all countries (some of them massive). P.M. Justin Trudeau of Canada, a very good guy, doesn’t like saying that Canada has a Surplus vs. the U.S.(negotiating), but they do...and that’s how I know!”

Trump, who routinely inflates trade deficits, has previously complained about a trade deficit with Canada even though the U.S. runs an overall surplus with that

country — when the value of services is included in the calculation.

Trump spoke about trade during a fundraising speech in St. Louis on Wednesday, according to audio obtained by The Washington Post. The paper reports that Trump said he freestyled trade with Trudeau.

Trump said Trudeau told him there was no trade deficit. Trump said he replied, “Wrong, Justin, you do. I didn’t even know. I had no idea. I just said,

‘You’re wrong.’”

Trump claimed the figures don’t include timber and energy.

Canadian Foreign Affairs spokesman Adam Austin said in an emailed statement that the countries “have a balanced and mutually beneficial trading relationship.” He added: “According to their own statistics, the U.S. runs a trade surplus with Canada.”

The Office of the United States Trade Representative says the U.S. has a trade surplus with Canada.

7 years in, Syrians despair over scarred land

Civil war, outside powers have carved up their country

BY ZEINA KARAM
AND PHILIP ISSA
Associated Press

BEIRUT — For Syrians marking seven years of war, their country has never looked as helpless or fragmented.

President Bashar Assad has decimated the rebellion, thanks to massive military aid from Russia and Iran, but foreign powers have carved out zones of influence across the country. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians are trapped in besieged areas, and heavy fighting is underway in the suburbs of Damascus and in the north, where al-Qaida-linked militants are clashing with rival insurgents and Turkish troops are battling a Syrian Kurdish militia.

The violence has accelerated even as the United States, Russia, Iran and Turkey worked diplomatic tracks to broker local truces and freeze the lines of conflict over the last year. Those efforts now appear to have been aimed at mapping out areas of influence.

"I don't even see Syria anymore," said Zaina Erhaim, a Syrian journalist who left the country in 2016 and now lives in London. "It's called Syria on the map.



LOUAI BESHARA/GETTY-AFF

Thousands of Syrians evacuated from eastern Ghouta pass Thursday through a corridor opened by government forces

But if you can think about an ordinary Syrian who wants to go from Daraa to Idlib, can you think about how many countries or nationalities he's going to be passing to reach there?"

A short list would include the remnants of Syria's Western-backed opposition, Lebanon's Hezbollah and other Iran-backed Shiite fighters from as far away

as Afghanistan, Syrian troops, Russian pilots, al-Qaida-linked jihadis, U.S.-allied Kurdish forces and Turkish tank crews.

Nearly half a million people have been killed in Syria since Arab Spring protests erupted in 2011, after security forces arrested a group of teenagers who scrawled anti-Assad graffiti on a wall in the southern city of

Daraa.

A demonstration calling for reforms in Damascus' Old City on March 15 is now widely seen as the start of the uprising. Three days later, security forces opened fire on a protest in Daraa, killing four people. The protests spread across the country.

Around 5 million Syrians have fled the country.

The defeat of Islamic State over the past year raised hopes of a broader resolution of the conflict. Instead, the fall of a common enemy has reignited older rivalries.

Syria has redeployed its elite forces to the eastern Ghouta suburbs of Damascus, where they hope to eliminate the last rebel bastion on the edge of the

capital with the aid of Russian air power.

In northern Syria, Turkey is battling a Syrian Kurdish militia that it views as an extension of the Kurdish insurgency within its own borders.

At least 10,000 civilians streamed out of eastern Ghouta to government-held territory Thursday, following a night of massive bombardment. Thousands more fled the Kurdish-held Afrin enclave in northern Syria, after Turkish forces tightened their siege.

The U.S., which is allied with both Turkey and the Kurds, has sought to defuse the tensions, to no avail.

Hundreds of American special operations forces are deployed across northern and eastern Syria, where they are patrolling alongside a Kurdish-led force to prevent IS from regrouping. But their footprint is nowhere near the size of Iran's. Thousands of Iran-backed fighters from Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan have set up bases across the country, part of a corridor of arms and influence stretching from Tehran to the Mediterranean Sea — and Israel's doorstep.

Syrians say their own country has become an afterthought.

"Syria has been swallowed up," said novelist Dima Wannous.

U.S., France, Germany join U.K., decry Russian 'assault'

BY JILL LAWLESS AND
VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

LONDON — The United States, France and Germany joined Britain on Thursday in condemning Russia for the nerve-agent poisoning of a former spy, calling it an "assault on U.K. sovereignty," as the Kremlin vowed to expel British diplomats soon in response to London's moves against Moscow.

Britain says blame for the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the English city of Salisbury rests with the Russian state. Prime Minister Theresa May responded by expelling 23 Russian diplomats, severing high-level contacts with Moscow and vowing to take both open and covert actions against Russian dirty money and "hostile state activity."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow would "certainly" expel some British diplomats soon in retaliation.

In a rare joint statement, May and U.S. President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel said "there is no plausible alternative explanation" to Russian responsibility for the poisoning. "This use of a military-grade nerve agent, of a type developed by Russia, constitutes the first offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War," the leaders said, calling it "an assault on U.K. sovereignty" and "a breach of international law."

Trump, who has often been reluctant to criticize Russian President Vladimir Putin, said it "certainly looks like the Russians were behind it."

Trump spoke to reporters at the White House after his administration announced new sanctions on Russian entities for alleged meddling in the 2016 U.S.



DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS/GETTY-AFF

U.K.'s Theresa May will expel 23 Russian diplomats and has taken other action over the poisoning of an ex-spy.

presidential election.

The four-nation statement is the fruit of British efforts to enlist international support as it tries to hold Russia accountable for the March 4 attack that left the former Russian agent and his daughter in critical condition and a British police officer seriously ill.

Russia denies being the source of the nerve agent that poisoned the Skripals and has demanded Britain share samples collected by investigators. Britain says the poison used was Novichok, a class of nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union toward the end of the Cold War.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Russia had halted all chemical weapons research after joining the Chemical Weapons Convention that came into force in 1997 and completed the destruction of its stockpiles last year.

The poisoning has sparked a war of words from senior politicians in London and Moscow, increasing tensions between the two countries.

Lavrov said Britain's "boorish and unfounded" accusations against Russia were intended to distract public attention from the troubled path toward Brexit. He accused Britain of fanning "anti-Russian rhetoric bordering on hys-

teria."

British Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson said Russia should "go away and shut up."

Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry, shot back that Williamson's comments reflected a "high degree of his intellectual impotence," adding: "The boorish language is apparently the only thing left in the British military arsenal."

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Russia targeted Skripal — a former Russian intelligence officer convicted of spying for Britain — to make it clear that those who defy the Russian state deserve to "choke on their own 30 pieces of silver."

"The reason they've chosen this nerve agent is to show that it's Russia, and to show people in their agencies who might think of defecting or of supporting another way of life, of believing in an alternative set of values, that Russia will take revenge," Johnson told the BBC.

British measures against Russia included scrapping an invitation for Lavrov to visit and withdrawing U.K. ministers and royals from the soccer World Cup this summer in Russia — although England will still compete.

Video shows deputy did not enter school during rampage

BY TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Security video shows a Florida sheriff's deputy go toward the high school building while a gunman massacred 17 students and staff members, but he stayed outside with his handgun drawn.

The Broward County Sheriff's Office released the video Thursday showing Deputy Scot Peterson's actions during the Feb. 14 shooting. It shows him and a staff member rushing toward the building in a cart. He pulls his weapon and takes up a position outside the building.

During much of the shooting, the camera's view of Peterson is blocked by a light pole but parts of him occasionally appear. He never goes inside.

Sheriff Scott Israel blasted Peterson eight days after the shooting, saying Peterson, 54, should have "went in, addressed the killer, killed the killer."

The deputy retired rather than accept a suspension. He is being investigated by internal affairs. Peterson has denied wrongdoing.

In a statement issued through his lawyer shortly after his retirement, he said he thought the shots were being fired from outside the school. The video released Thursday did not have sound.

But in radio transmissions released last week it appears the 32-year veteran deputy knew almost immediately they were coming from inside the freshman building.

The sheriff's office said in a statement, "The video speaks for itself."

A Florida judge earlier this week agreed with news outlets that the video should be released.

Police and school officials had resisted the release, saying it was evidence in an active investi-



BROWARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

This screen grab shows deputy Scot Peterson, right, outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Parkland, Fla.

gation. Video of what happened inside the school was not released.

Nikolas Cruz, 19, faces 34 murder and attempted murder charges in the attack and a judge entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf Wednesday as students across the nation walked out of school to protest gun violence.

His attorney, Assistant Public Defender Melisa McNeill, reiterated that Cruz would plead guilty if prosecutors waived the death penalty, which they refused to do.

While Cruz sat in the courtroom, more details of the shooting emerged as the Coral Springs Police Department released recordings of 911 calls and police radio traffic.

In the recordings, students and dispatchers were uncertain about the shooter's location and how to hide from him. Some were frightened the gunman would return to their location when asked if they could perform CPR on the wounded.

"Please, please, please, there are people here. They are bleeding. They are all going to die," a teenage girl calling from classroom 1216 said through tears and heavy breathing. "There's a lot of people around us that are injured, people that are injured, people that are

bleeding. He is upstairs now."

A teacher from room 1216 also called for help and told the 911 operator that a student had been hit in the chest, and wasn't breathing. "He's twitching. There's blood all over," she said.

The radio recordings showed that the Coral Springs officers were the first to enter the building after confirming that Broward County Sheriff's Office deputies had not gone in. As they cleared each of the building's three floors, the officers described seeing shell casings on the floor and bullet holes in the windows. They warned that the suspect may have changed clothes after they reported finding a camouflaged jacket, ski mask and backpack on the first floor.

On the third floor, officers said they found an AR-15 with a magazine still attached.

The officers found wounded victims and bodies, and they prioritized evacuating the wounded before allowing other students and teachers to leave. On the third floor, they shattered windows in some locked classrooms because terrified students would not open doors.

Cruz was arrested a few blocks away.



JOE KLAMAR/GETTY-AFF

The FDA proposes reducing the amount of nicotine in cigarettes by as much as 80 percent.

FDA begins push to cut addictive nicotine in cigarettes

BY MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials took the first step Thursday to slash levels of addictive nicotine in cigarettes, an unprecedented move designed to help smokers quit and prevent future generations from getting hooked.

The Food and Drug Administration floated the proposal last summer, but provided new details in a government filing on the potential impact of drasti-

cally cutting nicotine from cigarettes, by as much as 80 percent.

Currently, there are no limits on nicotine, which occurs naturally in tobacco plants. Under law, the FDA can regulate nicotine although it cannot remove it completely.

The FDA's powers to police the tobacco industry are unique worldwide and the attempt to restrict nicotine would represent a first in global efforts to reduce smoking-related deaths.

Under one scenario, the

FDA estimates the U.S. smoking rate could fall as low as 1.4 percent by 2060, down from the 15 percent of adults who smoke now. The agency also calculates that about 5 million more people would quit cigarettes within one year of implementing limits.

The greatest impact, though, would come from preventing young people from ever becoming addicted, they said.

Limiting nicotine "could help keep future generations of kids who experi-

ment with cigarettes from making the deadly progression from experimentation to addiction," said Mitch Zeller, the head of the FDA's tobacco center.

The agency is first seeking comment on a number of issues, including potential unintended consequences.

FDA's regulatory efforts have been hampered for years by legal challenges by Big Tobacco companies.

Cigarette makers generally have vowed to take part in the nicotine discussions,

often emphasizing the long, complicated nature of creating new regulations.

"Altria has already been preparing for any reasonable potential standard, and we plan to participate in every step of this process," said Altria, parent company of Philip Morris USA, in a statement.

Tobacco industry analyst Bonnie Herzog estimates it will be 4 to 5 years before the FDA puts in place any changes, due to "the sheer complexities and risks involved."

U.S. sanctions Russians for election meddling

Administration implements actions for 'nefarious acts'

BY BRIAN BENNETT AND CHRIS MEGERIAN
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Thursday announced sanctions against 19 Russian individuals and five organizations for meddling in the 2016 election and for other "destructive cyberattacks" still targeting the U.S. electrical grid and water systems.

While the sanctions were the strongest against Russia to date by this administration, President Donald Trump declined to personally criticize Moscow directly for its attacks against the country, or even mention the sanctions, when he briefly met with reporters after the Treasury Department's announcement.

He simply acknowledged, only when asked by reporters, that he agreed with British Prime Minister Theresa May that Russia was culpable for a separate nerve-agent attack March 4 in Salisbury, England, that targeted a Russian-born double agent and his adult daughter and injured other British citizens.

"It certainly looks like the Russians were behind it —



ALEXEI DRUZHININ/AP 2010
Yevgeny Prigozhin, left, shows Prime Minister Vladimir Putin his factory. Prigozhin was sanctioned Thursday by the U.S. for his role in meddling in the 2016 election.

something that should never, ever happen," Trump said, adding, "We're taking it very seriously."

The poisoning in Salisbury was "a very sad situation," the president added, as he met Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar.

The president's comment was far less condemnatory on the poisonings 11 days ago than a separate statement that his administration issued on Thursday with Britain, France and Germany. That joint state-

ment called Russia's use of the military-grade nerve agent a "clear violation" of international law and said that Moscow's failure to respond to Britain's charge "further underlines Russia's responsibility."

Trump has not criticized Russia for its election meddling, which included spreading fake news stories and hacking the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign chief, according to the U.S. intelligence communi-

ty. He has, however, repeatedly criticized the federal probe of that interference and possible Trump campaign involvement as a "witch hunt."

Yet the new Treasury sanctions echo indictments in that probe. They include measures against 13 individuals and three entities, including the Internet Research Agency, that have been charged as part of the ongoing Russia investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller.

The sanctions also target six other individuals and two entities that are described as "cyber actors" operating on behalf of the Russian government.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the new sanctions are part of a broad effort to address "ongoing nefarious attacks" by President Vladimir Putin's government.

"The Administration is confronting and countering malign Russian cyber activity, including their attempted interference in U.S. elections, destructive cyberattacks, and intrusions targeting critical infrastructure," Mnuchin said in a statement.

A national security official told reporters, on condition of anonymity to describe intelligence matters, that Russian military hackers were behind both the destructive "NotPetya" malware attack last year that did billions of dollars in damage across Europe and the United States — disrupting shipping, banking and medicine production — and attempts to infiltrate U.S. electrical grids, nuclear facilities, aviation, and water services that are "long-term and still ongoing."

The United States and Britain last month jointly blamed Russia for the NotPetya attack, which Treasury on Thursday called "the

most destructive and costly cyber-attack in history."

One of the most prominent individuals sanctioned was Yevgeniy Prigozhin, a close associate of Putin known as "Putin's chef" because of his lucrative government catering contracts, and the sanctioned entities included the Internet Research Agency that Prigozhin founded, based in St. Petersburg, Russia.

According to Mueller's indictment, the I.R.A. created fake social media accounts to sow discord during the 2016 presidential campaign, orchestrated pro-Trump rallies from afar, and hired actors to dress as Clinton in cages at demonstrations, among other provocations.

Many of the new sanctions were issued to comply with a bipartisan law passed by Congress last summer that required the Trump administration to add sanctions to those imposed by the Obama administration in late 2016. Trump signed the law reluctantly, with a statement that he believed the legislation was "seriously flawed," and his administration is months late in meeting the law's deadline for action.

Times staff writer Cathleen Decker contributed.

brian.bennett@latimes.com

Trump business becomes a focus

Probe, from Page 1

Mueller is seeking to determine if anyone from Trump's team cooperated with Russian efforts to meddle in the presidential race, and his investigators have asked witnesses about a meeting at New York's Trump Tower in June 2016 between a Kremlin-backed lawyer and three of Trump's top aides — his eldest son Donald Jr., his son-in-law Jared Kushner, and his campaign chairman, Paul Manafort.

In a statement, a Trump Organization lawyer said the company has been cooperating with Mueller's team since last summer. It did not confirm receiving a subpoena, which was first reported by the New York Times. "Since July 2017, we have advised the public that the Trump Organization is fully cooperative with all investigations, including the special counsel, and is responding to their requests," said Alan Futerfas, a lawyer for Trump Jr. who is also representing the company. "This is old news and our assistance and cooperation with the various investigations remains the same today."

The subpoena may represent more of a mopping-up operation than a new avenue in the investigation.

A source familiar with the process said Trump's campaign also received a subpoena from the special counsel's office after it had voluntarily turned over documents, a sign that prosecutors may be trying to ensure they didn't miss anything important.

Although Trump long has been a celebrity, with his name emblazoned on high-rise condominiums and hotels around the globe, he has carefully shielded his financial dealings from outside scrutiny. He even has



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST
President Donald Trump, seen Thursday at the White House, has worked hard to carefully shield his company's financial dealings from outside scrutiny.



DREW ANGERER/GETTY

Included in the investigation is a 2016 meeting between a Kremlin-backed lawyer and three Trump aides, including eldest son Donald Jr., left, and son-in-law Jared Kushner.



OLIVIER DOULIERY/TNS

disputed how often his companies have filed for protection from bankruptcy — six times in all.

He refused to reveal his federal tax returns during the campaign, breaking a tradition for presidential candidates, and he told the

New York Times last year that it "would be a violation" if Mueller probed his finances. "Look, this is about Russia," he said. "My finances are extremely good. My company is an unbelievably successful company."

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders referred questions to the Trump Organization. "We're going to continue to fully cooperate out of respect for the special counsel," Sanders said.

The new focus on Trump Tower comes at a delicate time for the White House.

The president's lawyers are in sensitive negotiations with Mueller's team, who want to question Trump in a face-to-face interview, a potentially key step in the case. Prosecutors generally leave high-profile interviews until the end of an investigation. "There are ongoing discussions" that have become "more focused," according to a source familiar with the investigation.

The president's lawyers declined to comment.

"We don't discuss conversations we've had or not

had with the special counsel's office," said Jay Sekulow, one of the president's personal lawyers.

Legal experts have said it's unlikely that Trump will be able to avoid an interview with Mueller, and the president has publicly expressed an eagerness to do so. "I would love to do it," he said in January.

The White House has shed several senior officials this week, and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who upset Trump by stepping aside from the Russia investigation because he had worked with the president's campaign, could be on the chopping block.

Mueller is overseen by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein because Sessions stepped aside. But replacing Sessions could allow Trump to exert more influence over the investi-

gation — assuming his nominee could pass Senate confirmation.

Republicans have generally warned Trump against firing Sessions, a former senator from Alabama who still enjoys strong support from the party.

White House lawyer Ty Cobb has assured Trump that the case could be winding down soon, lifting a cloud over the president. But the recent activity from prosecutors suggests that isn't the case, said a Republican lawyer familiar with the case. "It's pretty clear that this is not wrapping up," the lawyer said. "The president shouldn't be relying on the hope that this will end soon."

Associated Press contributed.

chris.megerian@latimes.com



SHAWN THEEW/EPA

Paul Manafort's filing said some charges against him are an overreach by special counsel Robert Mueller.

Manafort seeks dismissal of some charges in Russia probe

By JOSEPH TANFANI
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort has asked a federal judge to dismiss some of the criminal charges he faces, arguing that special counsel Robert Mueller exceeded his legal authority in bringing criminal cases unrelated to the presidential election.

Manafort filed a motion Wednesday night in U.S. District Court in Wash-

ington, one of two federal courthouses where he faces trials this year, saying that Mueller's team simply dusted off old allegations related to his lucrative consulting work for the Kremlin-backed government in Ukraine from 2006 to 2014.

Defense lawyer Kevin Downing asked the judge to dismiss charges in Washington because they "simply have no connection" to the Trump campaign or to possible coordination between Trump's aides and a Russian hacking and social me-

dia effort during the 2016 race.

Manafort made similar claims of prosecutorial overreach in a separate civil lawsuit that is pending against the government. But the Justice Department order appointing Mueller last May gave him authority to prosecute "any matters that arose or arise directly from the investigation," not just charges related to the campaign or Russia.

Once a prominent Republican operative and a high-flying international

consultant, Manafort faces five criminal counts in Washington and 18 more in Virginia for what prosecutors alleged was a complex scheme to hide tens of millions of dollars from U.S. tax authorities. The charges include conspiracy, fraud, money laundering and tax evasion through 2017.

Manafort has pleaded not guilty to all charges and rejected an offer to have the two cases consolidated in one jurisdiction. He is scheduled to go on trial in July in Alexandria, Va., and

in September in Washington.

In an order made public Tuesday, U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis found that Manafort was a "substantial" flight risk. He ordered him confined to house arrest.

"Given the nature of the charges against the defendant and the apparent weight of the evidence against him, defendant faces the very real possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison," Ellis wrote.

joseph.tanfani@latimes.com



Catholics from nearby villages pray and chant in Bobei Catholic Church in Guangdong province, China.

YAN CONG/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Pope tests faith of Chinese Catholics

Those faithful to Rome distrust papal outreach to Beijing's church

BY EMILY RAUHALA
The Washington Post

LUOTIANBA, China — The bishop can't really talk about religion right now.

His unofficial church is caught in a fight over the future of the Roman Catholic faith here, a struggle for control between the Vatican and the Communist Party that will determine the fate of the estimated 10 million Catholics in China and shape the legacy of Pope Francis.

Bishop Zhuang Jianjian, 88, under watch and already in trouble, knows it is not safe to speak out. But he can still deliver a sermon.

Just before 7 a.m. on a recent Sunday, he walked to the front of a small, white church in the green hills of Guangdong province and told the story of how God tested Abraham and Abraham kept faith.

In half-empty pews, grandmothers in quilted jackets traced their fingers across the creased pages of their Chinese prayer books. Farmers, arriving late, made the sign of the cross. For them, and for millions of others, these are testing times.

For decades, the Vatican and the Communist Party have been at odds over Catholicism in China, particularly on the question of who appoints clergy — the Holy See or Beijing.

Vatican-appointed bishops like Zhuang operate underground, which means they are often under surveillance and are never totally safe. The government-backed Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association chooses leaders for churches of its own.

Now, a deal is in the works. The plan would give Pope Francis a say in how bishops are appointed in the People's Republic. In return, the pope would recognize seven bishops who were ordained without Vatican approval.

It is being pitched as a way to restore ties between the Vatican and Beijing and bolster the church at a time when President Xi Jinping is cracking down on religion, and Catholicism is losing ground to other faiths.

Critics, particularly senior Catholic figures in Hong Kong, see it as a catastrophic sellout that would put party cadres in charge of communities that have long fought to worship without government control. They want the pope to reconsider.

"To join the Patriotic Association is to deny our faith," said Cardinal Joseph Zen, the former bishop of Hong Kong and the deal's most vocal critic. "If the government is managing the church, it is not the Catholic Church anymore."

In an interview with The Washington Post in Hong Kong, where the church operates relatively freely, Zen confirmed the story that Zhuang could not tell.

In December, the elderly

bishop was escorted from Guangdong to Beijing, where a papal delegation asked him to retire to make way for Huang Bingzhang, an excommunicated bishop who also happens to be a member of China's National People's Congress.

Zhuang refused. Sitting in the seventh row that morning was a 71-year-old farmer with white hair and worn hands. He asked to be identified only by his family name, Cai, for fear of persecution.

On Sundays, Cai walks through fields of cabbage and sweet potato to attend Zhuang's service. Most other evenings, he hosts neighbors in a makeshift chapel on the ground floor of his home.

Cai, like many here, traces his family's Catholic roots back generations — "five or six, to the time of the Qing dynasty," he said — when Catholicism established itself in this part of China under French influence in the 19th century.

He has seen faith tested. And he has seen it survive. "You cannot get rid of the Catholic Church," he said. "Catholics are like seeds."

That, of course, is what China's leaders fear. Critics say the Patriotic Association, which was created in 1957, aims to channel Catholics into churches where faith in party, not faith in God, comes first.

While many Catholics in China have joined, millions of others have held out, unwilling to compromise on the primacy of the pope. Now, it is the pope who

hopes to unite them.

The Vatican seems to be betting that regularizing religious practice will revitalize the faith. Catholicism is rooted in China's countryside, and that has posed an ever larger problem. As young people move to the cities, small towns and villages empty out, so, too, do churches.

At Zhuang's service, there were perhaps two dozen parishioners: elderly farmers, two teenage girls and one fidgety altar boy who arrived, then zoomed away, on a muddy motorbike.

The villagers of Luotianba spoke carefully, and mostly off the record, to avoid criticizing the government or the church. Some said it didn't matter who the bishop was. Others thought it did.

Few seemed pleased about the prospect of change. Zhuang, their bishop, was born in this area and, like them, speaks Hakka, a language that is unintelligible to many Chinese. The bishop set to replace him, Huang, won't understand them, Cai worried.

Closer to the halls of power, the debate over a deal has been accompanied by secret meetings, open letters and dramatic, last-minute flights to Rome.

That Zen, and other church leaders, are willing to speak so openly is striking, and presents a challenge to the pope.

Efforts at rapprochement did not start with Francis, but he has given the issue greater attention.

Lung disease striking dentists

CDC baffled by cluster of deadly illness in Virginia

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Seven of the patients were dead, and two more were dying of a rare chronic, progressive lung disease that can be treated but not cured.

It's estimated that about 200,000 people in the United States have Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, or IPF, at any one time.

But the common denominator of a small group of patients at a Virginia clinic over a 15-year period is worrying the Centers for Disease Control: Eight were dentists; a ninth was a dental technician.

The dental professionals were 23 times more likely to have IPF than the rest of the population, the CDC said in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, released last week. Something in their workplace environment may have been poisoning them, investigators said, although they don't know what.

IPF causes scarring of the lungs, according to the report. It can be slowed, but nothing can remove the scar tissue. Over time, the lungs have difficulty getting oxygen to vital organs like the heart and brain.

In April, 2016, a Virginia dentist who had been diagnosed with IPF and was undergoing treatment at a specialty clinic called the CDC with a warning: Several other dental professionals had sought treatment at the same facility.

Investigators pored over nearly 900 records of IPF patients at that clinic over a 21-year period and found the nine patients with the common work history.

The median survival age of IPF after diagnosis is three to five years. But first, patients experience shortness of breath, a dry, chronic cough, weight loss, joint and muscle pain and clubbed fingers or toes.

Dentists and people who work in their offices are exposed to a specific set of hazards, particularly silica, polyvinyl siloxane, alginate and other toxic substances that can be inhaled when they're polishing dental appliances or preparing amalgams.

Older dentists usually fare worse, because they may have practiced at a time when safety standards weren't as stringent.

"We do work with materials and with human bio-products that are potentially damaging to our bodies if we inhale them," Paul Casamassimo, chief policy officer of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's Pediatric Oral Health & Research Center, told CNN.

For example, the dentist who alerted the CDC never smoked, "but reported not wearing a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health-certified respirator during dental activities throughout his 40-year dental practice," the CDC said. During the past 20 years, he started wearing a surgical mask, which still may have been inadequate.

Still, "more work has to be done before we can make any conclusions about the risk dentists or other dental personnel have," Randall Nett, lead author of the study and medical officer with the U.S. Public Health Service, told CNN.

Even though CDC investigators have not figured out what, specifically, caused IPF in the patients, the study's release may still do some good.

Before, workers exposed to dust from wood and metal have been warned to take precautions to prevent IPF, but this is the first time the CDC has warned that dentists and the people who work in their offices are vulnerable. And IPF may not have a cure, but there are protective measures: namely proper ventilation and wearing a respirator during certain procedures.

Saudi women test-drive freedom

Many train for day kingdom lifts ban on female drivers

BY AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Fatima Salem giggles with hesitation when it's her turn to drive through a small parking lot lined with bright orange cones and arrows. Like millions of Saudi women, she plans on applying for a driver's license when the kingdom lifts its ban on women driving in June.

But first, she has to learn how to drive.

"I'm a little nervous," the 30-year-old master's student said.

Francesca Pardini, an Italian former race car driver, helps calm her nerves, reminding Salem to check the mirrors and buckle up.

Once on the road, Pardini reached over to help straighten out the wheel after a left turn, and they both lurched forward when Salem stepped on the brakes before a stop sign.

The right to drive, which people in other countries gain as teenagers after a similar ordeal has been denied to Saudi women.

Dozens who dared to protest and defy the ban over the years were jailed,

prosecuted and stigmatized.

But a royal decree issued last year by King Salman announcing that women would be allowed to drive in 2018 upended one of the most visible forms of discrimination in Saudi Arabia, where guardianship laws still give men the final say on whether a woman can travel abroad, obtain a passport or marry.

The king's 32-year-old son and heir, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has pushed through a number of other reforms to relax some of the country's ultraconservative rules.

They include allowing women into stadiums to watch sports, bringing back musical concerts and promising a return of movie theaters this month after a more than three-decade ban.

The reforms are aimed at improving Saudi Arabia's image abroad, attracting foreign investors, increasing women's participation in the workforce and boosting local household spending as lower oil prices force the kingdom to undertake sensitive austerity measures.

The ban on women driving has been costly for Saudi families.

The wealthy hire and house male drivers, often from South Asian coun-

tries, while others make do with taxis and ride-hailing services.

Still, for many women, commuting to work or running basic errands requires a husband or son who can make the drive.

At the female-only campus of Effat University in Jiddah, dozens of young Saudi students dressed in long, loose black robes — still the required dress code — braved the afternoon heat for a chance to learn how to drive on their own.

The university organized training this month for students to learn the basics of how to operate a car.

For most of the young women, the hour-long training, sponsored by Ford Motor, is the first time they've ever sat in the driver's seat.

Female-only universities across Saudi Arabia are expected to offer women full driving courses once the rules and guidelines from the government are announced.

"I felt out of place. I've never sat on that side of the car. Usually I always sit in the back or on the right side, but it felt good. You feel, like, in control," said Sara Ghouth, an 18-year-old freshman. "I want to drive a car. I want to be independent."

Car companies see the lifting of the ban as an



AMR NABIL/AP

A student at the female-only campus of Effat University sits for the first time in the driver's seat during training.

opportunity to promote their brands and rev up sales in Saudi Arabia, a country of around 20 million citizens where around half are women.

Ford's Driving Skills for Life program, a one-time session that focuses on safety, has been taught around the world, including to male drivers in Saudi Arabia, but this is the first time the company has taught women-only groups, which are mostly made up of first-time drivers.

"With these girls, they're like an empty book," said Pardini, the Italian trainer with Ford. "They really want to learn."

Before the training began recently, Ford conducted surveys with women across Saudi Arabia to better understand what they are looking for in a car

and how to market their brand to the new drivers.

"The first thing we don't want to do is be patronizing. This isn't about lip gloss and nail polish and things like that. These are educated women," said Crystal Worthem, a marketing manager with Ford.

Worthem said the American automaker "absolutely" expects a lift in sales as Saudi women start driving this summer. She said some women are already purchasing cars for when the ban is lifted, while others own the cars they are ferried around in.

"Women have always been in our showrooms, but now women are actively shopping for themselves, which is exciting," she said. "It's a car that they can drive and not a car that they'll be riding in."

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Embattled VA chief says he has no intention of stepping down

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, under fire for ethics violations, said Thursday that he has no intention of leaving his job even as the White House hinted at the possibility of “personnel changes” to lead the agency.

Shulkin, the lone Obama administration holdover in Trump’s Cabinet, expressed regret for “distractions” that have shifted attention from his efforts to fix veterans’

health care.

Shulkin, speaking at a House budget hearing, addressed an investigation underway into his alleged use of security detail for personal errands. He denied the accusation.

Shulkin has faced several investigations over his travel and leadership of the department, including a bruising VA watchdog report that found ethics violations in connection with his trip to Europe with his wife last summer.

Nepal authorities labor to ID survivors in deadly plane crash

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Authorities are struggling to identify the survivors of a deadly plane crash earlier this week, with many of the injured burned, in critical condition and unable to speak, officials said Thursday.

Extensive burns, in both the living and the dead, have made identifications more difficult, said police spokesman Manoj Neupane. The flight from Bangladesh, which was

carrying 67 passengers and four crew members, slammed into a field beside the Kathmandu airport runway Monday. Neupane said at least 11 of the survivors have been identified. The crash left 49 people dead.

Of the 22 survivors, 19 are being treated in Kathmandu hospitals, he said, and another has been flown to Singapore for more medical care. Two others have gone home.

Conductor Levine, ousted after sex abuse inquiry, sues the Met

NEW YORK — Conductor James Levine has sued New York’s Metropolitan Opera over a sexual misconduct investigation that sank his storied career. His lawsuit was filed Thursday and says the opera company used baseless allegations to tarnish him and then fired him Monday.

The New York City lawsuit accuses the Met of breach of contract and defamation. The suit seeks

at least \$5.8 million in damages.

The Met had no comment.

The Met suspended Levine and began an investigation in December after the New York Post and The New York Times aired allegations of sexual misconduct involving three boys decades ago.

Levine said the claims were unfounded. He hasn’t been charged with any crime.



DARKO VOJINOVIC/AP

Hungarians use cellphones to light up a protest march Thursday against Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Budapest. Orban also held a rally in the capital. The rallies also marked the 170th anniversary of the 1848 revolution. Parliamentary elections will be held in April.

North Korean official’s visit to Sweden fuels Trump, Kim talks

STOCKHOLM — North Korea’s foreign minister met with his Swedish counterpart Thursday after making a surprise trip to Stockholm that has fueled speculation about a meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho landed at Stockholm Arlanda Airport on a direct flight from Beijing and spent several hours at the Swedish Foreign Ministry before returning to the North Korean Embassy.

Ri’s talks with Foreign Minister Margot Wall-

strom are expected to resume Friday.

Sweden has had diplomatic relations with North Korea since 1973 and is one of the few Western countries with an embassy in Pyongyang. It provides consular services for the United States in North Korea.

“If the key actors want Sweden to play a role, facilitate (talks), be a forum or a link or whatever it may be, then we are prepared to do that,” Prime Minister Stefan Lofven told Sweden’s TT news agency earlier Thursday.

“We shouldn’t be naive

and believe it is Sweden that solves these problems,” Lofven added.

The trip by Ri is being closely watched because there remains a huge amount of preparation that needs to be done and relatively little time before Kim is supposedly planning to sit down for summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Trump.

Trump has agreed to meet Kim by May.

North Korea has yet to publicly comment on what it hopes to gain from the summits, adding an extra element of mystery and skepticism.

S.C. killer’s sister charged with weapons at school

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The sister of the man sentenced to die for killing nine people at a South Carolina church in 2015 has been arrested at her school and charged with bringing pepper spray, a knife and marijuana onto the campus.

Morgan Roof, 18, was arrested Wednesday at A.C.

Flora High School after a school administrator contacted the school resource officer, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said in a news release.

She is charged with two counts of carrying a weapon on school grounds and one count of simple possession of marijuana.

No one was hurt.

A judge set her bond at \$5,000 and said she could not return to the school. She was screened for a public defender.

Dylann Roof was convicted of fatally shooting nine African-American parishioners at a Charleston church in 2015.

U.S. military: Iran naval forces halt ‘provocations’

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iranian naval forces appear to have halted their provocations of U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf in recent months, a U.S. military official said Thursday.

Navy Cmdr. William Urban, spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said there have been no “unsafe and unprofessional” actions by Iranian naval forces in the Gulf since August 2017. Prior to that, Iranian vessels had periodically made high-speed approaches to U.S. ships that were considered dangerous provocations.

Urban declined to speculate on the reason for the change.

Urban spoke to reporters traveling with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who stopped in Bahrain to meet with senior government officials and U.S. military leaders on his way back from Afghanistan.

Stormy time: For a week, the world has waited: When would “60 Minutes” air its interview with porn star Stormy Daniels alleging an affair with President Donald Trump? CBS has chosen March 25, according to people familiar with the timing. Her attorney, Michael Avenatti, did not respond to a question about the timing.

Divorce court: Donald Trump Jr. and his wife, Vanessa, are separating, the couple announced Thursday. A public court record filed Thursday in New York says Vanessa Trump is seeking an uncontested divorce from the president’s oldest son. The couple, who married in 2005 and have five kids, asked for privacy.

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EDITORIALS

When Illinois ballots cheat voters and candidates

Chicago tax attorney Andrea Raila collected signatures and filed paperwork last fall to run for Cook County assessor. But due to Illinois' Byzantine candidate filing process, she has been bounced on and off the ballot for months.

It's wrong for Raila, wrong for voters. Due to the uncertainty of her candidacy she hasn't been able to campaign. She hasn't been able to raise money. She hasn't been invited to candidate forums. And now, following a 1st District Illinois Appellate Court ruling Wednesday, she is officially back in the race — unless more judges intervene.

This even though election officials in Cook County and Chicago have been warning voters for weeks that votes cast for her would not be counted.

Got all that? Lawmakers, you write election law. Fix your mess.

For lack of smarter statutes, challenges to Raila's signatures and how they were collected have dragged on for months. Elections officials stripped pages of her signatures, dropping her total of valid names below the required amount, on broad accusations that they were fraudulently collected. A lower court ruling upheld that decision. But the appeals court found that signatures collected on her behalf had been tossed unfairly and that Raila's campaign deserved due process. The court's ruling puts her back on the ballot.

So days before Tuesday's primary, the race is in a tailspin. A two-person matchup for assessor between incumbent Joseph Berrios and newcomer Frederick "Fritz" Kaegi of Oak Park is now a three-way race with Raila and what's left of her candidacy. This could affect the outcome.



Andrea Raila's candidacy has been ruined.

How should voters react? After evenly evaluating all three candidates weeks ago, we endorsed Kaegi and still consider him the most promising candidate. The imperative here is for voters who take Democratic ballots to oust Berrios. Heaps of independent research, much of it by Tribune reporters, attest to the rank unfairness of his assessment system, which favors affluent homeowners at the expense of poor and minority communities. Each day we've been publishing, online and in print, new entries on our list of reasons to fire Berrios. We'll keep doing that through Election Day.

That's also when lots of Illinois pols could lose interest in fixing state law: For them, the urgency of an election tends to fade at precisely 7 p.m. when polls close statewide. All of us should be pressuring legislative leaders and the governor of Illinois to curtail the chance of these injustices, which happen with troubling regularity. There's no shortage of good-government proposals for how to make state election statutes more workable (and less hostile to newcomers challenging incumbents).

For openers, the ballot-challenge process, which begins in December, needs to be scrapped and revamped. There simply isn't enough time for candidates whose petitions have been challenged to get through the gantlet — exercising their right to stay on the ballot — and for elections officials to finalize the printing and electronic loading of those ballots.

There is no question the process has cheated Raila. It also has cheated some 99,000 Cook County early voters who've already cast ballots for Tuesday's primary. They were told at polling places that votes for Raila would not count.

How is that fair to Raila? And how is that fair to those voters?

REASONS TO FIRE ASSESSOR BERRIOS

He has so many interests, so many conflicts

Next in a series of 10 compelling reasons why Democratic voters should defeat Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios in the March 20 primary election.

Reason 6: Last week, Chicago's Better Government Association reported that tobacco giant Altria Group won from Berrios' office a lucrative property tax break on a Franklin Park chewing tobacco warehouse and manufacturing facility. Problem already: Berrios co-owns a lobbying firm that counts Altria among its longtime clients.

"Records show the warehouse was under contract to sell for double the value that Berrios' office assigned, despite the legal requirement that the standard for such determination is 100 percent of fair market value," the BGA wrote. The BGA's numbers: Berrios' office had assessed the property at just under \$12.3 million. An Altria subsidiary asked for a reduction because the building had been 45 percent vacant. Berrios' office cut the estimated value to \$8.1 million. That reduced the 2017 tax bill on the property from just under \$1.1 million to about \$725,000. Soon after Berrios' office signed off on that valuation cut, Altria's subsidiary closed on the sale of the property for \$16 million — roughly double the assessed valuation of \$8.1 million.

Berrios told the BGA he "wasn't involved" in Altria's appeal but said he believed the assessment reduction was justified. If only the Cook County's assessor didn't have a mess of conflicting interests that leave taxpayers wondering if they're getting a fair deal from this office.

Time to go, Joe. The better ballot choice is Frederick "Fritz" Kaegi, right, a financial analyst from Oak Park.



You'll find a downloadable, printable list of Chicago Tribune primary election endorsements, as well as the candidates' responses to our questionnaires, at chicagotribune.com/candidates.

A new chapter in the never-ending Toy Story

Toy stores are wondrous places for 8-year-olds and for the inner 8-year-old running amok in almost all of us.

In some warehouse stores — like Toys R Us — shelves burst with shiny new baubles that overwhelm the eye, and often the credit card.

The magic has faded for Toys R Us, which is planning to sell or close all of its 735 U.S. stores. Executives blame the usual suspects — discounting and overbearing retailers like Walmart, gigantic internet competitors like Amazon. In other words, fierce competition. Many retailers are under the same intense pressure as Toys R Us. The retail landscape shifts quickly in the internet age. That's not an omen for the future, just a fact.

Toys R Us has capitalized on selection and price. But if its store presence dwindles, its customers' toy options won't. Hatchimals, Barbie, G.I. Joe, Star Wars light sabers, Hot Wheels, L.O.L. Surprise! dolls and (name your favorite toy) will still be available, by click or by bricks-and-mortar.

With this downsizing of an empire, there should be an opening for the smaller toy stores that may have struggled to keep up with the warehouse-style stores like Toys R Us.

Maybe the fall of Toys R Us will embolden entrepreneurs to start up new stores that cater to moms and pops who crave a more manageable experience — taking a child to a neighborhood store that doesn't just pluck boxes from shelves and transport them to the cashier, but lets kids explore and, above all, play. These cozier toy tableaux — many small toy stores already are thriving — could sell more parents on less frenzy and chaos than the typical whining-on-every-aisle model.

Every store, big or small, can depend on the acquisitive instinct in every child. The tot mantra hasn't changed in generations: See it, want it, persuade parent to buy it.

Any parent who resists that edict risks a reckoning. Smart store owners will make sure many toys are at child eye-level. Hint,



SCOTT STANTIS

hint. Toys R Us is but the latest big toy retailer to capsize under debt and changing consumer habits. Remember FAO Schwarz, famous for its gaudy New York City flagship store where "Big" movie stars Tom

Hanks and Robert Loggia danced on the floor piano?

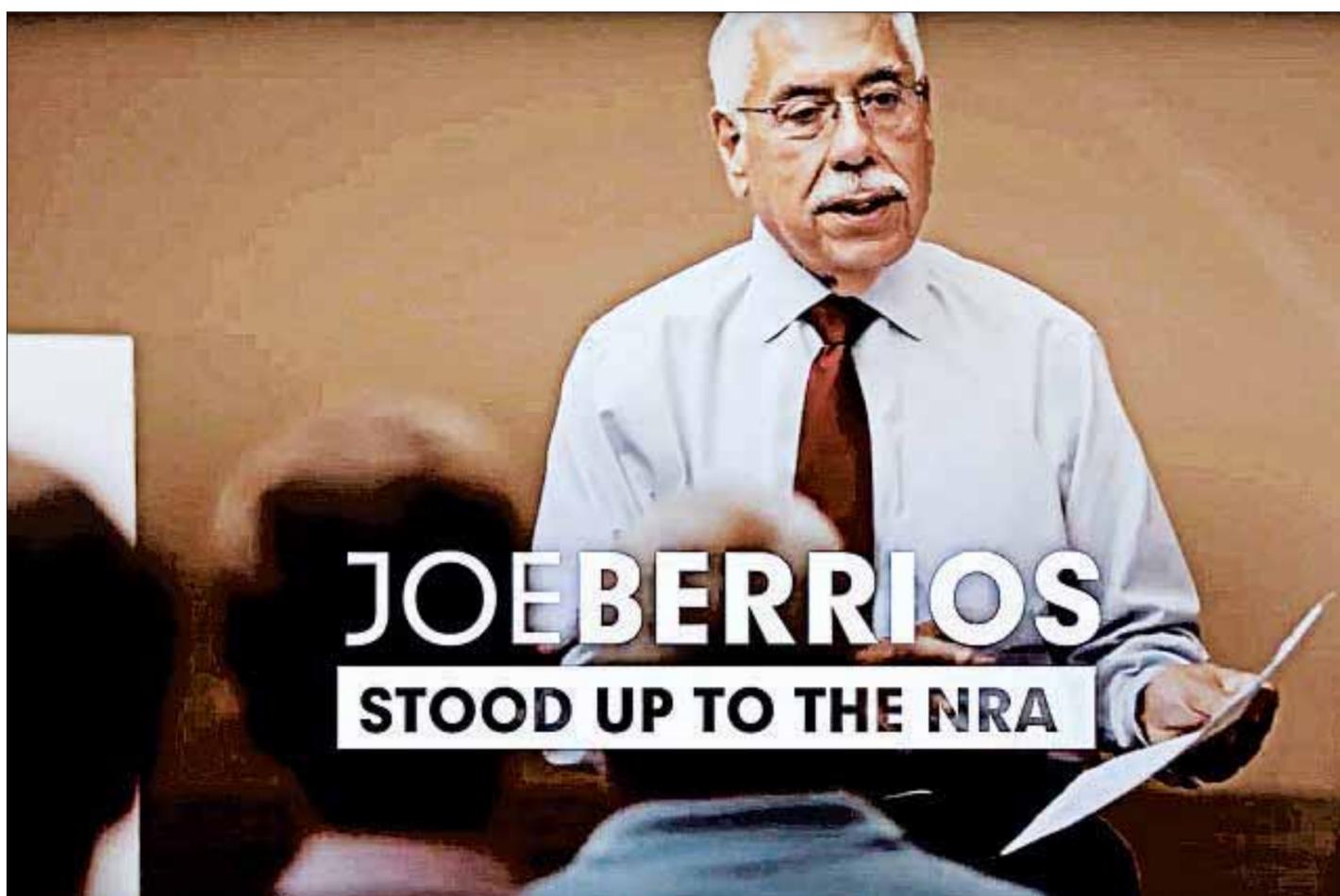
Toys R Us bought FAO in 2009 and shuttered its Fifth Avenue location in 2015. But the new owner of FAO reportedly plans to open a new flagship store in Man-

hattan and expand the brand into airports around the world. What dies is often reborn in a different form.

As Toys R Us withers, we hope more independent toy sellers bloom. Like toys themselves, all it takes is imagination.

Chicago Tribune

PERSPECTIVE



BERRIOS CAMPAIGN

A campaign ad for the incumbent Cook County assessor makes claims that are unverifiable and irrelevant to the office.

Berrios misfires in attacking Kaegi's gun record



ERIC ZORN

After seeing the absolute weirdest political commercial of this campaign season — Cook County Assessor Joe Berrios' attack on his primary opponent's record on guns — you will have questions.

I have answers.

Q: Wait, what did that narrator just say?

A: She said:
"To stop the (National Rifle Association), follow the money. Banker Fritz Kaegi's firm invested heavily in this NRA donor's company. Kaegi got rich and the NRA got millions to spend blocking gun control. Now Kaegi's spending his fortune calling himself progressive, but Kaegi puts profits over people. Joe Berrios stood up to the NRA, writing the landmark law outlawing guns in schools, and is fighting to ban assault weapons."

Q: So Kaegi donates to the NRA?

A: That's the impression the ad would like you to come away with. But note that it alleges only a very indirect contribution, saying Kaegi's firm — Columbia Wagner Asset Management — invested heavily in a company

owned by someone who donates to the NRA.

An on-screen graphic identifies that company as Clayton Williams Energy Inc., a Texas corporation that a Mother Jones magazine report identified as "the NRA's largest corporate donor outside of the firearm industry, and one of its six largest overall donors."

And, indeed, a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission report shows Columbia Wagner's Acorn Fund invested \$15.9 million in Clayton Williams Energy in early 2014.

Q: Is it fair to hold an investor in a corporation responsible for the outside donations made by that corporation?

A: That's certainly debatable. But here's the thing: Kaegi was not the manager of the Acorn Fund at the time it invested in Clayton Williams Energy. He didn't take over the fund until May 2015, more than a year later.

And, again, according to U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filings, the Acorn Fund pulled completely out of Clayton Williams Energy by the fall of 2015.

Q: Was that Kaegi making a statement against the NRA?

A: Nope. He simply thought the oil and gas company was "a bad investment," according to campaign spokesman DeRondal Bevly. Bevly added that Kaegi "is anti-NRA and favors the implementation of

sensible gun reform to keep dangerous weapons out of our communities."

Q: Did Berrios really buck the NRA by writing a "landmark" school gun ban?

A: The Berrios campaign did not respond to phone, email and text requests to back up this claim, which would be related to Berrios' time as a state representative from 1982 to 1988.

A spokesman for the Illinois Coalition Against Handgun Violence didn't know what Berrios meant and referred me to former Democratic state Sen. William Marovitz, who was strongly identified with the gun-control efforts in Springfield during that era.

"I have no idea what law he is referring to," Marovitz said.

As for NRA opposition, in 1999 the organization's vice president, Wayne LaPierre said, "We believe in absolutely gun-free, zero-tolerance, totally safe schools. That means no guns in America's schools. Period," though he allowed for exceptions for "law enforcement officers or trained security personnel."

Q: How is Berrios "fighting to ban assault weapons" in his job as Cook County assessor?

A: Again, his campaign declined to clarify, but advocacy of firearms policy is not in the portfolio of county assessors. Their job is to accurately and fairly estimate the value of commercial and residential properties for tax purposes. Period.

The brief against Berrios is not that

he's squishy on guns, it's that he's been a lousy assessor. A study by the independent Civic Consulting Alliance and a joint investigation by the Tribune and ProPublica Illinois found widespread errors and racial inequities on his watch.

A story posted Thursday reported that the flawed property tax assessment system caused a \$2.2 billion transfer of wealth from owners of overvalued Chicago homes to owners of undervalued ones between 2011 and 2015, according to a study by the Municipal Finance Center at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy.

Kaegi and his fellow challenger Andrea Raila (now back on the ballot after a court ruling Tuesday) promise to overhaul the assessment system to make it more accurate and transparent. They do not promise to limit access to deadly weapons.

Q: Why would Berrios run such a misleading and irrelevant commercial this close to the primary election?

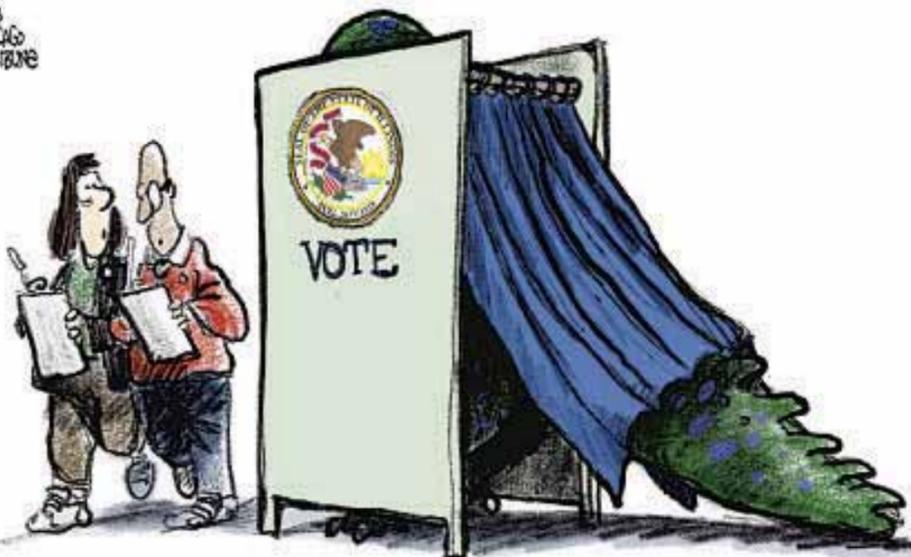
A: To distract voters from his dismal record and exploit for political gain the gun massacre of 17 students and staff members at a Florida high school less than two weeks before this commercial started to run. That would be my guess.

But, as always, you're free to draw your own conclusions.

ericzorn@gmail.com [Twitter @EricZorn](https://twitter.com/EricZorn)

SCOTT STANTIS CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

SCOTT STANTIS
 CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Think you are simply hysterical? Enter the Scott Stantis cartoon caption contest.

Scott draws a cartoon each week — this week's cartoon appears above — and invites readers to submit their ideas for the caption. Scott will choose 10 finalists and readers will vote on the winner. Here's how to play: Scott will post a new cartoon each Thursday afternoon at chicagotribune.com/caption. Readers can submit their captions by email to ctc-captions@tribpub.com until noon Monday. Please include your name and town of residence. Voting will start Monday afternoon and finish at noon Thursday. A new cartoon, plus the previous week's winners, will appear online each Thursday afternoon and in print each Friday.

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS



WINNER

Nope.
 Lenny Richards, Chicago

RUNNERS-UP

Look! It's Mr. O'Leary!
 Lew Cohen, Northbrook

Diogenes, what are you doing in Illinois?
 Ron Dilger, Woodridge

*Excuse me. I'm looking for an honest ...
 Oh never mind. What was I thinking?*
 Steven M. Schwartz, Deer Park

PERSPECTIVE

QUOTABLES

“Candidates who have never been through tough races have a hard time understanding what it is like and usually don’t understand until it is too late. There are a lot of unprepared candidates who are sitting ducks right now and don’t even know it.”

— Liesl Hickey, former executive director of the National Republican Congressional Committee

“... algorithms can only track your past and give you more of the same. It’s an insult to the human mind and the human soul, because it takes away a universe of possibilities.”

— Neil Young, griping about how big tech companies, such as Spotify, Facebook, Apple and Google, have changed the music industry

“If Mr. Trump runs four more times, I would vote for him every time. I like him. I like the way he handles things. It’s time this country is put back where it belongs — taking care of the people here instead of the people who don’t belong here.”

— Shelia Gregory, the mother of Stormy Daniels, a porn actress, who is alleged to have had an affair with Donald Trump



TODD PANAGOPOULOS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2017

An aerial of Cook County Jail Division 11, which is part of the Cook County Department of Corrections complex in Chicago. Recent reform has lowered jail population, but at what cost?

Jailhouse blues: Here’s what real jail reform looks like

BY TOM DART

Over the last several months, a well-intentioned experiment in criminal justice reform has been quietly rolling out in courtrooms across Chicago. While much has been good so far, I am concerned the effort is dangerously veering off course.

From the outside, getting criminal justice right sounds simple enough: After someone is arrested, keep the violent ones locked up and let everyone else go unless and until they are convicted.

But in reality, the violent ones have long been able to get out while those who pose no threat to public safety languish in jail. That is because our system has always put a price on freedom. If you have enough money to pay bail, no matter the danger, you can roam free before your trial. If you don’t have cash, no matter how harmless you are, you stay behind bars.

What that system gave us was both an overcrowded jail and streets filled with blood and spent shell casings.

A work in progress

I’ve been pushing for a new system that reasonably assesses if someone is a danger or flight risk. If so, they get locked up; if not, they go home to await their day in court. Because this type of pretrial justice is both fair and saves taxpayers money, it has been slowly emerging across the country.

On Sept. 18, 2017, Cook County judges started moving toward that system. They stopped setting unreasonably high bonds. Our research shows that more low-level offenders are getting out pretrial. The jail population has dropped considerably and we are saving money. Those are all good things.

Yet, we are also seeing more people who are accused of violent crimes such as armed robbery or carjacking — and more who are known to be habitual gun offenders — going home or being placed on community supervision programs with

little regard for whether those programs are capable of mitigating the added risk to public safety.

This is not what real reform looks like.

Public safety

Those of us who have pushed reform promised the public that it was aimed at getting nonviolent offenders out of jail. Public safety, we said, would not be compromised. Other justice systems have moved away from cash bail and kept the public safe. But they don’t do it by releasing defendants recklessly. They hold those who pose a danger to the public, and heavily invest in community supervision programs for those who don’t.

A noncash system doesn’t work if the risk posed is not adequately addressed.

Cause and effect

I recently raised concern about judges sending a high number of potentially violent defendants to the electronic monitoring program I run. The program was designed to handle nonviolent offenders, but the number of defendants facing violent crime or gun charges who are ordered into the program has jumped by about 50 percent.

Cook County’s recent severe budget cuts have made it difficult to effectively take on this increasing risk in a home detention program that monitors more than 2,000 people on ankle bracelets every day.

My concern has so far been met with indifference, denial and ungrounded outrage. My commitment to reform has been questioned. Some say those arrested on gun charges aren’t necessarily “violent.” Even if they are, others argue, there is no proof they will commit new crimes or flee prosecution if they have an ankle bracelet on them. Critics argue that few defendants have been rearrested so far. This ignores the fact that thousands of crime victims every year — those shot, robbed or raped — go without justice

because no one is charged. In 2017, the murder closure rate in Chicago hit a new low at just 17.5 percent.

The debate around criminal justice reform is often filled with extremes. Many want to see everyone locked up and argue that an ounce of compassion is tantamount to pulling the trigger on innocent victims. Others firmly believe that jails have no place in our society and express deep outrage when any criminal has to do time behind bars.

The nuances of reform

But the reform I support — and continue to push for — is not about loading up the jail or emptying it. Reform isn’t about reaching some arbitrary number of people in the jail, declaring victory and hoping it all works out well in the end.

No, the reform I have been fighting for is about constantly evaluating whether we have it right, whether we are keeping people safe and whether we have the right people in custody and the right people — like the mentally ill and drug addicts — out of jail and in programs where they can get help.

We have now studied the early outcomes of this new bond system. And a lot is good — let’s not miss that. But we owe it to the movement and the public to assess whether we are achieving our reform goals and whether our community supervision programs are up to the task they have been handed. In the years we have pushed for reforming this system, there was never any discussion about the need for more gun offenders to be on the streets.

Let’s be clear about the problems I’m talking about. As of Wednesday, there were 33 individuals accused of murder or attempted murder, 51 charged with criminal sexual assault or abuse, and 39 charged with armed robbery assigned to my electronic monitoring program. One man recently ordered into the program was arrested after running from police while carrying a 9 mm loaded with hol-

low-point bullets. This 26-year-old man had 18 prior adult arrests, including eight convictions. One of those convictions was for running away from the same electronic monitoring program the judge sent him back to. Just a few days ago, another man on electronic monitoring — though charged as an armed habitual criminal — was found in a car with a loaded gun under his seat. The judge ordered him back into my program if he could pay a few thousand dollars in bond.

This is not reform. We can’t declare victory and just move on.

I recently reiterated that electronic monitoring was never intended for these offenders. After all, those of us pushing this criminal justice reform had long promised that our aim was to help nonviolent offenders and that bond reform would not further endanger the public.

Time for another tuneup

More than six months into the latest reform changes, it is time to review the progress that has been made and how we can work together to ensure that it is lasting, fair and safe. I’m suggesting that we pause and recalibrate our reform efforts before there is a tragedy, not after.

I know what real reform looks like and how hard it is to get right.

When I was elected sheriff of Cook County, the U.S. Department of Justice declared the overcrowded county jail violated the Constitution, calling it an “insecure facility that is dangerous for everyone on the premises” where detainees were “regularly subjected to inappropriate and excessive use of physical force.” This summer we were congratulated by that department as we exited federal oversight for the first time in 40 years.

Today, the Cook County Jail is a national model on the same issues that once made it a horror show. That was real reform and it took years, sober accountability and true investment.

Tom Dart is the Cook County sheriff.

PERSPECTIVE

End gerrymandering, make elections matter again

BY JOHN SIREK

For years, Illinoisans have been asking our elected officials to put good governance ahead of partisanship and self-interest. What have we gotten? Gridlock and corruption. Busted budgets and bad roads. Failing schools and a shrinking population.

Why has our government failed our citizens and bankrupted our state? Because elected officials have created a system in which they are no longer accountable. In 2016, more than 60 percent of our state legislative general elections were not com-

petitive, meaning that incumbents faced little or no opposition. This year's election will likely be no different.

A primary driver of noncompetitive elections and unresponsive government is gerrymandering. Every 10 years, the party in power divides our citizens into districts designed to benefit that party rather than residents. Favored candidates are nestled in "safe seats" with little or no political opposition. This system rewards politicians that toe the party line. Too often, candidates must appeal to only the most extreme partisan supporters in

the primary before sailing to victory in the general election.

Three elected officials in Springfield recently stepped up, sponsoring an amendment to the Illinois Constitution that will challenge the status quo. This week, Democratic Sens. Julie Morrison and Heather Steans introduced the Fair Maps Amendment in the Senate to put an end to gerrymandering. Republican Rep. Ryan Spain recently filed the same amendment in the House. If enacted, this legislation would establish a 16-member independent redistricting commission reflecting the demo-

graphic, geographic and political diversity of our state.

This commission will be beholden solely to the people of Illinois, not the leaders of one political party. Its work would likely lead to more competitive elections, more responsive government and more voter choice while also protecting communities of color. When California created its independent commission, communities of color benefited from the change. The panel's maps led to a 50 percent rise in the number of districts represented by candidates of color.

We could make these same

changes here in Illinois. It's time for politicians to stop picking their own constituents and stop drawing districts to virtually guarantee their re-election. Fair maps drawn by an independent commission will return competition to our elections and the accountability of elected officials. The voters of Illinois would finally have a fighting chance of getting the representation and government they deserve.

John Sirek is the interim executive director of CHANGE Illinois, an organization working for political and government reform.



HULTON ARCHIVE

An Irish immigrant, center, waits in a line at Ellis Island in the early 20th century. Many early Irish immigrants faced discrimination and mistreatment in America.

The Irish were the original bad hombres

BY RUBEN NAVARRETTE JR.

SAN DIEGO — Around this time of year, I remember to pour myself a wee bit of whiskey, listen to "Danny Boy" and pay my respects to one of my favorite tribes of rowdies and rogues.

They were the O.B.H. The Original Bad Hombres. Catholic immigrants, they came to these shores as throwaways from their homeland — the kind of place that today someone might call a "s----- country" — where corrupt politicians had betrayed and cheated them. They arrived with nothing but the clothes on their backs, a cigar box of family photographs, a fierce work ethic and the character that comes from suffering. They were denied jobs because of their religion or ethnicity. And when they could find work, they did the sorts of dangerous and dirty jobs that Americans thought were beneath them — only to be accused of taking jobs from natives. For their

trouble, they were tormented by know-nothings and subjected to decades of insults, discrimination and mistreatment.

They got an up-close look at America's schizophrenia. Those who despised them wouldn't let them live nearby, but then those same people accused them of segregating themselves. They were told they'd never blend in, then accused of dividing their loyalty between this country and the one they left behind. They loved this land even when it didn't love them back. There was no mistaking them for the blue bloods who looked down upon them. Their blood is green.

I speak of course about Irish-Americans. Saints alive. Whom did you think I was talking about? I suppose their story does sound familiar.

Someone once asked me: "If you weren't Mexican, what would you be?" Without hesitation, I said: "I'd be ashamed."

But the five years I spent in

Boston gave me the chance to fall in love with another community that knows all about loss and pain and heartbreak.

These days, I think: If I couldn't be Mexican, I'd be Irish. It's a short walk. We're both Catholic, and we're not far removed from our immigrant roots. After all, what is an empanada but a more compact version of shepherd's pie? And we both play sad songs so we can cry and feel happy.

My Irish friends pay tribute — in a classic hymn that dates to 1913 — to a young man who heard "the pipes are calling" and had to leave Ireland, either to fight in World War I or to seek his fortune in America. Danny Boy is destined to come home "when summer's in the meadow," or "when the valley's hushed and white with snow," and "all the flowers are dying," only to find that his loved ones have passed away — and he never got the chance to say goodbye. Such is

the sadness of Ireland.

As part of their own diaspora, Mexicans know this story — of leaving, returning, leaving again — by heart. Our anthem, which I heard at countless Mexican weddings growing up in central California, was popularized by the iconic Mexican crooner Vicente Fernandez. The classic song speaks of love and loss, the kind that tortures you and drives you mad. Having learned to love and lose, and accepting that you were wrong, you can only hope to make it back to the arms of your beloved. Your last wish is to "Volver, Volver" (go back) to where you started, and make better choices.

Mexico's pain is evident in the lyrics of Bruce Springsteen's haunting ballad "Sinaloa Cowboys": "For everything the north gives, it exacts a price in return." It's in the tears of the Mexican immigrant named Jose whom I interviewed last year on an avocado farm in San Diego County.

He is proud to tell me that he has two teenage daughters in private school in Mexico, where they're learning English so they can have a better life. Jose hasn't seen his girls in 10 years, and he can't talk about them without his eyes filling with tears. Such is the sadness of Mexico.

To many Americans, Mexicans are all about the "D's." They're dirty, dangerous, devious, dumb, defective and damaging to civilized society. A screed like that is offensive, but it's not original.

A hundred and fifty years ago, people said the same — and worse — about our distant cousins from the Emerald Isle. They were wrong then. Just as they're wrong now. When Ireland sent its folks to America, it did send its best.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, lads.

Washington Post Writers Group

Ruben Navarrette is a Washington Post columnist.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

17 minutes

Students from high schools all over the country gathered on Wednesday to join in on the national school walkout. This protest was to advocate for stricter gun laws, including a ban on assault weapons, and remember those who lost their lives in the Parkland shooting. The students at my high school — Lyons Township in La Grange — definitely gave the walkout the attention that it deserved.

Over three-quarters of LTHS students gathered around the leaders, who gave little speeches all with the same theme: "Enough is enough." No student, teacher or family member should ever have to go through the pain of losing a loved one to a bullet from an assault rifle.

Two weeks prior to the walk-

out, Florida lawmaker Elizabeth Porter stated that students do not have the "wisdom" or the "experience" to make laws and that children would make laws just because they feel like it. Is that really what the walkout was about? Did all of those students come together just because we felt like it? Or do we really want to change?

In my eyes, this day proved that no matter your age or your experience, you can make a difference. It shows that thousands of students across the country cared enough about an issue and wanted to take action on it. If we truly didn't have the wisdom to make laws and we truly didn't have the experience to make the change, then those thousands of students would not have protested for 17 minutes in honor of the fallen students and teachers.

I hope that now, in light of these protests, lawmakers will finally care as much as the students do and make the difference that needs to be made. Sometimes I believe that adults need to be as passionate about something as children are; maybe then they will see what really caring about an issue feels like.

Enough is enough.
— *Isabella Grosso, Indian Head Park*

Best judgment

Teachers and administrators who believe you're ready to shoot and kill to protect, consider this: Officer Robert Rialmo, former Marine, trained police officer, on the police force for three years, pleaded he did not have enough training when he decided to shoot a teen wielding an aluminum baseball bat. Rialmo ended up killing two: the teen and a neighbor who was nearby.

Are you expecting your minimal "training" to qualify you? Just this week, a high school

teacher, who is a reserve police officer, discharged his gun during a class lesson in Seaside, Calif. The teacher was in control and the situation was calm, yet he wounded students.

You may have completed your \$175 concealed carry "training," but you lack vital elements: experience in a chaotic situation and judgment.

Let's work to reduce violence without becoming the problem.

— *Sandra Petroschius, Lake Forest*

A win-lose

It's been an interesting week. On the one hand, Gov. Bruce Rauner made the wise decision of vetoing an awful bill known as the "Gun Dealer Licensing Act," which the Tribune's Wednesday editorial correctly pointed out as state government overreach. It was a bill that would have heaped redundant, unnecessary fees and regulations on gun dealers and ranges. And, in the ultimate point of hypocrisy, it

would not have affected big-box retailers like Cabela's.

On the other, I drove by a massive walkout by the local junior high full of students cutting class to protest an issue that I doubt most have any grasp of, but are happy to join in the massive media-manipulated event. I drove by the long line of students who don't own firearms. Most have probably never carried or fired a firearm, never defended their country or family with a firearm — I have — and just jumped on the bandwagon. I could speak of the day-to-day violence that occurs in Chicago and Cook County and the statistics regarding mass shootings versus the gang- and drug-related homicides that occur — but that is a subject that has long been ignored here and that no gun control measures have or ever will stop.

So I drove by that long line of protesting students and waved and pointed to the National Rifle Association decal on my windshield. I don't think they liked it.

— *Emerson Bolen, River Forest*

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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS

Feds to investigate United's pet policy

Death of puppy led to inquiries of airline transportation issues

BY MARTINE POWERS
Washington Post

Federal officials are investigating United Airlines' animal transportation practices, after a 10-month-old French bulldog died Monday while he was stowed in the overhead compartment of a flight from Houston to New York.

According to the dog's family and other witnesses on the plane, a flight attendant demanded that the pet's owners place the carrier inside the overhead bin for the duration of the flight. Though United apologized for the incident and took full responsibility Tuesday, the company said in a statement Wednesday that the flight attendant was not aware that the dog carrier had an actual dog inside.

"DOT is looking into the circumstances surrounding the recent death of a pet on board a United Airlines flight and is in contact with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the agency that enforces the Animal Welfare Act and handles complaints about alleged animal mistreatment," a Department of Transportation spokeswoman said Thursday.

Other government officials are also looking into the circumstances of the dog's death, and about general practices of pet transportation on United Airlines.

The district attorney's office in Harris County, Texas — where the flight originated — said in a statement Wednesday that its animal cruelty division is conducting an investigation into potential criminal wrongdoing.

Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., wrote a letter to United's president Wednesday, demanding "an immediate explanation for the number of animals who have died recently in United Airlines' care."

He cited recent statistics from the Department of Transportation, which indicated that United Airlines has more than its share of animal deaths on

Turn to **United**, Page 4



CAROLYN KASTER/AP 2009

As Toys R Us waits for bankruptcy court approval, roughly 33,000 workers nationwide at its 735 remaining stores, 31 in Illinois, are affected.

'A bit of Americana is being lost'

Toys R Us seeks to liquidate all U.S. stores; gift cards good until April 14

BY LAUREN ZUMBACH
Chicago Tribune

Toys R Us is seeking bankruptcy court approval to immediately liquidate its U.S. business, including conducting going-out-of-business sales at its 735 remaining stores.

The Wayne, N.J.-based toy chain has not yet announced a timeline, as it is still waiting for the court's approval. Closing sales already have begun at 144 stores — including six in the Chicago area — that Toys R Us earlier this year decided to shut down.

Despite the toy chain's financial difficulties, it accounts for a significant slice of U.S. toy sales and has sizable operations in Illinois as well as nationwide. Winding down its U.S. business will mean closing 31 Illinois



KATHY WILLENS/AP 2004

Toys R Us succumbed to heavy debt and trends undercutting its business, from web shopping to mobile games.

stores, nearly spanning the length of the state from Gurnee to Marion, leaving nearly 1.3 million

square feet of retail space to fill. Toys R Us also will leave a 671,040-square-foot distribution

center in Joliet. The toy chain couldn't immediately provide an estimate of the number of Illinois employees affected, but it has roughly 33,000 workers nationwide.

Dismal sales during the crucial holiday shopping season helped doom Toys R Us' turnaround attempt. But the retailer had already been struggling to adapt to the challenges facing many traditional bricks-and-mortar retailers while saddled with hefty debts dating back to a 2005 leveraged buyout.

For consumers, the clock is ticking to use up gift cards left over from the holidays. Toys R Us confirmed it will honor gift cards and other rewards dollars through April 14.

Toys R Us estimated that about

Turn to **Toys R Us**, Page 5



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP 2017

Ford pledged to be the hybrid sales leader, unseating Toyota in the U.S., by 2021.

Ford plans to revamp aging product line, focus on hybrids

BY TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

DETROIT — Ford, with a sagging U.S. market share and one of the oldest vehicle lineups in the industry, is promising to revamp three-quarters of its models in the next two years.

Much of the emphasis will be on refreshing or revamping the entire lineup of SUVs while adding gas-electric hybrid powertrains, two new off-road SUVs and two new trucks.

It's all part of the larger plan to prepare the company for the future by cutting costs, increasing the number of common parts and feeding a long-starved product lineup.

The move, detailed at a presentation on Thursday at Ford's product development center in Dearborn, Michigan, comes at a time when Ford's aging lineup has had trouble appealing to U.S. customers. In the past five years the company's market share has fallen over 2 percentage points to

14.4 percent so far this year.

"I have a reinvigorated view of the future," said Richard Bazy, who runs a Ford dealership in Pittsburgh's northern suburbs and is among dealers who have been critical of company management. "We've been waiting for a long time. We weren't sure what we were waiting for. Now we know."

Included in the hybrid plan is one for the F-150 pickup, the top-selling vehicle in America,

Turn to **Ford**, Page 4

Six charged in ID theft at 100 area gas stations

BY ALLY MAROTTI
Chicago Tribune

Six Florida residents have been charged in an identity theft ring that allegedly stole credit and debit card information from about 170 people who swiped their cards at gas stations across the Chicago area.

The defendants allegedly used skimming devices at more than 100 gas stations in Cook, Lake, DuPage and Kane counties to steal the information, Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office announced Thursday. The devices can be installed in seconds and may not be apparent to the person buying gas.

"This scheme is nearly impossible to detect by a customer, so it is critically important that people regularly monitor their bank and credit card accounts and report any unauthorized charges," Madigan said in a news release.

The skimming occurred between April and November 2015 at gas stations including Shell, Speedway and 7-Eleven, said Annie Thompson, a spokeswoman for Madigan's office. The Florida residents charged in the scheme allegedly hit gas stations in other states, too, including Michigan and Georgia.

The six Florida residents were charged in October, and their arrests occurred in the following months. They include Tampa residents Caridad Chacon, 45; Jordan Chacon, 23; William Hernandez, 24; Jose Molina, 26, and Claudia Chung Prieto, 23; and Miami resident Katerine Ramirez, 25.

When customers pay at the

pump, the skimmers collect the information stored in their card's magnetic strip. Thieves can then download the data from the skimmer and create new cards. The Florida residents allegedly used the new cards to spend more than \$210,000 on gift card and retail purchases in the Chicago area, according to the attorney general's office. Those types of purchases make the fraud harder to trace.

In this case, an American Express fraud investigator detected suspicious activity on multiple accounts in 2015 and traced the cards to the same gas station in Glencoe.

Madigan's office investigated the case with the U.S. Secret Service. The six Florida residents were charged with identity theft, financial institution fraud, theft by deception, conspiracy to commit a financial crime, computer fraud and mail fraud.

This is the kind of crime that the switch to credit and debit card chip readers should help prevent, said Julie Conroy, a research director at Aite Group, a financial services research and consulting firm.

Credit card networks mandated that most merchants switch to chip readers by 2015. Conroy said the card-reading terminals at gas pumps were an exception due to the complexity and safety issues around upgrading an electronic terminal within a dispenser of gas, a flammable liquid. The deadline for that switch over is 2020.

"Right now, gas pumps are a really attractive target for the bad guys," she said.

amarotti@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @AllyMarotti

iHeartMedia Inc. files for bankruptcy; deal in works

Nation's largest radio broadcaster has creditor plan

BY EMMA ORR AND TIFFANY KARY
Bloomberg news

iHeartMedia Inc., the biggest U.S. radio-station owner, filed for bankruptcy with a plan to halve its debt load of more than \$20 billion, the legacy of a leveraged buyout that hobbled the company as the digital era spawned new rivals.

iHeart, with about 850 radio stations and 17,000 employees worldwide, filed for Chapter 11 protection on Wednesday in Houston, a move that allows iHeart to keep operating while it tries to cement its turnaround plan. The deal still needs approval from the court and some holdout creditors, and the company could hear again from John Malone's Liberty Media, which has said it wants a stake in the reorganized media giant.

"Achieving a capital structure that finally matches our impressive operating business will further enhance iHeartMedia's position as America's #1 audio company," Chief Executive Officer Robert Pittman said in a statement.

After trying to ink a deal with creditors since last March, the company said that it reached an accord with investors holding more than \$10 billion of its debt, along with its private equity owners, Bain Capital and Thomas H. Lee Partners. Their leveraged buyout in 2008 was the reason for much of iHeart's borrowing, and the company hasn't posted an annual net profit for a decade. While cash has run short, iHeart said there's enough on hand, along with what it can earn from operations, to keep the business going, cutting the need for expen-

sive new bankruptcy loans.

The company came to terms with its senior lenders just hours before filing for bankruptcy, company treasurer Brian Coleman said in court papers filed Thursday. But one holdout group, owed \$190 million, has refused to join the deal and will likely fight the restructuring, Coleman said.

iHeart's Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings Inc. unit, which is 90 percent owned by the bankrupt company, wasn't included in the filing. The deal hands control to iHeart's senior creditors.

Among creditors is Malone's Liberty Media, which controls satellite radio giant SiriusXM. Liberty Media accumulated a position in iHeart's debt in recent months with an eye on gaining a stake in the radio business. Liberty sought to break the logjam in negotiations late in February by offering new capital and loans in return for a 40 percent stake, and has said it's willing to go higher. JCDcaux SA, the world's biggest outdoor-advertising agency, also has expressed interest in buying some of Clear Channel's assets.

While Liberty isn't mentioned directly in the restructuring documents, the agreement leaves room for potential bids by third parties and analysts have said iHeart holders probably haven't heard the last of Liberty's offer.

Speaking on a March 1 earnings call, Liberty Chief Executive Officer Greg Maffei cited "substantial synergies" between the ailing iHeart and two other Malone investments: the majority-owned satellite radio giant SiriusXM Holdings Inc. and Pandora Media Inc., the online music company where Liberty took a minority position last year. iHeart has its own streaming service. iHeart and Pandora, meanwhile,

could share advertising technology and sales forces, Maffei said. iHeart's is larger than those at Pandora and Sirius, he said.

About 265 million people in the U.S. still tune in to iHeart's stations at least once a month, but newer media such as Spotify's streaming service and SiriusXM's satellite broadcasts have cut into the audience and put a damper on sales. iHeart countered with its own streaming services and a live-events business offering concerts and awards shows.

The heavy debt was a drag on those efforts, draining \$1.4 billion a year in interest payments, according to Coleman.

iHeart's traditional businesses -- the radio stations and the Clear Channel Outdoor billboard unit -- still contribute the bulk of its revenue. It's \$20 billion in debt makes it the largest bankruptcy in the last year, and around the 30th largest ever.

The reorganization calls for holders of the company's term loan and other debt to get new debt, equity or warrants in a new company. Bain Capital and Thomas H. Lee Partners, as equity owners, will get around 1 percent of the new common stock, according to regulatory filings. After bankruptcy, its capital structure will include \$5.7 billion in new secured debt and a new asset-backed loan.

The bankruptcy caps a yearlong standoff with lenders and bondholders on its latest debt-cutting plan. The deadline was extended more than 20 times as negotiators exchanged proposals and iHeart sweetened the terms. The current attempt at an accord followed at least a dozen debt revisions over the past decade.

Bloomberg's Eliza Ronalds-Hannon Steven Church and Gerry Smith contributed.



CAITLIN O'HARA/BLOOMBERG NEWS
A McDonald's employee packs an order for a customer at Phoenix, Ariz., restaurant. McDonald's increase in technology could drive workers to jump ship.

As McDonald's beefs up tech, some workers bail

Staff may choose exit over dealing with new tools

BY LESLIE PATTON
Bloomberg News

For Dudley Dickerson, the mobile-app orders were the last straw.

McDonald's has been updating with new technology, delivery, a revamped menu and curbside pickup. But the "Experience of the Future" has employees handling more tasks -- in many cases, they say, without pay raises or adequate staffing. So Dickerson, 23, handed over his spatula for the last time.

"They added a lot of complicated things," Dickerson said in an interview. "It makes it harder for the workers."

Many fast-food employees hop from job to job. But with unemployment so low, turnover is becoming a problem. Workers are walking rather than dealing with new technologies and menu options. The result: Customers will wait longer. Drive-through times at

McDonald's slowed to 239 seconds last year -- more than 30 seconds slower than in 2016, according to QSR magazine. It's also pokier than Burger King, Wendy's and Taco Bell.

Turnover at U.S. fast-food restaurants jumped to 150 percent -- meaning a store employing 20 workers would go through 30 in one year. That figure is the highest since industry tracker People Report began collecting data in 1995.

"Quick-service restaurants are having a little more trouble with job openings and finding workers," said Michael Harms, executive director of operations at People Report. "It's the pace of work, the pace of technology and the lower wage rate."

McDonald's and its franchisees haven't seen an increase in crew turnover over the last year, nor is there a correlation between the new initiatives and turnover, spokeswoman Terri Hickey said in an emailed statement. "Together with our owners/operators, we are investing in all necessary training to

ensure successful implementation of any changes in our restaurants," she wrote. "Just as Experience of the Future modernizes the restaurant experience for our customers, there is also a focus on improving the work experience for restaurant employees."

McDonald's Chief Executive Steve Easterbrook has been pushing initiatives that have helped turn around comparable sales, which rose 3.6 percent last year in the U.S. But they've also made it tougher to retain restaurant employees in an already tight labor market.

"The ball is really in the court of the workers," Harms said. "Not the employers."

Last year, McDonald's said, it employed 235,000 people, including corporate and restaurant workers. Each of those people generated \$97,000 in revenue, compared to about \$65,000 the year before. While this could be a sign of increased efficiency, it could also be seen as stretching thin an inadequate number of employees.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

From news services

Apple offers tips on kids' device use

Shareholders and parents have been asking Apple for months to address how addictive smartphones are and to offer tools to deal with the problem. Late Wednesday, Apple posted a new resource page outlining what parents can do now to monitor their kids' iPad and iPhone use.

There are no new features on this resource page, though Apple in January said that it is working on "new enhancements" to address concerns about problematic tech use -- a response to investors asking for more "choices and tools to help (parents) ensure that young consumers are using your products in an optimal manner."

Instead, the page lists a number of Apple settings, including parental controls that let grown-ups choose which apps kids can use and prevent children from buying items without permission. Apple also outlines how to use do-not-disturb modes while doing homework or for teens behind the wheel.

It also tries to make a case for how iPhones and iPads can help parents, including information on how they can use mobile devices to track children or use them to quickly access medical information.

The new page does not directly address the issue of how long kids spend on screens.



STEVEN SENNE/AP
The average rate on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages slipped to 4.44 percent this week, Freddie Mac said.

Long-term U.S. mortgage rates fall

WASHINGTON -- Long-term U.S. mortgage rates fell this week for the first time this year. The decline comes after nine straight weeks of increases that pushed borrowing costs higher.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday the average rate on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages slipped to 4.44 percent from 4.46 percent last week. The new average

rate remains at a high level, however, raising concern that home sales could be dampened.

The average rate on 15-year, fixed-rate loans declined to 3.90 percent from 3.94 percent last week. Mortgage rates rose steadily in January, February and early March, as interest rates generally increased in response to higher levels of government debt.

A plan in store for Blue Apron

NEW YORK -- Blue Apron, which ships boxes of raw food to subscribers' doorsteps, wants to start selling its meal kits in stores.

The shift comes as more grocers get into the meal-kit business. Walmart is expanding its easy-to-make dinners in more than 2,000 of its stores.

Blue Apron confirmed

plans of an in-store rollout but declined to provide details. The move was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Blue Apron Holdings Inc., which charges about \$10 a meal, has struggled since it went public in June. It reported a 15 percent drop in subscribers in its last quarter. Its stock price ended up 3 cents Thursday at 2.19.

THE BOTTOM LINE

300K

That's the approximate number of older Ram pickup trucks worldwide that Fiat Chrysler is recalling because the fuel tanks can sag. The recall mainly affects trucks in cold-weather U.S. states and Canada where salt is used to clear snow from roads. It includes Ram 1500 pickups from the 2009 through 2012 model years. In the U.S., the trucks are in 20 states and Washington, D.C. The company says a bracket can corrode and let the tanks sag.

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Private equity firm takes majority stake in True Value

BY LAUREN ZUMBACH
Chicago Tribune

A Washington, D.C.-based private equity firm has agreed to take a majority stake in Chicago-based True Value Co. that would shift the hardware retailer away from its cooperative roots.

The agreement would give Acon Investments a 70 percent stake in a new True

Value operating company, with the remaining 30 percent owned by the member retailers who currently own the cooperative. A portion of Acon's investment would be used to return 70 percent of retailers' invested capital, along with promissory notes and dividends, totaling about \$229 million, to those retailers.

"The concept of a co-op,

which I'm very respectful of even though I've asked shareholders to move away from that, is that individuals came together as a group to do things they couldn't do on their own," said John Hartmann, president and CEO of True Value. "The unfortunate thing is it traps their investment, their equity, in the company."

Current retailers who

will retain a stake in the new True Value can use the returned funds to invest in their business or use as they see fit, something Hartmann thinks can "spawn incredible growth."

Day-to-day operations for current retailers will not change, and they will continue to have access to the True Value brand and services including merchandis-

ing and marketing support, he said.

The partnership also will let True Value broaden its brand's reach by eliminating the requirement that anyone selling True Value products purchase stock.

"The company is now free to sell to anyone who wants to buy from us," he said.

True Value currently has

about 4,400 independent retailers worldwide.

The deal must earn the support of at least half of True Value's member retailers in a vote at a special shareholder meeting on April 13. If approved, the deal is expected to close around April 18.

lzumbach@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @laurenzumbach

NRA still worth a shot to 3,100 firms

As some businesses buck gun group, others hold firm

BY IVAN LEVINGSTON
Bloomberg News

You can't confuse Delphi Greek restaurant with Smith & Wesson. Delphi specializes in kebabs and baklava — not AR-15s and ammunition.

Yet the Los Angeles restaurant is one of about 3,100 U.S. businesses that proudly stand with the National Rifle Association.

At a time when major corporations like Delta Air Lines and Dick's Sporting Goods Inc. are rethinking their relationship with firearms, the NRA's legion of steadfast supporters in its Business Alliance provides a different view of America's gun culture.

These outfits are the business equivalent of the NRA's about 5 million claimed individual members. Most are small concerns. Many are associated with the firearms industry. And whether they're in liberal bastions or the reddest of red states, they tend to oppose any tightening of gun controls, despite the national outcry over the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

The Business Alliance, as the group is known, has members in 50 states. They range from a pawnshop in Hartselle, Ala., to a stone veneer contractor in Schuylkill Haven, Pa., to a hunting preserve in Kamuela, Hawaii.

Businesses pay a yearly fee that members said can range from \$40 to \$150 per year, and in return they get visibility, a plaque and the chance to identify with a cause.

"The Second Amendment for me is very personal," said Roozbeh Farahanipour, who owns Delphi and fled his native Iran after leading student protests in 1999. "As long as I think that



KAREN BLEIER/GETTY-AFP 2014

The NRA still wields clout with its 5 million members, the Business Alliance of 3,100 firms and lawmakers in Washington.

they're defending the Second Amendment, and it still is challenged by a group of people, I believe I need to support them."

The NRA still wields political clout. But the erosion of support among America's largest businesses reflects its changing place in the national landscape.

An NPR/Ipsos poll taken two weeks after the Parkland shootings found 36 percent of Americans said the NRA represents their views, down 7 percentage points from October.

After the Parkland shooting, businesses affiliated with the NRA came under pressure as never before, with protesters using Twitter and Facebook to threaten boycotts and students at

the school upbraiding politicians for taking its money.

Publicly traded companies almost uniformly dumped the organization, with the high-profile exception of shipping company FedEx Corp., ending special discounts for NRA members and removing their logos from the NRA's website.

NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam didn't respond to phone and email messages asking about the group's relationships with business. But casual supporters with a broad clientele have peeled away, leaving niche concerns motivated by ideology.

Farahanipour's restaurant is less noted for its devotion to firearms than for fish tanks so splendid

they have their own Facebook page.

But he believes firearms could have swayed the outcome of his student rebellion against theocracy, and keeps two Glock handguns.

When Delphi's tie to the NRA became known, Farahanipour, 46, endured reviews and social media posts criticizing his affiliation, but he was unmoved.

"I went through many worse things in my life to think that a couple of the comments or reviews, they can change my mind," he said.

The same goes for Brady Phenicie, 52, who owns information technology company Phenicie Business Management in Healdsburg, Calif. He's received calls from people upset over

his affiliation and threatening to withhold business.

"I answer to myself," Phenicie said. "My reason for joining is saying, 'Hey, thank you for checking my rights, because I really feel like they're going away.'"

The exodus at the national level marks a turning point for the NRA. Dreamed up in 1871 by a pair of Union Army veterans, it largely promoted shooting sports and safety until the late 1960s and the rise of law-and-order politics.

Today, the group has become a major player in accelerating political polarization.

In the 2016 elections, the NRA gave 99 percent of its contributions to Republicans, according to the Cen-

ter for Responsive Politics. In 1990, the GOP had received 65 percent.

As part of its turn rightward, the NRA has developed its own media profile led by spokeswoman Dana Loesch, who stars in videos that depict an America engulfed in a barely contained conflict that threatens to explode into violence.

"They were a moderate group," said Scott Melzer, a sociology professor at Michigan's Albion College and the author of a book on gun politics. "I would characterize them as part of the mainstream American life."

"Today's NRA appeals primarily, almost solely, to die-hard guns-rights enthusiasts."

It was company that the Music Center, a Los Angeles organization that hosts ballet and classical-music concerts, was surprised to find out it kept. CEO Howard Sherman said few knew the center was a Business Alliance member until an attendee called.

"We had been signed up for the Business Alliance many, many years ago," Sherman said. "We would never take a political stand in that way."

But some relish the chance. John Emerick, who owns JElectric Inc. in Hull, Iowa, paid for a five-year membership in the Business Alliance after the shooting.

Chris Pastrana, who runs a media business in New Hampshire, also said he joined in the past few weeks despite not being personally in the NRA.

Anthony Giura, whose western Pennsylvania waste management firm New Age Environmental Inc. is an alliance member, said the big companies have gone soft.

"These corporations are succumbing to political pressure, which I don't think they need to do," he said. "As far as me and my company, we're not going anywhere."

Can Taco Bell's former chief restore Chipotle's growth?

BY JAMES F. PELTZ
Los Angeles Times

CNBC stock analyst Jim Cramer is excitable by nature, but the former hedge fund manager was really frazzled after hearing who was hired as Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc.'s chief executive.

Chipotle — the fast-growing burrito chain that became the anti-Taco Bell with food steeped with fresh ingredients, then was rocked by highly publicized outbreaks of E. coli and other food-borne illnesses in late 2015 — had recruited, of all people, Taco Bell chief Brian Niccol as its next CEO.

Niccol was "the most opposite guy you could possibly find" and Chipotle promptly had set up "a culture clash," an exasperated Cramer told viewers when Niccol's appointment was announced Feb. 13. "It's like naming a guy from the Army to run the Air Force."

But others thought Niccol was a strong choice, based on his track record at Taco Bell, and Wall Street cheered. Chipotle's battered stock, which had plunged 67% from its record high reached in mid-2015, soared 15% that day amid hopes that Niccol could restore Chipotle's sales growth and reputation among consumers.

"We're hard-pressed to find a better fit for Chipotle's CEO position than Brian Niccol," Morningstar

analyst R.J. Hottovy said in a note to clients. "Under Niccol's leadership, Taco Bell has been one of the bright spots in U.S. quick-service restaurants."

Niccol, 44, succeeded Steve Eells, Chipotle's founder, who remains executive chairman. Niccol has his work cut out. In one of his first moves, Chipotle announced Wednesday that Chief Marketing Officer Mark Crumpacker is stepping down. Crumpacker, a high school friend of Eells, was responsible for such efforts as recruiting rapper RZA of the Wu-Tang Clan to promote Chipotle's new menu.

The food-safety woes not only damaged Chipotle's reputation, they soiled the "Food with Integrity" narrative that the Denver-based chain and Eells carefully had crafted for two decades to fuel its growth. It was branding that portrayed Chipotle as a cut above its rivals with fresh, organic ingredients, strong customer service and pleasing in-store furnishings.

Chipotle's burritos, burrito bowls, tacos and salads found a sweet spot amid Americans' growing demand for healthier food.

Chipotle rapidly expanded, initially with a major investment from McDonald's Corp., which eventually took over ownership of the chain. McDonald's then began unwinding its position in 2006 when Chipotle went

public at \$22 a share. In early August 2015, the stock hit a peak of \$75.777 a share — a 34-fold increase.

Then the food-safety scare hit. Diners stayed away, the stock tumbled and activist investor William Ackman swooped in, amassing a 10% stake in Chipotle. He secured two seats on its board in late 2016 in exchange for agreeing not to lift his stake above 12.9% or to make any disparaging public comments about the company for two years.

The chain fundamentally changed the way it sources some ingredients, including preparing some of it earlier and in central kitchens, away from restaurants. Eells acknowledged in late 2016 that because Chipotle's employees were so focused on implementing food-safety changes in the aftermath of the disease outbreaks, its basic customer service — such as cleanliness and the speed at which customers get through the ordering line — had begun to falter at some restaurants.

"When we invite new or lapsed customers into restaurants that are less than perfect, we believe those customers will return less frequently," Eells said at an investor conference.

All of which occurred as Chipotle faced increasing competition in the "fast-casual" sector from the likes of Qdoba Mexican Eats and Panera Bread, and



SCOTT OLSON/GETTY 2017

Sales at Chipotle stores open at least a year rose 6.4% in 2017, a year after they plummeted 20.4%.

while overall restaurant sales are sluggish.

Nonetheless, Niccol — who, with Eells, declined comment for this article because he had just begun his tenure — arrived after Chipotle at least had stopped the decline caused by the food scare.

Chipotle's same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, rose 6.4% last year after they plummeted 20.4% in 2016. The chain's revenue rose to \$4.5 billion from \$3.9 billion in 2016, and profit rose to \$176.3 million from \$22.9 million, in part because Chipotle kept opening new stores. It had 2,408 locations — including 409 in California — at the start of this year.

But last year's profit was less than half the \$476 million that Chipotle earned in 2015, when it had 300 fewer restaurants. And Chipotle's stock had dropped to \$251 a share before Niccol was hired; it closed Thursday at \$318.91.

The chain remains in good financial health, with no long-term debt and \$509 million in cash and

equivalents as of Dec. 31. That gives Niccol some flexibility as he retools Chipotle's strategy.

A key challenge for Chipotle is "there's just nothing new to talk about" in terms of its menu or innovation, Hottovy said. "That's what Niccol has to take care of right off the bat," he said. "The perception is that he can start bringing some excitement to the brand that hasn't been there for some time."

Niccol was credited for turning Taco Bell into a thriving, youthful brand — he changed the company's slogan from "Think outside the bun" to "Live mas" — and vastly improved Taco Bell's digital marketing effort, which appealed to tech-savvy millennials.

"If you let the brand get old, you will die," he told the Los Angeles Times in 2015. Chipotle also noted that Niccol also "transformed Taco Bell into a social media leader and revolutionized its digital approach through mobile ordering and payment across their 7,000 restaurants."

Rihanna calls out Snap over abuse ad

Pop singer Rihanna criticized Snap Inc. for running an ad that asked users to decide whether they wanted to slap her or punch Chris Brown, saying it made a joke of her history as a victim of domestic violence.

Snapchat removed the ad, which was placed by a mobile-gaming company, and apologized, saying it was a mistake. The Los Angeles-based company didn't immediately have further comment on Rihanna's criticism. Snap stock fell almost 5 percent.

"Now Snapchat I know you already know you ain't my fav app out there," she wrote Thursday in an Instagram story, "but I'm just trying to figure out what the point was with this mess! I'd love to call it ignorance, but I know you ain't that dumb!"

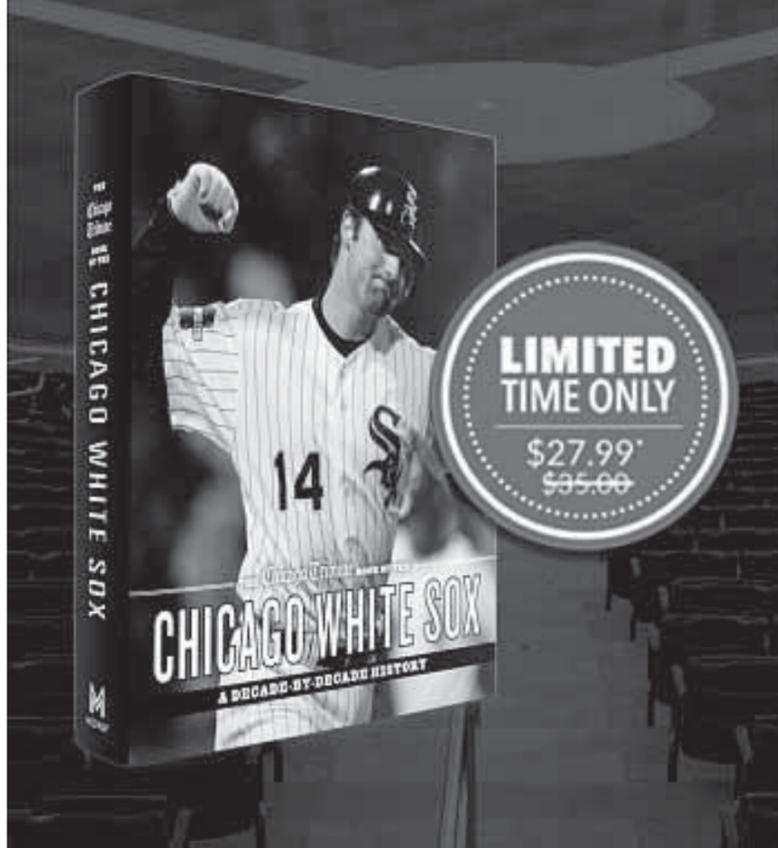
She said Snap let down victims of domestic violence, which she experienced while dating Brown in 2009. "Shame on you."

Snap shares slid 4.8 percent to \$17.07 at 12:50 p.m. in New York. Rihanna's note was the latest round of celebrity criticism of Snapchat, an app that lets people send photos and messages that disappear. Reality-TV star Kylie Jenner earlier this year criticized a redesign of the app.

— Bloomberg news

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Two new SUVs, two new trucks part of Ford's plan

Ford, from Page 1

that will offer increased towing power and an on-board generator. Ford pledged to be the hybrid sales leader, unseating Toyota in the U.S. by 2021.

The new products, including complete revamps of the Explorer big SUV and Escape compact SUV, should help dealers who have struggled against competitors with fresher vehicles. Ford concedes its model lineup is among the industry's oldest, with an average age of 5.7 years. It promised to drop that to 3.3 years by 2020.

The Escape small SUV hasn't been completely redone since 2012, while the

Explorer was last all-new in 2011, both long cycles compared with competitors.

Among the new product announcements:

■ The two off-road vehicles designed to compete with Jeep and Land Rover will be the new Bronco midsize SUV and a yet-to-be named small sport utility.

■ A new all-electric SUV with 300 miles of range between charges by 2020. Six more battery electric vehicles by 2022.

■ Standard safety features across nearly all models by 2020 including automatic emergency braking, lane-keeping assist and backup cameras.

Internet connectivity on all vehicles by the end of next year, enabling over-the-air software updates by 2020.

CEO Jim Hackett, who is approaching his first anniversary, said having hybrids in high-volume SUVs will aid performance and help the company and its customers hedge against the possibility of rising fuel prices.

He also promised to speed up new product development in the future.

Ford showed off some of the new vehicles but reporters had to promise not to describe or photograph them. There were no compact cars shown, but Ford says cars are still important.

Airline pet practices under fire

United, from Page 1

planes. Of the 24 reported deaths of animals that were in the process of being transported on major U.S. air carriers last year, 18 occurred on United. The airline carried about 27 percent of the total number of animals transported by air in the U.S. last year, according to DOT.

"This pattern of animal deaths and injuries is simply inexcusable," Kennedy wrote in his letter. "For many people, pets are members of the family. They should not be treated like insignificant cargo. Frankly, they shouldn't be placed in the cargo hold much less an overhead bin."

Kennedy and Sen. Catherine Cortez Mastro, D-Nev., also filed a bill Thursday that would ban airlines from keeping animals inside overhead bins.

According to United's most recent statement on the puppy's death, the flight attendant who ordered that the dog carrier

be stowed in the overhead bin did not "hear or understand" that there was a dog inside.

"We have spoken to the family, our crew and a number of passengers who were seated nearby," United's statement said. "We have learned that the customer did tell the flight attendant that there was a dog in the carrier. However, our flight attendant did not hear or understand her, and did not knowingly place the dog in the overhead bin."

"As we stated, we take full responsibility and are deeply sorry for this tragic accident," the statement continued. "We remain in contact with the family to express our condolences and offer support."

One permanent change has been made so far: United will start putting special tags on luggage containing live animals.

"To prevent this from happening again, by April we will issue bright colored bag tags to customers traveling with in-cabin pets," the statement said. "This

visual tag will further help our flight attendants identify pets in-cabin."

In an interview with ABC13 in Houston, Sophia Ceballos, a young member of the French bulldog's family, said she and her family told the flight attendant repeatedly that there was a dog inside the carrier.

"She said, 'Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't know it was a dog. I thought it was a normal bag.' But we told her it was a dog, she's lying," Ceballos told the TV news station.

"While we were flying, the dog started barking and barking and there was no flight attendants coming. We couldn't stand up because there was a lot of turbulence so we weren't allowed to," Ceballos said.

The girl described the moments after her mother realized that the dog had died.

"She's like, 'he died, he died. Kokito, Kokito. And he didn't wake up. She hit his chest so he could breathe, but he couldn't breathe,'" Ceballos said.

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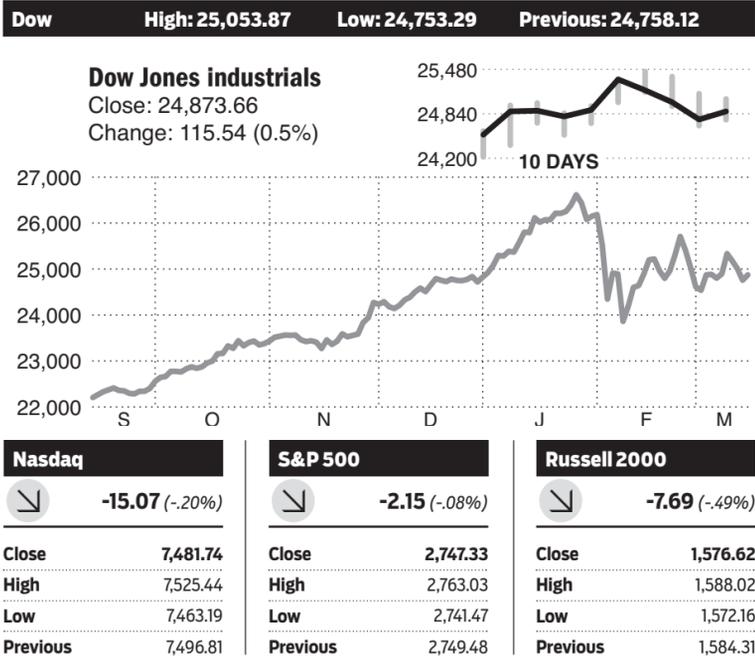
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MARKET ROUNDUP



10-yr T-note	Gold futures	Yen	Euro	Crude Oil
+0.01 to 2.83%	-7.60 to \$1,316.80	-0.01 to 106.24/\$1	+0.0047 to .8128/\$1	+2.23 to \$61.19

Major market growth and decline

5-day % change			30-day % change			1-year % change		
DOW	NASD	S&P	DOW	NASD	S&P	DOW	NASD	S&P
-0.9	+7.2	+3.1	-1.3	+3.1	+5.9	+18.8	+26.7	+15.3

COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 18	488.75	493.25	476	478.75	-10
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 18	388.25	390.75	385.50	386.75	-2
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 18	1031	1046.25	1027	1040.75	+8.50
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	May 18	31.73	32.15	31.64	32.06	+35
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	May 18	370.70	374.80	369.80	371.00	+10
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl- dollars per bbl.	Apr 18	60.95	61.54	60.82	61.19	+23
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, \$ per mm btu	Apr 18	2.738	2.750	2.664	2.681	-0.50
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Apr 18	1.9206	1.9371	1.9111	1.9248	+0.005

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL STOCKS

Stocks listed may change due to daily fluctuations in market capitalization. Exchange key: N=NYSE, O=NASDAQ

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	62.59	-27	Equity Lifesty Prop	N	86.03	+39	McDonalds Corp	N	161.61	+3.37
AbbVie Inc	N	114.93	-4.01	Equity Residential	N	59.72	+18	Middleby Corp	O	128.97	-2.06
Allstate Corp	N	96.81	+4.0	Exelon Corp	N	37.87	+0.4	Mondelz Intl	O	43.39	-4.9
Aptargroup Inc	N	90.28	+21	First Indl RT	N	29.50	-12	Morningstar Inc	O	98.31	+8.3
Arch Dan Mid	N	43.26	-51	Fortune Brds Hm&Sec	N	70.74	-0.4	Motorola Solutions	N	108.80	-1.5
Baxter Intl	N	67.59	-51	Gaughan AJ	N	281.28	+1.07	Navistar Intl	N	34.63	-0.4
Boeing Co	N	329.98	-28	Grainger W/W	N	110.89	+11	NISource Inc	N	23.39	-0.8
Brunswick Corp	N	60.56	-21	GrubHub Inc	N	86.53	+85	Old Republic	O	106.10	-39
CBOE Global Markets	O	118.61	-68	Hill-Rom Hldgs	N	110.89	+11	Old Republic	N	21.06	+1.5
CDK Global Inc	O	69.46	-10	Hyatt Hotels Corp	N	80.97	+0.2	Packaging Corp Am	N	117.59	-9.3
CDW Corp	O	74.63	-80	IDEX Corp	N	146.90	+0.1	Stericycle Inc	O	63.31	-1.07
CF Industries	N	38.99	-1.32	ITW	N	170.18	+8.4	TransUnion	N	58.65	+3.0
CME Group	O	165.39	+2.44	Ingredion Inc	N	131.10	-1.24	Tribune Media Co A	N	41.24	-1.4
CNA Financial	N	52.17	-1.5	John Bean Technol	N	120.35	+4.5	USG Corp	N	34.15	-3.8
Caterpillar Inc	N	154.57	+2.03	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	172.65	+80	Ultra Salon Cosmetics	O	206.14	+4.15
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	36.38	-1.08	KapStone Paper	N	34.76	-0.4	United Contl Hldgs	N	70.14	-6.0
Deere Co	N	159.60	-61	Kraft Heinz Co	O	65.46	-1.12	Ventas Inc	N	49.46	-2.2
Discover Fin Svcs	N	75.37	-1.09	LKQ Corporation	O	39.05	+0.2	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	67.38	-1.17
Dover Corp	N	99.12	+1.2	Littelfuse Inc	O	220.94	+8.7	Wintrust Financial	O	90.53	+7.1
Equity Commonwealth	N	30.06	+0.1	MB Financial	O	43.86	+5.6	Zebra Tech	O	144.40	-2.39

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE			LARGEST COMPANIES			LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS		
STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.	Based on market capitalization			Based on total assets		
STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.	FUND	NAV	CHG IN \$ %
Kinder Morgan Inc	16.31	-1.1	AT&T Inc	37.04	+0.1	American Funds AMCPA m	33.86	-0.9 +22.7
Ford Motor	11.07	+0.5	Alibaba Group Hldg	199.06	+6.50	American Funds AmnrcBAlA m	27.19	-0.2 +11.2
Gen Electric	14.36	+0.0	Alphabet Inc C	1149.58	+0.9	American Funds CptlncBldrA m	61.53	-1.9 +8.2
Bank of America	32.10	-0.4	Alphabet Inc A	1150.61	+1.72	American Funds EuroPacGrA m	58.21	+0.2 +25.4
Weatherford Intl Ltd	2.62	-1.1	Amazon.com Inc	1582.32	-8.68	American Funds FdmtnvnsA m	64.07	-0.4 +18.9
Alibaba Group Hldg	199.06	+6.50	Apple Inc	178.65	+2.1	American Funds GfAmrcA m	53.35	-0.8 +25.2
Chesapk Engy	3.02	-0.1	Bank of America	32.10	-0.4	American Funds IncAmrcA m	22.99	-0.4 +8.5
Williams Cos	26.69	-1.45	Berkshire Hath A	311601	+946	American Funds NwPrspctvA m	45.84	-0.6 +25.2
Energy Transfer Part	16.61	-1.11	Berkshire Hath B	207.82	+8.3	American Funds WAMTnvsA m	46.16	-0.6 +15.5
Energy Transfer Eqty	14.54	-0.2	Exxon Mobil Corp	74.42	+8.2	DFA EMktCorEq	24.06	-0.3 +25.9
Rite Aid Corp	1.67	+0.4	Facebook Inc	183.86	-3.3	Dodge & Cox Inc	13.61	-0.1 +2.5
Enterp Prod Ptrs	24.94	-6.9	Intel Corp	50.88	-9.8	Dodge & Cox IntlStk	46.91	-1.5 +15.3
Ambev S.A.	7.20	-1.9	JPMorgan Chase	115.24	+2.9	Dodge & Cox Stk	208.76	-3.5 +14.1
Snap Inc A	17.20	-6.5	Johnson & Johnson	133.06	+7.4	DoubleLine TtRetBdl	10.48	... +2.9
AT&T Inc	37.04	+0.1	Microsoft Corp	94.18	+3.3	Fidelity 500IdxIns	96.43	-0.7 +17.4
Twitter Inc	35.80	-1.5	Royal Dutch Shell A	61.89	-3.1	Fidelity 500IdxInsPrm	96.43	-0.7 +17.5
Pfizer Inc	36.58	+2.3	Source Cap	41.38	+1.9	Fidelity 500IndexPrrm	96.43	-0.7 +17.4
Penney JC Co Inc	3.03	-0.2	WalMart Strs	87.51	-1.6	Fidelity Contrafund	131.54	-0.2 +30.6
First Data Corp	16.52	+5.3	Wells Fargo & Co	56.83	+2.0	Fidelity ContrafundK	131.48	-0.2 +30.7
Teva Pharm	18.05	-5.2				Fidelity InvMGradeBd	10.99	... +2.0
WalMart Strs	87.51	-1.6				Fidelity LowPrStk	55.08	-0.3 +17.1
Monsanto Co	117.20	-5.95				Franklin Templeton Inca m	2.32	... +3.9
Exxon Mobil Corp	74.42	+8.2				Metropolitan West TtRetBdl	10.42	-0.1 +1.3

TREASURY YIELDS		
DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month disc	1.74	1.72
6-month disc	1.89	1.88
2-year	2.31	2.28
10-year	2.83	2.82
30-year	3.06	3.06

SPOT METALS		
	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	\$1316.80	\$1324.40
Silver	\$16.353	\$16.467
Platinum	\$956.90	\$961.50

INTEREST RATES		
Prime Rate	4.50	
Discount Rate Primary	2.00	
Fed Funds Target	1.25-1.50	
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.33	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE		
A U.S. Dollar buys ...		
Argentina (Peso)	20.3293	
Australia (Dollar)	1.2827	
Brazil (Real)	3.2897	
Britain (Pound)	1.718	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3058	
China (Yuan)	6.3241	
Euro	.8128	
India (Rupee)	65.020	
Israel (Shekel)	3.4451	
Japan (Yen)	106.24	
Mexico (Peso)	18.7371	
Poland (Zloty)	3.43	
So. Korea (Won)	1070.03	
Taiwan (Dollar)	29.15	
Thailand (Baht)	31.21	

CONTACT US

Mary Ellen Podmolik, Associate Managing Editor/Business
435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611; business@tribpub.com; 312-222-4771

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Gift cards honored through April 14

Toys R Us, from Page 1

\$205.9 million in gift cards and merchandise credit was outstanding when it sought bankruptcy protection in September.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., wants the toy chain to let consumers redeem gift cards for cash "so they are not as worthless and unwanted as a lump of coal in a stocking," he said in a Wednesday news release.

The retailer is still exploring options for selling its stronger Canadian business, including a plan that would save up to 200 top-performing U.S. stores as part of that deal.

News of the shutdown came about six months after Toys R Us sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. At the time, the struggling retailer sounded optimistic about a turnaround, and it secured a loan of more than \$3 billion to keep business going during restructuring.

But U.S. sales over the all-important holiday season, which typically accounts for 40 percent of its revenue, were "well below worst case projections," Toys R Us said in a bankruptcy court filing. The bankruptcy took a toll on the confidence shoppers and vendors had in the chain, which also said it had trouble matching competitors' prices.

"I am very disappointed with the result, but we no longer have the financial support to continue ... U.S. operations," Toys R Us Chairman and CEO Dave Brandon said Wednesday in a news release.

He called it a "profoundly sad day for us as well as the millions of kids and families who have served over the past 70 years."

When Toys R Us filed for bankruptcy protection in September, it said the "vast majority" of its 1,600 Toys R Us and Babies R Us

stores worldwide were profitable. It still accounted for roughly 15 to 20 percent of U.S. toy sales, an unusually high share for a retailer whose bankruptcy ends in liquidation, said Stephanie Wissink, managing director and consumer products analyst at Jeffries.

But it struggled to adapt to big changes in consumers' shopping habits, including a switch from specialty big-box chains to one-stop mass merchants like Walmart and Target and online retailers like Amazon. Toys R Us was too slow to embrace e-commerce and invest in the in-store experience, said Tim Barrett, senior retailing analyst at Euromonitor International.

"Spread thin across too many countries, with too many stores and too much debt, it boxed itself into its current fate," he said in an emailed statement.

But its debt, much of which stemmed from 2005, when three private investment firms took the company private, limited its ability to invest and compete with fast-growing rivals.

The company got its start in 1948, when founder Charles Lazarus opened a baby furniture store in Washington, D.C., amid the postwar baby boom. He eventually added toys to encourage parents to keep coming back before opening his first toys-only shop — Toys R Us, with the backwards "R" logo to mimic a child's writing.

"It does feel like a bit of Americana is being lost, the idea of this emporium of toys, a place that fulfills the physical manifestation of a child's imagination," said Wissink, the analyst at Jeffries. But the next generation of toy shoppers don't seem to have the same attachment, she said.

lzimmer@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @laurenzimmer

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Mortgage Guide

Institution	30 yr APR	30 yr Fixed	Product	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR	Phone / Website	NMLS # / License #
Liberty Bank	4.486%	Points: 0.000	20 yr fixed	4.125	0.000	\$999	20%	4.276		NMLS# 787575
			15 yr fixed	3.625	0.000	\$999	20%	3.816		
			10 yr fixed	3.500	0.000	\$999	20%	3.775		
			7 yr fixed	3.250	0.000	\$999	20%	3.633		
			5/1 ARM	3.000	0.000	\$999	20%	3.831		
			7/1 ARM	3.500	0.000	\$999	20%	3.937		www.libertybankmortgage.com
Central Federal	4.484%	Points: 0.000	20 yr fixed	4.125	0.000	\$755	20%	4.273		NMLS# 458026
			15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$755	20%	3.935		
			10 yr fixed	3.625	0.000	\$755	20%	3.891		
			7/1 ARM (30yr)	3.875	0.000	\$755	20%	4.437		
			30 yr jumbo	4.375	0.000	\$755	20%	4.424		
			20 yr jumbo	4.125	0.000	\$755	20%	4.191		www.centrafederalsavings.com
Gateway Capital	4.256%	Points: 0.000	15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$795	5%	3.760		NMLS# 246585
			3/1 ARM	3.000	0.000	\$75	5%	3.579		
			5/1 ARM	3.125	0.000	\$25	5%	3.655		
			7/1 ARM	3.250	0.000	\$55	5%	3.658		
			30 yr jumbo	4.000	0.000	\$50	20%	4.100		
			5/1 jumbo ARM	4.250	0.000	\$50	20%	4.256		www.gwcmortgage.com
<p>No JUNK Fees, Free Appraisal, More Programs, CALL NOW!</p>										

SAVINGS UPDATE

Refinancing to lower your monthly payment

If your mortgage payment is feeling a little too hefty every month — either because your financial situation has changed or you took on too much when you signed the dotted line — refinancing can potentially lower your monthly burden. But it requires the right circumstances to be a good solution.

The most obvious opportunity is when current rates are lower than your existing APR. A common rule of thumb is that refinancing to at least a half percentage point below your current rate can be cost effective, and a lower rate means lower payments.

If a sufficient rate reduction isn't in the cards, but you've acquired an inheritance, a large bonus or another windfall, you can lower your bill by refinancing with a bigger down payment. By applying your windfall to the new mortgage, you convert the cash to home equity and can refinance a lower amount.

You can also reduce your payment by refinancing to a longer loan or an interest-only mortgage. These are better left as last resorts, though, since they'll either stretch out how long you're on the hook for a mortgage or leave you in worse financial shape in the end. But if you're in dire straits to make ends meet, it's an option that may keep you out of hotter water.

Note that if you're currently paying private mortgage insurance and have built up at least 20 percent equity, refinancing isn't necessary to lower your payments. Simply contact your lender to request the PMI charges be terminated.

In all cases, refinancing will require having a decent credit score. And if you're several years into your current mortgage, refinancing can add years to your repayment period, which may not be desirable. As always, research the costs and trade-offs carefully to decide your own best option.

Rate Criteria: The rates and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 3/14/18. 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

OBITUARIES

DAVID S. WYMAN 1929-2018

Scholar studied U.S. response to Holocaust

BY HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — David S. Wyman, a leading scholar of the U.S. response to the Holocaust whose “The Abandonment of the Jews” was a provocative, best-selling critique of everyone from religious leaders to President Franklin Roosevelt, died Wednesday at 89.

The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies announced that Wyman died at his home in Amherst, Mass., after a lengthy illness. He was a professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

The grandson of Protestant ministers, Wyman was in graduate school when he began a quest to learn what was done on behalf of the millions of Jews rounded up and murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II.

He was best known for “The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust 1941-45,” which came out in 1984 and sharply intensified a debate that began during the war.

Drawing upon private and government records and contemporary media accounts, Wyman found widespread indifference and hostility to the Jews in Europe, even as their systematic extermination was conclusively documented. He faulted religious organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish; mainstream newspapers and movies; and the anti-Jewish feelings of the general public.

The federal government was slow to act, enforcing strict immigration quotas and refusing to bomb the concentration camps, waiting until well after the Holocaust had begun to establish a War Refugee Board, then forcing the agency to rely mostly on private funding.

The blame rose to the top, with Roosevelt, who Wyman alleged was more concerned about angering anti-Semites than about helping the Jews.

“If he had wanted to, he could have aroused substantial public backing for a vital rescue effort by speaking out on the issue,” Wyman wrote, calling Roosevelt’s inaction the low mark of his presidency.

“It appears that Roose-



DAVID S. WYMAN INSTITUTE FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES 1984

David S. Wyman’s book “The Abandonment of the Jews” was a best-seller.

velt’s overall response to the Holocaust was deeply affected by political expediency. Most Jews supported him unwaveringly, so an active rescue policy offered little political advantage. A pro-Jewish stance, however, could lose votes.”

“The Abandonment of the Jews” received several honors, including the National Jewish Book Award, and a nomination from the National Book Critics Circle.

Most scholars accepted his general argument that the U.S. had done too little, but some disagreed with individual aspects, such as whether the U.S. could have disrupted or destroyed the Nazi camps.

Roosevelt defenders, meanwhile, believed Wyman had failed to appreciate that the president’s options were limited.

“FDR well understood that it would be fatal to let the war be defined as a war to save the Jews,” historian and Roosevelt biographer Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. wrote in Newsweek in 1994, around the time a television documentary based on Wyman’s book aired. “He knew that he must emphasize the large and vital interest all Americans had in stopping Hitler, and that is what he did. And he knew that winning the war was the only way to save the people in the concentration camps.”

Wyman’s book was credited with helping to inspire the American rescue of hundreds of Ethiopian Jews stranded in Sudan in 1985. John Miller, a congressman and later an ambassador for combating human trafficking, told a Wyman Institute

conference that he had given copies of the book to then-Vice President George H.W. Bush and his top aides. According to Miller, Bush called “The Abandonment of the Jews” a major factor in the U.S. decision to airlift the Jews and eventually bring them to Israel. Bush later sent the author a handwritten note of gratitude.

Wyman continued his investigations with “The World Reacts to the Holocaust” and “America and the Holocaust,” a 13-volume compilation of documents used for “The Abandonment of the Jews.”

He would often invoke the Holocaust as a defense of Israel. “I’d come here and die for Israel if I were ever of any use,” he said in 2012 while speaking at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

A book released in 2013, “FDR and the Jews,” by Richard Breitman and Allan Lichtman, contended that Roosevelt had been judged too harshly and that his actions compared favorably with those of future presidents responding to genocide.

In response, the Wyman Institute published Rafael Medoff’s “FDR and the Holocaust: A Breach of Faith,” which alleged that Roosevelt had a long history of anti-Jewish actions and opinions.

Wyman was born in Weymouth, Mass., in 1929 and recalled his parents imparting “not just tolerance, but a high degree of respect for all different people.”

He studied history as an undergraduate at Boston University and earned a doctorate from Harvard University in 1962. He had intended to focus on the Progressive era of the early 20th century until he had an epiphany while walking in Cambridge, Mass., where Harvard is located.

“Out of nowhere comes this question: What did the United States do while the Jews were being persecuted and mass murdered?” he would recall.

Wyman taught elementary school and high school in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and was a history lecturer at Clark University and Northeastern University before joining Amherst in 1966 and remaining for 25 years.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON MARCH 16 ...

In 1827 the first newspaper edited for and by blacks, “Freedom’s Journal,” was published in New York.

In 1830, in one of the slowest trading days in Wall Street history, only 31 shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1933 Britain’s disarmament plan for reducing armies failed when Hitler’s Germany insisted that its storm troopers not be included.

In 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was declared secured by the Allies.

In 1978 Italian politician Aldo Moro was kidnapped by left-wing urban guerrillas, who later murdered him.

In 1987 Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1990 South African President FW. de Klerk announced that exiled African National Congress leaders could return home for talks with the white-led government.

In 1994 figure skater Tonya Harding pleaded guilty in Portland, Ore., to conspiracy to hinder prosecution for covering up the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan, avoiding jail but drawing a \$100,000 fine.

In 1995 astronaut Norman Thagard was welcomed aboard the Russian space station Mir as the first American to visit the orbiting outpost.

In 1996, for the first time, ordinary citizens were allowed inside the central archives of the former East German secret police, the hated Stasi security agency.

In 1999 the Nebraska Cornhuskers beat Chicago State 50-3 in an NCAA baseball game

In 2004 China declared victory in its fight against bird flu, saying it had “stamped out” all its known cases.

In 2016 President Barack Obama nominated Washington lawyer and jurist Merrick Garland to succeed Justice Antonin Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court, setting up a protracted political fight with Republicans who vowed to block any candidate picked by the White House.

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS	
March 15	
Lotto	06 21 26 33 40 49 / 08
Lotto jackpot: \$7.25M	
Pick 3 midday	318 / 0
Pick 4 midday	3461 / 7
Lucky Day Lotto midday	01 16 21 38 43
Pick 3 evening	655 / 0
Pick 4 evening	3953 / 6
Lucky Day Lotto evening	19 25 32 33 42

March 16 Mega Millions: \$345M
March 17 Powerball: \$455M

WISCONSIN	
March 15	
Pick 3	062
Pick 4	2988
Badger 5	04 16 22 24 27
SuperCash	04 08 18 26 28 30

INDIANA	
March 15	
Daily 3 midday	758 / 4
Daily 4 midday	6400 / 4
Daily 3 evening	816 / 0
Daily 4 evening	4540 / 0
Cash 5	01 02 21 37 41

MICHIGAN	
March 15	
Daily 3 midday	217
Daily 4 midday	9889
Daily 3 evening	101
Daily 4 evening	4174
Fantasy 5	08 11 20 24 38
Keno	05 12 17 18 21 25
	31 32 35 38 43 47 50 53
	58 59 61 64 69 71 76 79

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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

Abbott, John A. 'Jay'

Died January 29, 2018. Beloved son of Janet and the late John E. Dear brother of Donna Medica, Mary Gruszczyk & JoAnne Abbott. Rest in Peace, Jay.
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Aguilar, Patricia Violet

Patricia Violet Aguilar, nee Carbonelli, age 83, passed away peacefully on March 14th. Patricia was the beloved wife of the late Alberto; loving mother of Carmella “Minnie” and Albert Jr. (Debbie) Aguilar, Violet (Lennie) Romano, Ricardo (Patty) Aguilar, Karen (George) Mata, Anthony Sr. (Tracy) Aguilar, Patricia Oto, Cynthia (Matt) Sodini, Robert (Karina) and Ronald (Wendy) Aguilar; cherished grandmother of Lennie, Nicole, George, Jen, Amanda, Anthony, Nicky, Joey, Lizzy, Ricky, Joe, Anthony Jr., Alberto, Adam, Patricia, Gabriella, Jonas, Jacob, Courtney, Samantha, Mikey, Matt, Max, Xavi, Veronica, Sammy, Marcello, Alana and Bre; great grandmother of Gio, Frankie, Joey, Tina, Lana, George Jr., Brando, Bella, Angelica and Angelo; dear sister of Salvador, Shirley, Eleanor, Anita, Suzanna, Sandy and the late Roman Jr., Dolly, Robert, Louis and Nick. She was a fond aunt of many. In lieu of flowers, donations to: The American Heart Association would be appreciated. Visitation Sunday from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels** 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge, IL. Funeral services will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, at the funeral home, and will then proceed to St. Francis Borgia Church for Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment to follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Info www.cumberlandchapels.com or 708-456-8300.



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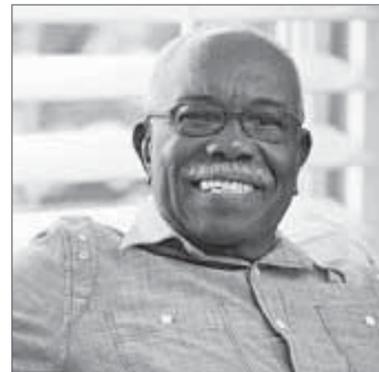
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Andrezak, Gloria

Gloria Andrezak, nee Gibson, 95. Devoted wife of the late Chester; Beloved mother of Gloria (David) Moyer, Thomas Andrezak and the late Edward and Jack Lira; cherished grandmother of Amanda (Tom) Peldiak and Meagan (Brian Klemm) Moyer; adored great grandmother of Addison, Nathaniel and Jacob Peldiak; loving sister of the late Naoma Raymond; dear aunt and great aunt of many. Visitation Sunday 3-9pm at The Montclair-Lucania Funeral Home 6901 W. Belmont Avenue Chicago where services will be held 10:00am Monday. Interment Irving Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations to www.NAMChicago.org appreciated. For funeral information 773-622-9300 or www.montclair-lucaniafuneral.com



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Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Bacik, Mary T.

Mary T. Bacik (nee Kadzielawski) age 93. Beloved wife of the late Michael J. Bacik. Loving mother of Christine (Lawrence) Connery, Michael W. (Roberta), and Steven J. (Debra) Bacik. Dear grandmother of Kimberly (Car) Stieler, Michael Kevin Connery, Meghan (Brian) Gorman, Nicholas (Melissa) Bacik, Jessica (Joe) Kerjes, Ashley (Colin) Yordling, and Katherine Bacik. Great grandmother of Luke, Jude, Finley, and Maverick. Loving sister of Jean (Al) Wolowicz, and the late Joseph (late Emily) Kadzielawski. Dear aunt, relative, and friend of many. Visitation Sunday, March 18, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at **Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Home**, 8025 W. Golf Road in Niles. Funeral Monday, March 19 at 9:15 a.m. from the funeral home to Our Lady of Ransom Church. Mass 10:00 a.m. Interment Maryhill. Memorials to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital appreciated. Info 847-581-0536 or www.colonialfuneral.com



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Ball, John F.

GREENWICH, Conn. — John F. Ball, 87, a retired television and film production executive, died at his home in Greenwich on Friday, March 9. Mr. Ball was born in Winnetka, Ill., on April 26, 1930, to Edward and Kathleen Ball. He graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka in 1948, and earned a bachelor's degree in English from Princeton University in Princeton, N.J., in 1952. Following his graduation, he served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy Destroyer Force. While a student at Princeton, he met his future wife Anne Firestone, granddaughter of tire industry pioneer Harvey S. Firestone, during spring break in Miami. They were married in 1957. Mrs. Ball died in 2013.

Following his Navy service, Mr. Ball joined the CBS Television network in New York City, where he became director of television special programming. He was credited with development of such classic television programs as Candid Camera, Sing Along with Mitch and The Man from Uncle. Mr. Ball left CBS and joined the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency in 1961, where he served as vice president of television programming and later as president of Thompson's documentary television division Survival Anglia Ltd. At Survival, he collaborated for many years with British producer Aubrey Buxton on an extensive series of acclaimed wildlife documentaries. Their 1972 film The Incredible Flight of the Snow Geese won two Emmy awards for cinematography and film editing.

In 1985, he established John F. Ball Productions, Inc., which specialized in production of films and videos for Catholic and educational institutions. Active in local, national and international Roman Catholic organizations, Mr. Ball was a long-time member of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Greenwich. Mr. Ball was a member of the Knights of St. Gregory the Great, Knights of the Holy Sepulcher and Knights of Malta. In 1992, he was elected a member of the American Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Mr. Ball received the Apostolic Blessing from Pope John Paul II in 2003. He and his late wife Anne were long-time supporters of Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, from which they received the prestigious Umilta Award in 2011.

Mr. Ball was an actor and songwriter. He began his musical career at New Trier High School, where he was a founder and director of the Lagniappe student musical-variety organization. He went on to write and perform in the Princeton Triangle Club, where he served as vice president. In 1952, he appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show, singing and dancing to his original music. Mr. Ball remained active in Triangle Club throughout his lifetime, as a trustee, chairman from 1970 through 1988, and chairman emeritus since 1995.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Mr. Ball was preceded in death by brothers Edward Ball and Rev. David Ball and sister Kathleen Ball Crane. He is survived by sons John F. Ball, Jr., of Chicago and David F. Ball (Lucy) of Darien, Conn., daughter Sheila Ball Burkert (Randall) of New York City and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Ball also had a home in Northport Point, Mich. The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 22, from 4:30 until 7:00 p.m. at Leo P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Home, 31 Arch Street, Greenwich, Conn., 06830. The funeral service will be held on Friday, March 23, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 469 North Street, Greenwich, Conn., 06830. There also will be a memorial service this summer at Atwill Memorial Chapel in Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to Family Centers of Greenwich, 40 Arch Street, Greenwich, Conn. 06830 or Leelanau Conservancy, 105 N. First Street, Leland, Mich. 49654.

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Bergen, Jeffrey Marc

Jeffrey Marc Bergen, age 62, passed away on Wednesday, March 14th, 2018, surrounded by his loving family. Jeff was born on July 21, 1955 in Brooklyn, New York, to Frederick and Dorothy (Cohen) Bergen. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Donna (Szopa) Bergen; daughter, Renee Polinski, and granddaughter, Natalie; daughter, Sabrina (Greig) Havern, and grandchildren Jack and Grace; son, Mark (Jaime) Stasiowski, and granddaughters, Katerina and Alina; daughter Melisa (Peter) Sadalski; and sister, Rhonda (Mark) Hager, and niece, Debbie. Jeff received his B.S. from Brooklyn College and his S.M. and PhD from the University of Chicago. After his arrival at DePaul University in 1981, Jeff became an internationally recognized scholar in the area of non-commutative algebra, published over 50 articles in refereed research journals, and was the sole author of an abstract algebra textbook in 2010. He was the director of the Masters of Arts in Mathematics Education Program at DePaul, and his excellence in teaching was acknowledged by his reception of the Cortelyou-Lowery Award in 2007. Jeff continued to inspire his students through his passion for mathematics and education until his passing. A visitation will take place on Saturday, March 17th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the **Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home**, 1104 Waukegan Road, Glenview. A brief service will follow at noon. Jeff was a very generous person and enjoyed donating to various charities, including many animal welfare organizations. Please consider a donation in his name to a charity of your choice. Info 847-359-8020 or visit www.smithcorcoran.com



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Berk, Carol Jean

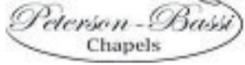
Carol Jean Berk (nee Lindelof) - age 60, passed away peacefully on Tuesday March 13. She is survived by her loving daughters, Michelle, Patricia, Charlene and Monique. Proud grandmother of Nathan, Jake, Meranda, Sara, Jason, Ian and Dylan. Dear sister to Ralph, Tom (Chris), Cathy (Brad) and John (Debbie). Visitation Saturday from 3 PM until time of Funeral Service 7:30 PM at **Gelis Funeral Home**, 180 S. York Road, Bensenville IL. Interment Private. For funeral information, please call 630-766-3232 or www.gelisfuneralhome.com



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Bickart, Linda Lee

Linda Lee Bickart of Chicago; Beloved daughter of the late Charles and Ruth; Dear sister of Sharon and the late Patricia; Magnificent aunt of Kim, Tracy, Valerie, Cindy, Steven, Kerri and Laura; Devoted great aunt of 10. Long term employee of UIC, #1 Cubs fan and since her retirement worked as an usher at Wrigley Field. Intense animal lover and advocate. A wonderful friend to many. Visitation Sunday 2:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. at PETERSON-BASSI CHAPELS 6938 W. North Ave. Ms. Bickart will lie in state Monday from 9:00a.m. till time of service 10:00a.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 611 Randolph St, Oak Park. Entombment Acacia Park Cemetery. Info 773.637.4441 or www.petersonfuneralhome.com



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Browning, Sr., George F.

Age 83. Previously of Browning & Son's Automotive in Oak Forest for 31 years. Memorial begins March 17, 4:00 pm, Service at 5:00 pm at Trinity Church-26900 S. Will-Center Rd. Monee. Pastor Joe Pujdak.

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Bubulka, Emily C.

Emily C. Bubulka nee Sportiello beloved wife of the late Frank M. Bubulka; loving mother of Michael, Cathy Buettner and Steve Bubulka; dearest grandmother of Bryan (Carrie), Ashley, Brad (Heather) and Elise (Jason) Michelin; dear great grandmother of Harper and Emelee; cherished sister of the late Mary (Dave) Hennip, Angelo (Margie), Mike and John Sportiello; fond sister-in-law of Ruth and Pat Sportiello; devoted aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sunday 1-5 P.M. Funeral Monday 11:00 A.M. from **Lawn Funeral Home** 7909 State Road (5500W) Burbank IL 60459 to St. Albert The Great Church Mass 11:30 A.M. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Funeral info (708) 636-2320.



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Conroy, Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen Conroy age 87; passed away March 10, 2018; wife of the late Thomas; mother of Rita (Tom) Wilson, Tom (Lisa), Loretta and Kathy Conroy; grandmother of Mike (Amy), Greg (Jaime), Chris and Jeff Wilson; Shannon (Michael) Sheehan, Sara (Niko) Berrini, Annie and Maggie Kelly; great grandmother of Ben, Miles and Ellie Wilson, Nora, Anna and Jack Sheehan, Julius and Leonardo Berrini. Private Services were held Wednesday March 14, 2018 at **Kosary Funeral Home** 9837 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Park (708) 499-3223 or www.kosaryfuneralhome.com

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Cozzi, Paul A.

Paul A. Cozzi age 95 of Oak Park and Ascension Parish died March 14, 2018 surrounded by his family. Paul was an accountant who owned Trade Recorders Bookkeeping Company in Chicago and Forest park. Precede in death by his wife, Eileen, Paul was a loving father to Paula (Ed Goedert), Bob (Kate), Peg, Barbara (Dennis Hudson), Liz (Peter Tarcha), Phil (Darlene), Nancy (Lou Freda), and Larry. Loving grandfather and great grandfather to many. Visitation 3-8 p.m. Sunday March 18th at BELMONT FUNERAL HOME / GAMBONEY & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS 7120 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago. Family and friends are asked to meet Monday 9:30 a.m. for Mass of Christian Burial at Ascension Church 808 S. East Avenue, Oak Park. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Info: 773.286.2500 or www.belmontfuneralhome.com

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DeKing, Brett Joseph

Brett Joseph DeKing, age 59, passed away on March 13, 2018 after battling cancer for nine years; beloved husband of Mary Ann DeKing; loving father of Cassandra (Joshua) Watson and Dane DeKing; cherished son of the late LeRoy and Mary DeKing; dear brother of Deborah (Thomas) Wall, Brad (Bernadine) DeKing, Chet (Carrie) DeKing, Chad (Mary) DeKing and LeRoy (Lisa) DeKing; fond brother-in-law of John (Mary) Terzakis, Peggi Terzakis and George (Jill) Terzakis; he was very loved by many nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Visitation Sunday 3-8 P.M. at **Modell Funeral Home**, 7710 S. Cass Avenue, Darien. Lying in State Monday from 9:00 A.M. until time of Mass at 10:00 A.M. at St. Joseph Church, 722 High Street, Aurora. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery, Aurora. For funeral info: (630) 852-3595 or www.modelldarien.com

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Dold, Marjorie M.

Marjorie M. Dold, née Miller, 84, beloved wife of the late John A. Dold, passed away on March 12, 2018. She was born on February 10, 1934 in Cleveland, Ohio. She is survived by two daughters, Barbara (Wayne) Brewer and Suzanne (Robert) Brunk; five cherished grandchildren, Kathryn (Frederick) Jorgensen, David (Allison) Brewer, Madeline Brewer, Jeffrey Brunk, and Tabitha Brunk; sister Judy (the late Richard) Barlow, brother Bill (Gail) Miller, and many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 17, at Winnetka Bible Church, 555 Birch St., Winnetka, followed by a funeral service at 10:30 a.m. For information please call **Wm. H. Scott Funeral Home** 847-251-8200.

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Foray, Eugene C.

Eugene C. Foray, age 71, of Oak Forest, United States Army Veteran, passed away on March 12, 2018. Loving husband, best friend and bashert of Karyl Foray (nee Dicker); dearest father of Thomas (Joanne), David (Ana), and Christopher (Erika); cherished grandfather of Emma Foray, Bella Gallegos, Noah Gallegos and Emilia Verdesoto; dear brother of Norman (fiancee Judy Cudrera), Leland (Theresa), Carol (Joe) Miano and the late Brian. Funeral Services and Interment are private. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions in Eugene's name may be made to Gift of Hope, www.giftofhope.org. Arrangements were entrusted to the **McKenzie Funeral Home**, Oak Forest, Illinois. For information: 708-687-2990

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Fox, Barbara Gene

Barbara Gene Fox 82, March 13, 2018. Beloved daughter of the late Daniel J. and Margaret M. (nee Murray). Loving sister of Sr. Marie Fox RSM. Fond cousin of many. Barbara was a retired Civil Engineer for the City of Chicago and a member of the American Society of Women Engineers. Visitation at St. Cajetan Church 2445 W. 112th St. Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until time of Mass 11:00 a.m. Int. Mt. Olivet Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Retirement Fund 3659 W. 99th St. Evergreen Park, IL 60805. Arrangements entrusted to **Donnellan Funeral Home**. Info (773) 238-0075 Sign guestbook at www.donnellanfuneralhome.com



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Freitag, Leona

age 97, Loving mother of Chuck (Janice) Fletcher; beloved step mother of William (Gayle) Freitag and Beth Madura; dearest grandmother of 7 and great grandmother of 10; dear aunt of Diane (Ronald) Martin. Visitation will be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Kurtz Memorial Chapel 65 Old Frankfort Way, Frankfort IL 60423 from 2-7PM. Funeral in the funeral home Monday at 10:00AM. Interment Chapel Hill Garden South, Oak Lawn. for INFO www.kurtzmemorialchapel.com or 815-806-2225

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Geleerd, Jr., William L. 'Bill'

William L. "Bill" Geleerd Jr, 87. Beloved husband for 22 years of Naomi Myers; devoted father of Jane Ann (Peter) Heheman and William L. Geleerd III; caring stepfather of Leonard David Myers and the late Deborah Myers; cherished grandfather of Kate Ann and Gracie Jane Heheman; fond brother of the late Guy D. Geleerd Sr.; caring brother-in-law of Judith Geleerd Kitzes and Irwin Javinsky; proud uncle of Guy Jr. (Lauren) Geleerd, James D. (Jennifer Kaplan) Geleerd, and Julie (Greg) Moss. Funeral service Fri, 3/16, 11 AM, at North Shore Congregation Israel, 1185 Sheridan Rd, Glencoe. Interment Ft. Sheridan Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, www.diabetes.org. For info: 847-256-5700.



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Iacopelli, Rosalyn "Lee Lee"

Rosalyn "Lee Lee" Iacopelli, age 85, Beloved wife of the late Vito; Devoted mother of Salvatore (Everett Lee), Frank (Julie) Iacopelli and Maria (Jim) Lane; Cherished grandmother of Jessica (Ryan), Derek, Jimmy, Gina, Paige, Ralphie and Frankie; loving great grandmother of Isabella, Avery, Hailey, Cole and Dylan; Dear sister of the late Concetta (the late John) Doderio, the late Teresa (the late Charles) Paletta the late John (the late Audrey) Folinazzo, the late Frank Folinazzo, the late Anthony (the late Leda) Folinazzo, the late Louis (Dorothy) Folinazzo, Joyce (the late Gene) Ruffino, Marie (Roy) Ippolito, and dear aunt of many nieces and nephews. Funeral Monday, family and friends are asked to gather 9:30 a.m. at **Salerno's Rosedale Chapels** 450 W. Lake St. Roselle, IL. 60172 (3/4 mile west of Bloomingdale/Roselle Rd.). Funeral Service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Visitation Sunday 3:00-9:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Comfort Cares Foundation Attention: Katrina Agnew 1s660 Midwest Rd. Suite 305 Oak Brook Terrace, IL 60181



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Jens, Gerry Lynne

Gerry Lynne Jens nee Schneider, age 66 at rest March 14th; beloved wife of the late Howard; loving daughter of Betty and the late Bill Schneider; dearest sister of William (Terry), Bob (Debbie) and Judy Pollard; cherished aunt of Meg (Brandt) Zenter, Brian (Shari), Jim, Bob (Eryn), Allie, Mike, Joe, Tricia (Scott) Sillari, Kriste and Cara; great-aunt of Madison, Nick, Connor, Kaeden & Will; fond niece of Shirley Kaluza; step-mother of Louis & Jennifer Jens and their children Joe, Matt, Abby & Katie. Visitation Sunday only, March 18th, from 3 to 9 pm at the **CURLEY FUNERAL HOME** (KUBINA-TYBOR DIRECTORS), 6116 W 111th St Chicago Ridge with a service at 7 PM. 708-422-2700 or www.curleyfuneralhome.com.

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Kaplan, Joni Kaden

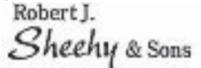
Joni Kaden Kaplan, age 76, of Northbrook, Illinois faced pancreatic cancer with courage and grace. She died at home early morning, March 13, 2018 and is survived by her beloved and loving family: husband, Jack Pohn, daughter, Robyn (Jordan) Allen, her grandchildren, Samantha, Jessica and Jeremy Allen, her step-children, Pat (Doug) Marshall, Andy (Shari) Kaplan, Kendra Fogarty (nee Pohn), Justin (Emily) Pohn, Tyler Pohn, Kiley Pohn and Devin Pohn, her step-grandchild, Jacob Marshall, her brother, Bruce (Laurie) Kaden, her nephew, Jonathan (Susan) Kaden, and her niece, Allison (Jason) Horowitz. Funeral services Friday, March 16, 2018 at 10 a.m., Congregation Solel, 1301 Clavey Road, Highland Park, IL. Interment Shalom Memorial Park. For funeral information 847-256-5700.



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Keane, Raymond Frank

Age 22. Beloved son of Donna (nee Bubis) and the late Raymond Keane. Loving brother of Renee and Victor Keane. Cherished grandson of the late Frank & Susan Bubis and the late Edward & Dorothy Keane. Adored nephew, cousin and friend of many. Alumnus of St. Rita of Cascia High School and Finance major at Loyola University. Visitation Sunday 1-7 p.m. at the **Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home**, 9000 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL. Family and friends to gather Monday for visitation 10:30 a.m. until time of Mass 11:30 a.m. at St. Rita Cascia High School Chapel, 7740 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL. Interment Good Shepherd Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to St. Rita Cascia High School. www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878



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Kennedy, James P.

James P. Kennedy, 63, of Lake In The Hills passed away March 6, 2018. Born in Chicago March 2, 1955 to the late Jerome and Catherine Kennedy. Beloved husband of Lynnette nee Markendorf; loving father of Paul (Aiza) Kennedy, Stephen (Jessica) Kennedy and Elizabeth (Michael) Volrath; dear brother of Daniel (the late Patricia) Kennedy, Barbara (Jeffery)

Payne, Michael (Andrea) Kennedy, Kathleen Kras and fond uncle of numerous nieces and nephews. James was a retired Senior Police Sergeant of the Elk Grove PD, and a retired security officer of the Elk Grove Park District. He was also a Village Trustee of Lake In The Hills, as well as chairman of Civilian Operating Board of Valley Hi Nursing Home. James was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and served on the McHenry County Board. Visitation will be held Friday March 16, 2018 from 3-8pm at Willow Funeral Home 1415 W Algonquin Rd., Algonquin IL. Funeral Saturday 9:15 from funeral home for 10am Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Church, 1023 McHenry Ave., Crystal Lake. Interment to follow at Windridge Memorial Park, Cary IL.

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Lambert, Deacon George A.

Deacon George A. Lambert, 91. Beloved husband of 71 years of Teresa "Terri" Lambert (nee Kelly). Father of Rev. Curtis Lambert, Paul (Debbie), Judi, Dan (Nettie) Lambert. Grandfather of 5, Great-grandfather of 9. He was a Deacon of the Archdiocese of Chicago, a US Navy Veteran, and worked for Argonne National Laboratory for 34 years. Funeral today at 10:30 am at St Alphonus Liguori Church 411 Wheeling Rd. Prospect Heights, IL 60070. Visitation today 9:30 until 10:30 am at the church. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. In Lieu of flowers donations to St Mary of the Lake Seminary at www.usml.edu appreciated. For funeral info call 847-255-7452

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Lerner, Jeffrey M.

Jeffrey M. Lerner, 71. Beloved husband for 38 years of Marianne (nee Garepis); devoted father of Megan Lerner and Stephanie (Michael Cohen) Lerner; cherished brother of Gail (Byron) Brook; loving uncle of Nikki (Dan) Newman, Meredyth Brook, Elaine (Adam) Olbur, and many other nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. Jeffrey practiced criminal law for 42 years, spending most of his career at Kolpak & Lerner. He was a past Glenview Village Trustee and Glenbrook High School board member. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Funeral service Sun, March 18, 1 PM, at **Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home**, 111 Skokie Blvd, Wilmette. Interment Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org. For info: 847-256-5700.



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Ludacka, Yvonne 'Eve'

Yvonne "Eve" Ludacka (nee Ceschke). Born July 28th, 1936, passed into eternal rest March 13th, 2018. Born in Chicago to the late Elmer and the late Betty Ceschke. Eve was preceded in death by her husband George Ludacka. She is survived by her brother James (Roberta) Ceschke. Dearest mother of Cheryl (Michael) Stuker and Frank Ludacka. Loving grandmother of five: Aaron Stuker, Rachel Laack, Lydia Stuker, Jared Ludacka, and Alec Ludacka. Precious Gigi to Melody Jenae Craig. Eve was the Hello Charley Queen of 1954 for Western Electric. She was a lead for 40 years with the Choral Aires Barbershop Chorus, something that brought her much pride and joy, along with many wonderful friendships. Her beautiful voice and loving spirit will be missed by many. She will be forever in our hearts. Family and friends to gather Sunday, March 18th, 2018 for Visitation 2 - 5pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1101 Kimberly Way, Lisle, IL 60532. Additional visitation 9:30am until time of Funeral Service 10:30am Monday, March 19th. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the American Diabetes Association appreciated. Arrangements Entrusted to **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, Downers Grove: (630) 964-6500 or hjfunerals.com

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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

Macino, Anthony G.

Anthony G. Macino, age 77, at rest March 9, 2018 in Hollywood, FL. Beloved husband of Joyce (nee Tibstra); loving father of Guy (Marylynn) and Tamara (Mark) Thomas; dearest grandfather of Royce, Tyler, Morgan, Ethan, Dane, Gianna, Anthony, Ava and Bella; devoted son of the late Guy and Rose (nee Losacco) Macino; dear brother of the late Michael (the late Mary), Rosemary (the late Leonard) Lopez, Joseph (Maryann), and Gilbert (Rosemary); fond uncle, great uncle and great great uncle of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sunday 3-9 P.M. Funeral Monday 9:15 A.M. from **Colonial Chapel**, 15525 S. 73rd Ave (155th/Wheeler Dr. & Harlem) Orland Park, IL to Our Lady of the Woods Catholic Church 10731 W. 131st. St., Orland Park, IL. for a 10 A.M. Funeral Mass. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Express your thoughts and condolences at colonialchapel.com 708-532-5400
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Maher, John N. "Norman"

age 79. Beloved husband of the late Marian R. Maher (nee Watson). Loving father of John N. Maher, Phillip A. Maher and Julia (Kevin) Dombrowski. Proud papa of Audrey, Grace and Nolan Dombrowski. Dear brother of Gerald (Nancy) and Robert J. (Susan) Maher. Fond uncle to many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sunday 3-9pm Funeral Monday 10:00am from the **Maher Funeral Home** 17101 S. 71st Ave Tinley Park to St. Christina Church for Mass at 11:00am. Interment Chapel Hill Gardens South Cemetery. to sign guestbook visit www.maherfuneralservices.com. (708) 781-9212.



MAHER FUNERAL HOME

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Mason Jr., Charles D.

Charles D. Mason, Jr., age 91, WWII Navy veteran; beloved husband of the late Lucille and the late Lorraine; loving father of Wayne (Bev) Mason, Billie (the late Joseph) Ruschinski, Terrie (the late Kelly) Nielsen and Robinette (Martin) Lebda; devoted grandfather of Derek (Jennifer) Mason, Brian (Erin) Mason, Chad (Katie) Mason, Sumner Nielsen, Julie (David) Deck, Paul (Melaina) Ruschinski, Stacey (fiance, Bryan Barry) and Britney (Sean) Norton; fond great-grandfather of Lily, Miles and Stella Deck, Joseph Ruschinski, Ashley, Samantha and Bailey Mason, Jackson, Emma and Finley Mason. Charles is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and extended family members. He was employed as a sales manager at Hedlin Dairy for many years. Visitation Sat., Mar. 17, 2018, 9-11 AM with a service at 11 AM at Matz Funeral Home, 410 E. Rand Rd. Mt. Prospect. Entombment Mt. Olive Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Alzheimer's Association or the American Cancer Society appreciated. 847/394-2336.
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Meier, Robert A., Ph.D.

Robert A. Meier, Ph.D., age 101, of Chicago, IL, and La Jolla, CA. Retired Professor of Accounting and Author, Loyola University of Chicago and the University of San Diego. Veteran, U.S. Army, World War II. Beloved son of the late Antoinette and Joseph; loving brother of the late Henry J. (the late Catherine); dearest uncle of Roberta Therese (the late Charles) Santo; cherished great-uncle of Mimi Davis, Kate (Bob) Reisinger, and Joseph Charles; fond great-uncle of Chloe and Quinn Vastag, Abigail and Isabella Reisinger. Visitation, Saturday, March 17, 2018, from 9 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass, 10 a.m., at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, 6559 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. Interment, All Saints Catholic Cemetery, Des Plaines. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Bonaventure Indian Mission & School (www.stbonaventuremission.org), 25 W. Navarre Blvd., Thoreau, NM, 87323. Info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.



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Melby, James W.

James W. Melby; beloved husband of the late Barbara H Melby, and loving father and father-in-law of Lynn (Melby) and Dave Braden, Larry and Gina Melby, and Michael and Yvette Melby. He was a proud Grandfather of 6 children. He honorably served as a member of the US Army in the Korean War. Jim was a Police Officer with the Chicago Police Department and eventually retired as Lieutenant in the South Holland Police Department. He will be loved and missed by all. Visitation Sunday, March 18, 2018 3-8 pm. Funeral Services Monday, March 19, 2018 at 10:00 am at the Elmwood Chapel 11200 S. Ewing Ave. Chicago. Interment Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. For more information 773-731-2749 or www.elmwoodchapel.com
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Melchiorre, John Anthony 'Papa'

John Anthony "Papa" Melchiorre, age 84, of Elmwood Park, formerly of Wood Dale, passed away on March 14, 2018. He was born in Chicago, IL. Beloved husband of Gloria Jean Melchiorre (nee Vercillo). Loving father of Paula Ann (Vince) LoCascio of Wood Dale, IL, John Melchiorre Jr of Elmhurst, IL, Frank (Colette) Melchiorre of Bartlett, IL, Karen "Penelope" (Mario) Petrella of Long Grove, IL. Proud Papa of Liliana Sorella and Vincenza Sorella LoCascio, Stacey Antepencko Carter; Zachary John Melchiorre; Isabella Rose, Mario Vincenzo, and Lorenzo Giovanni Petrella; Frankie Michael and Lucia Avianna Melchiorre. Devoted son of the late Raphael and Ersilia (nee DeCrecchio), dear brother of the late Virginia Marco, the late Bruno (the late Mary), the late Mario (the late Roberta), the late Mary, the late Ralph (the late Esther), the late Polinnia and the late Rudy (Clara) Melchiorre, fond uncle, great-uncle and friend of many. Visitation Sunday, March 18th 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. and Monday, March 19th 9:00 a.m. until time of service, 11:00 a.m. at **The Oaks Funeral Home** 1201 E. Irving Park Road (at Prospect), Itasca. Entombment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to: American Cancer Society or Alzheimer's Association would be appreciated. For funeral info: 630-250-8588 or www.theoaksfh.com
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Monteclaro, Phyllis Carol Pagsuberon

Phyllis Carol Pagsuberon Monteclaro, lovingly known as "Fifi", was born December 9, 1954 in Manila, Philippines and went to be in the presence of her Lord on March 13, 2018 in Skokie, Illinois. Youngest daughter of the late Eddie B. Monteclaro (Philippine journalist, Editor of Philippine Times in Chicago and copy editor of Chicago Sun Times) and the late Rudi Pagsuberon Monteclaro, sister of Melanie, Byrnis (Manette) and the late Eddie, Jr. (Loida), aunt to Jonathan (Lalaine), Lloyd, Byrnis Mark (Michelle), David, Sahrie (Tristan) Wenceslao, and AnneMarie (Brandon) VanBeek. Grand Aunt to Tristan Luke, Leia, Jacen, Lilian, Cody and Miadora. Graduate of the elementary and high school divisions of Philippine Christian University, and alumna of North Park University in Chicago, retiree of School District 65 in Evanston, IL, worked at WMBI Moody Radio, Coordinator of the Children's Ministry and Filipino Fellowship of the North Shore Baptist Church and served in the Missions Committee at Rogers Park Baptist Church in Chicago, IL. Visitation is at 3:00 PM, followed by the service at 4:00 PM at the **Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home**, 6150 N. Cicero Ave, Chicago, IL on Sunday, March 18, 2018. Info 773-736-3833 or visit www.smithcorcoran.com



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Opon, Diane M.

Diane M. Opon, age 66, beloved daughter of the late Stanley and Eleanore (nee Jones) Opon. Loving sister of James Opon and David (Kathie) Opon. Cherished aunt of Aaron and Christopher. Loving niece of Lorraine Frejlich, John (Marcia) Jones, and preceded in death by many loving aunts and uncles. Dearest cousin to many. Diane was a client for 45 years at Sertoma Centre and a resident of Ridgeway Group Home for 14 years. Visitation Sunday 3-7 p.m. Funeral Service Monday 11:00 a.m. at **Colonial Chapel** 15525 S. 73rd Ave. (155th/Wheeler Dr. & Harlem) Orland Park, IL. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Sertoma Centre 4343 W. 123rd St., Alsip, IL 60803 preferred. Express your thoughts and condolences at colonialchapel.com 708-532-5400



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Porod, Lorraine J.

Lorraine J. Porod nee Budzynski. 94, beloved wife of the late Rudy; loving mother of Robert F., Sr. (Janet), Wayne (Rose), Gregory (Mary) and the late Eugene Porod; dear grandmother of Robert, Jr. (Diana), Karyn, and Eric (Jennifer) Porod, Rose (Humberto) Porod-Gonzalez, Celia (David) Porod-Klinger, Sarah (Chris) Marsik, Therese and Jennifer Porod; loving great grandmother of Natalie Porod, Alexis, Kaitlyn and Jake Horodecki and Henry Gonzalez; fond sister of Raymond (Dorothy) and the late Norbert Budzynski; loving aunt to many. Funeral Monday, March 19th. 9:30 A.M. from **Suburban Family Funeral Home** 5940 W. 35th. St. (Corner of 35th. St. & Austin) Cicero to Our Lady of Charity Church. Mass 10:00 A.M. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Visitation Sunday 2-9 P.M. 708-652-1116 or visit www.Suburbanfamilyfh.com.
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Preston, Dorothy C.

Dorothy C. Preston, nee Traba, age 98, beloved wife of the late Dr. John B. Preston; loving mother of the late Dr. John T. (Louella) Preston; dearest sister of the late Anne, Mae, Pauline, Charles, and Peter; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation at the **Skaja Terrace Funeral Home** 7812 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles on Sunday from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Funeral Monday 11:00 am Mass at St. Isaac Jogues Church 8149 W. Golf Road Niles. Interment St. Adalbert Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. Funeral info: 847-966-7302 or www.skajafuneralhomes.com



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Prible-McCormick, Joanne Marie

Joanne Marie Prible-McCormick, age 62; beloved wife of Chris McCormick, loving mother of Andrew McCormick, Jenny (Tanner) Taake and Michael McCormick; cherished daughter of Aileen and the late Robert Prible; dear sister of Barbara (Michael) Friclone, Christine (Frank) Ganta and Robert Prible; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Monday, March 19th 3:00PM to 8:00PM. Funeral Tuesday, March 20th 9:15AM from **Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan** Funeral Home, 4343 Main St. (1 blk. So. of Ogden Ave.) Downers Grove to St. Mary of Gostyn Church, 445 Prairie Ave., Downers Grove. Mass 10:00AM. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Wellness House, 131 North County Line Road, Hinsdale, IL 60521, www.wellnesshouse.org appreciated. 630/968-1000 or www.adamswinterfieldandsullivan.com



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Priola, Anthony R.

Sgt. Anthony R. Priola, Retired C.P.D., U.S. Army M.P., Age 85, passed away on March 14th surrounded by his loving family. Anthony was the beloved husband of Loretta L., nee Klement, for 54 wonderful years; loving father of Adele Azzaro, Tom Priola and Victoria (Daniel) Priola-Surowiec; cherished grandfather of Ella, William and Charlie Surowiec; dear brother of Felix (Doris) Priola and the late Angeline Juivingo, Joe Rizzo, Marie Nelson and Josephine "Tubby" Stella; fond uncle of many. Visitation Sunday, March 18th, from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels** 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge, IL. Funeral services will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, at the funeral home, and will then proceed to St. Robert Bellarmine Church for Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Maryhill Cemetery. Info www.cumberlandchapels.com or 708-456-8300.



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Reid, Frank John

Frank John Reid, a Loyola University graduate whose expertise ranged from Stanley Steamer automobiles to UFOs to Wittgenstein, died February 6, 2018 at Illinois Masonic Medical Center. He was 77. The son of the late Kay Reiss Maturro, Frank is survived by loyal friends grieving the loss of a witty, brilliant and affectionate companion. Thanks to Carolyn Gehle for her steadfast kindness to Frank. Memorial Mass at 10 a.m. Saturday March 24, 2018, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, 6559 N Glenwood Ave., Chicago, with a gathering afterwards at the parish. Arrangements by John E. Maloney Funeral Directors. <http://www.maloneyfuneralhome.com/>
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Schneider

See Gerry Lynne Jens notice.

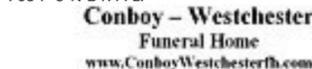
Smith, Rev. Robert A.

Rev. Robert Angus Smith, 84, of Dowagiac, passed away on Monday, March 12, 2018, at Timbers of Cass County. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11 AM on March 19, 2018, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 306 Courtland St., Dowagiac, MI. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service from 10-11 AM. Burial will take place in Bethel Cemetery in Buchanan, TN next to his parents and brother. As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Dowagiac. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.clarkch.com. Rev. Robert was the son of James Robert and Lora Maud (Lax) Smith. He graduated from North Park Academy, Chicago in 1951; from Lawrence College, Appleton, WI in 1955; and from Nashota House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin in 1958. He subsequently earned post-graduate Masters degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; from Nashotah House; and from Graduate Theological Foundation. He was ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church on March 22, 1958 and served on October 4, 1958. From 1958 to 1974 he served north-eastern Wisconsin congregations in Plymouth, Chilton, Suamico and Oconto. He was Rector of Grace Church, Menominee, Michigan from 1976 to 1988 and Rector of Saint Paul's Church, Dowagiac, MI from 1988 to 1998. After retiring he continued to live in Dowagiac to take advantage of life in Michiana and access to Chicago. Rev. Robert is survived by his brother Kenneth (Suzanne) Smith; nieces and nephews, Holly Smith, Scott (Victoria) Smith, Ian Smith and Evan Smith and great-nieces and nephew, Alexis Smith, Michael Smith and Jennifer Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, James McLean Smith.
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Tenebrini, Frank P.

Frank P. Tenebrini of Westchester, age 102. Beloved husband of Wanda, nee Kobilansky; loving father of Gail (Richard) Pearson and Linda Tenebrini; proud grandfather of Jason and Christopher (Erin) Pearson; great-grandfather of Zachary and Benjamin; cherished son of Augustino and Amelia Zaccagnini-Tenebrini; dear brother of the late Eugene (late Isabel) and the late Margaret (late Harold) Weiner; cherished uncle and dearest friend to many. Family and friends will be received at the **Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home**, 10501 W. Cermak Rd., Westchester (2 blks West of Mannheim Rd.) on Sunday, March 18, 2018 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Funeral Monday 9:30 a.m. from the funeral home to Divine Providence Church for 10:00 a.m. Mass. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.st.jude.org) appreciated. For further info 708-F-U-N-E-R-A-L.



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Zita, Warren J.

Warren J. Zita; Beloved husband of the late Helen; Devoted father of James (Sharon), Dianne (the late Dutch) Palmer, Debbie (Patrick) Campbell, John, Donna (Louis) Messina, Denise (Leon) Benish; Loving grandfather of 21 and great grandfather of many. Funeral Monday, family and friends are asked to gather 9:45 a.m. at St. Vincent Ferrer Church 1530 Jackson Ave. River Forest, IL. Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Visitation Sunday 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at **Salerno's Rosedale Chapels** 450 W. Lake St. Roselle, IL. 60172 (3/4 mile west of Bloomingdale/Roselle Rd.) For info 630-889-1700 www.salernofuneralhomes.com



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Marciela Garcia

1940-2017



Marciela was the best tamale maker, giver of hugs, worst in an emergency, best at unconditional love. She worked as a stenographer for 15 years, and was a loving abuelita not just to her eleven grandchildren, but to many of the children she worked with as a volunteer at the Chicago Public Library. Family was really important to Marciela. She was the eldest of 8 brothers and sisters, and due to her mother's passing at a young age, assumed a motherly role for her younger siblings. An animal-lover,

Marciela leaves behind her two cats, Fiona and Ray, and her dog, Sammy. Marciela is survived by her children,...

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Chicago Tribune CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors

NCAA TOURNAMENT LOYOLA 64, MIAMI 62

Swish come true



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Donte Ingram, third from left, is the center of the Loyola celebration after hitting the game-winning 3-pointer with 0.3 seconds left against Miami.

Ingram's shot is everything people love about Loyola



DAVID HAUGH
In the Wake of the News

DALLAS — Loyola calls the play "Attack," fitting for the tenacious team that captured America's imagination Thursday with a pulsating, buzzer-beating 64-62 victory

over Miami in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

When Miami guard Lonnie Walker IV missed a free throw with 9.3 seconds left at the American Airlines Center and Loyola guard Ben Richardson came down with the rebound, players knew what to run because they practice such things. At Loyola, they rehearse success.

Had center Cameron Krutwig rebounded the ball, coach Porter Moser would have called a timeout, but a guard grabbing the board provided the cue to push the ball upcourt. So Richardson passed to guard Marques Townes, who quickly dribbled down the floor as teammate Donte Ingram yelled from behind, "Marques, Marques!"

"I heard him loud and clear," Townes said. "They were all on me. I just gave it to Donte."

The pass came with 2.5 seconds left to Ingram, who, naturally, stood just inside the blue March Madness logo about 30 feet from the basket. Ingram, who had missed 5 of 7 3-pointers to that point, never hesitated. He squared up and buried a beautiful left-handed jumper for one of the biggest shots in Dallas since the days of J.R. Ewing.

The buzzer went off. Bedlam ensued. Adrenaline carried Ingram toward the raucous Ramblers cheering section, where he looked for his parents, Don and Doretha. They had traveled from Chicago to see their son's Bryce Drew moment, assuring him a spot in this year's "One Shining Moment."

A replay review showed Ingram's shot went in with 0.3 seconds left, but it already had been etched indelibly into our collective NCAA memories as a gut-wrenching, heart-stopping game-winner.

Turn to **Haugh, Page 3**



(3) Tennessee vs. (11) Loyola
5:10 p.m.
Saturday, TNT



OPENING SHOT
Steve Rosenbloom
And so, Porter Moser moves one win closer to that Louisville job. Or maybe UConn. Pitt then. **More, Page 2**

■ Donte Ingram not the only hero from Simeon: Zach Norvell Jr. hits winning 3 for Gonzaga. **Page 2**
■ 13th seed Buffalo takes down Ayton, Arizona — by 21. **Page 2**
■ Bracket, Thursday's results, Friday's previews. **Page 4**

Players have a common theme

New coach Nagy's enthusiasm key in luring free agents



BRAD BIGGS
On the Bears

When general manager Ryan Pace described the process of hiring coach Matt Nagy a little more than two months ago — the Bears interviewed him during the day and the wheels to hire him were in motion that evening — it was the instant connection the general manager cited in guiding the decision.

MORE COVERAGE
Is Bears' revamped offense reason to believe this free-agent class is different? **Back Page**

That feeling, the kind you know when you experience it, seems to be something Nagy radiates with players as well because as the Bears rolled out new additions to the franchise Thursday at Halas Hall, 23 hours into a bold adventure into free agency, one by one they all cited the *Matt Nagy Effect* in their decision.

Don't kid yourself. Free agency comes down to money first, foremost and always and the Bears have shelled out

plenty of it in aggressively working to overhaul the roster for the new head coach in Year 4 of Pace's rebuild. But what happened as the team introduced wide receivers Allen Robinson and Taylor Gabriel, tight end Trey Burton, quarterback Chase Daniel and kicker Cody Parkey individually was organic.

When new additions talk about the tradition of the Bears, chances are they're not well versed on the introduction of the modern T-formation in the 1940s when the Bears were in their true heyday. But as each new player walked into the media room, posed with a jersey for photographs and

Turn to **Biggs, Page 9**



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Bulls center Robin Lopez (42) works against the Grizzlies' Marc Gasol on Thursday night.

INSIDE



Bulls drop to ninth in lottery standings after dealing Grizzlies their 19th loss in row. **Page 5**



Done from the start: Blackhawks give up five goals in first period, fall to Jets 6-2. **Page 5**



Cubs say Wrigley Field upgrades remain on track to be ready for home opener. **Page 7**



Sox might be in race to bottom, but fans don't seem too concerned. Paul Sullivan. **Page 7**

TOP OF THE SECOND



STEVE ROSENBLUM

Seeing red? Blame Arrieta

If you're angry, frustrated or just bummed that one of the greatest and most important pitchers in Cubs history left town, then blame the pitcher.

Because ultimately, Jake Arrieta left the Cubs because he chose to leave the Cubs.

Arrieta looked funny in Phillies red instead of Cubs blue when he met the media the other day after signing a three-year, \$75 million deal that could be worth a lot more because of incentives.

But Arrieta was wearing the Phillies red because he reportedly turned down a chance to continue wearing Cubs blue.

In January, USA Today reported the Cubs offered Arrieta four years and \$110 million. If true, that would have amounted to an average annual value of \$27.5 million, which is more than the \$21 million AAV of the contract to which the Cubs and Yu Darvish eventually agreed.

I'm not trying to characterize Arrieta as greedy upon entering his first shot at a free-agent jackpot, nor someone to be pitied. I'm not trying to come off as a team guy, nor am I calling the Cubs a bunch of big meanies for kicking out a hero. I'm just trying to wade through the words and actions to establish who's most responsible for Arrieta's exit, and I conclude it's Arrieta.

If you have been blaming the Cubs for this divorce, then you can see they wanted to pay Arrieta more per year than the ace they later signed.

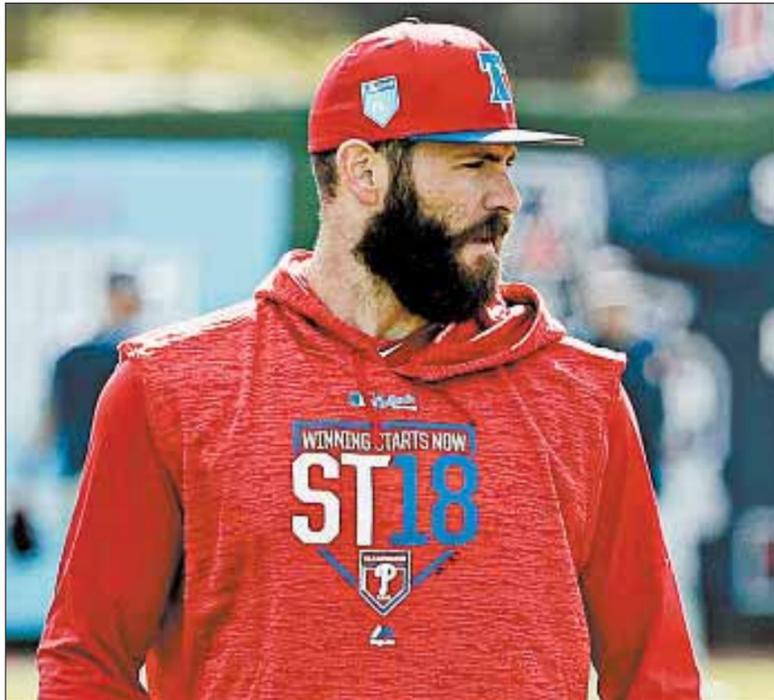
If you have been blaming Arrieta's agent, Scott Boras, then you don't realize how this works, and it's pretty simple: The agent works for the player.

If the client doesn't know the agent works for him, then shame on the client. But the client always has been in charge, no matter how many tortured metaphors the agent spits out.

The agent might have read the market wrong, but the client, at any time, always can instruct the agent to close the deal that's there.

If Arrieta was leaving all the decisions to Boras, then Arrieta still was choosing to make the final call, even if it was coming out of someone else's mouth. Bottom line, it was for Arrieta to say deal or no deal, and when it came to the Cubs, Arrieta said no deal.

That decision ended Arrieta's career as a Cub, but nothing will erase his legend as one. From the start of 2015 through the



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Who's to blame for starter Jake Arrieta leaving the Cubs for the Phillies? Jake Arrieta.

2016 World Series, the right-hander authored one of the greatest runs baseball ever has seen. For one thing, Arrieta went nine regular-season starts between no-hitters without losing, a record by a lot.

Arrieta won the 2015 Cy Young Award after winning the wild-card playoff game with one of the studliest postseason starts ever after a second half in which his ERA was a ridiculous and record 0.75.

And when the Cubs reached their first World Series since 1945, Arrieta started two games they would win as they captured their first title in 108 years.

Arrieta defied history. He was must-see TV. Everybody was jumping on the beard-wagon. He delivered unforgettable performances for a franchise that championships forgot.

Then, after struggling with a drop in velocity, Arrieta remade himself on the fly last year. He taught himself to become a different pitcher. He learned to retire hit-

ters instead of blowing them away. That's an impressive trick when you're taking the ball in a playoff race. Arrieta was throwing more pitches because he was struggling with release points, among other things, but he still gave up just one earned run in 6²/₃ innings of Game 4 of the National League Championship Series, the only game the Cubs won.

So, we have seen Arrieta successfully adjust to a changing environment on the mound. He chose not to adjust to a changing environment off it. Both are his responsibility.

He doesn't have to know how to construct contracts, but he's obligated to make the call on the deal he wants based on what's available. That's his job as the CEO of Jake, Inc., now serving the greater Philadelphia area.

rosenbloom@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @steverosenbloom

THE LINEUP

It's a recruiting violation



Aaron Judge wasn't found guilty of tampering, but his free-agent pitch to Manny Machado did lead to a call Wednesday night from Yankees general manager Brian Cashman, who gave Judge a refresher "that MLB's sensitive to that kind of stuff."

"Now I know," Judge said. "You learn something new every day."

Judge had said Wednesday he hopes Machado, the Orioles' All-Star shortstop, will join the Yankees in 2019.

"Adding him to our lineup ... would be something special," Judge said. "I told him he'd look good in pinstripes."

An MLB statement said the Yankees told the league Judge's "off-the-cuff comments were not appropriate and not authorized by the club. They will speak to him to make sure this does not happen again." *New York Daily News*

His career headed south



After a year away from coaching, **Tom Crean** is back in the game.

Georgia announced Thursday night it has hired the former Indiana and Marquette coach, one day after former Ohio State coach Thad Matta turned down the job. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Crean will make \$3.2 million annually on a six-year contract.

"Make no mistake, this is a basketball program inside of a great university that can compete for championships doing it the right way," he said in a statement.

Crean has a 356-231 record in 18 seasons and guided Marquette to the 2003 Final Four and Indiana to three Sweet 16s. But he was fired a year ago after nine years with the Hoosiers.

He replaces Mark Fox, who took Georgia to two NCAA tournaments (no wins) in nine seasons. *Tribune wires*

CONTACT US

Joe Knowles, AME/Sports
435 N. Michigan Ave. | Chicago, IL 60611
312-222-3478 | sports@chicagotribune.com



EZRA SHAW/GETTY

Former Simeon star Zach Norvell Jr. hits the go-ahead 3-pointer with 20.8 seconds left to lift Gonzaga over dogged UNC Greensboro.

WEST GONZAGA 68, UNC GREENSBORO 64

Confident Norvell is good to last shot

Bulldogs survive, advance after tiebreaking 3-pointer

BY EDDIE PELLIS | Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Zach Norvell Jr. watched Gonzaga's greatest moments play out from the sideline last year.

This year, the redshirt freshman from Simeon will be part of the highlight reel.

Norvell hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 20.8 seconds left Thursday to help the fourth-seeded Bulldogs escape a major scare in the West Region with a 68-64 victory over UNC Greensboro.

"He has a knack for that," coach Mark Few said. "When I saw him size the guy up, I knew that, A, he was probably going to shoot it, and, B, it was probably going in."

Last season's national runner-up trailed 64-62 with 1 minute, 48 seconds left after squandering a 12-point second-half lead.

Josh Perkins tied the score at 64 with a long jumper, and after the Spartans' Francis Alonso forced up a miss, Gonzaga got the rebound and worked the ball to Norvell,

who spotted up from the right elbow and made the 3 for the lead.

As a highly touted recruit, Norvell chose Gonzaga (31-4) over Florida State and Georgetown, among others, but he hurt his knee leading up to last season.

A long recovery, plus the fact the Bulldogs had a stockpile of talent at guard, turned Norvell into a bystander last year while they were making the program's first run to the Final Four.

He has been front and center in 2017-18, starting most of the season and averaging 12 points. And even though he was 2 of 11 before his game-winner, he had the confidence to keep shooting.

"Every time I missed, all the guys came to me and said, 'The next one is going in, the next one is going in,'" Norvell said. "So I had no choice but to make a bucket."

After Norvell's go-ahead hoop, Alonso got called for an offensive foul, but Gonzaga's Rui Hachimura missed a pair of free throws. Marvin Smith had a chance to tie it and his 3-point attempt looked spot on, but it bounded in and out.

Norvell made one more free throw to ice

the game and finish with 15 points.

"You think about the what-ifs," said Spartans coach Wes Miller, who helped UNC Greensboro make the tournament for the first time since 2001. "I could've made some better play calls."

Gonzaga, in its 20th straight NCAA tournament, won its first game for the 10th straight year, though that's not the mission anymore for the Bulldogs. They came in playing well enough to make another run at the Final Four. They ran into a grinder of a defensive opponent in the 13th-seeded Spartans (27-8), the Southern Conference champs who held Gonzaga to 37 percent shooting in the first half.

Things opened up in the second, and behind Alonso and Demetrius Troy (16 points each), UNC Greensboro chipped away, finally taking the lead on Jordy Kuiper's tip-in at the 1:48 mark.

But Gonzaga finished with the final six points — and a new name on its ever-growing list of playmakers.

"When I shot it, I thought it was going in," Norvell said. "I know I missed a lot tonight, but I knew it was going in."

SOUTH
BUFFALO 89, ARIZONA 68

Stampede!
13 seed stuns
Pac-12 champ

Buffalo on fire from outside in 1st day's biggest shocker

Tribune news services

BOISE, Idaho — Wes Clark scored 25 points, Jeremy Harris added 23 and 13th seed Buffalo pulled off the biggest upset of the NCAA tournament's opening round, rolling over No. 4 seed Arizona 89-68 in the South Region on Thursday night.

Buffalo shot a blistering 54.8 percent from the floor (34-for-62) to win the first NCAA tournament game in program history.

"I felt like we had a shot," Buffalo coach Nate Oats said. "I didn't think we were going to win like that."

The smaller Bulls (27-8) used their quickness to zip around the Wildcats (27-8), scoring at the rim and on 3-pointers.

Defensively, Buffalo neutralized Arizona's size inside by collapsing on the paint, forcing the Wildcats to shoot from the perimeter. Arizona went 2-for-18 from beyond the 3-point arc, while the Bulls knocked down 15 of 30.

CJ Massinburg had 19 points and Buffalo shredded Arizona's defense at a 55 percent clip for the program's first NCAA tournament victory.

The Bulls will face Kentucky in the round of 32 on Saturday.

Dusan Ristic scored 16 points, and Deandre Ayton finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds to lead Arizona.

The Wildcats have played through one of the most difficult seasons in program history. They were twice entangled in a federal investigation into nefarious recruiting practices and lost one of their best players twice to injury. Allonzo Trier missed two games after testing positive for the same banned substance that cost him 19 games a year ago.

Outside of an 0-for-3 trip to the Bahamas, Arizona's focus on the court rarely wavered. The Wildcats won the Pac-12 regular-season title and routed USC in the tournament title game, becoming the second team in conference history to sweep both in consecutive seasons.

Arizona's loss ensures no Pac-12 or Pac-10 team will reach the second round of the NCAA tournament for the first since 1986. UCLA and Arizona State lost in the play-in round.

NCAA TOURNAMENT LOYOLA 64, MIAMI 62

Pray of the day

Ramblers believe in miracles

Ramblers had faith in ability to make upset win happen

BY SHANNON RYAN
Chicago Tribune

DALLAS — Loyola players bounced around the American Airlines Center court, hugging and screaming and wondering how it all just happened.

Donte Ingram's 3-pointer just before the final buzzer delivered the 11th-seeded Ramblers' first NCAA tournament victory in 33 years — a 64-62 upset of No. 6 seed Miami.

As the players partied Thursday afternoon, a 98-year-old nun who serves as the team chaplain was pushed onto the corner of the hardwood in her wheelchair. With TV camera crews trained on her, Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt folded her hands in her lap and smiled, waiting for an embrace from each player as he exited the court.

"She's just so special, her spirit," Ingram said. "She's just so bright."

After his divine 3-pointer and celebration, Ingram spotted Sister Jean's outstretched arm as he ran off the court. The undisputed team MVPs for the day hugged.

Call the duo The Shot and The Prayer.

The game-winner by Ingram, a senior from Simeon, will go down with some of the iconic moments from NCAA tournament history. And it kept this Cinderella team with the pretty shot pirouetting through March.

In Saturday's second round, the Ramblers (29-5) will face third-seeded Tennessee, a physically imposing team that easily dismissed Wright State 73-47.

The Ramblers had been everyone's favorite upset pick against Miami and still managed to write an unpredictable thriller. Former President Barack Obama had selected the school from his adopted hometown in his bracket — and congratulated the Ramblers afterward.

"Congrats to LoyolaChicago and Sister Jean for a last-second upset — I had faith in my pick!" he tweeted.

So did Loyola.

The Ramblers never looked rattled this season, from their Dec. 6 upset victory at then-No. 5 Florida to their first Missouri Valley Conference tournament championship through Thursday's upset. The victory was the most significant since the 1985 Sweet 16 run for the small Jesuit school nestled on the North Side between the Red Line "L" and Lake Michigan.

Miami boasted more length and athleticism and had a resume that included a third-place finish in the ACC. The Hurricanes (22-10) led 43-36 with less than 14 minutes remaining.

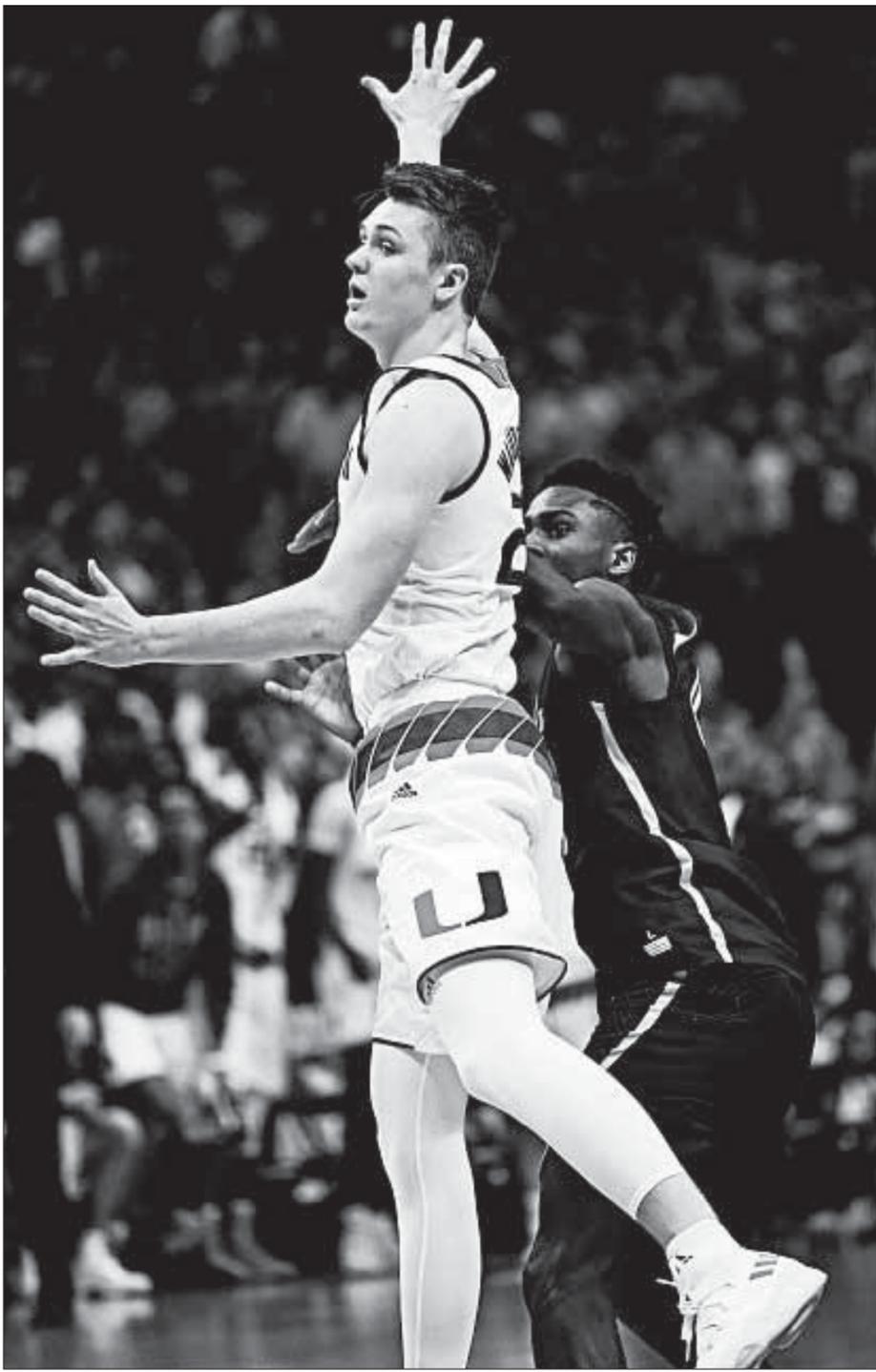
"It was just about keep fighting," Moser said. "There's no quit in these guys. They believe."

They made believers out of all of Chicago — and the nation — in the final minutes.

Clayton Custer hit a designed 3-pointer from the corner with 1:16 left to tie the score at 60. After a jumper by Miami's Ja'Quan Newton, Marques Townes made 1 of 2 free throws for a one-point Loyola deficit with 26 seconds left.

Loyola freshman Lucas Williamson then knocked the ball off Lonnie Walker IV's knee and out of bounds, giving the Ramblers the ball with 23 seconds to play. After a timeout, Townes missed a layup and center Cameron Krutwig couldn't convert a put-back.

Walker missed a free throw with 9.3 seconds left, and Ben



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Loyola's Donte Ingram, right, and Miami's Sam Waardenburg look to the basket on Ingram's game-winner.



Coach Porter Moser takes a moment with Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt after Loyola's first-round upset win.

Richardson grabbed the rebound.

Moser had instructed the Ramblers to call a timeout if Krutwig grabbed the rebound, but when Richardson secured the ball, he "clicked it" to Townes. As defenders closed in on him, Townes heard Ingram shouting his name at the top of the 3-point line.

"That was God's plan for us," said Townes, who had two of Loyola's 19 assists. "That (shot) right there exemplifies how much we buy into each other and the

brotherhood we have."

Officials put 0.3 seconds back on the clock, allowing Loyola another chance to celebrate with its delirious fans after Miami failed to get off a shot.

Ingram, a 40 percent 3-point shooter, had made only 2 of 7 3s to that point. But he didn't flinch as he took the most important one.

"Sometimes our shot won't fall," said Ingram, who finished with 13 points and seven rebounds. "We stick with it. We'll

eventually get one to go in. We play to the last buzzer."

Sister Jean, who delivers pregame blessings and scouting reports, has a "Cinderella dream bracket" in which Loyola wins it all.

The Ramblers might just have a prayer.

After Thursday's miracle, she told them, "Thank God you did it!"

sryan@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @sryantribune

Brightest lights don't fluster Custer

When moment arrives, game-tying 3-pointer goes down for Loyola

BY SHANNON RYAN
Chicago Tribune

DALLAS — Loyola coach Porter Moser had allowed CBS cameras to embed with the team during NCAA tournament preparation. But when the Ramblers got off the bus Thursday before their first-round game against Miami, he closed the locker-room doors.

"(He) just told us it's time to play," junior point guard Clayton Custer said. "It's time to focus."

The 11th-seeded Ramblers were locked in during their 64-62

upset of No. 6 seed Miami, and senior Donte Ingram — who hit the buzzer-beating, game-winning 3-pointer — wasn't the only one to keep his cool.

With mounting pressure as the game wound down, Custer hit a 3-pointer from the corner with 1 minute, 16 seconds remaining to tie the score at 60, eliciting an eruption from a strong contingent of Loyola fans at the American Airlines Center.

The shot, off an assist from guard Ben Richardson (eight assists, five rebounds), helped erase a seven-point deficit.

"We try to be the best team at executing down the stretch," said Custer, who finished with a game-high 14 points on 5-of-10 shooting and added four assists.

"We've worked on that action 100 times. We felt comfortable running it, and we executed it perfectly. I was lucky enough to make the shot."

Custer, the Missouri Valley Conference player of the year, hardly relies on luck.

He struggled with his shot in the MVC tournament, going 1 of 7 against Northern Iowa and 2 of 9 against Illinois State. He didn't let those games or the bright lights of the NCAA tournament rattle him.

"We're in the situation where we can go out there and play free and play the way we've been playing all year," Custer said. "We're a scary team if we're playing free and like we have nothing to lose. That's a big part of what we've been doing."



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Clayton Custer, who hit a key 3-pointer to set up Loyola's big finish, tracks down a loose ball.

Haugh, from Page 1

"Any one of us could have hit that shot, but I was just fortunate enough to be in the position," Ingram said. "I like to think I've got limitless range."

Suddenly, the same word applies to Loyola's potential, with Tennessee standing between the Ramblers and a Sweet 16 appearance. By the time Ingram showered, he was appearing on more highlight shows than Ernie Johnson and trending on Twitter, where former President Barack Obama congratulated the Ramblers and Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, the team's adorable 98-year-old chaplain.

By the time Ingram is as old as Loyola legend Alfredrick Hughes, the 1985 star who watched from behind the bench in a gold shirt and matching 10-gallon hat, he will savor reliving his heroics at every reunion.

"What an unbelievable shot for a kid to hit in the NCAA tournament to win it," Moser said. "How many shots in the backyard do you say that to yourself? Those are the things you dream about."

The reality is everything about the play that made Ingram a March icon epitomized Loyola basketball: execution, communication and aggressiveness. Moser also saw significance in the pass from Townes to Ingram becoming Loyola's 19th assist on 26 field goals — the eye-opening statistic Miami coach Jim Larranaga cited as the game's most important.

"Quintessential unselfishness," Moser said.

Nobody embodied that notion more than Richardson, who influenced the outcome without scoring a point. He had five rebounds, one block, one steal and eight assists — perhaps the biggest when he found Clayton Custer for a corner 3 that tied the score at 60 with 1 minute, 16 seconds left.

"That's another example of Ben knowing where I'm going to be before anybody else," Custer said of his longtime friend from Kansas.

Added Moser: "Ben was unbelievable. The kid does anything he needs to do to win."

Finding a way to survive this one and advance revealed the resilience of a Loyola team that has lost just once in 19 games since Jan. 7. After both teams finished a ragged first half tied at 28, it was as if Miami realized Loyola couldn't hang with the Hurricanes above the rim. The emphasis on attacking Loyola's interior created a 43-36 Miami lead that reminded the Ramblers they weren't in the Missouri Valley Conference anymore.

"Even when we were down seven, it was just about keep fighting," Moser said. "We're in the huddle, and it wasn't any panic."

Every possession mattered in the final 10 minutes. Every defensive stop, from Krutwig's steal with 2:12 left to Lucas Williamson's with 23 seconds left, felt like the decisive one. Players drew energy from a Loyola crowd that rocked the building as if it sat in Rogers Park.

"L-U-C!" they chanted after big plays. The Loyola band constituted a larger contingent than the Miami cheering section. Enough people wore maroon-and-gold scarves to make other teams' fans wonder if they had stumbled into a Harry Potter fan convention.

"Loyola Nation was unbelievable," said Moser, who even complimented the team's police escort.

As the kinetic coach conducted a postgame interview on the court, a group of young rowdies reached the railing before a security guard stopped them from going farther.

"We love you, Porter!" they shouted.

Moser just smiled but not any wider than Sister Jean. Minutes after the game, a Loyola employee wheeled the revered nun onto the floor. As every player approached the Ramblers' biggest fan, she made a thumbs-up sign. Talk about a sister act; the sweet scene reinforced why this likable Loyola team connects with so many people.

"You brought the magic today," Richardson told Sister Jean.

Ingram gently hugged her. So did Custer, the last player to head into a giddy locker room.

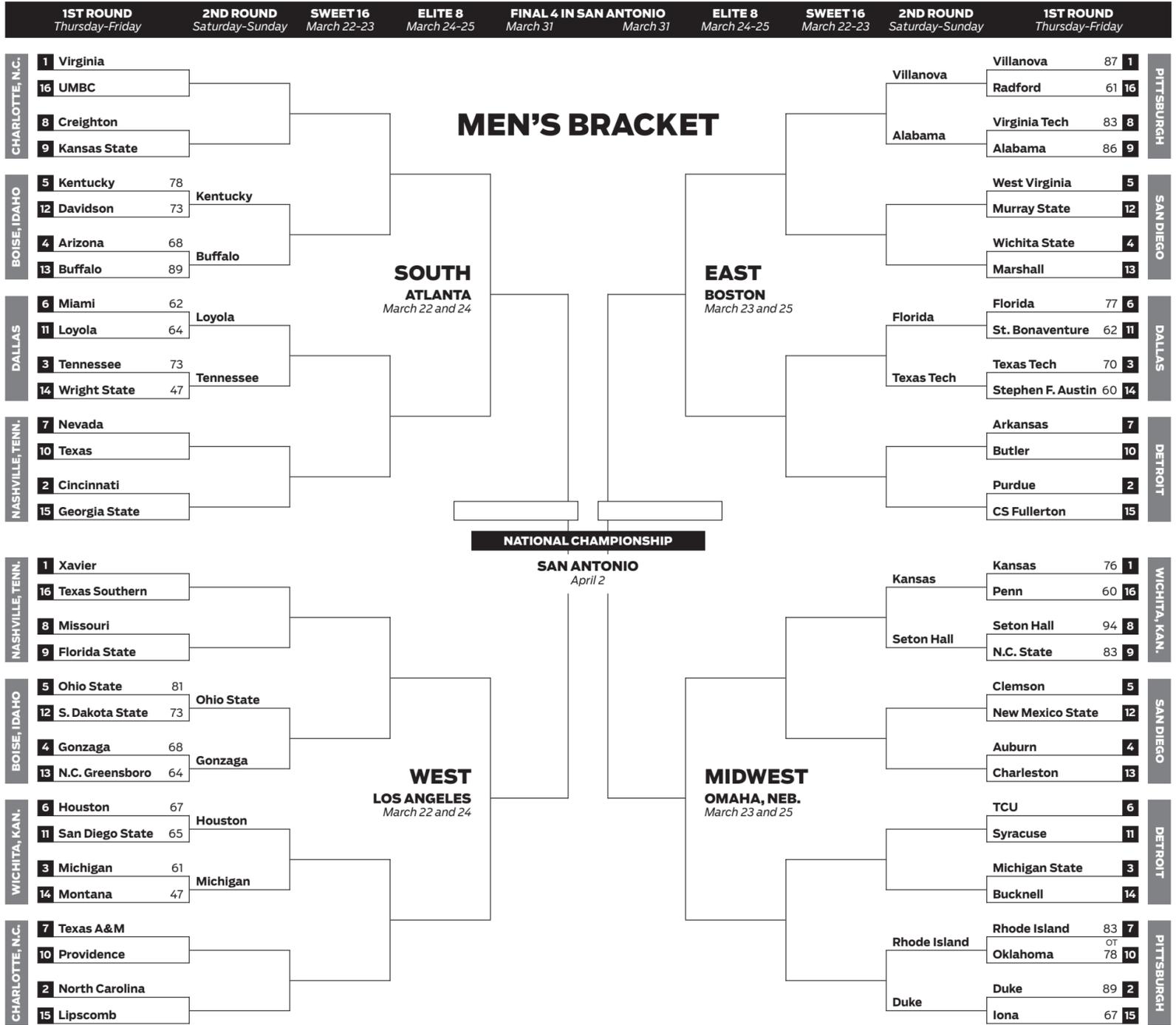
"Her prayers definitely mean a little bit extra," Custer said. "She's a huge part of our success."

And the spunky 11th-seeded team from Chicago that believes in March miracles said, "Amen."

dhaugh@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @DavidHaugh

NCAA TOURNAMENT

EAST March 13	LIU Brooklyn 61 Radford 71	EAST March 13	St. Bonaventure 65 UCLA 58	FIRST FOUR IN DAYTON, OHIO March 13-14	WEST March 14	N.C. Central 46 Texas Southern 64	MIDWEST March 14	Arizona State 56 Syracuse 60
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THURSDAY'S ROUNDUP

SOUTH Loyola 64, Miami 62: Donte Ingram hit a 3-pointer from the March Madness logo on a feed from Marques Townes just before the buzzer, lifting the 11th-seeded Ramblers (29-5) in their first NCAA tournament game since 1985. Ingram's long shot from well above the key came after Lonnie Walker IV missed a free throw with a chance to give the Hurricanes a three-point lead with 9 seconds remaining. Clayton Custer led Loyola with 14 points while Ingram finished with 13. Walker scored 12 points for the Hurricanes (22-10).

Tennessee 73, Wright State 47: Admiral Schofield had 15 points and 12 rebounds and Lamonte Turner added 19 points and a career-high nine assists to lead the Volunteers (26-8) to an easy victory. Loudon Love led the Raiders (25-10) with 12 points and nine rebounds.

Kentucky 78, Davidson 73: Kevin Knox scored 25 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 19 as Kentucky (25-10) shot 51 percent while holding on. Jon Axel Gudmundsson hit six 3-pointers and finished with 21 points for Davidson (21-12), which knocked down 11 3s. Kentucky was 0-for-6 from deep, snapping a nation-best streak of 1,047 games with a 3-pointer that began in 1988.

Buffalo 89, Arizona 68: Wes Clark scored 25 points and Jeremy Harris added 23 and the No. 13 seed Bulls (27-8) pulled off the biggest shocker of the day by thrashing Pac-12 champion Arizona. Buffalo shot 55 percent from the field in the program's first NCAA tournament win. Dusan Ristic had 16 points and Deandre Ayton finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Wildcats (27-8).

WEST Gonzaga 68, UNC Greensboro 64: Zach Norvell Jr. hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 20.8 seconds left to help the Bulldogs (31-4) escape a major scare against 13th-seeded UNC Greensboro. Johnathan Williams had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Bulldogs, who won their first NCAA tournament game for the 10th straight year. Francis Alonso and Troy Demetrius scored 16 points each for the Spartans (27-8).

Ohio State 81, South Dakota State 73: Kam Williams made a tiebreaking four-point play with 1:36 left, then added a trio of free throws after being fouled on another 3-point attempt to lift the Buckeyes (25-8), who avoided the 12-5 upset. Keita Bates-Diop had 24 points and 12 rebounds for Ohio State while



KEVIN C. COX/GETTY

Buffalo's bench celebrates during the second half of its rout against Arizona.

Mike Daum scored 27 points for the Jackrabbits (28-7), whose 11-game winning streak was snapped.

Houston 67, San Diego State 65: Rob Gray scored 39 points, including a wind-milling layup that just trickled over the rim with 1.1 seconds left, to lift the Cougars (27-7), who earned their first tournament win since 1984. Trey Kell's missed an off-balance 3-pointer at the buzzer for the Aztecs (22-11). Jalen McDaniels had 18 points to lead San Diego State while Kell finished with 12.

Michigan 61, Montana 47: Charles Matthews had 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Wolverines (29-7) rebounded from a slow start. Michael Oguine and Ahmaad Rorie each scored 15 for the Grizzlies (26-8).

MIDWEST Rhode Island 83, Oklahoma 78: E.C. Matthews hit the go-ahead 3-pointer in overtime and one more that sealed it to help the Rams (26-7) hold off dynamic scorer Trae Young and Oklahoma. Matthews scored 16 points and Fatts Russell added 15 for Rhode Island. Young scored 28 points with six turnovers for the Sooners (18-14).

Kansas 76, Penn 60: Devonte Graham poured in 29 points with six rebounds and six assists for the top-seeded Jayhawks (28-7), who went on a 19-2 run late in the first half to erase an early 10-point deficit. A.J. Brodeur had 14 points to lead the Quakers (24-9).

Duke 89, Iona 67: Marvin Bagley III dominated in his NCAA tournament debut, with 22 points on 10-for-14 shooting and seven rebounds as the Blue Devils (27-7) rolled. Grayson

Allen scored 16 points with nine assists for Duke. Roland Griffin led the Gaels (20-14) with 21 points.

Seton Hall 94, N.C. State 83: Khadeen Carrington scored 26 points and Desi Rodriguez added 20 as the Pirates (22-11) survived a contest marred by 53 combined fouls. . Allerik Freeman hit six 3-pointers and finished with 36 points to lead the Wolfpack (21-12).

EAST Villanova 87, Radford 61: Jalen Brunson scored 16 points and the top-seeded Wildcats (31-4) hit 14 3-pointers and cruised to the victory. Mikal Bridges had 13 points, Eric Paschall scored 11 and Omari Spellman contributed 10 points and seven rebounds for balanced Villanova, which opened by hitting 13 of its first 16 shots. Donald Hicks led the Highlanders (23-13) with 13 points.

Texas Tech 70, Stephen F. Austin 60: Keenan Evans scored 19 of his 23 points after halftime and the Red Raiders (25-9) survived a scare. Evans drove for the go-ahead layup with 3:58 left for Texas Tech, which closed the game on a 13-2 run. Ivan Canete had 17 points to lead the Lumberjacks (28-7).

Alabama 86, Virginia Tech 83: Collin Sexton scored 21 of his 24 points after halftime to lead the Crimson Tide (20-15) to their first tournament win in a dozen years. Justin Robinson's 19 points to lead the Hokies (21-12).

Florida 77, St. Bonaventure 62: Egor Koulechov hit four 3-pointers and finished with 20 points to lead the Gators (21-12). Egor Koulechov's 14 points led the Bonnies (26-8).

FRIDAY'S GAMES

SOUTH REGION (2) Cincinnati (30-4) vs. (15) Georgia State (24-10) 1 p.m. | TBS

The Bearcats boast a physical, defensive brand. The Panthers need guard D'Marcus Simonds (20.9 ppg) to come up big.

(7) Nevada (27-7) vs. (10) Texas (19-14) 3:30 p.m. | TBS

Can the Wolf Pack deal with the Longhorns' size? The 6-11 Mohamed Bamba (12.9 ppg, 10.4 rpg) is back from an injured toe.

(8) Creighton (21-11) vs. (9) Kansas State (22-11) 5:50 p.m. | TNT

Bluejays top scorer Marcus Foster started his career at K-State. Wildcats forward Dean Wade is expected back from a foot injury.

(1) Virginia (31-2) vs. (16) UMBC (24-10) 8:20 p.m. | TNT

The Cavaliers lead the nation in scoring defense at 53.3 points per game. Guard Jarius Lyles averages 20.2 points for the Retrievers.

WEST REGION (7) Texas A&M (20-12) vs. (10) Providence (21-13) 11:15 a.m. | CBS-2

The Aggies rebound and block shots but shoot poorly on the perimeter. The guard-dominated Friars look to outscrap opponents.

(2) N. Carolina (25-10) vs. (15) Lipscomb (23-9) 1:45 p.m. | CBS-2

The Tar Heels begin their title defense against tournament rookie Lipscomb, which averages 82.6 points. This should be a track meet.

(1) Xavier (28-5) vs. (16) Texas So. (16-19) 6:20 p.m. | TBS

Senior guard Trevon Bluiett (19.5 ppg) leads the Musketeers. Texas Southern dominated North Carolina Central on Wednesday.

(8) Missouri (20-12) vs. (9) Florida State (20-11) 8:50 p.m. | TBS

The Tigers will be without No. 2 scorer Jordan Barnett because of a suspension. The Seminoles' rotation includes 7-4 center Christ Koumadje.

EAST REGION (2) Purdue (28-6) vs. (15) CS Fullerton (20-11) 11:40 a.m. | truTV

The Boilermakers won 19 straight before hitting a late three-game skid. The Titans make their first NCAA appearance in a decade.

(4) Wichita St. (25-7) vs. (13) Marshall (24-10) 12:30 p.m. | TNT

The Shockers stepped up in conference class and held their own behind Landry Shamet (15 ppg). The Herd average 85 points.

(7) Arkansas (23-11) vs. (10) Butler (20-13) 2:10 p.m. | truTV

Jaylen Barford leads the Razorbacks with 18.2 ppg. Butler returned to the tournament under first-year coach LaVall Jordan.

(5) W. Virginia (24-10) vs. (12) Murray State (26-5) 3 p.m. | TNT

The Mountaineers play rugged defense, led by Sagaba Konate. Jonathan Stark (21.8 ppg), has helped the Racers win 13 straight.

MIDWEST REGION (3) Michigan St. (29-4) vs. (14) Bucknell (25-9) 6:10 p.m. | CBS-2

After falling to Middle Tennessee two years ago, Michigan State won't take the Bison, led by forward Zach Thomas (20.3), lightly.

(4) Auburn (25-7) vs. (13) Charleston (26-7) 6:27 p.m. | truTV

Charleston's big three (Joe Chealey, Grant Riller and Jarrell Brantley) average 54 points. Auburn has been dealing with injuries of late.

(6) TCU (21-11) vs. (11) Syracuse (21-13) 8:40 p.m. | CBS-2

TCU coach Jamie Dixon knows Syracuse's Jim Boeheim well. They coached against each other for Dixon's 13 seasons at Pitt.

(5) Clemson (23-9) vs. (12) N. Mexico St. (28-5) 8:57 p.m. | truTV

The Aggies beat Miami in December and won't be intimidated by an ACC opponent.

— Kansas City Star

COLLEGES

ILLINOIS BASKETBALL

Black leaving for pro career

Illini's leading scorer plans to hire agent, precluding return

By SHANNON RYAN
Chicago Tribune

Illinois forward Leron Black will forgo his final season of eligibility to pursue a professional playing career, the team announced Thursday.

Black was Illinois' best player in an otherwise dismal season under first-year coach Brad Underwood. He led the Illini with 15.3 points and 5.2 rebounds per game and 54.7 percent shooting.

He plans to sign with an agent, ending any possibility of reconsidering and returning to Champaign.

"I feel that Illinois has prepared me for the next chapter in my life, which is to realize my dream of playing professional basketball," Black said in a statement. "I wish this coaching staff and my teammates all the best. Illinois basketball is in great hands with Coach Underwood, and the future is bright here."

Black is the second player to leave the program this month.

Freshman Mark Smith decided to transfer after a lackluster first season. The 2017 Mr. Basketball winner in Illinois out of Edwardsville, Smith averaged only 5.8 points on 33.7 percent shooting, including 23.2 percent on 3-pointers.

Black's absence will be felt next season as he provided veteran leadership and a rare big body (6-foot-7, 230 pounds) for the Illini.

"He is ready to begin a pro career, and we fully support this decision," Underwood said in a statement. "Leron has greatly improved over the last year and showcased that development as one of the most consistent players in the Big Ten."

"He was an efficient scorer at all areas of the court, shooting a high percentage whether it was on post-ups, the mid-range, or out to the 3-point arc. He was one of the toughest players to guard in our league, and that showed with his production throughout conference play."

Black's time at Illinois was defined by his growth on and off the court. He earned his bachelor's degree in communication in December and is working toward a master's degree.

He suffered a knee injury that sidelined him for most of his sophomore season and was arrested that February after an incident at a bar. He was sentenced to a year of probation after pleading guilty and admitting he pulled a knife on a bouncer. As a result, he was suspended for the first four regular-season games in 2016-17.

Black struggled with fouls throughout his career but learned to harness his emotions that led to avoidable temper-induced fouls. He said he learned to better control his emotions through counseling.

After the Illini's victory in the Braggins' Rights game against Missouri in December, he proposed to his girlfriend, Sheila Segura, in the stands.



NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Forward Leron Black averaged 15.3 points and 5.2 rebounds per game this season.

BULLS AND BLACKHAWKS



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Antonio Blakeney converts the winning free throw to lift the Bulls over the Grizzlies on Thursday night.

BULLS 111, GRIZZLIES 110

Chasing draft karma

Falling to 9th in lottery, Bulls in same spot from which they got Rose

By K.C. JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Bulls are right where they want to be.

OK, so that's a facetious manner of addressing what their 111-110 victory over the Grizzlies and the Knicks' loss to the 76ers meant Thursday night.

After all, the Grizzlies' 19th straight defeat meant the Bulls dropped below the Knicks and into ninth in the draft lottery standings in a season in which management eyed a top-three pick.

But ninth is from where the Bulls vaulted to the No. 1 overall pick exactly 10 years ago, cashing in a 1.7 percent chance to win the draft lottery and eventually select Derrick Rose.

But that's a scenario for another night as far as the Bulls bench, which outscored the Grizzlies' reserves 63-18 on big nights from Antonio Blakeney, Bobby Portis and Denzel Valentine, is concerned.

Portis sank three 3-pointers en route to 17 points, while Valentine tied his career high with five 3-pointers and scored 15 points.

But Blakeney took the star turn, sinking 2 of 3 free throws with 1.8 seconds left for the winning points after drawing a foul on Tyreke Evans while shooting a 3-pointer off a clear-out.

"It was fun," Blakeney said. "It's a great opportunity. That was my first time ending a game in my

THE BOX SCORE										
BULLS	MN	FG-A	FTA	REB	A	PF	PTS			
Nwaba	13:55	3-6	4-5	2-4	0	0	10			
Vonleh	32:42	3-10	0-0	2-10	1	2	7			
Lopez	12:00	2-3	0-0	1-1	2	0	5			
Dunn	25:14	3-7	0-0	0-2	4	2	6			
LaVine	26:10	4-12	10-10	1-5	4	4	20			
Payne	25:10	3-9	0-0	1-3	5	1	8			
Blakeney	24:42	2-7	5-8	0-1	1	3	10			
Felicio	23:56	3-4	3-6	1-3	0	4	9			
Portis	22:34	6-11	2-2	0-5	2	2	17			
Valentine	20:13	5-8	0-0	0-5	4	5	15			
Zipser	13:24	1-3	2-2	0-3	0	0	4			
TOTALS		35-80	26-33	8-42	23	23	111			
Pts: FG .438, FT .788. 3-pointers: 15-41, .366 (Valentine 5-7, Portis 3-6, Payne 2-5, LaVine 2-7, Lopez 1-1, Blakeney 1-4, Vonleh 1-6, Nwaba 0-1, Zipser 0-1, Dunn 0-3). Team rebs: 7. Team turnovers: 13 (22 PTS). Blocks: 2 (Felicio, LaVine). Turnovers: 13 (LaVine 4, Valentine 3, Dunn 2, Felicio, Lopez, Nwaba, Portis). Steals: 10 (Portis 3, Dunn 2, Blakeney, LaVine, Nwaba, Valentine, Vonleh). Technical fouls: None.										
MEMPHIS										
BULLS	MN	FG-A	FTA	REB	A	PF	PTS			
Green	37:50	7-13	0-0	4-10	2	3	15			
Martin	30:49	6-12	3-4	1-4	1	2	16			
Gasol	33:21	7-14	5-7	2-10	8	5	21			
Brooks	29:58	4-12	5-5	1-2	3	1	15			
Evans	32:46	8-18	4-5	0-5	9	1	25			
Weber	20:48	1-2	0-0	0-5	1	2	2			
Selden	19:23	2-5	2-2	1-2	2	0	8			
Davis	14:39	3-6	0-0	2-6	1	3	6			
McLemore	7:49	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0			
Simmons	7:02	0-1	2-2	0-1	0	0	2			
Parsons	5:35	0-3	0-0	0-1	0	0	0			
TOTALS		38-87	21-25	11-47	27	22	110			
Pts: FG .437, FT .840. 3-pointers: 13-35, .371 (Evans 5-9, Selden 2-5, Brooks 2-6, Gasol 2-6, Green 1-3, Martin 1-5, Parsons 0-1). Team rebs: 9. Team turnovers: 14 (15 PTS). Blocks: 4 (Gasol 2, Green, Selden). Turnovers: 14 (Gasol 4, Evans 3, Selden 2, Brooks, Davis, Martin, Parsons, Weber). Steals: 7 (Brooks 2, Evans 2, Martin, Selden, Weber). Technical fouls: None.										

NBA career.

"I got the ball with 5 seconds left. I just spaced everybody out. I knew I was going to make an aggressive play. I saw him backing up a little bit, so I rose up and shot it. I'm a confident player. I work very hard on my game. When I'm in the game, there's nothing to be scared of. I just play."

The Bulls closed with a lineup of Blakeney, Cameron Payne, Paul Zipser, Noah Vonleh and Cristiano Felicio. And they weren't even in Hoffman Estates, where their G League affiliate plays.

"We wanted to put those guys in a pressure situation," coach Fred Hoiberg said. "I thought they

all played with a lot of composure. Cam Payne was excellent as far as running the show. Big Felicio made a couple of nice plays. Paul Zipser had a basket. And then Blakeney had the guts to flatten out the floor and take that last shot. For the first time in that position, I thought those guys handled it very well."

The Bulls nudged ahead 107-106 with 1 minute, 13 seconds left when Payne scored a layup in transition off a steal. But JaMychal Green dunked with 46.9 seconds left off a nifty pass from Marc Gasol, who had rebounded Evans' missed 3-pointer.

After a timeout, Blakeney executed a nice play to feed Felicio, who was fouled and sank both free throws with 40.5 seconds left. But Jarell Martin scored on a power move inside.

That's when Blakeney put his stamp on closing time. Hoiberg had said pregame he wanted to see Payne and Blakeney in such a role.

"That usually is the look he gets when the ball is in his hands," Hoiberg said of Blakeney. "He does kind of tell everybody to get out of the way."

Gasol missed a wild shot at the buzzer that Green dunked just after the final buzzer, a call that stood up after official review.

Zach LaVine, who led the Bulls with 20 points on 10-for-10 free-throw shooting, didn't play in the fourth quarter. Kris Dunn logged just two minutes and then exited with a sprained right big toe, but X-rays were negative.

kcjohnson@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @kcjhoop

BULLS NOTES

Holiday showing stuff of a starter

Longtime role player thinks he's made case with play this season

By K.C. JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Thanks to Zach LaVine sitting out one game in each of the Bulls' three remaining sets of back-to-back contests, Justin Holiday will finish the season with 62 starts.

That's even with Holiday mostly idle since the All-Star break, including Thursday night against the Grizzlies, as management limits veterans' playing time. The longtime role player entered this season with just 13 starts over his first four seasons.

"I think I should be a starter in this league, for sure," Holiday said.

With an average of 12.9 points per game while hitting 37.6 percent of his 3-pointers, Holiday has made a case for that.

"Obviously when you get a taste of something, the goal is to always become a starter," he said. "I've always tried to do better than the year before. So now that I'm starting, I want to prove to a team (I can) go in that direction."

Holiday and Robin Lopez, who again played the entire first quarter and then sat, continue to remain professional about management's youth movement. Even Paul Zipser, who returned from his sore left foot for his first action since Feb. 22, is ahead of Holiday in the rotation.

"They've been completely transparent," said Holiday, citing management and the coaching staff regarding his situation. "They have been straight up with me with what they want to do. And I understand, period."

"Now if it was a situation I didn't understand, it would be a lot harder. The thing is: I'm with it. We want this team to be good, and I want to be a part of this team. And they want to look at these guys and see who is going to be a part of that. It's all about where we want to go in the future."

Back at it: Coach Fred Hoiberg said there are no plans to shut down Lauri Markkanen, who remained in Chicago as he missed his second straight game with a sore back.

"If he's healthy, we still want to see the lineup with him, Kris (Dunn) and Zach," Hoiberg said. "We'll continue to evaluate him. We'll take a cautious approach."

School spirit: Hoiberg recruited Missouri Valley Conference player of the year Clayton Custer to Iowa State and has gotten to know Loyola coach Porter Moser. Earlier this week, Hoiberg called the NCAA tournament "the best single sporting event on the planet."

But Hoiberg didn't get to see Loyola's dramatic victory over Miami on Thursday in its first tournament game since 1985.

"We didn't get truTV in the hotel, unfortunately," Hoiberg said. "But I was following it on my phone and was able to see that last shot. It was obviously unbelievable... such an exciting moment. I love how the city has rallied around that team. They're a very confident team right now. It's a fun group of guys to root for."

JETS 6, BLACKHAWKS 2

Jets chase Forsberg, blitz Hawks with 5-goal 1st

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Kyle Connor scored twice to reach 25 goals this season and the Jets rebounded from a quick deficit for a 6-2 win over the Blackhawks on Thursday night.

Bryan Little and Jack Roslovic each had a goal and an assist as all four Jets lines produced goals. Joel Armia and Paul Stastny also scored.

Connor Hellebuyck turned away 25 shots in his 36th win,

increasing his franchise record for goaltenders.

Patrick Laine extended his club-record point streak to 14 games with an assist on Stastny's goal. The 19-year-old star has 16 goals and eight assists during that span — most of which came during the Jets' recent road trip — helping the 2016 second overall draft pick earn NHL First Star honors for a second time this season.

Laine ranks second in the NHL with 40 goals and leads the league

with 18 power-play goals.

Brandon Saad and Patrick Sharp scored for the Blackhawks.

Saad opened the scoring just 11 seconds into the game. Following a much-longer-than-usual video challenge stemming from a coach's challenge for a possible offside, the goal stood.

The Jets took over from there with three goals over the next 9:15, chasing Blackhawks goalie Anton Forsberg as he allowed three goals on six shots. The Jets added two more goals in the opening period.

THE SUMMARY

BLACKHAWKS	1	1	0	2
Winnipeg	5	10	16	1-6
FIRST PERIOD: 1, BLACKHAWKS, Saad 16 (Murphy, Kane), 0:11. 2, Winnipeg, Stastny 15 (Laine, Ehlers), 3:43. 3, Winnipeg, Armia 12 (Trouba, Copp), 5:18. 4, Winnipeg, Roslovic 4, 9:26. 5, Winnipeg, Little 14 (Trouba, Roslovic), 17:36. 6, Winnipeg, Connor 24 (Little, Wheeler), 18:20. Penalties: Winnipeg bench, served by Roslovic (delay of game), 0:11; Copp, WPG, (high sticking), 10:17.				
SECOND PERIOD: 7, BLACKHAWKS, Sharp 9 (Schmaltz, Hayden), 15:36. Penalties: Anisimov, HAWKS, (hooking), 9:47; Tanev, WPG, (interference), 13:20; Seabrook, HAWKS, (tripping), 18:11.				
THIRD PERIOD: 8, Winnipeg, Connor 25, 19:11. Penalties: Toews, HAWKS, (tripping), 6:25; Hayden, HAWKS, (hooking), 7:55.				
SHOTS ON GOAL:				
BLACKHAWKS	11	9	7-27	0-3
Winnipeg	13	10	16-39	0-4

Goals: HAWKS, Forsberg 9-15-3 (6 shots-3 saves), Berube 2-3-0 (32-30). **Winnipeg,** Hellebuyck 36-11-9 (27-25). **Referees:** Trevor Hanson, Dan O'Halloran.

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CUBS

Comfort level on rise in dugouts



PAUL SULLIVAN
On the Cubs

MESA, Ariz. — The Cubs eased concerns of a repeat of the start of the 2015 season when they announced the latest Wrigley Field renovations will be completed in time for the April 9 home opener.

No worries about the bleachers being done, or the bathrooms malfunctioning on opening day.

All systems are go, so to speak. Cubs business president Crane Kenney on Thursday gave a brief rundown of the latest improvements, including more concession stands with grill capability, better cell service (and ultimately faster Wi-Fi), two new elevators and a comfy premium hangout for big spenders called the American Airlines 1914 Club.

But the biggest change at Wrigley will be the new, enlarged dugouts, which will be 28-feet farther away from their old spot, Kenney said.

As far as most fans are concerned, renovated dugouts are probably the least controversial change at Wrigley, which has added video boards, patio sections and new bullpens underneath the bleachers in the early phases of the renovation.

It will take a little getting used to, like the lowering of the brick wall behind home plate years ago, but this is one change that seemingly won't bother even the traditionalists.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon came to the North Side in 2015 when the new video boards were introduced, ending the video-free era Wrigley Field. He recalled how controversial it was with some fans, adding: "But now they probably can't live without them."

Will the new dugouts make a difference for the people inhabiting it, or are they just another in a series of alterations changing the look of Wrigley Field?

"A good dugout matters," Maddon said. "A comfortable dugout matters. You know I like to stand at the corner (closest to the plate) like I do. I think access (and exits are) really important, also. I don't even know what that's going to look like yet. But guys, when you're not on top of each other, it just helps the moment. I'm curious to see what that looks like."

"It's very perceptive and forward thinking, because I would prefer updating an old ballpark as opposed to tearing it down and building a new one because you're never going to replicate the beauty of that place, the ambience there. It's impossible to recreate that."

Cubs Hall of Famer Billy Williams said a newer and expanded dugout is better for the players, and pointed out it was considered small even back when he was playing in the 1960s and early 70s.

"You had guys coming up in September and they had to sit on the cement near the bat racks," he said. "It was a small dugout, but of course Wrigley had been there 100 years and it was the same dugout."

Williams said he had a regular spot on the far end of the bench and manager Leo Durocher sat next to the water fountain. Everyone knew their spot and protocol dictated no one sat where one of the regulars liked to go on a daily basis.

Williams said he had a good reason for sitting where he did.

"We were playing all day games and I could get a little breeze up there," he said. "Plus the fact I'd get me a cigarette and, in those days I was smoking, so I would bend over and hide from the umpires, hide from everybody. Leo didn't mind, but (owner P.K.) Wrigley saw it one day and he called out to the ballpark and talked to Leo about it."

"If you're having good years you want to stay consistent with that," he said. "Funny story, you know how (Ron) Santo was. You would see the vein in his damn neck when he would get mad at anything. One day they put in a tube of six (bat rack) and Santo popped up with a runner on or something, came back and smashed it and the whole thing shattered."

"They fixed it by making a steel one, painted it red so it looked like wood. We come back off a road trip and Santo gets mad at making an out and tries to smash it, and it didn't break. He got mad at that and just threw his bat down."

Of course Santo wasn't alone. We also saw Carlos Zambrano smash the water fountain with a bat, along with the Gatorade dispenser. And there was also an occasion when he punched Michael Barrett in the face, sending his catcher to the hospital.

If only those dugout walls could talk.

psullivan@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @PWSullivan



TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

For a short while longer, construction trucks and equipment are the sole occupants at Wrigley Field.

Upgrades on track

Wrigley work moves along; Future All-Star Game on wish list

BY MARK GONZALES AND JOHN BYRNE

Chicago Tribune

MESA, Ariz. — Despite the tons of machinery parked on the playing surface and main concourse now, Wrigley Field will be ready for the Cubs' home opener April 9.

But fans hoping for an All-Star Game, perhaps as soon as 2020, might want to temper their optimism despite a formal bid the team and the City of Chicago has submitted to Major League Baseball.

"We've made a prediction on what the ballpark will look like in 2020," Cubs business president Crane Kenney said to beat writers Thursday in Mesa. "This has become a different equation with (Commissioner) Rob Manfred. In the past, Commissioner (Bud) Selig would sort of decide himself who deserves it next, or the clock might dictate who gets it next."

"Rob is running this more like a competition, where both the city and the team need to make a commitment to attract the game."

Despite the cooperation Kenney said the Cubs have received from the city and Mayor Rahm Emanuel, "we don't have some of the tools some of the other cities have that they get to use."

Specifically, Kenney reiterated his disappointment in the lack of cooperation from Ald. Tom Tunney, from ballpark improvements to security around the ballpark to Tunney's opposition to keeping a tent over a parking lot reserved for players, coaches and VIP.

"So that's really what the problem is. It's pretty well known how little help we've gotten from our alderman," said Kenney, adding he still would like to see the streets adjacent to Wrigley Field closed two hours before games.

"Vehicles as weapons have become more the thing than really live shooting," who took note during a visit to Boston last April that the streets around Fenway Park were closed hours before gametime.

CUBS NOTES

Hendricks: Cubs up on labor issues

BY MARK GONZALES

Chicago Tribune

MESA, Ariz. — Thursday's meeting with the Major League Baseball Players Association captured as much attention as a Joe Maddon gimmick.

"I would say (players are paying) more attention (to issues) overall," Kyle Hendricks said after Cubs players met with executive director Tony Clark and several MLBPA officials for more than an hour.

"(Player issues are) being talked about more. At least players are more aware of things now. As of a few years ago, players would never talk about this stuff. So these guys are aware; they're keeping up with it."

Cubs players have taken note of the deliberate pace of negotiations involving free agents such as former teammate Jake Arrieta, who didn't reach an agreement until Sunday with the Phillies despite winning 54 games his last three seasons with the Cubs.

Clark acknowledged the

CUBS RECAP

Jason Heyward hit his first home run of the spring, a two-run shot off left-hander Robbie Ray in the second inning, but the Cubs lost to the Diamondbacks 3-2 before 15,829 fans at Sloan Park — the second-largest crowd in Cactus League history. Heyward is batting .172 with three RBIs this spring. Stephen Perakslis allowed consecutive home runs to Ramon Flores and Christian Walker in the ninth.

At the plate: With the season opener two weeks away, manager Joe Maddon is taking a longer look at lineup combinations. Albert Almora Jr. batted leadoff against the left-handed Ray but was 0-for-3. Kris Bryant hit a ground-rule double in the third.

On the mound: Kyle Hendricks is in midseason form, as he didn't allow a walk while striking out seven and limiting the Diamondbacks to three hits in six innings. Hendricks allowed an RBI double to Nick Ahmed in the third, but he left Ahmed stranded by retiring the next three batters.

In the field: A foul pop fell between first baseman Anthony Rizzo and right fielder Heyward that allowed Christian Walker to extend his at-bat. But Almora fought a bright sun in center field to catch Walker's fly for the second out of the fourth.

Key number: 5 — Sloan Park crowds that have exceeded 15,000
Up next: Vs. White Sox, 3:05 p.m. Friday at Camelback Ranch. RH Yu Darvish vs. RH Renaldo Lopez.

Kenney said he is sympathetic to the concerns of neighbors who have tolerated the noise and congestion the construction created in the winter, adding that the Cubs have tried to become a good neighbor in providing free events at Wrigley at the Park.

"(But) it's always something with our alderman," Kenney said.

Tunney said the Cubs need to submit plans for something more permanent than a tent, such as a structure.

"They need to come forward with a plan for the redevelopment of that site for player parking and also they've got to figure out their garbage. Their stadium garbage is out there," he said speaking to reporters at City Hall.

Tunney denied his opposition to the tent is based on his desire to appease constituents ahead of his 2019 re-election bid, adding that he has been working constantly with the Cubs and that he represents residents and businesses in the area.

Pitcher Kyle Hendricks expressed his concerns about security.

"It's all about the kids," Hendricks said. "But when it comes down to your family, there are some crazy people out there and you need to be careful."

The Cubs haven't been host to an All-Star Game since 1990, but Kenney pointed out that Cobb County (Ga.) can state

it has put approximately \$400 million into the Braves stadium that opened in 2017, and that the Rangers are scheduled to open a new stadium in 2020 in a private/public funded \$1.1 billion venture.

In the past, the Cubs push for 2020 as a way to commemorate the 30th anniversary of hosting their last All-Star Game. But the Dodgers have waited 10 years longer.

"(But) we've done more for our ballpark, in terms of the (Ricketts) family's investment and commitment to baseball," Kenney said.

As for Wrigley, machinery and boards will be removed this weekend, followed by plumbing checks for irrigation issues before the field is installed.

Four of the eight new concession stands, the installation of a new elevator to the suite level and a cellphone service upgrade will be ready for the opener, Kenney said.

Plus, extended netting will be tapered long the first and third base dugouts.

"Folks are nervous about opening day, but I'm here to remind everybody we're on track," Kenney said. "In fact, a couple of days ahead of schedule."

mgonzales@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @MDGonzales
jebyrne@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @Johnbyrne

WHITE SOX

'Race to bottom' OK with Sox fans

Union seems skeptical, but promising future makes plan palatable

BY PAUL SULLIVAN

Chicago Tribune

MESA, Ariz. — As the White Sox were working out Thursday at Camelback Ranch, players union head Tony Clark was on the other side of the valley discussing the "race to the bottom."

Clark didn't name names, of course, but the Sox are considered one of the so-called tanking teams that avoided spending on big-name free agents this winter while they continued to rebuild. Instead of trying to contend, the Sox and several other teams were seemingly content to endure a losing season to compete for a better draft pick and strengthen the organization from the bottom up.

It's not a particularly novel idea. The Cubs and Astros had the same basic plan and wound up winning World Series titles in 2016 and '17, respectively.

But Clark said he knew at the start of the offseason something was amiss "when we started to hear public commentary from clubs suggesting they weren't as interested in competing, and/or they were focused in on a race to the bottom."

"You start to see those types of comments, then you start to question the integrity of what's really going on."

There's little doubt the "race to the bottom" means fewer teams spending money on free agents, less lucrative contracts for some of the bigger-name free agents who signed and no contracts at all for many players who are still waiting for a phone call.

But the only way it matters is if a team's fan base stops going to games or paying any attention to them because they're fed up with the lack of winning, or perhaps the lack of trying to win. If that fan base buys into the rebuild, there's really nothing wrong with tanking a few years for the sake of long-term success.

As long as a team is open about its plan, as general manager Rick Hahn was when he announced the start of the Sox rebuild after the 2016 season, there should be little complaining about the lack of spending in the free-agent market.

Hahn said before the start of spring training he didn't care what outsiders said about their plan.

"Our focus is on putting the White Sox in the best position to win a championship, and regardless of what may be happening in baseball at a macro level, I know that this path puts us on the best course to do it," he said. "That's what my concerns are, not with any outside criticism or scrutiny of that process."

Sox fans upset with the plan can go watch the Cubs or perhaps tune out baseball altogether. From what I've heard the last few weeks from Sox fans following the team here in Arizona, that attitude is almost nonexistent.

The Sox have a few obvious holes, and some available free agents could make them better in 2018, including starter Alex Cobb and closer Greg Holland.

But no one expects the Sox to change their tune and fork out money at the last minute just for a few more victories, knowing the future is bright with young players such as Yoan Moncada, Lucas Giolito and Reynaldo Lopez on the big-league club and prospects such as Eloy Jimenez, Michael Kopech, Luis Robert and Dylan Cease in the system.

It helps when someone like Jimenez comes off a two-week layoff for a knee problem and hits two homers and a triple in his first three at-bats, and when a young pitcher like Kopech is firing triple-digit fastballs past major-league hitters in the Cactus League.

Sox fans are as hopeful as they have been in years, even if 2018 isn't going to be the year they turn things around.

The lack of Sox spending doesn't seem to bother them, even if the strange free-agent market upsets the union and players in general.

As long as fans buy into the concept of rebuilds, and as long as it keeps working in some cities, the players union won't get much sympathy whether right or wrong.

MEDIA

WSCR aware of both risks, rewards ahead

McNeil's return won't solve all of station's issues with lineup



PHIL ROSENTHAL
On media

While Dan McNeil was on the air making his third career debut on WSCR-AM 670, The Score's management was celebrating its major free-agent acquisition.

Jimmy deCastro, senior vice president and market manager for Entercom Communications' Chicago radio stations, and Mitch Rosen, WSCR-AM's operations director, know McNeil.

They know what he can do, both positive and negative, and they feel positive. "He's hungry. He's humbled," Rosen said Wednesday. "Listen, a month ago, he was selling cars in Northwest Indiana. He's hungry to prove to everybody that he still is on top of his game, which I believe he is."

The risk-reward of bringing in McNeil — who's very good when he's good and suspended or cashiered when he's bad — is just one aspect of the upheaval of the WSCR weekday lineup.

Other issues involve politics and diversity, so you know, nothing too controversial, as deCastro has pursued what he called "a fresher approach" with a "combination of youth and experience."

McNeil has been paired with Danny Parkins, who a decade ago was an intern for him. They will hold down the 1-6 p.m. slot when Cubs broadcasts don't pre-empt them.

Left without a partner is Matt Spiegel, who had been working middays with Parkins since Parkins' return home from Kansas City, Mo., last year. The move also displaced Jason Goff, who had been paired with Dan Bernstein.

Joining Bernstein is Connor McKnight, once hired by WSCR as part of a talent-search promotion but most recently White Sox pregame and postgame host on WLS-AM 890.

When asked what the station hopes to get with the new alignments that it didn't get with Goff and Spiegel, deCastro said only: "I don't think it's specific to those two."

It has been suggested that a factor in the changes was that the afternoon show with Bernstein and Goff was too political.

"My opinion on that is we're a sports station," deCastro said. "The truth of the matter is we think they need to be talking about sports."

Goff's removal from The Score's regular weekday lineup represents a 50 percent decline in the number of African-American hosts in prime slots. The station also is light on the perspectives of Asians and Hispanics and could feature more women.

Rosen noted that Julie DiCaro and USA Today's Maggie Hendricks host a weekend show. And deCastro said the station has interviewed other women recently.

DeCastro cited the overall diversity of Entercom's Chicago lineup, which includes the reformatted Jams 104.3 (aka WBMX-FM 104.3, formally WJMK-FM) and B96 (WBBM-FM 96.3).

But the lack of diversity at The Score, while hardly uncommon across the media landscape, comes when sports rosters and fans seem to be as diverse as ever.

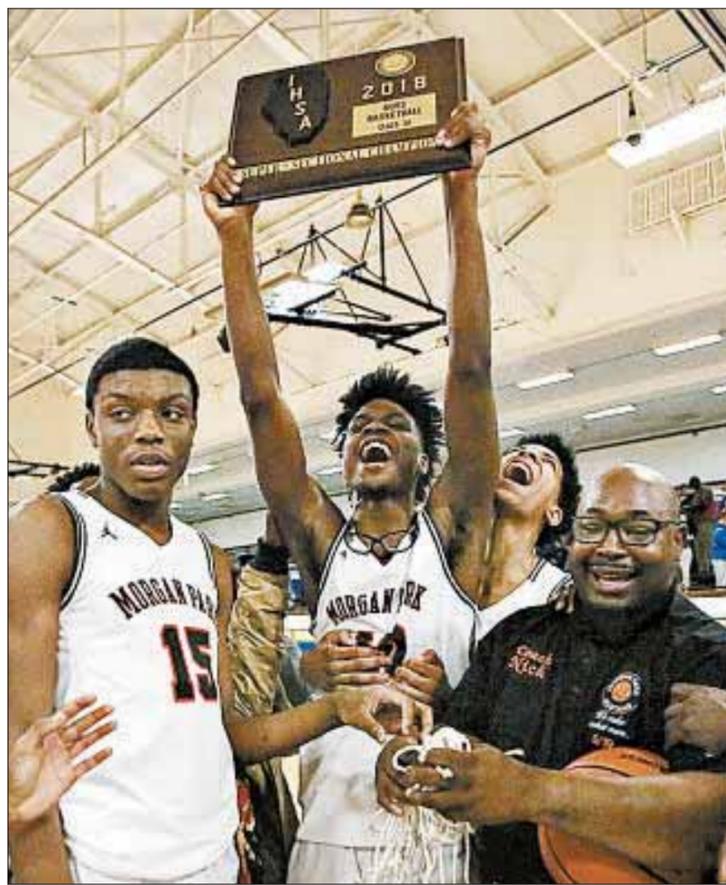
"A very fair point," deCastro said, who then cited the potential for additional daytime exposure for weeknight host Laurence Holmes.

"We're talking about having him fill in and grow," deCastro said. "We're talking about maybe popping Goff in with him from time to time because they like each other and know each other well."

Holmes has been doing solid work long enough that everyone — in local sports media and in the audience — knows him well.

philrosenthal@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @phil_rosenthal

HIGH SCHOOLS



MIKE MANTUCCA/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Tamell Pearson holds the trophy after Morgan Park's Class 3A supersectional win.

BOYS BASKETBALL

More IHSA titles in Public domain

Restructured tournament benefits Chicago 'dynasty'

By MIKE CLARK | Daily Southtown

Fifteen years after then-Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan paved the way for the Public League to send more than one basketball team to the state finals, the move continues to pay off better than anyone in the city could have imagined.

Last season, three Public League boys teams won IHSA championships in the four-class tournament.

Orr repeated Saturday as Class 2A champion, and this weekend Morgan Park and Young have a chance to go back-to-back in 3A and 4A, respectively.

It's a far cry from the 1990s and early 2000s, when the Public League had only two titles over 12 seasons. At least one CPS school has won a championship every year since 2006, with multiple winners four times over that span.

"I don't know if I saw (the Public League) being this successful," said Young coach Tyrone Slaughter, whose team is seeking its third 4A title in five seasons. "But I did know one thing: If you put more of us in the pool, there was a greater possibility that more of us would have an opportunity to win."

Under the old system, the winner of the Public League playoffs earned an automatic bid to the Class AA state quarterfinals. In 2003, the guaranteed berth was dropped and Public League teams started to go through the same postseason route as their private and suburban counterparts, according to enrollment. Then in 2008, the number of classes was doubled from two to four.

Those changes have been a boon for city basketball.

"I wouldn't have a state championship had we kept the old format in place," Slaughter said. "Orr would not have won a championship. Morgan Park would not have won two of their championships. That's not to suggest the schools that

STATE FINALS

At Carver Arena, Peoria

Friday's games

Class 3A

Morgan Park vs. Marian Catholic, 11:15 a.m.
Springfield SE vs. North Chicago, 1 p.m.

Class 4A

Belleville West vs. Larkin, 5:30 p.m.
Evanston vs. Young, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's games

Class 3A

Third place, 11:15 a.m. | Final, 1 p.m.

Class 4A

Third place, 5:30 p.m. | Final, 7:15 p.m.

won the city championships would not have gone on to win (state). But I can tell you those schools would not have won."

That's the case again this year. Simon, the state's consensus No. 1 team, won the Public League tournament but lost 71-66 in overtime Tuesday to Young in the Chicago State Supersectional.

Morgan Park coach Nick Irvin noted the cyclical nature of the sport, citing Peoria Manual's four consecutive Class AA titles from 1994-97.

"This is not a given," Irvin said of the Public League's current dominance. "Downstate schools are really good."

But Irvin, who is chasing his fourth state title in six seasons, likes the current arrangement.

"I'm mad they didn't open it up when I was playing," he joked. "(But) I'm glad Arne Duncan opened it up."

One consequence of the old system was teams running out of gas in the state finals after surviving the Public League playoff gauntlet.

"Getting out of the city is difficult," Slaughter said. "If I get out of ... the Public League playoffs, I'm battered and bruised by the time I get to Peoria or Champaign ..."

"Chicago is the basketball dynasty, and we continue to live up to that year in and year out."

mclark@tribpub.com
Twitter @mikeclarkpreps

BEARS

Coach Nagy's enthusiasm lures free agents

Biggs, from Page 1

fielded questions, a common theme quickly emerged. They're really excited about Nagy. Robinson liked what he saw in the Chiefs offense with Nagy as the coordinator.

"It was a good fit for me," Robinson said. "When you look at the possible situations, once they hired Coach Nagy you kind of see the offense that he runs, you know how everything gets run with the quarterback situation ... there were a lot of factors that played in my favor."

"Coach Nagy's one of those guys who just breathes positive energy. He has made me feel welcome, confident in being here, confident in the direction this organization is going."

Gabriel got a scouting report on the offense and the coach from his friend, Chiefs running back Charcandrick West, and wanted to come to Chicago.

"I had a few interests in free agency but (with) the Bears it was just Nagy's offense," Gabriel said. "Just his creativity and the things that he did when he was with the Chiefs. I feel like for me it was a no-brainer."

"Smooth dude, man. I like his swag a little bit. It's nice. Just his offensive mind. Meeting him the first time, it felt like I knew him for a long time."

Daniel, who spent three seasons with the Chief as a backup quarterback, is the only addition to have spent time with Nagy before. The addition of the journeyman is a significant move as he brings with him a keen understanding of the offense, something that will help Mitch Trubisky in the meeting room and on the field.

"Out of all the teams I was talking to when free agency began, that was the biggest key for me, my relationship with Matt," Daniel said. "Not only that, but his wife Stacey and his kids, too. My wife and Stacey are friends, so I think that was a big selling point for me. Obviously being in the quarterback room in Kansas City with him for three years and just really forging a really great relationship — we had kept in contact even when I was in Philly and New Orleans. And just knowing his next step in his career would be to be a head coach, I never thought I'd be playing for him."

Burton said stability was important to him. He played through a coaching change in college at Florida and then the Eagles changed coaches after his second season. He wanted to find a team where the coach was well entrenched, and Eagles coach Doug Pederson was effusive in his praise of Nagy to Burton.

"(Nagy) had so much juice on the phone," Burton said. "It kind of brought me back. Him and Doug are really similar and I'm really looking forward to getting to know him a little bit more and his family, as well."

Parkey referenced Nagy and special teams coordinator Chris Tabor in his decision to pick the Bears over the Dolphins. It would be one thing if all five players were sitting together, piggybacking off one another's remarks. But they came in individually and the messages had a common theme.

"It's a good feeling when you know players want to be here, you know?" Pace said. "And you can feel that. I think it starts with our staff you know with Matt Nagy, and our quarterback and the city of Chicago. There was a different vibe this year."

Even cornerback Prince Amukamara, who re-signed a three-year contract to stay, cited the new coach, explaining he went to dinner with Nagy, Pace and defensive coordinator Vic Fangio last Friday.

"I told my agent Chicago was where I wanted to be," he said during a teleconference. "I didn't want to hear from any other teams."

It's a new day and there's more than money making Halas Hall an attractive destination. Maybe it's a prelude to a winning culture.

bmbiggs@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @BradBiggs

CONGRATULATIONS

2018 BIG EAST WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT CHAMPION

DEPAUL

#5 DEPAUL vs. #12 OKLAHOMA
11:30 AM FRIDAY, MARCH 16 ESPN2

BEARS



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"It's something that just looked fun to play in," new Bears wide receiver Allen Robinson said of coach Matt Nagy's offense.

New class, new hope

Free-agent arrivals have potential to help boost revamped Bears offense

BY DAN WIEDERER | Chicago Tribune

The last of the 24 questions fired at Ryan Pace on Thursday at Halas Hall was direct. With the Bears' early productivity in free agency this week, did the fourth-year general manager suddenly see his team close to contending for a playoff spot?

Wisely, Pace pumped the brakes. "We just started the offseason acquisition period now," he said. "We're only one day into (free agency). Let's take it step by step. The excitement for the draft is right around the corner and that's our primary mode for adding talent to our team."

Fair point. Proper reminder. March in the NFL is a time to contemplate possibility, to let hope roam free. So it's easy to get caught up in the festive nature of gatherings like Thursday's when the Bears paraded out a quintet of free-agent newcomers. Receivers Allen Robinson and Taylor Gabriel. Tight end Trey Burton. Quarterback Chase Daniel. Kicker Cody Parkey.

At first blush, it sure seems like an infusion of promising talent that will give quarterback Mitch Trubisky, new coach Matt Nagy and the entire team a greater chance of succeeding.

Pace spoke glowingly about what each player should offer. The new arrivals, in turn, praised the direction they felt from the franchise.

"We're going to be a good team for years to come," Parkey asserted.

It's an annual procession where the participants change but the themes remain

similar.

Three-hundred-seventy days earlier the Bears held a similar introductory meet-and-greet in the same room for the headliners of their 2017 free-agent class: Mike Glennon, Markus Wheaton, Quintin Demps and Dion Sims.

It has been well documented how that turned out.

"There's risk with free agency," Pace acknowledged Thursday. "You're not going to hit home runs all the time. Unfortunately, some of those didn't work out."

So what gives the Bears GM a different excitement about this class?

"We talked about being able to quickly add weapons to our offense," he said. "And I feel like we've definitely done that."

The operative word there is offense. More specifically Nagy's offense, a creative and aggressive attack that spreads the ball around. That was a draw for Robinson as he watched how the Chiefs offense ran under Nagy's direction.

"You see a lot of big plays, you see some dink-and-dunk plays, you see everybody being involved," Robinson said. "It's something that just looked fun to play in."

That was also a draw for Burton, who spent the last two seasons in a similar system with the Eagles under Doug Pederson.

"I saw how successful that was," Burton said. "All you need is a couple of weapons and a quarterback who can handle all of it. I think that's exactly what we have here in Chicago."

That quarterback, of course, is Trubisky, whose rookie season growth has left everyone at Halas Hall with sincere optimism about where he's headed. And having a promising young quarterback locked in for the long haul was something

new Pace was able to sell as he offered his 2018 free agency sales pitch.

"There's excitement around the league with Mitch," Pace said. "Not just for the talent that he has but also the person he is. Let's be honest. Players pay attention to who the quarterback is and who they're going to potentially pair with."

Trubisky should be excited with the added firepower he's being given to spark an offense that finished 30th in yardage and 29th in scoring last season. Robinson, who erupted for 1,400 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2015, offers a big-play weapon on the outside. Pace praised the 24-year-old receiver's physicality and savvy.

Burton is a pass-catching tight end with a proven ability to create separation. Gabriel, meanwhile, sees himself as a guy who can be utilized a variety of ways depending on what opposing defenses are keying on.

"That's football 101," he said. "When you create those mismatches, you win."

Pace has been convinced since January that the Nagy-Trubisky combination will propel the Bears forward quickly. So it was notable Thursday to hear the newcomers' impressions of their new coach.

"Smooth dude, man," Gabriel said. "I like his swag a little bit."

Added Robinson: "Coach Nagy's one of those guys who just breathes positive energy. ... He has made me feel welcome, confident in being here, confident in the direction this organization is going."

That certainly counts for something, even with the acknowledgment that the Bears remain in the very early stages of this latest reboot.

dwiederer@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @danwiederer

No. 2 QB Daniel OK with role as mentor

Career backup accepts top job will be to help Trubisky excel

BY COLLEEN KANE | Chicago Tribune

When the Bears introduced their five new free agents Thursday at Halas Hall, Chase Daniel was the only player they hope won't see meaningful action this season.

That's not so much a knock on Daniel's abilities as a quarterback as an acknowledgment of why the Bears are guaranteeing him \$7 million over the next two seasons. And Daniel, a career backup who has started just two games in a nine-year NFL career, is quick to accept his primary duty beyond being prepared to play in an emergency.

Help second-year quarterback Mitch Trubisky excel.

Daniel has rare qualifications for that role because he played three seasons for the Chiefs while new Bears coach Matt Nagy was an assistant. He also played for the Eagles in 2016 under Doug Pederson, who like Nagy is a product of Chiefs coach Andy Reid's coaching tree.

Nagy's offense still is being developed, and much of it is going to be new to Trubisky. Daniel's ability to help with the transition will be "huge," general manager Ryan Pace said.

When asked what it takes to excel in such an offense, Daniel had a quick answer — "a brain."

"It's very quarterback-intensive," he said. "It's not just go out there and throw to the open guy. We're going to spend a lot of time in the classroom, a lot of time in walk-throughs, a lot of time just going through the specifics of this offense. It's very specific from a quarterback perspective in terms of splits by receivers, what route does a tight end have on this concept, where the running back is, the depth of a running back. ... As a quarterback, we're supposed to know that stuff. I'm looking forward to teaching Mitchell."

Daniel's work with Trubisky will be a bit of a departure from his norm of working with more-seasoned quarterbacks, though he backed up Carson Wentz when he was a rookie in '16. He backed up Drew Brees over five seasons with the Saints, including 2017, and he backed up Alex Smith with the Chiefs for three seasons.

Pace likes that Daniel has worked with a quarterback of Brees' stature, and Daniel said he took a lot away from Brees about preparation and film study. Now he will pass on such notes to Trubisky.

"Your number one job in that room is to get the starter ready, no matter what," Daniel said, "because that's a hallmark for me of a good quarterback. Whatever it takes, whatever the starter wants to do, you have to conform to that. I've been with a lot of different guys who do things a lot of different ways."

Daniel spoke to Trubisky after he signed his deal, worth potentially \$10 million, on Wednesday and said "he's as excited to get to work as I am."

For Daniel, work also means preparing for the situation nobody wants to see — Trubisky being unable to play for some reason. Daniel has attempted just three passes over the last three seasons and has completed 51 of 78 for 480 yards in his career.

But perhaps that makes his ability to stay relevant in the NFL all the more impressive.

"I'm going on Year 10," Daniel said. "If you would have told me that when I came out of college, I would have said you're crazy. However, we've put ourselves in good situations, and when I have played, I've played well in the two starts that I have."

"No one's really gotten hurt so I haven't gotten an opportunity, and that just is what it is. For me, I prepare like a starter week in and week out, watch just about as much film as anyone and I'm looking forward to bringing Mitch along with me."

ckane@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @ChiTribKane

WHAT WE LEARNED

Former Eagle Burton sets sights on another special season

BY COLLEEN KANE AND RICH CAMPBELL
Chicago Tribune

Bears general manager Ryan Pace and his five new free agents spoke for more than an hour Thursday at Halas Hall about the potential they see for the team in 2018. Here's what we learned.

Burton can top 'Philly Special'

Burton, 26, described the last two months of his life as a "whirlwind" as he celebrated a Super Bowl victory with the Eagles, fielded praise for his touchdown pass on a trick play in the game and then delved into free agency.

So how does he top that celebrated play dubbed the "Philly Special"?

"Do it again here in Chicago," Burton said.

"It's going to be hard to top this year, honestly. Winning the Super Bowl. Just the craziness and the joy and the stuff that goes along with all of that. Then becoming a free

agent and obviously getting to choose where I wanted to play."

Undrafted out of Florida, Burton has made quite the climb from accepting his role playing mostly on special teams in his first two seasons and then dwelling in the shadows of Pro Bowler Zach Ertz. Now he has a four-year deal worth up to \$32 million.

"You never know what the market is going to be," Burton said. "But I know one thing is that I owe almost everything in my football career to those guys. I am extremely thankful to (fellow tight ends Brent) Celek and Ertz and just the man that they've shaped me to be. On the field and off the field, they're just pro's pros."

Bears add Lynch, keep O'Donnell

Lynch, 25, is entering his fifth season in the NFL after four years with the 49ers. He started 19 games from 2014-16 but played in just seven games with no starts for them in 2017. He signed a one-year deal with the Bears.

He played his first season under current

Bears defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, and he recorded 23 tackles and six sacks as a rookie. He added 38 tackles and 6½ sacks in 2015 before his production dropped off the last two seasons. He was suspended for four games in 2016 for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

O'Donnell is coming back on a one-year deal. The Bears' punter the last four seasons had a career-best gross average of 47 yards per punt and a net average of 39.7 in 2017. He put 27 punts inside the 20-yard line.

The NFL Network reported his deal is worth \$1.5 million.

Pace still 'excited' to have Sims

Burton's arrival raised questions about the Bears' intentions for Sims, primarily a blocking tight end who will have \$4 million of his contract locked in Friday. He has a base salary of \$6 million for this season, perhaps a hefty price if he is sharing time with second-year player Adam Shaheen with Burton in the lead role.

"We can use all our tight ends," Pace said.

"The Super Bowl champions are a recent example of that, of using a lot of tight ends. They're all valuable weapons."

When asked to clarify if Sims will be on the team, Pace said, "We like Dion Sims, a well-rounded tight end. We're excited we got him."

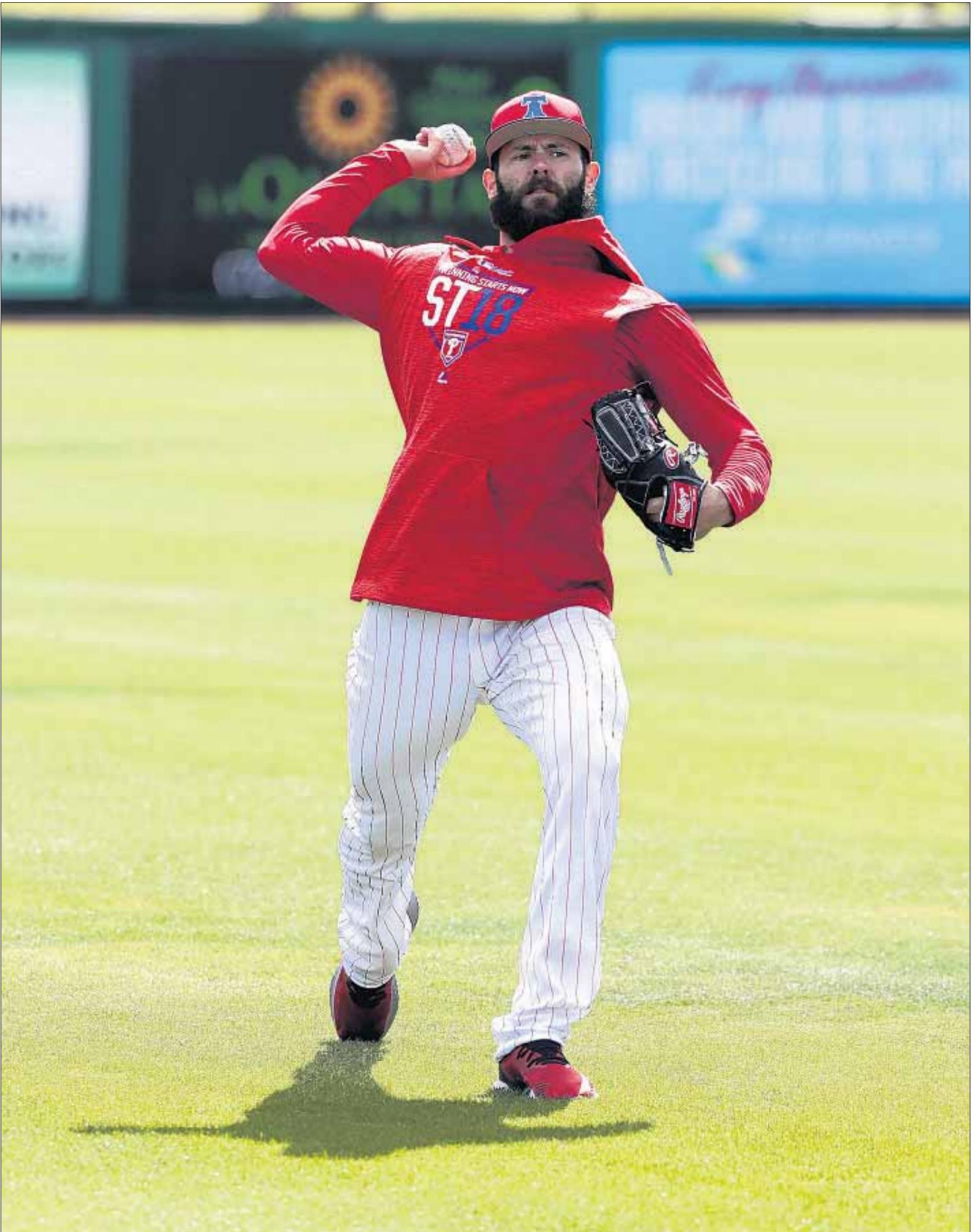
Bears feel like home to Amukamara

The veteran cornerback was an eager listener last week when Pace flew him in for a Friday dinner with Fangio and new coach Matt Nagy, making it clear they wanted to re-sign him.

On Wednesday, he finalized a three-year deal worth up to \$27 million.

"There's just something about here that felt like home," Amukamara said in a teleconference Thursday. "I think it had to do with a lot of the guys and what we had going last year. I just really wanted to finish this thing out. I feel like we were scratching the surface last year. We were in some games, we won some games and I just really wanted to build off that."

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Former Cubs right-hander Jake Arrieta, throwing before a spring training game Tuesday, signed for much less with the Phillies than many expected, given his history of success.

No time like now for MLB to avoid 2021 strike

Landscape for free agency could have major impact

By BARRY SVRLUGA
Washington Post

Baseball's longest winter ended, finally, with Jake Arrieta in Philadelphia and Mike Moustakas back in Kansas City and Carlos Gonzalez returning to Colorado, all for millions of dollars less than we figured four months ago.

We're one Alex Cobb signing from having all the significant pegs being placed in the appropriate holes. For those who prefer baseball to the business of such, opening day is 13 days away.

Play ball, finally. Enjoy. But even as we begin to focus on what will be the themes of the season — on Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton hitting back to back in the Bronx, on Bryce Harper and Manny Machado trying to produce one more time for the teams that drafted them — there's no time to deny that what happened this winter (or, rather, what didn't happen) is more important to the sport's future.

People inside baseball, including those who work for clubs and some who

represent players, believe the next three or four years are a monumental time for the sport, perhaps more important than when it took steps to reduce the impact of performance-enhancing drugs a dozen years ago.

A significant number believe the chances of a strike at the conclusion of this collective bargaining agreement, which runs through the 2021 season, are very good. Some think it's inevitable.

That might seem a long way off. But watch the calendar fly.

When the current deal was struck in December 2016, the players were not inclined to refuse to go to work. Now they have lived through this winter, and they have a different perspective.

Review some of what happened. It's all within the framework of the current CBA, but the players are, in some cases, stunned by how the machinations of the agreement worked in practice, at least for one winter.

Arrieta, a Cy Young Award-winning pitcher whose ERA over the previous three seasons ranked behind only Clayton Kershaw's, was unable to secure a deal that was even half of what Max Scherzer

landed three offseasons earlier. Arrieta's guarantee from the Phillies: three years and \$75 million — four years and \$135 million short of Scherzer (though Arrieta has an opt-out clause and a club option, either of which could be used to earn more).

The more striking have-nots might be Moustakas and Gonzalez. Each has something about which he can be happy: He's returning to the only team he has ever known.

Each has something about which he could be bitter: He turned down the one-year qualifying offer a team can extend to its outgoing free agents, which this year was worth \$174 million. Moustakas, coming off a season in which he hit a Royals-record 38 homers, re-signed with them for one year and \$6.5 million. Gonzalez, a three-time All-Star, re-signed with the Rockies for one year and \$8 million.

Some agents and players believe this offseason was just the start of behavior modification by ownership, that the way free agents were approached this winter changed drastically — with fewer, and in some cases no, offers and counter-offers exchanged. Therefore, they believe, the way free agents are valued (read: paid) is going to be radically

different in the future.

The sport won't know for sure until another free agency period comes and goes, and the expected availability of Machado and Harper — superstars who will be just 26 when they can shop their wares — could skew that market.

Still, "could" might be the operative word there. For either Machado or Harper to push past Stanton's record \$325 million deal, a pair of potential buyers might be needed. There is doubt in some corners that'll happen.

So if baseball's revenues are rising — and they are — but the players' salaries aren't following along in a commensurate manner, some see a need for fundamental change. The owners likely won't offer it because, in their minds, they're becoming smarter about how to spend their dollars, and a combination of analytics and economics is telling them that expensive players in their 30s aren't as valuable as cheap players in their 20s.

So the players will have to push for change. To consider what that change might look like, first understand the way MLB salaries have been determined for generations. For the first three years of a player's

career, the club essentially assigns him a salary. For the next three, his salary is determined by arbitration — assessing his performance against other comparable players and coming up with a number. After six full seasons, barring an extension, he's free.

So what's the alternative? Would that be demanding that free agency be granted after, say, four years? That would, in theory, give players access to more money sooner in their careers.

Two potential problems: Would small-market teams, those that rely on drafting and developing talent but can't necessarily afford to play in free agency, approve such a plan? And if clubs are truly laying off the majority of free agents, would they necessarily be more prone to drive up bidding for players with track records two years shorter?

Is there any way, though, to shift at what age a player receives a heftier salary? Consider this: The top pick in the NBA draft can make roughly \$44.5 million in his first five years in the league. Harper, the top pick in MLB's 2010 draft, has spent just more than five years in the majors. His total earnings: \$26.275 million.

The players' message, when it comes to negotiat-

ing, will have to be: If you're not going to pay us on the back end, you need to pay us on the front. Ownership, of course, has little incentive to do that — without a work stoppage.

One other matter from this spring that puts the labor strife in focus: The players union has filed a grievance accusing four teams — the Pirates, Athletics, Marlins and Rays — for failing to spend money they gain through revenue sharing on improving their rosters.

The complaint apparently isn't as much intended to penalize those teams. It's for the union to say, "We don't like what's going on, and we want to be clear about that" — and maybe if that opens discussions now, there won't be discussions with such gravity in 2021.

Put this all away for a while. The season is about to begin, and actual baseball on the field has a way of making us forget its problems. But even in those happy times — a double to the gap, a strikeout to seal a win — keep in mind the people who know exactly where this sport is headed are worried.

And the solutions must be devised not in four years, but much sooner — if not now.

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —

Remembering his grass roots

Harvick stresses the need to back support series



GEORGE DIAZ
On auto racing

NASCAR was built on the shady enterprise of bootleggers, along with grass-roots racing. Both are gone in the modern-day incarnation, a business model now on wobbly legs.

That's not the moonshine talking. It's common sense, echoed by Kevin Harvick and Tony Stewart in Phoenix last weekend.

We could have a week-long symposium of what NASCAR needs to do to get back to its glory days.

But one thing that is an easy fix is to get those millionaire drivers out of their private jets and motor-coaches and into a ride to boost grass-roots racing.

Harvick, for one, is in. He will compete in the K&N West Pro Series opener Thursday at Kern County Raceway Park, more on a mission to raise awareness than cherry-pick a victory. Along the way, he admonished NASCAR officials for getting too fancy with the marketing plan. It's not just phasing out small-town tracks — like Rockingham and North Wilkesboro Speedway — that helped build the NASCAR empire.

ISM Raceway (formerly Phoenix Raceway) used to be in the mix too, promoting at least one annual race on its one-mile oval from 1988 to 2015 in what is currently known as the NASCAR K&N West Series.

"One of the best things that happened for racing,



JONATHAN FERREY/GETTY

Kevin Harvick has been on a roll in the Cup Series, but he's also concerned about what's happening in grass-roots racing.

it's not just about NASCAR, was when we had the Copper Classic here," Harvick said after winning in Phoenix on Sunday. "We had midgets, sprint cars. Didn't matter how many people sat in the grandstands. As competitors, those guys, this was their Daytona.

"It's kicking those guys low on the K&N West Series that they don't get to come and race at this particular racetrack because of the fact there's a little bit of a pissing contest between a budget, what is right, what is wrong from a sanctioning

fee side on Trucks and Xfinity. So they cut the K&N guys out. Cutting the grass-roots side of things out is not the right way to do things."

He's right. Meanwhile, ISM is going through some renovations, estimated at \$178 million, chasing that newer audience. Old-school loses. Again.

"We can afford to spend \$170 million to move the frontstretch from there over to there," said Stewart, Harvick's boss. "I still have no idea what the reason for that is. I guess we probably

can't afford to run any support races here that cost the track some money."

Harvick continued to speak from the bully pulpit, on a rampage after winning three consecutive races.

"In the end," Harvick said, "without those grass-roots fans, those grass-roots people coming and being able to race here, whether it fits your budget or not, 10 years from now you better hope you have some people that will sit in the stands up here wanting to watch these races at your short tracks because those are your hardcore fans."

Harvick is hardly going rogue on this. Kyle Larson essentially said the same thing last year, imploring NASCAR to feature its star drivers in those lesser series because, he said, "I feel like we've lost touch with our grass-roots race fans."

Harvick chasing history: Harvick has set himself up nicely for a chase at NASCAR history. He will try to make it four in a row this weekend at Fontana's Auto Club Speedway, which is in Harvick's home state of California. No driver has won four in a row since

Jimmie Johnson in 2007.

Obviously, Harvick is crushing it. And he's not allowing any room in his rear-view mirrors for distractions. He came to Phoenix pestered and peeved after the NASCAR police tagged him for damaging violations.

Harvick's Stewart-Haas Racing team was fined \$50,000 after officials found a brace failure bowed the rear window in Harvick's car during the race in Vegas. Harvick also lost the playoff points he had earned in Las Vegas.

"No question he's the top dog there," said Larry McReynolds, Fox Sports NASCAR analyst. "He's also the top dog in playing games. When he was pointing to the back window, that was for the fans who had said things (following the penalty).

"Everyone was watching — the fans — what kind of advantage did that No. 4 car have? While it was probably a little advantage, that wasn't the reason he won the (Las Vegas) race. It was, 'Look, you can do anything you want to us, but we'll show you.' That was a statement race."

Gordon Hall-bound: Jeff Gordon, already a cinch for the NASCAR Hall of Fame as a nominee in 2019, was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America on Tuesday night at Daytona Beach Shores.

Gordon joins a class that includes drag-racing car builder John Buttera, Indianapolis Motor Speedway founder Carl G. Fisher, the late Howard Hughes, motorcycle great Fred Merkel, three-time Indianapolis 500 champion owner U.E. "Pat" Patrick, and sports car legend Bob Tullius.

gdiaz@orlandosentinel.com

Rousing start to IndyCar season

Dallara cars contribute to action-packed race

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The IndyCar season kicked off with some late-race drama, a heartbroken rookie driver and an emotional winner.

The racing was pretty good too.

The opener through the city streets of St. Petersburg could not have gone any better for IndyCar, which has built enough momentum the last two years to create a palpable sense of excitement for the new season. The new car debuted at St. Pete and it didn't just look good: Once it hit the track Sunday, the 24 drivers in the field put on a show. IndyCar officials touted the new Dallara as safer, cheaper and potentially racier, and St. Pete had a race-record 366 on-track passes.

The race was decided on two late restarts, the latter with two laps remaining and Canadian rookie Robert Wickens desperately trying to eke out a win. Wickens had done everything right — he won the pole, led a race-high 69 laps and had the event in control until the cautions. If he could hold off Indianapolis 500 winner and "The Amazing Race" star Alexander Rossi, Wickens was about to make a very strong introduction to IndyCar.

But Rossi tried to pass him in the first turn on the last restart, Wickens wouldn't give an inch, and the two cars touched. Wickens slid off course and



JASON BEHNKEN/AP

Sebastien Bourdais celebrates with his crew Sunday after winning the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, the season-opening race on the IndyCar circuit.

finished a devastating 18th. Rossi went on to finish third.

Sebastien Bourdais drove by both Wickens and Rossi as they collided to collect his second consecutive victory at St. Pete and complete a comeback from a broken pelvis and hip suffered in crash in May at Indianapolis.

Bourdais was overcome with emotion after his 10-month journey. Wickens, just the third rookie since 1993 to start his debut from the pole, seethed.

"He just went too deep,

locked the rears and slid into me," Wickens said. "The only pity is he carried on to a podium, and I ended up in the fence."

Rossi was firm in that he did nothing wrong, but understood Wickens would be upset.

"I feel bad because I feel like I could have won and he could have gotten second," Rossi said.

Instead the win went to Bourdais, who led 30 laps, second to Wickens, and was in position to pounce when the opportunity developed.

"We had an eighth-place

car," team owner Dale Coyne said. "His consistency makes that a fourth-place car, and luck made it a winning car."

Young guns: The youth movement that hit NASCAR has been well documented, but IndyCar is on a very similar path. Of the 24 entries in Sunday's race, seven are considered rookies. Three advanced into the Fast Six of qualifying, with Wickens winning the pole and Jordan King breaking Will Power's track record.

All seven finished 16th or lower and four rookies brought up the rear of the field, but the results aren't a fair indicator of the talent. They have made their way into IndyCar, and it has come at the expense of veterans.

Conor Daly has so far lined up only an Indy 500 ride even though he has 39 career starts in the series. Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves was bounced to sports cars as Roger Penske made his lineup younger, and even though Castroneves

will race at Indy in May, he wants back in the series and wasn't pleased to be a spectator Sunday.

There will be bumps with this driver class simply based on lack of experience in an Indy car. But the rookies have proven themselves in various series and they expect to be competitive.

"Yes, we're rookies in IndyCar but (I've) also been racing for 12 years," King said. "We have got a lot of experience in driving cars, new tires, changing conditions and that sort of thing."

Chicago Tribune

A+E

MOVIES

Nostalgia arises as TV ads decline

Model becoming
thing of the past



NINA METZ
Chicago Close-up

Our relationship to television commercials is one of avoidance. We fast-forward our DVRs or sidestep ads altogether with streaming services like Netflix or Amazon. TV networks are looking for ways to claw back (or simply retain) audiences. Which brings us to a recently stated goal from Fox's ad chief: The network that airs "The Simpsons" and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" will aim to snip the amount of time given over to ads in each prime-time hour down to a total of just two minutes — two minutes! — by 2020.

That would be a major pruning, but Fox isn't alone. Other networks are cutting back as well. According to The Wall Street Journal, last year broadcast ads took up a bit over 13 minutes each hour. On cable, it was 16 minutes. Now try imagining two minutes.

"It's a big deal, if it happens," said Leslie Savan, who wrote a longtime column for The Village Voice about TV commercials. She now writes for The Nation.

"I think a lot of people would cheer two minutes. But the whole ad industry has been in a tumult for decades at this point, and this is just the latest step. It sounds kind of drastic, but I don't know if it's going to be the solution because the migration over to ad-free media and entertainment has taken root. So many of us would rather pay for HBO or just stream things than go through all of that. I never had a great tolerance for ads back when, but I really don't now. I can barely stand to watch anything with ads."

I haven't given much thought to TV commercials for a long time now. They used to be shared cultural touchstones, when slogans like "Don't squeeze the Charmin!" and "Time to make the doughnuts" wormed their way into your pop cultural literacy — whether you liked it or not.

Is it weird to feel a vague sort of nostalgia for these commercials? They were once a shared experience. A cultural bond of sorts. And if you jokingly said, "Calgon, take me away!" people knew you were stressed out or at the end of a long day — or you were being ironic about the restorative

Turn to Metz, Page 2

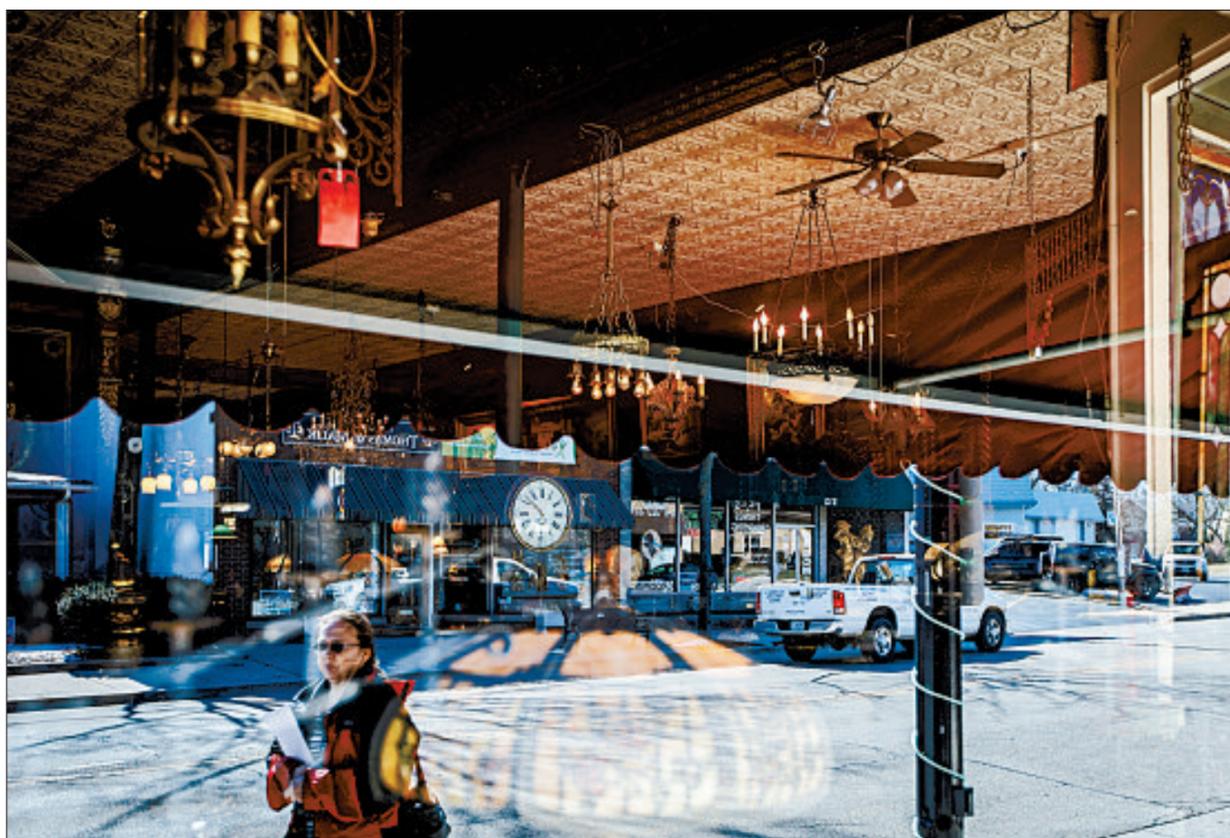


DISNEY/MARVEL STUDIOS

The fictional African nation of Wakanda, which rocketed to fame a month ago in the blockbuster "Black Panther."

You say Wakanda, they say Wauconda

For 'Black Panther' fans, what to know about suburban hamlet



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Main Street in north suburban Wauconda, shown Wednesday, includes an antique store, a barbershop, restaurants and other businesses.



CHRISTOPHER BORRELLI

When we last left the kingdom of Wauconda, its doors were opening to the world, and its rulers were explaining, to anyone who listened, that they no longer stood in the shadows.

Disguised for too long as a modest village hidden by forest

preserves, tallgrasses and lakes, with seemingly little to offer, Wauconda, its king and his advisers began a charm offensive: Wauconda was officially welcoming outsiders, businesses, tourists — frankly, they were just thrilled you noticed! Also, they didn't have a lot of choice: Thirty days ago, after the Marvel blockbuster "Black Panther" premiered, the media rushed to Wauconda, to point out that Wauconda, Ill., sounds like the fictional Wakanda in Africa. Wauconda's leaders spoke to ABC, The Hollywood Reporter,

Canadian radio and the take-away was:

Wauconda exists!
Thirty days later, Wauconda can now take a breath and consider how much has changed in a month. For instance, a new bakery is opening. And a company that manufactures purses. And ... well, that's about it. "I think it might take longer than 30 days to change Wauconda," said Maria Weisbruch, executive director of the Wauconda Chamber of Commerce. Unlike Wakanda, which was invisible to the outside world, Wauconda often seemed

invisible to itself. "It's like, you live here for so long, and drive past the same things for so long, that you stop noticing," she said. "You stop seeing Wauconda. But when you see strangers taking pictures of our ('Welcome to Wauconda') water towers, you admire them yourself. In a funny way, this whole 'Black Panther' thing installed a new pride in Wauconda. The attention — it's been a nice reminder of home."

So, planning a trip to Wauconda?

Turn to Borrelli, Page 6

'TOMB RAIDER' ★★

Alicia Vikander is a fine Lara Croft, but reboot fails her



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

On a remote, haunted island in the Pacific, Lara Croft (Alicia Vikander) runs for her life in "Tomb Raider." In the second half of the film, Vikander's character virtually disappears in favor of overacting men.

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune

The Lara Croft reboot "Tomb Raider" isn't half bad for an hour. Then there's another hour. That hour is quite bad. It's no fun watching your action heroine get shoved, punched and kicked to the sidelines of her own movie, while the menfolk take over and take turns overacting before expiring.

Alicia Vikander is the star, which helps. The Oscar winner from "The Danish Girl" — whose slyly chilling turn as the machine in "Ex Machina" signaled previously untapped reserves of menace — portrays the heiress to the Croft fortune and inheritor of the franchise launched a generation

ago now, in 1996, as a massively popular video game showcasing its sprinting, leaping, artifact-boosting heroine.

Then came Angelina Jolie, decked out and padded to resemble the video game's steely object of adolescent male desire. Her big-screen appearances as Lara Croft (in 2001 and 2003) weren't much as movies go — I'd actually forgotten there was a sequel — but Jolie's defiant air of confidence took care of business.

So does Vikander, only this time, for considerable stretches of "Tomb Raider," Lara Croft seems more identifiably human than gamer's fantasy. The script by Geneva Robertson-Dworet and

Turn to Tomb Raider, Page 4

CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services



ANGELA WEISS/GETTY-AFF

Elton John performs Jan. 30 at a concert that will air April 10. Two star-sung cover albums are on the way.

2 Elton John tribute albums out in April

Just days before a Grammy tribute concert to Elton John airs April 10, two separate albums will be released containing covers of songs written by him and longtime lyricist Bernie Taupin, sung by some of the world's biggest artists.

"Revamp" and the country-themed "Restoration" will be released April 6.

"Revamp" will feature artists in the pop, rock and urban genres: Mary J. Blige, Alessia Cara, Coldplay, Miley Cyrus, Florence and the Machine, Lady Gaga, The Killers, Mumford and Sons, Pink, Logic, Q-Tip, Demi Lovato, Queens of the Stone Age, Ed Sheeran and Sam Smith.

"Restoration" includes Dierks Bentley, Rosanne Cash, Emmylou Harris, Miley Cyrus, Vince Gill, Don Henley, Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town, Maren Morris, Kacey Musgraves, Willie Nelson, Brothers Osborne, Chris Stapleton, Rhonda Vincent, Dolly Parton and Lee Ann Womack.

"It's always a huge compliment when an artist loves your song enough to take the time and effort to re-work it," John said. "As songwriters, Bernie and myself are thrilled when singers we admire and respect as much as those on 'Revamp' and 'Restoration' choose to add their own unique twist in the process."

John, 70, has announced a "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour, which he says will be his last. It is set to kick off in the U.S. in September and last three years.

— Variety



MARK LEVINE/ABC

Perry kissed a boy: Singer Katy Perry kissed a contestant on "American Idol" and he did not like it. But Benjamin Glaze is downplaying some backlash aimed at Perry, who is a judge on the show. The 19-year-old took to Instagram on Wednesday to say he did not think he was sexually harassed. The singer from Oklahoma says he was uncomfortable when Perry kissed him on the lips as he auditioned during the show's two-night season opener on ABC. Glaze says he had never been kissed before. Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan did not send Glaze to the next round.

"Willy Wonka" star on "Jeopardy!": He played a boy who does nothing but watch TV and wears cowboy clothing in the 1971 movie "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory." Who is "Jeopardy!" contestant Paris Themmen? Themmen appeared on the game show Tuesday but didn't tell Alex Trebek about his role as Mike Teevee when the host asked him about himself. Themmen said he was an "avid backpacker." He finished in second place.

Boyle and Bond: British director Danny Boyle says he's working on the script for the next James Bond movie, which will be the 25th film in the franchise. He says he's collaborating with John Hodge, who wrote Boyle's "Trainspotting" and its 2017 sequel. MGM, which produces the Bond films, has not confirmed who will direct the next installment.

March 16 birthdays: Actor Erik Estrada is 69. Rapper Flavor Flav is 59. Singer Blu Cantrell is 42.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Birthday party is a disappointing bust

Dear Amy: I recently tried to hold a birthday party (for myself) at my apartment. I sent out invitations a month before and also notified people personally. Almost everyone responded positively in a "that sounds like fun" or "I'll try to swing by" manner.

Amy, the only people to show up were my best friend and their roommate. Out of the 15 to 20 people who I honestly thought would try to make an appearance, two showed up to celebrate with me.

I realize that in the adult world, friendship is more about quality than quantity. My issue is that all these people responded in a positive manner to my invitations, yet no one showed. Only one or two people reached out after the fact to apologize.

I realize that people have lives. I'm just baffled that almost everyone in my life found other things to do. My heart is a little broken. I work with some of these people, and none have offered any apology or explanation.

I have struggled with anxiety and depression since a young age, and this has hit me extremely hard. I feel like everyone who ditched me is only pretending to be my friend. I want to completely isolate myself from everyone (even though I know that's an unhealthy reaction). Should I confront the people who completely ditched me?

So far, I haven't said anything to anyone, and it's eating me alive!

— Party of None

Dear Party of None: I feel you. I have hosted parties just like yours.

Please understand that in this day and age, hosting anything — especially an event in your own home — is a socially courageous act, and I applaud you for trying.

This is NOT about you. I truly don't think it is an indication of how well-liked you are. This is about the insensitivity of others. Many work friends maintain a boundary that basically declares that the friendship ends at the office door. Something as personal as a birthday might send these social cowards scuttling. Others worry about being obligated to reciprocate. I don't think you have anything to gain by bringing this up with them, however.

I hope you don't let this keep you down. You might do better hosting a gathering in a bar or bowling alley, where people can come and go and basically hide behind their drinks.

Because you've had this experience, I hope you will commit to showing up for people, or at least giving a timely and accurate RSVP. It's so important.

And next year, add me to your invite list. I WILL show.

Dear Amy: What do I do with my pushy 90-year-old husband, who thinks he's a Lothario?

When being introduced to the daughter or even granddaughter of friends or neighbors, he feels compelled to come forth with a sexually based comment.

I have told him how inappropriate this is. His answer is that he is kidding. How can I stop "loverboy" from making a fool of himself?

— Driving Me Nuts!

Dear Nuts: During a time when you two are alone, you should ask him, "Do you realize that this kind of talk is wrong, offensive, rude, and — not the way a gentleman should behave? You are offending these people, and you are embarrassing them, yourself and me." In another era, he might have thought this was OK, but really it has never been OK. Women now are more open about how these sorts of comments make them feel. And they don't like it.

If he thinks this is appropriate "kidding" behavior, then he needs to re-network his comedy act.

Depending on the dynamic, if you see acute discomfort from the recipient of this nonsense, you might hop in and say to the "victim" of this failed humor: "Oh, please excuse him, he thinks he's Bob Hope." Once you explain who Bob Hope was, things should have been smoothed over.

Dear Amy: "High and Dry" complains that people at the swimming pool in drought-stricken California waste water in the showers. I would like to know what she is doing at the swimming pool in the first place. Swimming pools use huge amounts of water. She should go jogging instead. What a hypocrite.

— Disgusted

Dear Disgusted: "High and Dry" was swimming in already-used water. She is trying to conserve not-yet used water. I'm with her.

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Nostalgia arises as TV ads drop

Metz, from Page 1

effects of a bubble bath. Savan wrote about slogans in her book "The Sponsored Life: Ads, TV, and American Culture." But now, we're in a post-slogan era. Memes have overtaken the mental place once occupied by slogans.

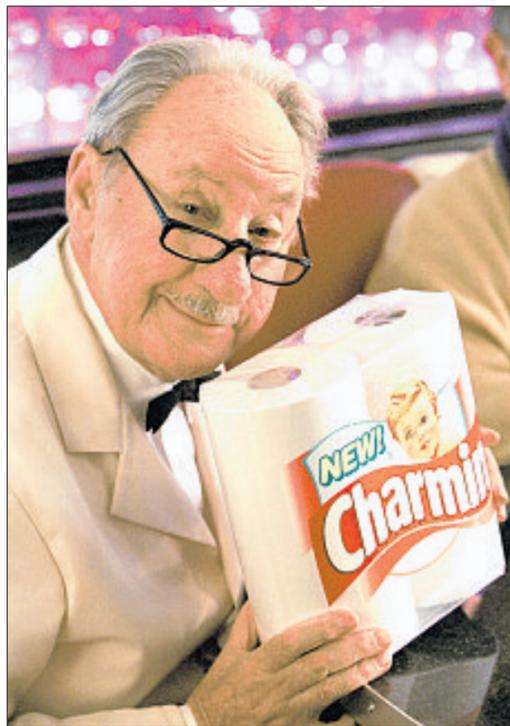
"One reason you might feel nostalgic is not for the slogans themselves, but the world they represented," Savan said. "A world where we weren't so fractured apart. There was consistency to a 30-second ad. A continuity and a form that was repeated over and over again. And as irritating as it may have been — or as entertaining as it may have been, that little burst of pleasure — those commercials remind us of a world that was more ordered."

There's another side of that coin that is one to guard against: "It was also a time when commercials were more white, more nuclear family-focused, more straight. I don't think most people are nostalgic

for that. "But it's the sense of order I think people crave, and now everything seems to have exploded. In the media, everything's fractured. Your 24-hour day is cut up into little pieces like it never has been before. So now, ads? What are ads? And half of them seem like scams. The same way we're getting more wary of fake news, we're getting more wary of 'Is that a real ad? If I click on that, will I get a virus?' It's an invasion of your privacy and your borders, and everything is in turmoil now and fractured into a million little pieces. Those commercials could drive us crazy because it was the height of conformity. But there was a form to it, whereas everything seems so chaotic now."

Commercials once influenced the way we talked, as well. Savan has another book, "Slam Dunks and No Brainers: Pop Language in Your Life, the Media, and Like ... Whatever," where she delves into that. But the shift away from TV commercials has been a long time coming.

William M. Barr is a



BOB RIHA JR./CHARMIN

Slogans like "Don't squeeze the Charmin!" wormed into our pop cultural literacy, whether we liked it or not.

cultural anthropologist at Duke University whose work specializes in advertising. "When the cable revolution happened and we moved from three major channels to a hundred or so overnight, this meant that the so-called mass market of the '50s and '60s became super fragmented,"

he said. Suddenly companies selling golf gear, for example, could narrow their focus and buy time specifically on the Golf Channel. "Prior to that, it was one shot had to fit everybody," Barr said. "So that's where slogans would come in like 'Don't squeeze the

Memos have overtaken the mental place once occupied by slogans.

Charmin' that would hopefully work across classes and ethnic groups and age" — whether or not you were actually the one buying toilet paper for your household.

"And who's not going to buy toilet paper eventually?" he said. "There are certain things everybody needs: Car insurance is one, toilet paper is another. But what has happened in advertising is that we're reaching the end of the television period."

In truth, a good number of brands have shifted their energies over to social media, where companies now exist in sentient form as a Twitter account. It's surreal.

"That used to be called 'relationship marketing.' And so many people don't mind being part of that branding experience," Savan said.

"Saturday Night Live" still does the occasional commercial parody, but I wonder if that will fall away sooner than later. "SNL's" primary audience typically skews younger — and you can imagine a moment when a joke commercial doesn't really land because an entire segment of viewers might

be asking, "What is a commercial?"

Back to those two minutes of ads that Fox is aiming for. It might actually be a first step in getting rid of ad-supported television altogether.

TV networks like CBS and FX have begun launching their own subscription services to compete directly with Netflix and the like, Mediapost TV columnist Adam Buckman wrote in a recent column. And he speculates that eventually, TV networks might see no point in keeping the old-style ad-supported channel around.

So what of the commercials themselves? Savan paraphrased Marshall McLuhan, the influential public intellectual who focused on media theory in the 20th century.

"Whenever a media becomes outdated, at some point it becomes a piece of art," she said. "Or an artifact, like antique typewriters that people display on a shelf as an object, rather than something they actually use. So even television commercials, a certain portion of them will become artifacts. And they will be adored and valued for that."

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
"HYPONOTIC"
LOS ANGELES TIMES
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A.I. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-1:30
E.T. - 7:00
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS-9:30
PHANTOM THREAD-9:40
DARK BACKWARD-Midnight

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Should we be messing with original film?

Trolls protective of 'Tomb Raider' and 'Wrinkle in Time'



MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Talking Pictures

Scene: A hotel room convention hall.
Darth Vader at podium.

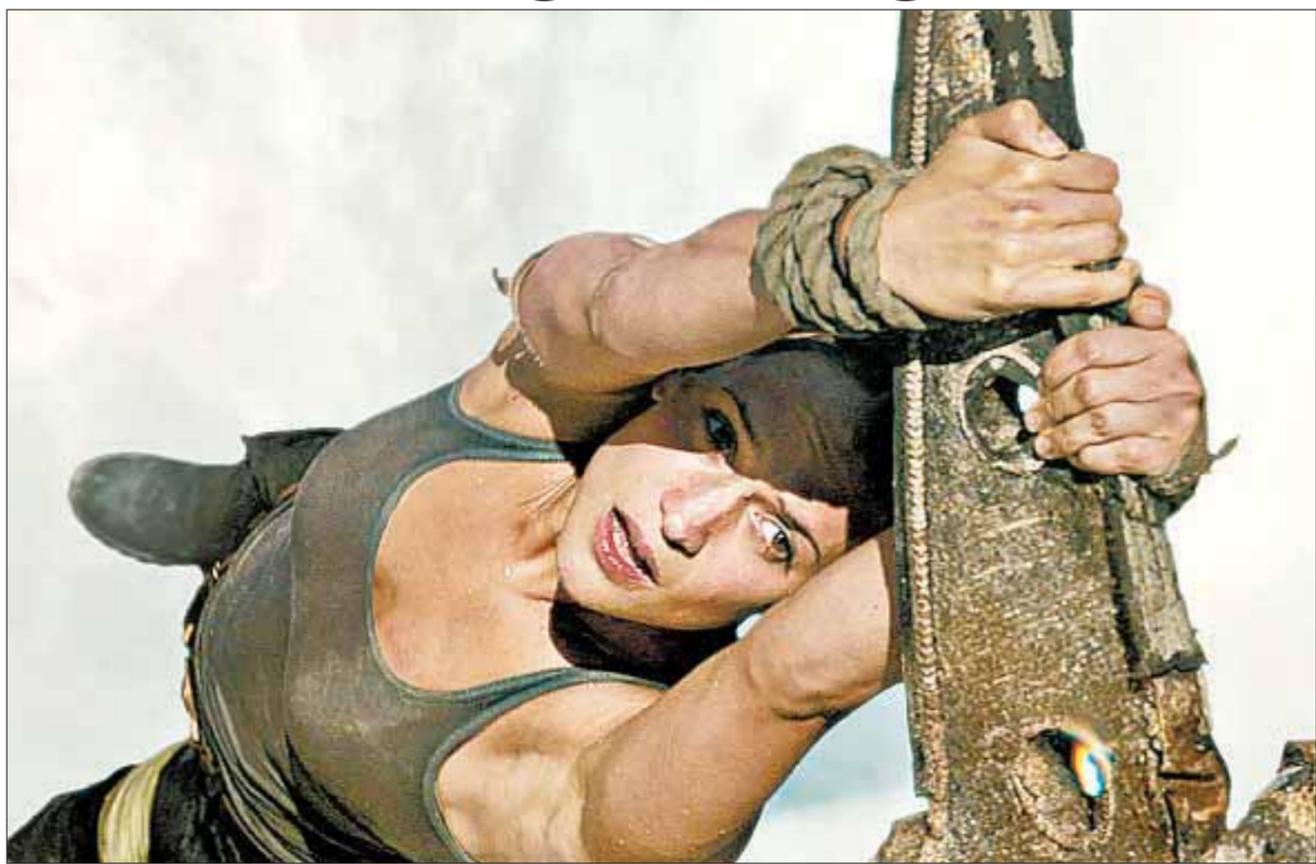
Vader: Hi, could the Ghostbusters please settle down? Members of the "Black Panther" disinformation league? Please? Thank you. Welcome to the International Delegation of the Independent Order of Trolls, or IDIOTs. And yes, we're aware of the controversy surrounding that acronym.

As you know, resistance to change is our mission. And denial of the filmmakers' right to interpret characters and stories the way they see fit is the mission behind the mission.

Reboots, franchises, adventurous film versions of famous books deviating in ANY WAY from the OBJECTIVELY CORRECT depiction of characters we grew up with — those don't fly in our no-fly zone. As our trademarked logo says: "We're sick of all of it. And all of you."

Let's start with the fake Bill Murray in the front row, the one with the Proton Pack Projector.

Ghostbuster: Thanks, Darth. Long before I started trashing the all-female "Ghostbusters" reboot on my website, FilmBoyzNotMen.com, I knew I was not alone. It's great to see all of you here today. Oh, and I finally saw the movie I'd been demonizing for years, even before



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Alicia Vikander's Lara Croft hangs on for dear life in the "Tomb Raider" reboot. The earlier series starred Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft.

production started. Happy to say the female "Ghostbusters" wasn't much. I mean, sure, Kate McKinnon, very funny, and there were a few jokes that —

Vader: Let's leave the equivocating to the critics, OK? And let's state it for the record: Though we respect the right for a female reboot of "Ghostbusters" to exist ... we really don't. Next, here's someone from the Resistance against the most recent "Star Wars" chapter.

Stormtrooper, struggling with notes and helmet: Thanks, Darth. Our goal is simple: We want to stop all

future "Star Wars" movies from even coming out. I'm not sure I could even take another blow to my psyche like "The Last Jedi" delivered. Enough with the diversity! I believe Warren's next with a "Wrinkle in Time" report.

Warren, carrying a protest sign saying "MESS WITH MY MEMORIES OF THE BOOK AND YOU'RE DEAD": Thank you. Where to start with "A Wrinkle in Time"? This one takes some dangerous liberties with a book I love, and that's bad enough for me. Director Ava DuVernay's take on the Madeleine L'Engle novel, with all those faces of color

on screen affirming their right to exist in a Disney movie ... well, it's not why I go the movies. It's why I STAY HOME. I didn't even want to come here today. I'm scared.

Vader: We thank you for your courage, Warren. See you at the "Ocean's Eleven" female reboot blowback strategy session. Now, a special guest to wrap things up before lunch.

Bearded man: Thanks, Darth. I'm P.K. Smirk, and I go by the handle of the Dismissable Loser on YouTube. When "Tomb Raider" announced its casting last year, I took one

look at Alicia Vikander. Then I did a complete re-watch of the Angelina Jolie "Tomb Raider" movies. When I wrote about Vikander's breasts in relation to the original 1996 video game's breasts, the response I got ... well, it stunned me. I was stunned. I remain stunned. Other trolls online questioning ME! Calling me out for being "a pig." I'll say it again: For the new "Tomb Raider" to succeed AS A MOVIE, the breasts have to look a certain way because the movie's based on a REAL VIDEO GAME. It's about REALISM, people.

Vader: With you there, Dismissable! Also, I like

what that guy in Philadelphia wrote about Alicia Vikander's "lack of curves" and how they're "not exactly empowering for women." This is what good criticism can do: body-shame an actress in a way that isn't sleazy in the least.

After lunch we'll meet back here at 1:30 to discuss "inclusion riders" and why they're bad. Thanks to all the IDIOTs in attendance. And may the Force be with you, as long as it's like the one in the first trilogy.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

miphillips@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @phillipstribune

'LOVE, SIMON' ★★★ 1/2

Gay teen's coming-of-age story familiar but fresh

BY SANDY COHEN
Associated Press

Some things are universal about being a teenager: the budding sexuality and sense of identity, the dramatic emotions, the profound need for acceptance and the confusing inklings of first love.

Countless movies (and books and songs and TV shows) plumb the agony and elation of teen romance, but "Love, Simon" brings fresh perspective to the genre by focusing on an experience unseen in coming-of-age tales: what first love might be like if you're gay.

This film treats 17-year-old Simon Spier's quest for love and self-acceptance with the tender, timeless, Hollywood touch of John Hughes: It's a classic story of a first crush made groundbreaking by centering on a closeted gay kid.

Nick Robinson is Simon, a shaggy-haired high school senior who describes his life as "totally normal." He has a loving family and the same clutch group of friends for years. Simon is gay — he's known ever since a recurring adolescent dream about Daniel Radcliffe — but has kept his

MPAA rating: PG-13 (for thematic elements, sexual references, language and teen partying)

Running time: 1:40

Opens: Friday

sexuality a secret from everyone.

He finally finds an outlet after an anonymous post on the school's online gossip forum. A student calling himself Blue confesses that he's gay but hasn't told anyone, and Simon writes to him, using a pseudonym. They begin an anonymous pen-pal friendship that turns into a deep connection, and Simon starts fantasizing about Blue's real identity.

He keeps all this from his friends, who are drawn in classic Hughes tradition: There's awkward, self-conscious Leah ("13 Reasons Why" star Katherine Langford), who's been crushing on Simon since they were kids; Abby (Alexandra Shipp), the transfer student and hottest girl in school; and Nick (Jorge Lendeborg Jr.), a nice-guy athlete who serves as Simon's heterosexual foil.

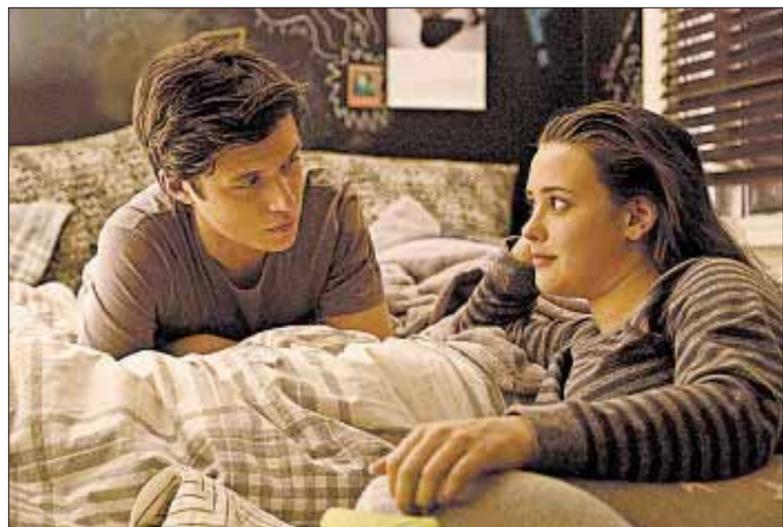
All the other "Grease" and "Sixteen Candles"

archetypes are here too: the bullies, jocks and popular kids; the wacky administrator (Tony Hale); and the no-nonsense drama teacher (Natasha Rothwell, as much of a hilarious standout here as she is on HBO's "Insecure"). Jennifer Garner and Josh Duhamel play Simon's dreamy parents.

Simon's life starts to unravel when the school's class clown, Martin (Logan Miller), finds his secret emails. Martin threatens to expose the exchange — and Simon's gay status — unless Simon agrees to set Martin up on a date with Abby. Dramatic social chaos ensues for everyone. And it rings painfully true whether you were the Leah, Abby, Nick, Martin or Simon of your teenage group.

The heart of "Love, Simon" lies in the authenticity of its characters, which were born in psychologist-turned-author Becky Albertalli's debut novel, adapted by "This Is Us" writers Elizabeth Berger and Isaac Aptaker and brought lovingly to the screen by director Greg Berlanti.

The success of "Black Panther" and the momentum behind #MeToo are propelled by the idea that representation matters, and



BEN ROTHSTEIN/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Nick Robinson and Katherine Langford star in the film adaptation of Becky Albertalli's debut novel.

"Love, Simon" is part of that conversation. Movie fans who aren't white and straight have long projected themselves onto the big-screen stories of those who are. But we all want to see our experiences validated, to have our stories deemed significant, to feel that we are not alone and that others can identify with what we've gone through.

"Love, Simon" is a universal story, even if you're not a gay teenager. The challenge of figuring out who we are and standing comfortably in that identity often lasts a lifetime. As Simon so aptly says: "No matter what, announcing who you are to the world is pretty terrifying."

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ALSO
PLAYING"Black Panther"
★★★★ 1/2

PG-13, 2:20, action
Wakanda was blessed by a magical substance called vibranium. The metal turns the king of the moment into the superhuman Black Panther. King T'Chaka expires, and his son, T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman), is crowned. There are two antagonists: Andy Serkis is vibranium fanatic Ulysses Klaue, and Michael B. Jordan is the American black ops ace known as Killmonger. He's got ambitions for the throne, and a belief in getting stunningly advanced weaponry in the hands of oppressed people of color throughout the world. May Marvel learn its lesson: When a movie like this ends up feeling both personal and vital, you've done something right. — *Michael Phillips*

"Call Me by Your Name"
★★★★ 1/2

R, 2:12, drama
"Call Me by Your Name" is about being 17. Timothee Chalamet stars as Elio Perlman, the son of an American professor (Michael Stuhlbarg). Each summer, Professor Perlman and his wife, Annella (Amira Casar), host a graduate student to help with research. This year's recruit, Oliver, played by Armie Hammer, rates as a standout. Elio's embarking on an affair with a local girl (Esther Garrel), but Oliver presents a problem he cannot solve. This is a very, very good film devoted to love. — *M.P.*

"A Fantastic Woman"
★★★★

R, 1:44, drama
Daniela Vega, a trans Chilean performer trained in the theater, plays the leading role in "A Fantastic Woman." It begins with a bit of misdirection: We meet Orlando (Francisco Reyes) and follow him to his local sauna. Somewhere, he has misplaced an envelope containing vouchers for a vacation. Then we meet his partner, Marina. These two are very much in love, but Orlando dies suddenly. The film is about the aftermath, and the closure denied its protagonist. — *M.P.*

"The Shape of Water"
★★★★ 1/2

R, 2:03, drama
"The Shape of Water" is a sexy, preposterous fantasy. Set in 1962, the story marries "Creature From the Black Lagoon" to "Beauty and the Beast." Sally Hawkins is Elisa, the mute janitor who, we're told, was rescued from a river as a foundling. She bears two deep scars on her neck. Elisa works overnight at a government research center in Baltimore. A new "asset" has been brought in for examination: He, or It, comes from the Amazon. "The Shape of Water" is devoted to the notion of love as a state of liquid bliss, and we see that bliss and many other emotions in Hawkins' expressive performance. — *M.P.*

"Thoroughbreds"
★★★★

R, 1:30, drama
Cory Finley's impressive debut feature drops us into privilege, where young lives of moneyed desperation are on the edge. Lily is the "normal" one, living with her mother and her stepfather. Years ago, Lily was best friends with Amanda; more recently, Amanda has become troubled. Lily and Amanda reunite, un-easily. Lily's stepfather is a control freak who's just asking for a fatal come-uppance. The "normal" girl is appalled at the "abnormal" girl's plan to dispatch the stepfather, but the well-plotted "Thoroughbreds" complicates those labels as the plot snakes its way toward violence. — *M.P.*

"THE DEATH OF STALIN" ★★★ 1/2

Black comedy plumbs Soviet intrigue

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune

Mordant in the extreme, and often hilarious, "The Death of Stalin" somehow manages to acknowledge the murderous depths of Josef Stalin's regime while rising to the level of incisive, even invigorating political satire. If it's a romp, then it's a romp that does what anything on this topic must do: leave audiences a little rattled, with a hint of ashes in the mouth.

The movie comes from director and co-writer Armando Iannucci, the creator of "Veep" and, on British television, "The Thick of It." The latter inspired the 2009 comedy "In the Loop," which tore 10 Downing Street and the Iraq invasion a couple of new ones. That film also tested the limits of corrosive profanity in modern screen comedy. Improbably, it passed its own test; the dialogue in that film may have been outrageously rough, but it had snap, bite and genuine wit in its corner.

Iannucci's writing crew on "The Death of Stalin" operates at a similar, breathless velocity. Set in 1953, the story rooted in fact but crammed full of free-wheeling inventions begins with beautiful music. Radio Moscow is broadcasting a Mozart concert featuring a pianist (Olga Kurylenko) of exquisite sensitivity. A phone rings in the recording booth; it's Stalin, demanding a record of the concert just concluded.

This is a problem for the broadcast director (Paddy Considine), since no recording was made. In a manic blur, the director locks the concert hall doors



Dermot Crowley, from left, Paul Whitehouse, Steve Buscemi, Jeffrey Tambor and Paul Chahidi in "The Death of Stalin."

and assembles an encore performance, which after a negotiation of 20,000 rubles the pianist agrees to, despite her loathing of the Soviet Union's leader. She slips a little note to Stalin into the sleeve of the recording. Alone, relishing the music, the drunken head of state opens the slip of paper, laughs at its hostile contents — and has a massive stroke. "The Death of Stalin" is off and running.

Transitions of power are always a good start for dramas as well as comedies; the stakes begin high and escalate from there, and the multidirectional schemes and malignant energies keep the top spinning.

The key players are topped by top-billed Steve Buscemi as Nikita Khrushchev. His key adversary in the regime change: Lavrenti Beria, head of the security forces, mastermind of the gulags, keeper and executor of Stalin's vast enemies list. Beria's played by the wonderful actor Simon Russell Beale, whose Shakespearean training allows him to dash through great thickets of insult- and sarcasm-driven dialogue at top speed. At one point in "The Death of Stalin," the desperate politicians break into a footrace to see who can comfort Stalin's daughter Svetlana (Andrea Riseborough) first, and best.

The way Beale proceeds, tanklike, arms outstretched, while shouting her name is worth the price of admission.

"You have a nice long sleep, old man," Beria whispers to the stricken dictator when he's finally alone in his chambers. "I'll take it from here." But not for long, with Khrushchev around. Jeffrey Tambor's pathetic, lily-livered Malenkov; Michael Palin's zesty Molotov (of cocktail fame); Jason Isaacs' outrageously macho Zhukov; these are all droll turns.

If there's a limitation in "The Death of Stalin," it's the nature and sound of the casting. Putting Buscemi

MPPAA rating: R (for language throughout, violence and some sexual references)

Running time: 1:47

Opens: Friday

and Tambor in the same setting as Beale and Palin, and letting everyone use their native dialects, leads to a dislocating quality. Even so, director Iannucci's ear for pacing and eye for semidocumentary-style chaos suits the material.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

mjphillips@chicagotribune.com

"7 DAYS IN ENTEBBE" ★★★

Hijacking drama never quite gets off the ground

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune

Unless it's complicated by something like human feeling, and a recognition of the human beings on both sides of any bloody ideological conflict, true-life heroism has a tendency to look a little synthetic on screen. It's what sells, of course. And it's an easy emotional sale if The Other in the story — the Viet Cong in "The Green Berets," virtually everyone on the receiving end of Chris Kyle's rifle in "American Sniper" — remains a vaguely subhuman blank.

Is this why the successful Israeli commando raid on the airport in Entebbe, Uganda, which saved dozens of Israeli passengers held hostage in the 1976 pro-Palestine hijacking of an Air France passenger jet, has so much trouble working as a movie?

This much can be said of the latest attempt, "7 Days in Entebbe." It excuses nothing the terrorists did, but the film juggles points of view and toggles between various factions caught up in a diplomatic crisis. Some pro-Israel newspapers covering the film's Berlin Film Festival premiere earlier this year noted its muted triumphalism, and noted further the film's depiction of the



German radicals Wilfried Bose (Daniel Bruhl) and Brigitte Kuhlmann (Rosamund Pike) in "7 Days in Entebbe." The film dramatizes a 1976 hijacking and hostage rescue mission.

climactic raid, which shows Israel Defense Forces unit commander Yonatan Netanyahu (the brother of Benjamin) as dying early in the raid, not near the end.

Such details will mean a great deal to some of the film's potential audience, and less so to others. Either way, "7 Days in Entebbe" is an honorable, evenhanded but curiously flat interpretation of events.

Screenwriter Gregory Burke ticks off the days of the title, beginning with the midair hijacking conducted

by two Palestinian members of the revolutionary Popular Front and, primary in the narrative, two German-born members of the ultraleft Revolutionary Cells. Daniel Bruhl ("The Alienist") and Rosamund Pike receive top billing as Wilfried Bose and Brigitte Kuhlmann, ideologues who find themselves over their heads very quickly.

Air France Flight 139 took off from Tel Aviv, Israel, for Paris, with an Athens, Greece, stop en route. The jetliner ultimately landed in Entebbe

where, with the blessing of Ugandan President Idi Amin (Nonso Anozie), the terrorists held 106 hostages, overwhelmingly Israeli, for ransom.

Brazilian director Jose Padilha ("Narcos") cuts between the increasingly tense passengers, the infighting among the terrorists, and the high-level political and military planning put into action by Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres (Eddie Marsan) and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (Lior Ashkenazi).

MPPAA rating: PG-13 (for violence, some thematic material, drug use, smoking and brief strong language)

Running time: 1:47

Opens: Friday

Padilha's key invention is the composite character of a commando soldier (Ben Schnetzer), whose dancer girlfriend (Zina Zinchenko) appears in choreographed sequences used as prologue, epilogue and, more dubiously, montage fodder mixed up with the raid preparations.

It's a striking element, but it bigfoots the movie, which is never terrible, nor never more than dramatically adequate.

It's odd, really: The team assembled for this project looked ideal on paper. Padilha's hijacking documentary "Bus 174" helped convince producers Tim Bevan and Kate Solomon ("United 93") that he was their director. Screenwriter Burke wrote the tense, effective "7L," set in Belfast during the "Troubles." "7 Days in Entebbe" is the work of smart people who never quite figured out how to tell this story, or these stories.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

mjphillips@chicagotribune.com

Alicia Vikander a fine Lara Croft, but reboot fails her

Tomb Raider, from Page 1

Alastair Siddons introduces Lara as a scrappy 21-year-old working as an East London bike messenger, practicing her mixed martial arts, living modestly. It's a dodge: In truth she's the reluctant heiress to the Croft fortune, left to her by her adventurer father (Dominic West), now seven years missing and presumed dead.

But if he's really dead, what's with the trail of clues Lord Richard leaves behind for Lara to follow? In an abrupt exposition dump at the beginning, we're treated to highlights from Lord Richard's re-

MPPAA rating: PG-13 (for sequences of violence and action, and for some language)

Running time: 1:58

search into the terrifying tomb of Himiko, the "Mother of Death," located somewhere beneath the surface of an island in the Pacific. The ghostly specter's real estate holdings, we're told, include a Chasm of Souls. That can only mean an Onslaught of Digital Effects is right around the corner.

First stop for Lara: Hong Kong, where she locates the same boat-for-hire, the

Endurance, used by her father years earlier. Daniel Wu ("Into the Badlands") adds an easy touch of gravitas as Lu Ren, the hard-luck captain whose own father is missing along with Lord Richard. He seems a fine romantic match for Lara, but "Tomb Raider" doesn't go there. It goes instead to the Mother of Death and the Chasm of Souls and the Island of Bug-Eyed Over-acting, which brings us to Walton Goggins as the bad guy.

I find Goggins, best known for "Justified" and "The Hateful Eight," to be effective in small doses. Here you have a large dose,

and his brand of intensity is a bit of a deadener. This is not entirely his problem. The second half of "Tomb Raider" leaves its open-air action sequences behind, some good (the Hong Kong harbor chase), some digitally ridiculous (Lara's triple axel of a cliffhanger above a waterfall). The movie becomes a sound-stage-bound bout of visual claustrophobia, pitting West's Lord Richard (nope, not dead) and Goggins' Vogel, a murderous American rival, against each other inside the booby-trapped underground cavern.

And then? Then, "Tomb Raider" turns Lara into a

punching bag and an on-looker. Moviemakers may believe such grueling violence to be obligatory, a natural prelude to the usual digital fakery. Here it has the condescending effect of telling the main character to shut up and take it like a man.

Here's hoping the sequel tries something a little more enlightened. Vikander is a fine Lara Croft. Movie-wise, however, she could use a better set of clues.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

mjphillips@chicagotribune.com
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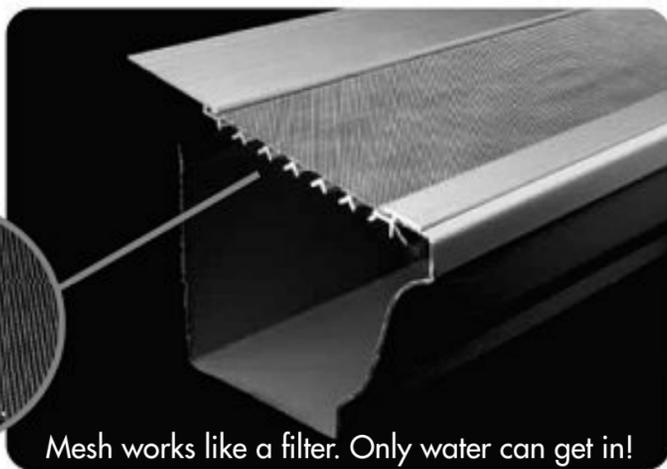
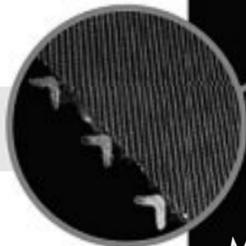


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Will Tremont gives Lee Hampel a haircut at Tremonte's Barber Shop on Main Street.



Wauconda is a "low-intensity place," says Mickey LaRose, of Wauconda Paint and Glass.

Wauconda enjoys Wakanda shine

Borrelli, from Page 1

Despite the big reveal, Wauconda 101 remains necessary:

History

The village of Wauconda (pop. 14,000) is an ancient civilization, nestled beside the Lakewood Forest Preserve, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago in Lake County. Its name derives from a Native American word for "creator" (but less than 1 percent of Wauconda is Native-American). It was incorporated in 1877, founded by German and Irish settlers who arrived via New England and New York. Waucondans are 85 percent white, 18 percent Hispanic and less than 1 percent African-American.

Because of gerrymandering, Wauconda has no clear shape but rather resembles a hammerhead shark spliced to the remains of a partly devoured deer. Wauconda sits on 6 square miles, on the banks of Bangs Lake, north of Lake Zurich, in relative isolation, a winding half-hour drive from the I-94 and I-90 highways. Rail service ended in 1924. The village made a reputation as a weekend spot. "For a long time we were known for apple orchards and beaches," said Kelly Lincoln, a fourth-generation Waucondan, owner of Daddy's frame and music shop. Then the orchards became subdivisions, and the beaches began closing, "and we sat quiet for a long time — until the past dozen years, when the restaurant scene on Main Street just exploded."

Today Wauconda, once a home to many farmers, is a white-collar, middle- to upper-middle-class community, somewhat more transient than in the past, said Dan Smith, a village elder and president of the Wauconda Township Historical Society. He recalls, as a child, living in a Wauconda where "a large percentage of residents had roots going back for generations. Of my friends, less than 10 percent had a parent who commuted to Chicago — we would never have thought of ourselves as a suburb (of Chicago). These days, Wauconda seems more like a bedroom community."



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Lincoln Knight took office as mayor of Wauconda peacefully last year. He splits his job as mayor with one in window and door sales.

Technology

Waucondans do not own flying cars. However, village trustee Chuck Black is leasing an electric car, and he has been advocating for charging stations along Main Street.

There is no public Wi-Fi.

Security

Waucondans have lived in peace for a long time.

Their main threats, according to David Wermes, chief of police, are "basically the same as everyone's problems." Domestic abuse, opioid addiction. A few years ago a liquor store clerk shot and killed an attempted robber, he said, but generally, violent crime is nonexistent. Last September, officers chased an actual white bronco through area streets.

Aside from the (decommissioned) battleship gun outside American Legion Post 911, the Waucondan army consists of 10 squad cars, two boats and 27 officers. Their fortress was constructed in 1991, just across from a Dairy Queen.

Culture

"Wauconda is a pretty kick-back, low-intensity place," said Mickey LaRose, a clerk at Wauconda Paint and Glass, "the kind where stores open when they feel like opening."

The high school mascot is a bulldog. There are parades and street festivals and a half-dozen venues for live music. The Illinois Dance Conservancy maintains four studios on Main Street. Phil's Beach, onto which the Blues Brothers drove their car in the 1980 film, has been closed since 1990 (but the Park District has vague plans to reopen it soon).

Several buildings are haunted by the ghosts.

Residents are allowed to conduct two garage sales a year.

"Unfortunately, there is no metric to judge how (Black Panther) impacted Wauconda," said Kevin Timony, village administrator, "but our web hits are up, and there are 'Black Panther' martinis and dining specials at some restaurants."

Exports

A sign outside Lindy's Landing Restaurant, Bar & Marina at the center of the village advertises: "Vibranium Sold Here." But that's a little Wauconda "Black Panther" humor.

There are no natural resources mined within Wauconda (but there is a coal-fired pizza parlor).

One of Wauconda's biggest exports is flavor. The village serves as North American headquarters for Synergy Flavors, a leading manufacturer and developer of food and beverage flavors. ("Some days here the whole town smells like strawberry," said Weisbruch.) It's also home to Small Town Brewery, creators of Not Your Father's Root Beer (partly acquired by Pabst in 2015). Wauconda companies make widgets too — fasteners, pins, clamps.

Leadership

The center of the kingdom of Wauconda is Wauconda Village Hall, which was built before the dawn

of time (aka 1977) and includes a white-steeped facade and a decorative white bell tower. Political affiliation in the village of Wauconda veers historically to Republican, though Lincoln Knight, the mayor, the king of Wauconda, is not affiliated. His reign began a year ago.

It's a part-time job; he works in window and door sales. He will serve four years, though according to the Daily Herald, as a candidate he resisted term limits at the village level. His throne is a high-backed brown leather chair with worn armrests. It also swivels. As ruler, Knight had led a charge to bring Lake Michigan water to the village. He is also jumping into Bangs Lake as part of the annual Leprechaun Plunge. He was never destined to rule. "Twenty years ago, if you said I'd be a mayor of anything, I would have been like — 'Wait, what?'" But after moving to Wauconda in 1989, coaching soccer, serving as president of the Park District and on the Village Board, his future was fated.

Wauconda picks its rulers through voting, not combat. That said, Knight replaced former Waucondan king Frank Bart, who chose not to run again. He and Knight reportedly did not see eye to eye on everything from Lake Michigan water plans to the honorees on a 9/11 memorial. Knight, as a village trustee, led a no-confidence vote against Bart.

So far, according to a few of his subjects, Knight has been a kind, progressive ruler. Will Tremont, who owns Tremonte's Barber Shop on Main Street (he added the "e" to reflect his family's Italian roots), said there are days when Wauconda looks like a "Norman Rockwell painting with a pulse," and the previous mayor was "just totally unsuited to running a small town." He said their new king brings a fresh image for the future and "a hope that Wauconda will become wide-open to its possibilities, just like Wakanda."

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WATCH THIS: FRIDAY



Brooke Shields

"Jane The Virgin" (8 p.m., CW): Xo (Andrea Navedo) doesn't necessarily want the comfort that Jane, Rogelio and Alba (Gina Rodriguez, Jaime Camil, Ivonne Coll) offer when they learn of her situation in the new "Chapter Seventy-Seven." River Fields (guest star Brooke Shields) has her own plans for what Rogelio has proposed. Rafael (Justin Baldoni) is determined to connect with his sister — and what she might know.

"MasterChef" (7 p.m., FOX): Milkshakes are the initial matter for the 22 young chefs remaining, as the new "Junior Edition: American Classics" separates them into teams and challenges them to make as many of the fountain favorites as possible within 10 minutes. Then, chicken and waffles are at the crux of the next test facing them. Gordon Ramsay (also the show's host), Christina Tosi and Joe Bastianich are the judges.

"Taken" (8 p.m., NBC): Bryan and Santana (Clive Standen, Jessica Camacho) travel to North Korea to undertake a risky mission to free a nuclear physicist — who was believed to have died years ago — from a high-security prison compound in the new episode "Invitation Only." Hart's (Jennifer Beals) request for Kilroy (Adam Goldberg) to find a criminal sought by a foreign government poses a moral crisis for him. Michael Benyaer, Daniel Yang and Uni Park guest star.

"Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." (8:01 p.m., ABC): Gravitonium may be the solution for the crisis facing the world — provided Coulson (Clark Gregg) and his team can find it in time — in the new episode "Principia." They don't have much of a window of time to do that within. Jeff Ward and Catherine Dent ("The Shield") continue their guest roles. Ming-Na Wen, Chloe Bennet, Iain De Caestecker, Elizabeth Henstridge, Henry Simmons and Natalia Cordova-Buckley also star.

"Strike Back" (9 p.m., 10 p.m., Cinemax): Trying to keep up with the formidable Lowry (Katherine Kelly), Section 20 sets out to track down former CIA contractor Rachel Sheridan (Dervla Kirwan), as Wyatt (Daniel McPherson) tries to win the confidence of her estranged daughter, Lila (Sai Bennett). Jensen's (Phil Dunster) wish to get closer to Novin (Alin Sumarwata) brings him into the field and, thus, closer to danger, in the new "Episode 7."

"Laurieann Gibson: Beyond the Spotlight" (9:02 p.m., Lifetime): Laurieann's latest client is singer-songwriter Justine Skye, and the assignment is to transform her into a pop superstar and market Justine that way to potentially millions of fans. The project almost immediately hits a major hurdle, however, when Laurieann sees that Justine is far more absorbed in her life and celebrity via social media to give much attention to the work required to launch her into the highly competitive world of music in the new episode "Skye's the Limit."

TALK SHOWS

"The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (10:34 p.m., NBC): Actor Aaron Paul; model Karlie Kloss; comic Jacqueline Novak.*

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" (10:35 p.m., ABC): Celebrity guests and comedy skits.*

"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS): Actor Donald Glover; reality-TV personality Omarosa Manigault-Newman; Ibeyi performs.*

* Subject to change

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FRIDAY EVENING, MAR. 16

	PM	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	
BROADCAST	CBS	2	* (6) 2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Bucknell vs Michigan State. (N) ©		2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Syracuse vs TCU. (N) (Live) ©				
	NBC	5	Blindspot: "Deductions." (N) ©	Taken: "Invitation Only." (N) ©		Dateline NBC: "Deep in the Woods." (N) ©		NBC 5 News (N) *	
	ABC	7	Once Upon a Time: "Knightfall." (N) ©	(8:01) Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (N) ©		(9:01) 20/20 (N) ©		News at 10pm (N) *	
	WGN	9	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Last Man Standing ©	Last Man Standing ©	WGN News at Nine (N) (Live) ©		WGN News at Ten (N)
	Antenna 9.2	3's Comp.	Soap ©		Benson ©	Wings ©	Murphy	Becker ©	Coach ©
	This TV 9.3	Dressed to Kill (R,'80) ***	Michael Caine. ©				Motel Hell (R,'80) **		Rory Calhoun. *
	PBS	11	Chi. Tonight: Review (N)	Mister Rogers: It's You I Like ©			(9:15) Mister Rogers: It's You I Like ©		
	The U 26.1	7 Eyewitness News (N)		The Game	The Game	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Seinfeld ©	
	MeTV 26.3	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Mama's	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett	
	H&I 26.4	Star Trek ©		Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9		Star Trek *	
	Bounce 26.5	Living Single	Living Single	Street Kings (R,'08) **	Keanu Reeves, Forest Whitaker.				
	FOX 32	MasterChef: "Junior Edition: American Classics." (N) ©		9-1-1: "Karma's a Bitch." ©		Fox 32 News	Flannery	Fired Up	Modern Family ©
	Ion 38	CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime *	
	TeleM 44	José José, el príncipe (N)		Al otro lado del muro (N)		Enemigo íntimo (N) ©		Chicago (N)	
	CW 50	Dynasty (N) ©		Jane The Virgin (N) ©		American Ninja Warrior		Ninja *	
UniMas 60	La niña		La tierra prometida		Nosotr.		Noticias Uni		
WJYS 62	Kenneth Cox Ministries		Joyce Meyer	Robison	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Monument		
Univ 66	El rico y Lázaro (N)		Papá a toda madre (N)		Por amar sin ley (N)		Noticias (N)		
CABLE	AE	Live PD: Rewind (N) ©		Live PD: "Live PD -- 03.16.18." (N) (Live) ©					
	AMC	* (6) The Devil Wears Prada ('06) ***		Mr. & Mrs. Smith (PG-13,'05) **		Brad Pitt. *			
	ANIM	* Tanked: Madn. (Season Premiere) (N)		Tanked: Tank Madness: "Shaq-tastic Tanks." (N) ©				Tanked *	
	BBCA	* (6:30) Sin City (R,'05) ***		Jessica Alba. ©				Graham Norton Show (N)	
	BET	* (6) Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son ('11) *				The Quad		Black *	
	BIGTEN	Women's College Hockey: Wisconsin vs Colgate. (N) (Live) ©				NCAA Bas		NCAA Bas	
	BRAVO	Married to Medicine ©		Married to Medicine (N)				Relative Success (N)	Watch What
	CLTV	News at 7	News (N)	News at 8	News (N)	Chic.Best	Weekend	Politics	
	CNBC	Shark Tank ©		Shark Tank ©		Shark Tank ©		Game *	
	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		CNN Tonight (N)		Tonight (N) *	
	COM	* (6:30) Hot Tub Time Machine (R,'10) ** ©				Hot Tub Time Machine 2 (R,'15) **			
	DISC	* Gold Rush: Gold Rush (N) ©				Gold Rush WW (Season Finale) (N)		Gold Rush *	
	DISN	Stuck (N)	Bizaard (N)	Andi Mack	Raven	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Stuck	
	E!	Bring It On (PG-13,'00) **		Kirsten Dunst. ©		10 Things I Hate About You ('99) **			
	ESPN	College Wrestling: NCAA Tournament, Semifinals. (N) (Live)						SportCtr (N)	
	ESPN2	* Women's Basketball Tournament (N)		NCAA (N)		Tennis (N) *			
	FNC	Tucker Carlson (N)		Hannity (N) ©		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News	
	FOOD	Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive (N)		Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	
	FREE	* Definitely (7:20) Georgia Rule (R,'07) *		Jane Fonda.		Lindsay Lohan. ©		700 Club *	
	FX	The Equalizer (R,'14) **		Denzel Washington.		A former commando champions the helpless. ©			
	HALL	Campfire Kiss (NR,'17)		Danica McKellar. ©		Meet the Peetes ©		Golden Girls	
	HGTV	Dream	Dream	Dream (N)	Dream	Hunters (N)	Hunt Intl (N)	Hunters	
	HISTV	Ancient Aliens: Declassified: "Operation Aliens." (N) ©							
	HLN	Death Row Stories ©		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	
	IFC	Inception (PG-13,'10) ***		Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt. ©		Inception *			
	LIFE	Bring It! (N) ©		Bring It! (N) ©		Gibson, Beyond (N)		Bring It! *	
	MSNBC	All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word (N)		11th Hour (N)	
	MTV	* Ridiculous. Ridiculous. Ridiculous. Ridiculous.				Ridiculous. Ridiculous. Ridiculous.			
	NBCSCH	High School Basketball (N)				Best of Dan Patrick		The Loop (N)	
	NICK	Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG,'10) **		Zachary Gordon.		Full House	Full House	Friends ©	
	Ovation	* (6:30) Sleepless in Seattle (PG,'93) ***		Meg Ryan		For Love of the Game (PG-13,'99) **			
	OWN	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes	
	OXY	Dateline: Secrets (N)		Mysteries & Scandals (N)		Enough (PG-13,'02) **	Jennifer Lopez. *		
	PARMT	* Lost World: Jurassic Park		Jurassic Park (PG-13,'93) ***	Sam Neill, Laura Dern. ©				
	SYFY	* Lara Croft: Tomb Raider		Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	
	TBS	* 2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament (N)		2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament (N) *					
	TCM	Suddenly, Last Summer (NR,'59) *** ©				(9:15) Reflections in a Golden Eye *			
	TLC	Trading Spaces ©		Trading Spaces ©		Trading Spaces ©		Trading *	
	TLN	Camp Meeting				Dare	Tru News	Robison	
	TNT	* NCAA Basketball (N)		2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Retrievers vs Cavaliers (N)					
	TOON	King of Hill	Cleveland	Cleveland	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Burgers	Family Guy	
	TRAV	Destination Truth		Destination Truth (N)		Destination Truth		Destinati. *	
	TVL	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Mom ©	Mom ©	King	
	USA	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Secret	Secret (N)	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam *	
	VH1	Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta		Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta		Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta		Hip Hop *	
WE	* Marriage-Stars (N)		Marriage-Stars (N)		(9:05) Bridezillas (N) ©		Love-Loc. *		
WGN America	M*A*S*H ©	M*A*S*H ©	M*A*S*H ©	M*A*S*H ©	M*A*S*H ©	M*A*S*H ©	M*A*S*H ©		
PREMIUM	HBO	Why Him? (R,'16) **		James Franco. ©		Real Time, Bill (N)		High (N)	
	HBO2	Here and Now ©			My Cousin Rachel (PG-13,'17) ***	Rachel Weisz. ©		Unforget *	
	MAX	* (6:35) Hacksaw Ridge (R,'16) ***		Andrew Garfield.		Strike Back (N) ©		Strike *	
	SHO	* (6) The Girl on the Train		Beyond the Opposite Sex (NR,'18) ©		Sleepless (R,'17) **			
	STARZ	* (6:11) Churchill (PG,'17)		Power: "Why Her?" ©		Counterpart ©		Ash vs Evil	
STZENC	* (6:17) Scrooged ('88) ***		A Knight's Tale (PG-13,'01) **	Heath Ledger.			Out Time *		



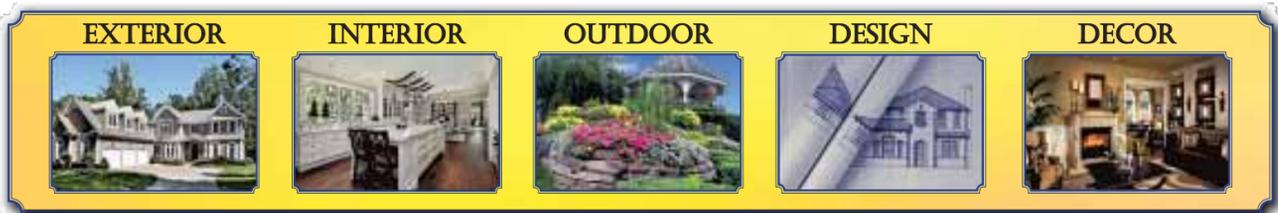
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3747 N Lakewood
\$2,399,000
5 Bed 4.2 Bath



Lake Shore Co-Op
\$4,995,000
4 Bed 4.1 Bath



1530 N State #7
\$2,495,000
5 Bed 4.1 Bath



1514-18 W George
\$3,295,000
6 Bed 4.2 Bath

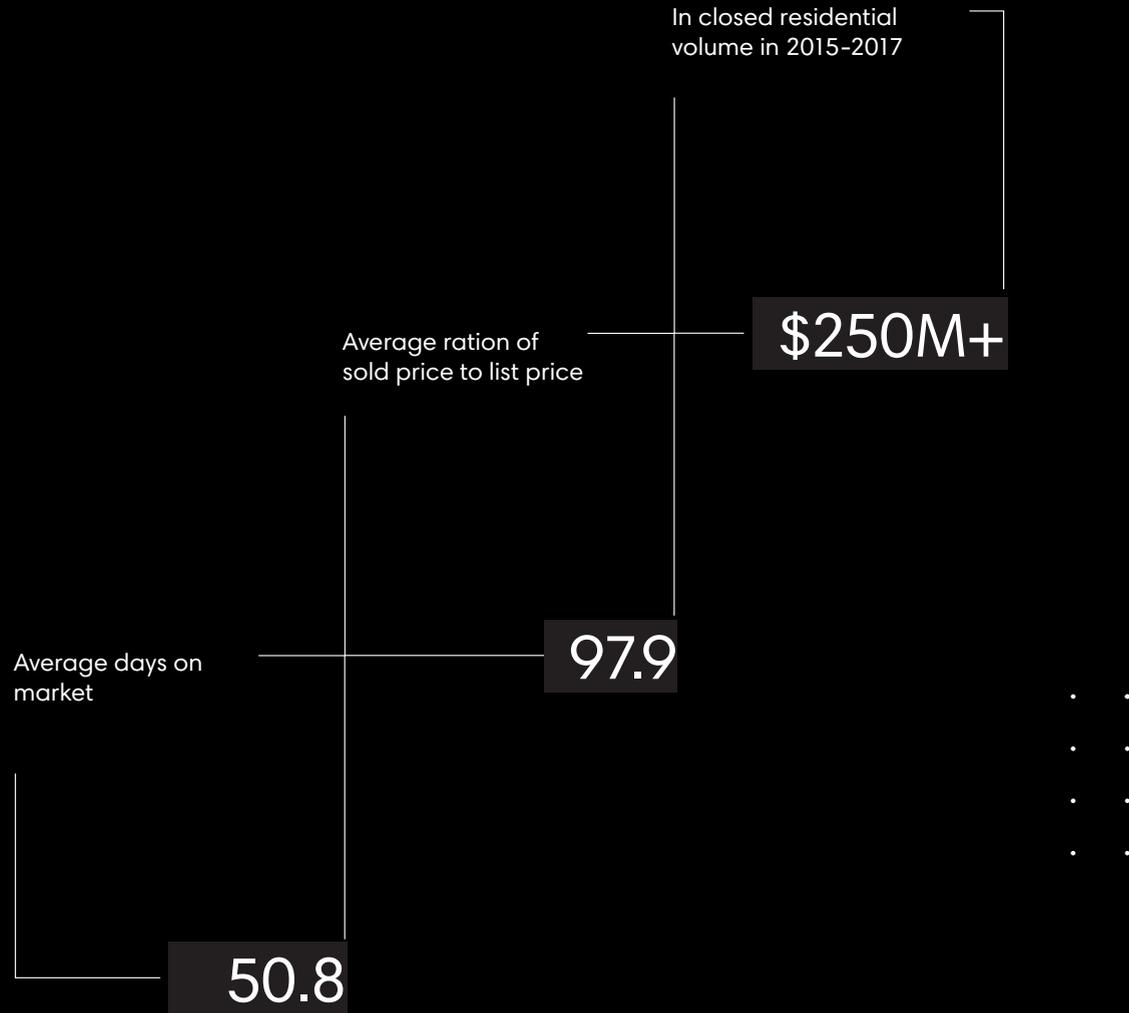


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Lincoln Park



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Lincoln Park



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Lincoln Park



Coming Soon

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Lincoln Park



Just Listed

2728 N Bosworth \$2,895,000 8 Bed 8.5 Bath

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2214 N Magnolia \$2,895,000 6 Bed 5.5 Bath

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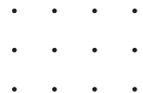
North Center



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3828 N Lincoln #2 \$549,000 3 Bed 2 Bath

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East Lakeview



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East Lakeview



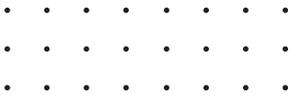
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Custom features abound in this unique, free-standing, chef's kitchen inspired by Europe's gourmet spaces. A wall of two-toned, white and aubergine, cabinets have black granite countertops and custom hardware. At the center of the room is a fantastic Prunella marble island under an Art Deco chandelier. Viking, commercial-grade, stainless steel appliances include an extra-large refrigerator and freezer and 48" Tuscan range with plaster hood and brass trim. Floor-to-ceiling windows flank a French door that leads out the back balcony and down to the patio for al fresco dining.

Ascend the Art Deco-inspired staircase to the third-level master suite. A wall of floor-to-ceiling windows provide views of the landscaped deck and surrounding skyline. The retreat-like space is made even more inviting with a fireplace with custom Nero Marquina mantle. Pocket doors lead to the walk-in award-winning California Closet with silk floors, built-in organization and chandelier. The suite is completed by the lavish master bathroom with honed Nero Marquina marble floors and double vanity and solid



walnut paneling. Designed for relaxation, the bath includes a Kohler soaking tub set in front of a wall of large windows and oversized large, glass-enclosed steam shower.

The second level has two en-suite bedrooms and a flexible den/exercise room. Each bedroom has custom worsted wool carpet. The second bedroom has a 10-foot span of casement windows overlooking the professionally landscaped backyard. The gym/office has cork floors, walnut paneling and mirrored walls. The second level also has a convenient laundry room.

A wonderful, flexible lower level features a heated floor clad in tiles from a 17th Century European Villa. This level has a private entrance, mudroom, oversized 1-car garage, full bath, library and access to the lovely, manicured backyard from the family room with a floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace. No detail was missed in this New Construction Gold Coast gem!

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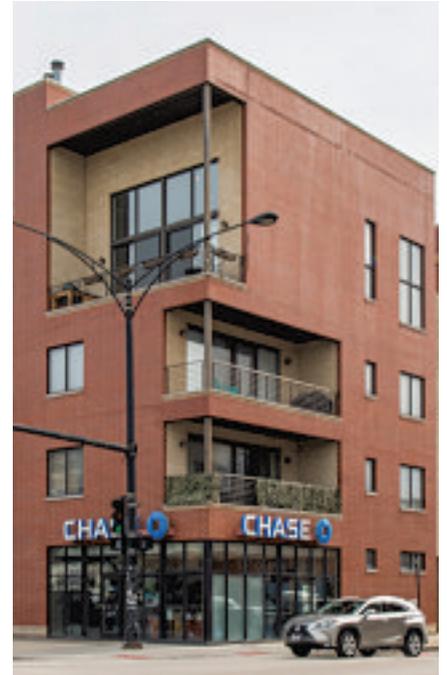
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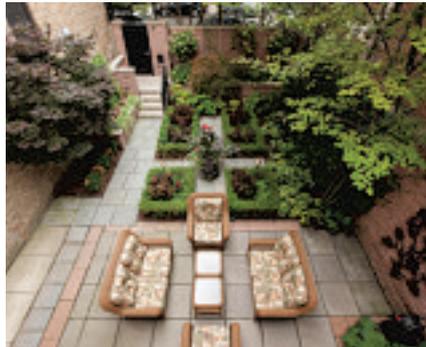
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Chicago Tribune

ON THE TOWN



MARK MCNAULTY PHOTO

Andy McCluskey, left, and Paul Humphreys, co-founders of Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark, bring the group to the Vic Theatre on Friday.

OMG, it's OMI

It will startle you that a U.K. synth-pop giant has a deep Chicago link. But Greg Kot, in his talk with Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark frontman Andy McCluskey, reveals all — from Wax Trax! records and late director John Hughes, to the movie “Pretty in Pink.” The ‘80s are back. With a vengeance. **In Turn It Up**

MUSIC PREVIEW

Boyz II Men not saying goodbye at all to yesterday

BY STEVE KNOPPER
Chicago Tribune

As the classic origin story goes, the five teenage singers in Philadelphia's Boyz II Men snuck into a Bell Biv DeVoe concert to meet the famous R&B group's Michael Bivins. They sang for him on the spot; other performers on the bill such as Paula Abdul and Will Smith stopped to pay attention; and Bivins later signed Boyz to a management deal. By early 1992, they'd sold 3 million copies of their debut “Cooleyhighharmony.”

But there's a hole in the story. How did the Boyz get into the heavily secured 1989 concert at the Philadelphia Convention Center? Nathan Morris, a 46-year-old founding member, explains that a friend knew local

radio DJs who were able to secure tickets to the show — but they couldn't provide any backstage access. “Once we got into the venue, we were hanging around the backstage door, singing, and were able to get someone to give us a couple of passes,” he recalls. “But at the time we had five guys. We had to get two guys back there, and one would come out with the two passes. Then we were able to (admit) one guy, then one guy, then one guy — that's how we did it, basically.”

Morris, Wanya Morris and Shawn Stockman are the three remaining singers in Boyz II Men, whose massive early-'90s hits “Motownphilly,” “End of the Road” and “It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday” helped turn them into the best-selling R&B group ever. The band's



COURTESY OF BOYZ II MEN

Wanya Morris, from left, Nathan Morris and Shawn Stockman.

perfectly interlocking harmonies came along when Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey and, yes, BBD were delivering immaculate singing to the pop charts. They were part of the electronic, heavily produced

new-jack-swing movement, but as their hit cover of the Five Satins' “In the Still of the Nite” showed, they had doo-wop at their core.

Turn to **Boyz II Men**, Page 4

TAKE 10

BY JESSI ROTI | Chicago Tribune



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2017

Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade begins at noon Saturday.

1 St. Patrick's Day Parade: The Chicago River is dyed green at 9 a.m., but parade festivities kick off at noon. Free. Saturday. Intersection of Balbo and Columbus drives, proceeding north. tinyurl.com/ybo3c2ap

2 Vic Mensa/Jamila Woods: Concert celebrates launch of the foundation SaveMoney SaveLife. \$80-\$150. 18 and older. 10 p.m. Friday. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. tinyurl.com/y8gtekww

3 The Soul Sessions: Presented by AMFM Gallery, this iteration of its jazz series is geared toward Women's History Month. \$5 in advance, \$7 at doors. 7 p.m. Friday. Lo Rez Brewing, 2101 S. Carpenter St. tinyurl.com/y96ddcld

4 Chicago Music Trivia Night: How well do you know Chicago's music history? Put your trivia skills to the test. 6 p.m. Friday. GMan Tavern, 3740 N. Clark St. tinyurl.com/y9ksxpv6

5 CSO Family: Let's Explore: Co-hosted by Emily Graslie, the Field Museum's curiosity correspondent, this program investigates connections between music and nature. \$12-\$45. 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Saturday. Chicago Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave. tinyurl.com/ycj49eef

6 “Flower Tales”: Flower & Garden Show features over 24 gardens; educational, interactive workshops; and a kids' activity garden. \$5-\$19. Through Sunday. Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave. tinyurl.com/yclv7q5h

7 Louder Than A Bomb Individual Finals: Watch as Chicago's young poets use spoken word and hip-hop to express themselves and come together across demographic and socioeconomic lines. \$10-\$20. 7 p.m. Friday. University of Chicago's Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th St. tinyurl.com/y8p5xvqj

8 Winter Werq Out: “RuPaul's Drag Race” superstar personalities Trixie Mattell and Willam are set to werq it out in Boystown. \$10 cover starting at 9 p.m. Friday. Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N. Halsted St. tinyurl.com/yce6e6y2

9 Get On Board: A Celebration of Women's Skateboarding: Workshops dedicated to women and girls learning how to build skate decks, with private lessons, a photo show led by female artists, a video screening, a panel discussion and giveaways. Free with RSVP. 4:30 p.m. Friday, lessons for first 66 in line; 7:30 p.m., open to public and open skate jam. House of Vans Chicago, 113 N. Elizabeth St. tinyurl.com/ybshjjaf

10 Author Conversation: Poet, essayist and cultural critic Hanif Abdurraqib and author and music critic Jessica Hopper sit down to discuss his first collection of essays, “They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us.” Free with RSVP. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St. tinyurl.com/y9mag3qy

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TURN IT UP

BY GREG KOT



Reborn OMD has old tie to city

Electro-pop duo revives its sound, details Hughes link

Andy McCluskey, co-founder of U.K. synth-pop avatars Orchestral Manoeuvres In the Dark (OMD), cherishes his Chicago connection.

As teenagers growing up in Liverpool, England, during the early '70s, McCluskey and Paul Humphreys heard the future in the music of German experimental bands such as Kraftwerk, whose landmark hits such as "Autobahn" and "The Man Machine" ushered in a new era of electronic pop music.

Humphreys had some knowledge of electronics so he ended up building his own machines to make noise, and McCluskey ordered a cheap synthesizer from his mother's mail-order catalog for the equivalent of about \$10. Combining cheap equipment with innovative lyrics and alluring melodies, OMD's early singles, including "Electricity," "Enola Gay" and "Joan of Arc," became hits, and the duo's first four albums created a template for electro-pop that was not only melodic and danceable, but cerebral and frequently disquieting. Those records filtered into America, thanks in part to adventurous record stores such as Wax Trax in Chicago, which was frequented by John Hughes, a young movie director and script writer from the suburbs. Hughes was a new-music fan who would sprinkle the soundtracks to his movies with songs he discovered in the overflowing Wax Trax import bins.

In 1986, when Hughes was looking for a closing song for "Pretty in Pink," a movie he scripted, he called OMD at a pivotal time in the duo's career.

"For all the millions of records we sold, we didn't make the money that Depeche (Mode) made, because we signed a terrible deal and they were on a (more equitable) 50-50 deal," McCluskey says. "We sold 20 million singles and 12 million albums, but we owed Virgin 12 million pounds, and not because we bought castles and yachts. We were on a schedule where we had six weeks to write a record, because we needed the money."

When Hughes called, OMD was "honored and flattered. We met him and (actors) Molly Ringwald and Jon Cryer. He needed a song for the final prom scene and we gave him one. 'I love it,' he says, 'but we changed the ending. Can you write another one?' We were going to start touring in two days, but we went into a studio in Hollywood, and finished it by 4 in the morning, then biked it over to Paramount (move studio) by 9 in morning."

The song, "If You Leave," became OMD's biggest hit in America, though McCluskey is somewhat sheepish about the quality



CHRIS OATEN

Paul Humphreys, left, and Andy McCluskey of Orchestral Manoeuvres In the Dark have a new album. Years ago, they did a song for "Pretty in Pink."

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday

Where: Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave.

Tickets: \$35; www.jamusa.com

as it was written at a time when he and Humphreys were hurriedly cranking out songs to fill out albums.

"We had nothing walking into the studio, so Paul sits at the piano and gets some chords, we put together some drum samples, and I came up with lyrics that did the job. It's a good song from a period when we were writing a lot of songs quickly out of necessity. We were relying on our ability to write and play music when we didn't have time to develop the best ideas. When we're at our best, our lyrics are not the usual subjects for pop songs. That's my forte, but in the mid- to late-'80s I was just writing down the first words coming to my mind, which were slightly cliched lyrics."

McCluskey acknowledges that his frankness about this era of OMD isn't particularly popular with the fans who came to the band around the time "If You

Leave" cracked the top 5 on the American singles chart. "Saying things like that upset Americans, of course, because those more expedient records coincided with our American success," he says. "They could have been better if we had more time. If our original idea was not always strong, we didn't have time to adjust and we ended up overlaying things. We could 'craftsmen' our way around the tracks. We ended up using loads and loads of varnish."

No excuses are necessary to justify OMD's recent work, however. McCluskey carried on without Humphreys in the '90s before finally pulling the plug, but the two resurrected OMD in 2006. The reconstituted band used the minimalist craft of its early albums as a touchstone, which is why the last two OMD albums in particular, "English Electric" (2013) and "The Punishment of Luxury" (2017), sound far better than typical cash-in reunion releases.

"After a couple years of playing together again and loving being in the band, we had to ask, 'Are we a tribute band to ourselves?' " McCluskey says. "We didn't want

to be a sad pastiche of ourselves, and we didn't want to put out new albums just to have a new logo for a T-shirt to sell on tour. So we went back to the strict, minimal, slightly more experimental electronic sound of our early albums."

OMD couples that sound with ambitious lyrics, which address how the hopeful man-machine future glimpsed in the '70s by Kraftwerk and its electro-pop disciples has darkened, as corporations rule the tech world and social media reduces human interaction to what McCluskey describes as easily misinterpreted hieroglyphics.

"We were probably the last kids of the last world war's utopian hope," he says. "There was going to be a wonderful new future — there'd be a robot maid in the house and a robot car in the garage, but it just didn't turn out that way, did it? Anybody who went through the '70s, the Cold War, the collapse of manufacturing, could see that things wouldn't pan out that way."

On the latest OMD album, the title track is based on a 19th-century Italian painting, Giovanni

Segentini's "The Punishment of Luxury" (originally titled "The Punishment of Lust").

"I've known that painting since I was teenager — it hangs in the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool," McCluskey says. "We've appropriated the title and applied it to the modern world. We're materially better off, but we're less happy. We've been brainwashed to think my neighbors don't respect me because my car isn't modern enough, or my kids think I'm a bad guy because I didn't buy them the newest Xbox. We've been lured into this toxic mindset. But there is hope at the end of the album. My hope is that people will get through this, we will adjust and overcome."

Until that time comes, McCluskey says with a laugh, OMD "will keep writing these cheerful pop melodies full of dark, dystopian lyrics."

Greg Kot co-hosts "Sound Opinions" at 8 p.m. Friday and 2 and 11 p.m. Saturday on WBEZ-FM 91.5.

Kot is a Tribune critic.

greg@gregkot.com Twitter @gregkot

LOCAL SOUNDS

It's Ariel Zetina's party, and it's getting bigger

BY BRITT JULIUS
Chicago Tribune

Few young DJs and producers in Chicago are as charismatic, original and progressive as Ariel Zetina. But that's likely because Zetina is one of a kind. For one, most producers would not cite the era of pop-oriented trance music in the late '90s and early 2000s as one of the numerous influences in their current creations. And most don't mention performance art within their origin stories. It is precisely because of Zetina's tastes, which are broad and inclusive, that fans (and house music institutions) have flocked to her in droves.

Zetina moved to Chicago in 2008 to attend Northwestern University and has been active in the city's performance art and music scenes since then. She first found music production around late 2013 through Witch Hazel, an operatic and theatrical performance collective making art pieces with electronic music.

"As we started making more and more work, I realized, instead of sourcing the material, I could be making it exactly what it needed to be," she said.

Zetina taught herself production programs like GarageBand, Mixxx and Virtual DJ. She fell more and more into music as time went on. "I think I fell into DJing as an autonomy thing as well," she



TYKE RIGGS PHOTO

Ariel Zetina, a DJ and producer, recently became a junior resident at Smartbar and successfully launched Diamond Formation this month.

said. "I was doing this (Witch Hazel) work right when I was transitioning. I always talk about my transition as not only a gender transition; it was a transition of a lot of stuff in my life, and suddenly I was able to just trust myself more."

This year will prove to be one

of Zetina's most formative yet. Her workload and popularity have flourished so significantly, she has been able to drop her side gig in the service industry to focus on music full time. But to be called a success in Chicago requires more finesse, character, community and understanding of

When: 10 p.m. Saturday

Where: The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.

Tickets: \$10 (21+); www.ticketfly.com

what truly works here. And Zetina has it.

Her popular monthly party, Cubic Zirconia, which began in 2016, became an outlet for Zetina to play new, rare, obscure and underground gems. And when she was not on the decks, the party welcomed a bevy of emerging or under-recognized acts from within and outside the city to flex their creative muscles. At any given Zetina-affiliated party, one is likely to hear a set unlike anything else spun in and around the Chicago area. Her parties are where you go to get an informal sneak peek of what is raw, unfiltered and just straight-up good.

It comes as no surprise then that Smartbar, a house music institution for more than 35 years, recently welcomed Zetina into the fold as one of its junior residents. Her first order of business: expanding her network of parties. Diamond Formation (consider this part two of the jewel-themed party names) launched this month to success. Zetina does not take her residency lightly. By aligning herself within the internationally fa-

mous Smartbar community, she has firmly placed her music — which transgresses club and bass aesthetics — in a living legacy of dance music in Chicago. Later this year, Zetina will join the Smartbar crew for its regular Movement Music Festival takeover.

But Zetina is most excited about her new releases, some of which she's been working on since 2015. She's doubled down on production efforts and anticipates releasing at least five new tracks this year.

"I've been experimenting technically a lot right now, and it's given me a lot of access to experiment formally and emotionally," she said. "I definitely feel like I'm just more present, both in my production work and in my DJing."

There seems to be no stopping Zetina's rise. And if 2018 goes like the years before, audiences will follow along for the ride.

"I think my goal is still just to make people dance. That's something I never want to lose," she said. "I've come to realize I can create my own narrative about what dancing does from start to finish rather than just sort of mimic or reference."

Britt Julius is a freelance writer.

*onthetown@chicagotribune.com
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Singer pours energy into Chopin fest

Auguscik a fan of Peggy Lee, Chet Baker



HOWARD REICH
Jazz Scene

In 2013, the distinctive Chicago jazz singer Grazyna Auguscik faced a devastating loss.

Marek Bajson, her partner of more than 20 years, was killed by a driver subsequently charged with DUI as Bajson stood near his car on the shoulder of Mannheim Road, near O'Hare International Airport.

Auguscik, who was in her native Poland at the time, learned the news as she headed to her Warsaw hotel room after a rehearsal for a concert that would be broadcast nationwide.

It was "the most tragic day of my life," she told me several months later. "I didn't know what I am going to do. The first thought was to jump on the plane the next morning and go back to Chicago. But thanks to my friends, Chicago friends ... they told me that I should play the concert, because Marek was waiting for this concert."

Auguscik somehow made it through the performance, then headed home to Chicago to face a suddenly empty apartment. "Music is my therapy," she told me at the time, and, indeed, she has proved as much, quickening the tempo of her work.

Just weeks ago, Auguscik scored a triumph by organizing and directing the second annual Chopin in

the City festival, a stylistically wide-ranging event embracing jazz, classical, avant-garde and world-music perspectives on Poland's greatest composer. And this weekend she'll be in residence at the Green Mill Jazz Club, offering two nights of original music and, of course, jazz transformations of Chopin's masterworks.

How is she faring in the wake of all that has transpired?

"It's five years this month," she says, referring to Bajson's death. "A lot of things happened. I'm very busy. I traveled a lot.

"My mom was very ill last year. I spent a lot of time in Poland. I was kind of disconnected from Chicago. In the meantime, I was playing with people in Poland. And I always played with Paulinho (Garcia) in Poland," she adds, referring to her longtime collaborator, a Brazilian vocalist-guitarist who moved from Chicago to Los Angeles in 2015.

"I'm alone," says Auguscik, "but I'm not lonely."

Music has been Auguscik's constant companion, and amid her wide-ranging activities, nothing has occupied more of her energy than Chopin in the City.

Between Feb. 22 and March 1, several of Chicago's leading musicians — and visiting artists as well — offered personal perspectives on 19th-century repertoire that sounds modern to this day. Jazz musicians such as Dee Alexander, Miguel de la Cerna and Auguscik herself, avant-gardists such as Dave Rempis and Tim Daisy and classical interpreters such as pianist



ALEX GARCIA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Singer Grazyna Auguscik has been rebuilding her life since her partner's 2013 death. "I'm alone but I'm not lonely," she says.

When: 9 p.m. Friday and 8 p.m. Saturday

Where: Green Mill Jazz Club, 4802 N. Broadway

Tickets: \$15; 773-878-5552 or www.greenmilljazz.com

Pawel Checinski attested to the seemingly bottomless well of ideas that Chopin's music generates.

"They interpreted the music in many ways, rediscovered Chopin, and I learned a lot," says Auguscik, whose fluid vocals, Polish roots and improvisational acuity render her one of the world's leading exponents of Chopin's music in a jazz context.

"I can't believe we had a genius like that 200 years ago. The musicians (then) must have been amazed at

his work.

"This festival has a big potential," adds Auguscik, who plans to present it at the same time each year. "I see more and more people are into it. It's not a commercial festival — it's definitely an arts festival."

As for her own work, Auguscik is developing an album of original songs, which she hopes to release later this year, and another in collaboration with Garcia. Upcoming orchestral, quasi-classical engagements in Europe and jazz club dates in Chicago point to the stylistic breadth of her work.

Yet she confesses that, as time goes by, she's drawn ever more intensely to earlier eras in jazz history, specifically the work of two artists.

"For me, it's a big pleas-

ure to sing some old stuff, like old straight-ahead music," says Auguscik. "I very often go to Chet Baker or Peggy Lee, because they are my type of singing: intimate, but under the intimate sound, it's a lot of power. So I'm really into it.

"And I'm thinking how to make a tribute to Peggy Lee someday. Same with Chet Baker. I love the moody relaxation" of their music, she says.

Ultimately, though, "I wish to be healthy," she adds. "Some people want to be famous, make a lot of money.

"I just want to do this."

Gentry Reunion Concert

Several of Chicago's top cabaret artists will celebrate the glory days of the

long-gone Gentry Piano Bars with a reunion show.

Denise Tomasello, Honey West, David Edelfelt, Anne and Mark Burnell, Carla Gordon, Beckie Menzie and others will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., \$25. All the proceeds "will support the Center on Halsted in its mission to advance community and secure the health and well-being of the LGBTQ people of Chicagoland," according to a statement from the event's planners.

For details, visit www.centeronhalsted.org.

Howard Reich is a Tribune critic.

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Finding their rhythm (& blues)

Boyz II Men, from Page 1

Originally known as Unique Attraction, Boyz II Men began with Nathan Morris and Marc Nelson, a friend from High School of the Creative and Performing Arts in Philly. They brought on Wanya Morris, Stockman and Michael McCary, who would provide the group's distinctive, deep-voiced, spoken-word asides. After the fateful convention center concert, Bivins called with a deal, and by 1991 they were posing in shearling coats on the cover of "Cooleyhighharmony" and dominating just about every radio station.

"Shawn and I were actually in a car driving back to my house, and we just turned on the radio and happened to hear ('Motownphilly') on the radio. Things pretty much changed overnight," Nathan Morris says in a 20-minute phone interview en route from the Los Angeles airport to a concert. "We jumped on the road and started a promotional tour that was 10 months long. We drove across the country in a 14-passenger van for two months. Once we came back, and that new year kicked in, it was a whole new thing."

For the first album, Boyz wrote or co-wrote more than half of the songs, with Bivins as one of the executive producers. After "Cooleyhighharmony" became such a force, Morris says, executives from the group's label, Motown, began to pay much closer attention, hiring big-name producers such as Babyface and Jimmy Jam and paying for more expensive recording sessions.

"They wanted to control everything and write the songs and have these checks come out of the budget," Morris says. "It became pretty absurd. I was more on the business side — I lost a lot of the battles that we should have won. The follow-up, 1994's 'II' was just as huge. 'The fluffy stuff, it looks like we



GETTY

Wanya Morris, from left, Shawn Stockman and Nathan Morris are the remaining members of Boyz II Men.

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Where: Genesee Theatre, 203 N. Genesee St., Waukegan

Tickets: \$47-\$110; 847-782-2366 or www.geneseetheatre.com

quite heard before, because we'd never listened so intentionally to it," Morris says. "When you sing 'em around the house, it's different than when you're recording."

But Boyz II Men needed a renewed pop culture breakthrough, so Morris instructed the band's managers to approach Geico about collaborating on a commercial. The insurance company responded with a comedic 30-second spot in which Boyz's three members pop up behind a pharmacist to lovingly emote the side effects of a prescription drug. ("Dizziness, nausea and sweaty eyelids — and, in severe cases, chronic flatulence!")

The prep for the session was even more fun than the commercial. "We sang a whole day of 10 billion-thousand side effects that you don't hear on TV," Morris says. "Diahrrrea was one, in reference to a tsunami. It was pretty sick." So, a good day? "Yeah," he responds dryly. "A good day for someone."

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Steve Knopper is a freelance writer.

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MUSIC PREVIEW

Beth Ditto is cure for all things

Ex-Gossip singer goes it alone with same fierce stance

BY DAN HYMAN
Chicago Tribune

Beth Ditto has long been the person you'd turn to when needing someone else to make sense of the chaotic world. Loud, proud and unabashedly blunt, the singer staked her reputation as one of punk rock's most straight-talking front women. But nowadays, get her started on the current state of affairs in our country — heck, our world — and the former Gossip singer is uncharacteristically at a loss. "Honestly I feel more overwhelmed now than I've ever felt," Ditto, after a long pause, says of living in Donald Trump's America. "There's so much crazy stuff going on. It's really depressing."

Last year, Ditto, 37, released her debut solo album, "Fake Sugar," a collection of fiery barnstormers that pay homage to the Arkansas native's Southern roots. And it'd be easy to take a cursory listen and hear songs like "In and Out," what with lyrics like "I, I do it for you / You, you do it for me / And we go in and out of love" and hear an album all fine and pleasant and, well, a bit placid. But as Ditto says when calling from her home in Portland, Ore., on a recent morning, make no mistake: She's still the same firebrand she always was. That compelling, provocative female rock star whose band's bluesy dance-punk mixed with her muscular vocal chops and take-no-prisoners performative streak made her a bona fide star in the U.K., with bougie friends like Kate Moss and Karl Lagerfeld to match.

The situation, she explains, is just different now.

To hear Ditto tell it, despite essentially being the face of Gossip for the band's 17-year run, the made-to-be-famous feminist who challenged fat-shamers by posing nude for magazine covers says it took her band breaking up two years ago for her to understand how essential she was to its operation. "Zero idea," she says of her previous understanding of how much she meant to Gossip fans and how, at least to the outside world, she seemed as much her former bandmate Nathan Howdeshell's equal if not the band leader. "I didn't really realize that I put in an equal amount of work," Ditto says reflecting on Gossip. "I don't know why. It's funny."

In an effort to explain this seeming odd lack of self-awareness, Ditto chalks it up to her meeting Howdeshell as "this



MARY MCCARTNEY

Former Gossip singer Beth Ditto struck out on her own but remains a passionate firebrand.

young 14-year-old girl who couldn't drive yet and was just starting to get into punk rock" compared with him being "this supercool 16-year-old. So I always had that complex with him. If Nathan made Gossip hip," she adds, "I made it accessible. That was what was really good about us together."

But now, in the wake of Howdeshell moving back to Arkansas, the band breaking up, and

last year's "Fake Sugar," Ditto is flying solo. Touring behind the album, she says, was hardly an adjustment: "I think it's still a pretty similar experience (to Gossip)." Writing the album, on the other hand — especially following the demise of her band, the death of her father and a tumultuous time with her wife of four years, Kristin Ogata — proved decidedly challenging. "It was really weird," she says of the

sessions for her solo debut with Grammy-nominated pop producer Jennifer Decilveo (Andra Day, Melanie Martinez) and a band of session musicians including Queens of the Stone Age bassist Michael Shuman.

"I always compare it to where you've never dated anyone else," Ditto says. "In terms of the band, I married my high school sweetheart and never went outside of that. And then all of a sudden

When: 8 p.m. Monday

Where: Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: \$20; 773-525-2501 or www.lh-st.com

you're dating somebody else and you have to learn how to ask people out again, you have to learn how to kiss again, you have to learn how to be confident again."

Ditto has long been painfully honest in her songs, and on "Fake Sugar" cuts like "Savoir Faire," where she sings "I get so tired of feeling sick and tired," she's no different. This open-book mentality became her calling card following the 2007 Gossip single "Standing in the Way of Control" that, in addition to shooting her and her band to global fame, saw the then-23-year-old explicitly calling out Republican politicians who opposed gay marriage.

Of course, Ditto says, she wishes her former band's most famous song had by now lost its cultural relevance. Sadly, she believes its message is "more relevant than it ever was. It's really crazy. I did not see that coming."

Get Ditto going on the Trump administration, and she's not likely to stay quiet. The singer says she shudders to think how some of her closest high school friends from Arkansas voted for Trump: "It's like we couldn't even be friends now. I am one of those people where if you voted for Trump I can't be your friend. That's what family is for. Those spots are reserved for people I have no choice but to love. Friends don't get that privilege."

And when the self-described feminist Ditto is asked about her relative quiet in regards to the #MeToo moment, she says, "Of course I support it 110 percent but sometimes a feminist has to take a little break from being in the thick of it because it can be so exhausting and really triggering."

Still, Ditto says she remains a vocal champion for the disenfranchised and underserved. But getting into the #MeToo fight "doesn't feel like a healthy space for my brain right now. I would definitely shout to the rafters if I needed to but right now I want to be involved in a more faceless way. I don't really feel like sharing my story yet." But, she concludes, "sadly, I don't know a single woman that hasn't had an experience (involving sexual harassment) or doesn't have a story. Not one."

Dan Hyman is a freelance writer.

onthetown@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @chitribent

POP MUSIC PREVIEW

Rogue Wave revisiting sonic scene of tragedies

BY ALLISON STEWART
Chicago Tribune

In September 2007, Rogue Wave released "Asleep at Heaven's Gate," an album the Oakland, Calif.-based band hoped and expected would be regarded as its masterpiece.

It arrived in the middle of a string of tragedies. The band's former bassist, Evan Farrell, died in a fire; frontman Zach Schwartz suffered an injury that threatened to end his career; drummer Pat Spurgeon had kidney disease.

It was one of the darkest times in the band's history but also one of the most hopeful: "Asleep at Heaven's Gate" was ambitious and complicated and dark, but commercially accessible too. Rogue Wave thought it might be its big break.

The band is touring to commemorate the album's 10th anniversary (it plays Lincoln Hall on Thursday), and rehearsals have brought everything back to the surface, all the misery and promise of that period. "I don't spend a lot of time looking back, and I really hadn't reflected on that time at all," Schwartz, who goes by Zach Rogue, said in a phone interview. "It's a very strange reminder of that time and how much has changed."

Schwartz formed Rogue Wave after being laid off from a web development company. The band released two albums for Sub Pop and settled into a career as a gifted but vaguely indistinct indie jangle-pop band, the kind you've heard playing in the background

When: 8 p.m. Thursday

Where: Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: \$22-\$25 (21+); 773-525-2501 or www.lh-st.com

on mid-2000s television shows like "The O.C." or "Heroes" but can never quite place.

By the time the band signed to Brushfire Records, a label owned by Schwartz's friend Jack Johnson, it was ready for something bigger. "When we were making ('Heaven's Gate'), I felt like it was going to be our statement," Schwartz said. "What we ended up doing before was some good songs, but this was a leap for us creatively. This is what I'd always aspired to do."

"Asleep at Heaven's Gate," recently reissued as an expanded double album, is a work of outsized ambition, a dreamily baroque, reverb-heavy headphones album. "That record was our best collaborative moment," Schwartz said. "It was the most excited, the most freaked out we were, and the most excited we were to make a recording. It's definitely the most immersive recording experience we ever had. We were living and breathing it. It nearly killed (producer) Roger Moutenot."

"Asleep at Heaven's Gate" made the Top 10 on Billboard's Heatseekers chart, but critics were mostly unenthusiastic. Schwartz read the first few reviews, then resolved not to read any more. "In my mind, we had



ANDREW PAYNTER PHOTO

Indie-pop band Rogue Wave, including frontman Zach Schwartz, left, and drummer Pat Spurgeon, is touring to commemorate the 10th anniversary of its album "Asleep at Heaven's Gate."

made the best thing since sliced bread," he said. "I think anything would have been a letdown. It seemed like the reception was OK. It didn't get the critical acclaim that I wanted it to have. I wanted it to just explode. People seemed to like it, but it didn't get what I wanted it to get."

"Asleep at Heaven's Gate" birthed a radio hit ("Lake Michigan," a disembodied waltz the band wrote and recorded in just a few hours) and led to tours with artists like Feist and Death Cab for Cutie. It established the band's position in the middle of the indie-pop hierarchy — slightly below the Shins, slightly above Nada Surf.

Schwartz, who had expected more, struggled not to take its reception personally. "I was so emotionally invested in the record," he said. "I felt like if anybody likes rock or indie rock and is not responding to this, I've failed as a human being. If my manifesto is not liked or ignored, I failed in life."

Offstage, life grew darker. Ex-bassist Farrell, who departed the band before the recording of "Asleep at Heaven's Gate," died in a house fire in Oakland in late 2007. Spurgeon, who was born with one kidney, struggled to find a suitable organ donor. He took his dialysis machine on tour while awaiting a kidney, events chronicled in the documentary "D Tour," which aired on PBS. (He eventually received a transplant and remains in good health.)

"There's been all kinds of drama surrounding our physical lives," said Schwartz, who had two slipped disks in his neck, a debilitating injury he feared would end his career. "I was in so much pain. I was bedridden for almost four months, and I lost feeling in my arm and my hand." His doctor warned him that he needed to avoid looking down too often, which left out guitar playing. "It was awful," said Schwartz, who has recovered. "It was a really dark time. I went to some pretty terrible places, but

everyone has struggles."

"Asleep at Heaven's Gate" may have been underwhelmingly received, but it still proved difficult to top. "Did we fulfill the promise of that record? Probably not," said Schwartz. "Permalight," the band's electro-inspired 2010 follow-up, "was completely despised. ... It definitely wasn't what I wanted to do."

The band has released three more albums, and Schwartz, who has also teamed with Courtney Jaye for the side project Rogue + Jaye, estimates he has at least 50 tracks in various stages of completion. Even if none winds up rivaling the songs on "Asleep at Heaven's Gate," Schwartz seems to have long ago made his peace with that: "When we were mixing it, I felt like if I got hit by a truck, I'd be OK because I'd said what I wanted to say."

Allison Stewart is a freelancer.

onthetown@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @chitribent

WEEKEND DINING

JUST OPENED

Octavio crafts modern Mexican

BY GRACE WONG
Chicago Tribune

Opened Tuesday, Octavio Cantina & Kitchen brings more Mexican cuisine to Andersonville's Clark Street corridor.

The owner is the Munster Restaurant Group, the same team behind Lady Gregory's and Wilde Bar & Restaurant. Chef Daniel Munoz said the group had strong ties to the Andersonville neighborhood and wanted to bring some variation to the kinds of restaurants that already exist.

"There are a lot of places that have been there for a while, and people have their favorites," Munoz said, "but I think there really isn't anything like what Octavio is going to be." (Cescas Margarita Bar & Grill operates a few blocks from Octavio.)

Munoz's father is from Jalisco, Mexico, and the younger Munoz visited the Mexican state for a month and a half prior to opening, noting that his own background has heavily influenced the creation of the menu.

Munoz said he and chefs Dudley Nieto and Tobie Nidetz (who helped develop the menu) aim to stay true to pan-Mexican cuisine, along with using local ingredients.

"We're not trying to veer off into something too far-fetched," Munoz said. "It's a modern Mexican restaurant." For instance, using 10 different chiles in traditional and contemporary fashion.

Munoz said that while he and the staff are using traditional techniques, they also kept in mind that the restaurant had to be approachable for the neighborhood.

"We wanted to make sure we have a balance of foodie-type menu items and something that if a family came in and they're not looking to be too adventurous, to have options as well," he said.

Take the pulpo al pastor, octopus marinated in spices found in pork al pastor, paired with a chile morita salsa, jicama pineapple salad and avocado salsa verde. Don't miss the



KRISTEN NORMAN/PHOTOS FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Octavio Cantina & Kitchen, from the Munster Restaurant Group, occupies the former Acre Restaurant & Ombra spot in Andersonville. The beverage program will showcase tequilas, mezcal and sotols.

poblano mole, served with roasted chicken, which is cooked for four hours with more than 15 ingredients. The menu spans multiple Mexican regions, with tacos, enchiladas, aguachiles and wood oven-grilled entrees. Octavio Cantina will offer brunch seven days a week with additional items like an avocado tostada, cornmeal waffle and chicken, and chilaquiles.

Matthew Frederick, who created the cocktails at Logan Square's Mi Tocaya Antojeria, will showcase tequilas, mezcal and sotols in the beverage program, as well as highlight Mexican-inspired cocktails. The drinks menu also will feature slushies and even a nonalcoholic tequila. Cocktails like the El Humo "Smoke" cocktail use El Buho Especial Mezcal, lapsang souchong tea, barrel-aged orange and angostura bitters, agave nectar and sweet-grass smoke, while the Flames of Passion cocktail is made with passion fruit syrup, a house-made hot sauce and sparkling wine.



Octavio's menu spans multiple Mexican regions, with tacos, enchiladas, aguachiles and wood oven-grilled entrees.

Named after Octavio Paz, a Nobel Prize-winning writer, the restaurant continues Munster's tradition of naming its projects after famous poets and writers. The space occupies the former Acre Restaurant & Ombra spot.

The interior of the restaurant will feature art like the 30-foot map of Mexico by Chris Silva and a portrait of Paz by Cecilio

Garcia, both local artists.

"(Octavio Paz) was very big on representing Mexico as a whole, so that's what we're trying to do," Munoz said. 5310 N. Clark St., 773-293-1223, www.mrgchicago.com/restaurant/octavio

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SCOTT THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Learn how to decorate and glaze doughnuts at Bon Vivant Cakes, owned by Emily Nejad, above.

DO MORE!

Bon Vivant Cakes will host a Drunken Donuts class at West Loop's Saint Lou's Assembly on Sunday. Participants will learn how to make a cocktail, with help from Saint Lou's Assembly and Moneygun's beverage director, Donovan Mitchem, before learning how to decorate and glaze doughnuts. Participants will leave with a goodie bag, recipes for doughnut glaze and six Instagram-worthy doughnuts to photograph or give as gifts. Tickets are \$70 per person. 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. 664 W. Lake St., 312-600-0600, www.saintlouschicago.com



KATIE SCHIEWE PHOTO

Band of Bohemia has new brunch items, such as everything bagels.

SPEND LESS!

Band of Bohemia has a new brunch menu with innovative items like a superstacked caviar crepe cake made with Ossetra Reserve caviar, smoked sturgeon, creme fraiche and cultured butter, or breakfast favorites like an everything bagel with gravlax, cream cheese and cornichon. For those who want something sweet, the country's sole Michelin-starred brewery will use its house-brewed beer to make a Bohemian creme doughnut with a chocolate stout glaze and Bohemian malted filling. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 4710 N. Ravenswood Ave., 773-271-4710, www.bandofbohemia.com

— Grace Wong

WHERE TO EAT NOW

Recent restaurant reviews and profiles from Tribune food critic Phil Vettel, staff reporters and freelance writers. No stars indicates a restaurant has been profiled but not reviewed, and does not reflect on quality of dining.

CITY

A10 ★★★ Named for a motorway that connects Italy to France, A10 offers traditional-with-a-twist Italian and French dishes from Yusho chef Matthias Merges. Small plates include bar-food riffs; large plates shine with interesting accompaniments. Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday, brunch Sunday. Prices: Entrees \$14-\$30. 1462 E. 53rd St., 773-288-1010. — Phil Vettel

Acadia ★★★ Chef Ryan McCaskey has quietly turned his South Loop restaurant into one of the finest in Chicago. The five- and 10-course tasting menus include homages to McCaskey's beloved Maine; in the front lounge, a bar menu includes oysters, chicken wings and a seriously good burger. Open: Dinner Tuesday-Sunday. Prices: Five-course menu \$115, 10-course \$175. 1639 S. Wabash Ave., 312-360-9500. — P.V.

Band of Bohemia ★★★ In a sprawling brewery loaded with offbeat furnishings, find a menu so focused on suds that appetizers are listed by beer match. Yet there is also a great wine list to browse, not to mention forward-thinking dishes (vegetables get exceptionally good care here). Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. 4710 N. Ravenswood Ave., 773-271-4710. — P.V.

Bad Hunter ★★ Greens and grains rule at this almost-vegetarian restaurant, though skewers of chicken thigh or charred sirloin will keep any carnivore companions happy. The drink list is notable for its clever cocktails and painstakingly sourced wines.

Open: Lunch and dinner daily; brunch weekends. Prices: Main courses \$14-\$20. 802 W. Randolph St., 312-265-1745. — P.V.

Cafe Marie-Jeanne ★★ Run by husband-wife partners Michael Simmons (chef) and Val Szafranski (front-of-house), Cafe Marie-Jeanne is an intensely personal operation, one whose easygoing attitude and excellent kitchen work make the Humboldt Park spot a neighborhood treasure. Open: Breakfast, lunch and dinner Wednesday-Monday. Prices: Main courses \$12-\$35. 1001 N. California Ave., 773-904-7660. — P.V.

Elske ★★★ Danish is more a state of mind than of menu at David and Anna Posey's West Loop restaurant, named for the Danish word for "love" and as warm as a lingering hug. Choose the six-course tasting menu or order a la carte, save room for Anna Posey's desserts and prepare to be wowed. Open: Dinner Wednesday-Sunday. Prices: Tasting menu \$80; a la carte dishes \$15-\$22. 1350 W. Randolph St., 312-733-1314. — P.V.

Entente ★★★ Ty Fujimura (Arami) has another hit with this cozy Lakeview restaurant, which features the talents of chef Brian Fisher (previously at Schwa) and pastry chef Mari Katsumura (formerly Blackbird, Acadia). Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. Prices: Main courses \$15-\$33. 3056 N. Lincoln Ave., 872-206-8553. — P.V.

Flip Burger The basic "Flip" burger has a brioche bun featuring an egg-wash lacquer so shiny that it channels the hood of a showroom Porsche. In between that bun is a double patty made from ground short rib and chuck griddled on a flat top to medium rare. Is it Chicago's best burger? Maybe. Open 4-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 4-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Sushi-San ★★ At Sushi-San, the Lettuce Entertain You group is doing for sushi what it did for ramen noodles at nearby Ramen-San, with four distinct dining experiences. At most tables you'll peruse the single-page menu and choose among various nigiri, sashimi and charcoal-grilled items. Conspicuous highlights include the Tako taco, above, featuring soft octopus, avocado, fried garlic and spicy aioli gathered in "shells" of crispy nori. On different visits you can also experience the late-night menu, the various hand-roll offerings and the reservations-only omakase option. Open: Dinner daily. Prices: A la carte items \$6-\$20; nigiri platters \$29-\$98; omakase menu \$88. (No cash accepted.) 63 W. Grand Ave., 312-828-0575. — Phil Vettel

Prices: Burgers from \$10. 1141 N. Ashland Ave.; no phone. — Michael Nagrant

Gayle's Best Ever Grilled Cheese Farmers market favorite Gayle Voss panini presses grilled cheese sandwiches at her new permanent home in the Block 37 pedway. Follow your nose to find butter-browned slabs of sourdough stuffed with fatty farm cheese and seasonal ingredients. Open: Breakfast and lunch weekdays. Prices: Sandwiches \$6 and up. 108 N. State St., pedway level, 312-285-2202. — Louisa Chu

Jade Court ★★ The restaurant is home to arguably the best Chinese food in town. The owners are Eddy Cheung and his daughter, Carol, who owned and operated Phoenix restaurant for 20 years. The menu is typical of most Chinese menus — dozens of

poultry, pork, beef, seafood and noodle dishes — but the way to order is to ask what the kitchen is up to that evening. Open: Lunch and dinner Wednesday-Monday. Prices: Main courses \$13.95-\$26.95. 626 S. Racine Ave., 312-929-4828. — P.V.

Kimski Chef Won Kim creates a true 50-50 Korean-Polish situation that your babcia (Polish grandma) or halmoni (Korean grandma) would appreciate. Maria's Standard (\$9) is the perfect example: a fat, smoky Polish sausage bursting with garlic and spice that's remixed with a soulful, rice-perfumed, soju-infused mustard and tangy kimchi kraut. Weekly and daily specials. Dinners to late night, Tuesday to Saturday, brunch and dinner Sunday. Prices: \$9 to \$13. 960 W. 31st St., 773-890-0588. — M.N.

Luella's Southern Kitchen This restaurant could very well be in the South. Shrimp and grits taste like those of Mr. B's Bistro in New Orleans, and buttermilk-fried chicken thighs are expertly prepared, served atop yeasty waffles. Open: Lunch and dinner Tuesday-Friday, brunch and dinner Saturday-Sunday. Prices: Entrees \$7-\$15. 4609 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-961-8196. — K.P.

Majani Majani, an African-American vegan restaurant in the South Shore neighborhood, serves what owners describe as "soulful vegan cuisine." Try the barbecue cauliflower, chickpea-batter-dipped, deep-fried and tossed in a tangy house-made barbecue sauce, it is the most popular dish. A sear on the grill caramelizes the crust and keeps it crunchy. Open: Lunch and dinner Tuesday-Saturday, lunch only on Sundays. Prices: \$6-\$16 appetizers and entrees. 7167 S. Exchange Ave., 773-359-4019. — Louisa Chu

Mi Tocaya Antojeria ★★ Diana Davila, the opening chef at Cantina 1910, is back with her own Mexican restaurant, serving food that's creative but still rooted in tradition. Try the "peanut butter y lengua," crisped cubes of braised beef tongue in a complex and delicious sauce of peanuts, cured tomato and chile de arbol. Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. Prices: Small plates \$8-\$13, large plates \$24. 2800 N. Logan Blvd., 872-315-3947. — P.V.

Oriole ★★★ Oriole will dazzle any diner who can find its gritty location. There's a set menu of 15 to 20 courses each night, with optional drink pairings. Service is superb, but the focus belongs on Noah Sandoval's simple-looking but complex plates. Extraordinary. Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. Prices: \$175. 661 W. Walnut St., 312-877-5339. — P.V.

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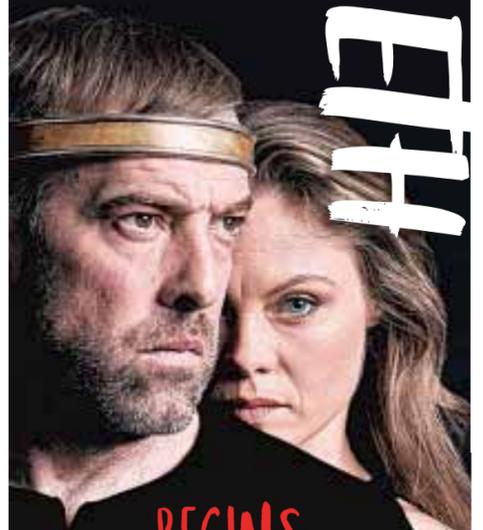
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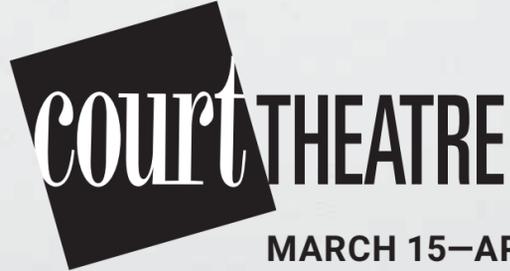
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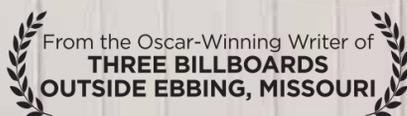
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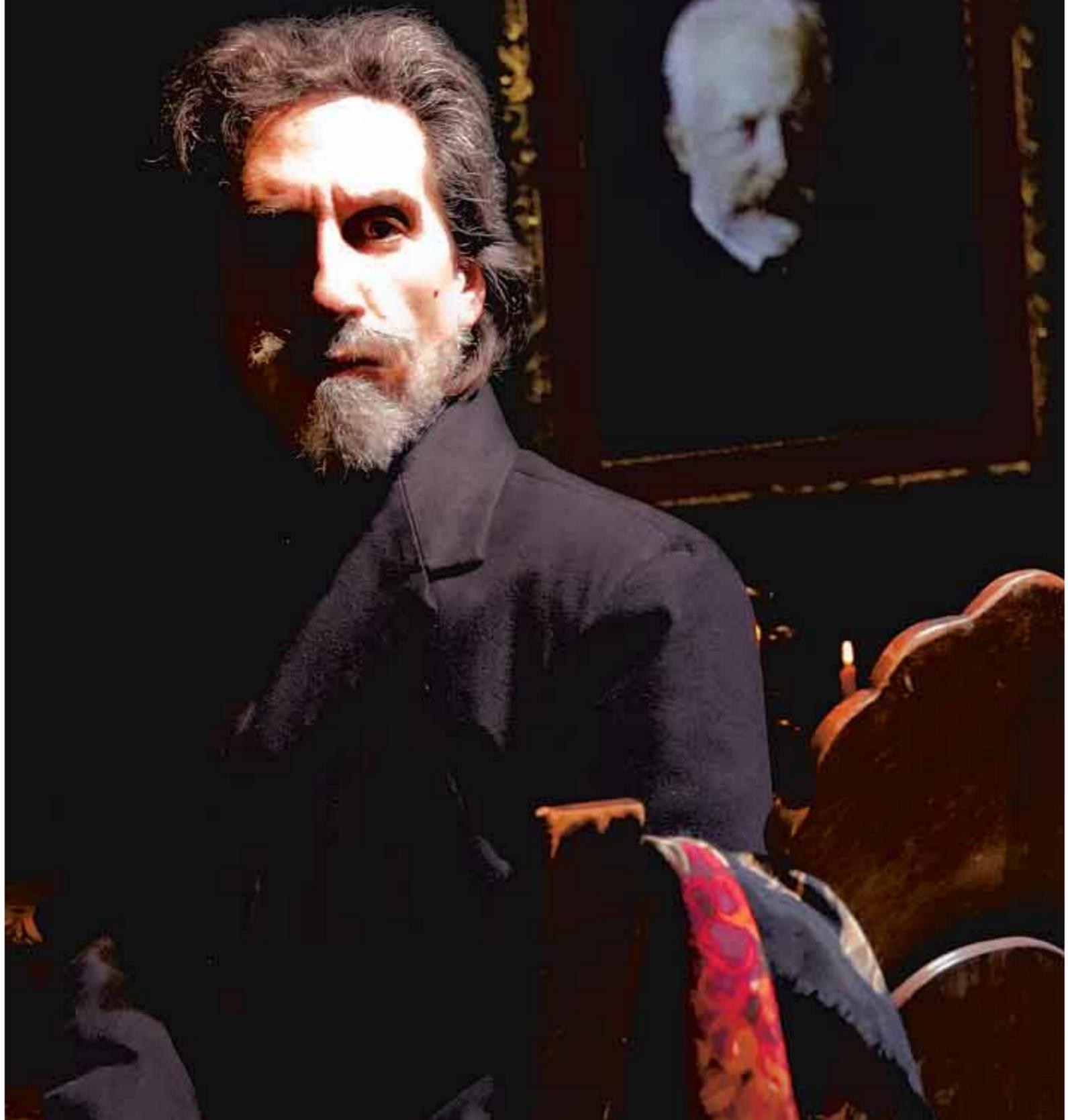
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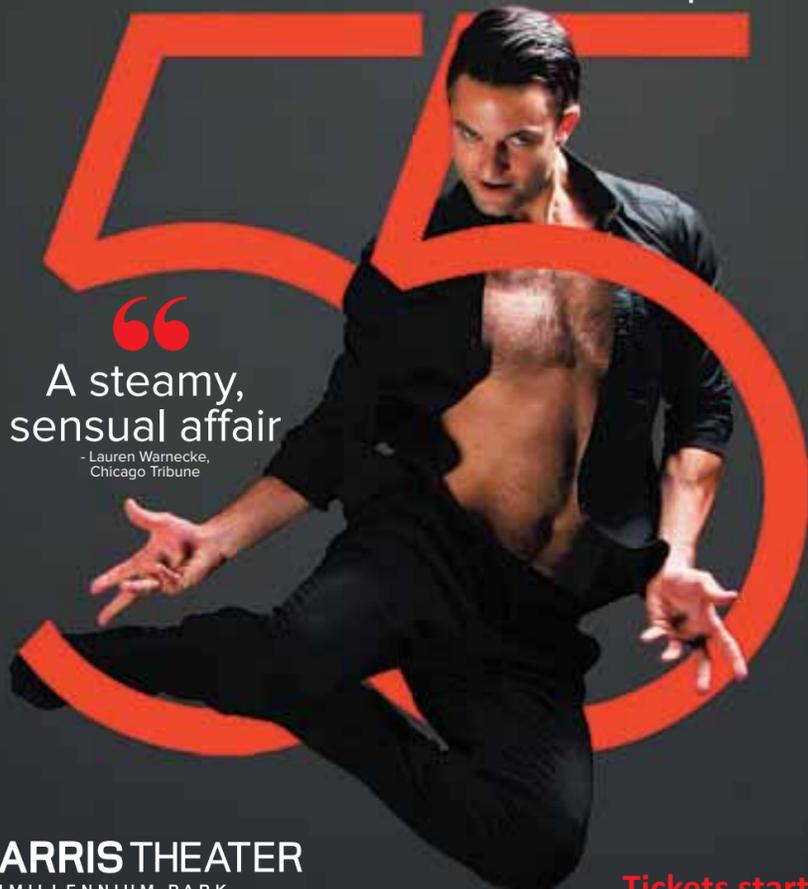
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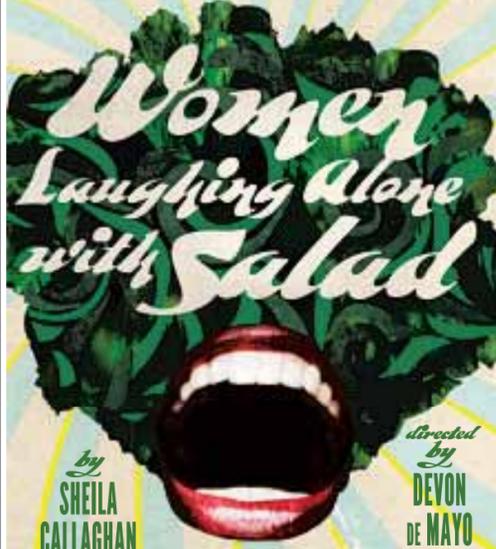
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THE THEATER LOOP

BY CHRIS JONES



2 promising shows for Chicago

The Broadway Playhouse has a new show celebrating female friendship in the 1950s and 1960s. And after a long spell outside of the spotlight, the Apollo Theater in Lincoln Park is coming back to life.

Finally, some life in the dormant commercial sector of long-running shows in Chicago.

The new commercial attraction at the storied Apollo — itself newly surrounded by hundreds of fresh apartments and condominiums — will be “Djembe! The Show.” Although the show is coming here from Europe, it’s billed as a celebration of “Mother Africa,” not just a history of music but a history of humanity to boot.

In essence, “Djembe” (the title comes from the rope-tuned, skin-covered goblet drum of that name and is pronounced JEM-bay) features drumming and musical performances by a cast composed mostly of West African musicians. Although this is a for-profit endeavor, “Djembe” is a different kind of sit-down show — one more in tune with what audiences value these days.

There is a philanthropic element: Merchandise from a village in Senegal will be sold in the lobby. And there is an interactive element: You will be handed a djembe and invited to play along. The music in the piece is partly composed of traditional West African beats and partly of djembe-infused takes on the playlist of Western artists like Beyoncé, Michael Jackson and Pharrell Williams.

“Djembe,” which was created by Doug Manuel and the Cirque du Soleil alum West Hyler, is not a new show. Under its old title, “Do You Speak Djembe?,” the piece has toured throughout Europe (especially in France and Switzerland) and also shown up at various corporate events in the United States — an Oprah event, a TED talk, savvy stuff like that. But the Chicago run of a show that has gone through some subsequent



‘DJEMBE! THE SHOW’ PHOTO

“Djembe! The Show” is coming to the Apollo Theater in Chicago beginning June 13. It marks a return for the Lincoln Park theater.



CAROL ROSEGG

“A Taste of Things to Come,” seen in New York in 2016, will open at Chicago’s Broadway Playhouse later this month.

development is being billed as the United States premiere (“Djembe” has not yet been seen in New York). It never has been seen in a U.S. theater before.

The plan is for a multimonth Chicago engagement, with performances beginning June 13. A spokesman for the show said that the producers hoped to find many of the necessary performers from djembe players who live in Chicago (there is a sizable community of skilled players here). It’s an open run — tickets initially are going on sale through the end

of the summer, but there are high hopes for a long run at the same theater that kept “Million Dollar Quartet” going for years.

The Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place is firing up much sooner. The new show there is called “A Taste of Things to Come,” and the influences include the Betty Crocker cookbook and the writings of Betty Friedan. There’s a live, all-girl-band and the setting is Winnetka in the 1950s and 1960s.

The grand plan, according to the producer Staci Levine? Brand this show as a kind of

“Forever Plaid” for women.

The premise of the show, which begins performances Tuesday, is that four Winnetka women have founded a cooking club — they want to win a big cash prize in a Betty Crocker competition — but this is a gathering that not only allows them to make food but to talk and sing about their problems. When they sing, they sing an original score penned by the writers Debra Barsha and Holly Levin, written in the style of the eras. In Act 1, we meet the women in the 1950s. After intermission, 10 years have gone by and the times, they have a—changed. The music adapts accordingly.

“A Taste of Things to Come” has already been seen off-Broadway at the York Theatre Company in 2016. Reviews were pretty decent. But although the physical production and the director (Lorin Latarro) have remained the same, this is otherwise a new show. “We have always felt,” Levine says, “that this show was going to have the most success outside of New York.”

Levine says that “Taste” has been tweaked and polished, with particular attention paid to increasing the depth of the characters.

Broadway in Chicago, which operates the Apollo Theater Playhouse, has included the show on its subscription season, which will carry it through at least six weeks. But Levine said that the hope is to stay at least twice that long.

“Djembe! The Show” is coming to the Apollo Theater, beginning June 13; 773-935-6100 and www.apollochicago.com. “A Taste of Things to Come” is coming to the Broadway Playhouse, March 20 to April 29; 800-775-2000 and www.broadwayinchicago.com.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

cjones5@chicago.tribune.com

OPENINGS

Friday

“**The Brink!**”: The Walkabout ensemble presents a devised play set at a cafe on the edge of the world, with jazz standards and the poetry of Gertrude Stein. *Through March 30 at Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave.; www.walkabouttheater.org*

“**The Next Big Thing!**”: A small-town teenager has ‘90s rock ‘n’ roll dreams in the Factory Theater’s latest. *Through April 21 at Factory Theater, 1623 W. Howard St.; 773-305-5775 and www.thefactorytheater.com*

Saturday

“**Through the Elevated Line!**”: Silk Road Rising stages a world premiere drama about a gay man who flees Iran and ends up at his sister’s Chicago home. *Through April 15 at Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St.; www.silkroadrising.org*

Monday

“**An Enemy of the People!**”: Robert Falls takes on Ibsen’s timely drama about the political battles fought after a water pollution crisis strikes. *Through April 15 at Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.; 312-443-3800 and www.goodmantheatre.org*

Tuesday

“**Women Laughing Alone With Salad!**”: Theater Wit presents a satirical feminist comedy inspired by an internet meme. *Through April 29 at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.; 773-975-8150 and www.theaterwit.org*

Thursday

“**Bad Girls: The Stylists!**”: Akvavit Theatre’s latest is a Danish comedy set in a salon where women strive for perfection. *Through April 14 at Strawdog Theatre Company, 1802 W. Berenice Ave.; www.chicagonordic.org*

“**Merchant on Venice!**”: Rasaka Theatre Company and Vistal Theatre of Chicago team up to produce the Los Angeles-set drama about clashing cultures. *Through April 15 at Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.; www.greenhousetheater.org*

CHRIS JONES RECOMMENDS

“**Anna Karenina**” ★★★ There aren’t many towns in the world where you can roll up and find a completely new adaptation of the jottings of Leo Tolstoy. As you can currently find in “Anna Karenina” at Lifeline Theatre in Rogers Park. And Lifeline pulls it off. This world-premiere adaptation by Jessica Wright Buha dramatizes the whole tragic story, all through dialogue and in less than three hours. Buha goes mostly with the sharp edges of the love triangle involving Anna (Ise Zacharias), hubby Karenin (Michael Reyes) and, of course, her beloved Count Vronsky (Eric Gerard). *Through April 8 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave.; \$40 at 773-761-4477 and www.lifeline-theatre.com*

“**Blue Man Group**” ★★★½ “Blue Man Group” has been playing at Briar Street since 1997, a remarkable run of 20 years. Open run at the Briar Street Theatre, 3133 N. Halsted St.; \$49-\$69 at www.ticketmaster.com

“**Bunny Bunny: Gilda Radner, A Sort of Love Story**” ★★★ From the moment he first met her behind a potted plant in 1975, comedy writer Alan Zweibel loved Gilda Radner. This play by Zweibel now at the Mercury Theater makes that very clear. Radner, who died in 1989, was one of the original cast members of “Saturday Night Live” and one of the funniest and most influential women in American comedy. That’s made very clear by Dana Tretta, who plays Radner in director Warner Crocker’s production. Tretta captures the essence of Radner by homing in on her vulnerability and emotional openness, not her wacky bombast. *Through April 1 at Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Ave.; \$30-\$55 at www.mercurytheaterchicago.com*

“**Cabaret**” ★★★★★ Kelly Felthous, who plays Sally Bowles in the Paramount Theatre’s “Cabaret,” did not get a lick of applause opening night at the end of the show’s famous title number. It wasn’t frostbite, the audience was just that moved. In director Katie Spelman’s production in Aurora, Felthous’ Sally is closer to what John Kander and Fred Ebb first had in mind, I think, a modest talent addicted to the attention and the party, refusing to believe what is happening in Berlin. She is complicit, this production makes clear. Just like the emcee, played with a terrifying level of emotional denial by Joseph Anthony Byrd. This is a remarkable showcase of what this young Chicago director can do. *Through March 18 at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora; \$36 to \$64 at 630-896-6666 or www.paramountaurora.com*

“**Dream Freaks Fall From Space**” ★★★★★ A sleep-deprived woman heads into a Brookstone. “What about a demo of this white noise machine?” asks the African-American salesman. “I don’t have one black friend, I have two ...” That chance for everyone to laugh at race got a huge response at Second City, where the terrific new revue “Dream Freaks Fall From Space” (directed by Ryan Bernier) is a return to form for the storied Chicago company. *Open run on the Second City Mainstage, 1616 N. Wells St.; \$29-\$46 at www.secondcity.com*

“**Hamilton**” ★★★★★ This heartland “Hamilton” is performed by players mostly younger than the original New York cast. But it is more in touch with the fundamental scrappiness of the early years of a spectacular democratic experiment. And *Open run at CIBC Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St.; \$65-\$400 at www.broadwayinchicago.com*



CLAIRE DEMOS PHOTO

Mariah Sydnei Gordon, from front, Gregory Fenner and Jennifer Glasse star.

HOT TICKET

“Hang Man” ★★★

At the beginning of “Hang Man,” in the tiny Gift Theatre in Jefferson Park, an African-American Mississippian climbs up high in the sudden darkness, inserts his neck into a noose and swings. It was enough at Friday night’s opening to elicit gasps from audience members. This world premiere by Stacy Osei-Kuffour doesn’t get much easier from there. “Hang Man” is a work about racism and self-loathing; there has not been a lynching, at least not in how that heinous word usually is understood. You will not easily arrive at villains and heroes on Osei-Kuffour’s watch. *Through April 29 at Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave.; \$30-\$40 at 773-283-7071 and www.thegifttheatre.org*

“Merrily We Roll Along” ★★★

Director Michael Weber’s Porchlight Music Theatre production of “Merrily We Roll Along” sits very snugly within the Ruth Page Center for the Arts. His interpretation doesn’t range stark and dark enough for me, but let’s stipulate that the abyss is impossibly wide in this particular Stephen Sondheim musical. Franklin (Jim DeSelm) is a gifted composer who likes money. Charley (Matt Crowle) is a gifted lyricist who believes in art. “Charley,” asks Franklin at one point, “why can’t it be like it was?” The show’s point — made in some of Sondheim’s most devastating lyrics — is that life beats the nice out of you. “You and me,” says Charley, “we were nicer then.” *Through March 17 at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn St.; \$33-60 at www.porchlightmusictheatre.org*

“She the People” ★★★

“She the People” is a new revue at Second City featuring five women and the subtitle “A Girlfriends’ Guide to Sisters Doing It For Themselves.” Much of the show was penned before the current #MeToo movement, and its references to Ross and Rachel feel positively quaint. But things pick up in the second half when it snags an audience member for a game show and, inevitably and not unkindly, reveals she knows more about the Kardashians than ISIS. Up-and-comer Maria Randazzo is the natural leader here and her range is striking. She can play a CEO and a quirky, wacky woman — someone who “works with kids, animals or coffee” — and you believe her as both. *Through May 27 in the UP Comedy Club at Second City, 230 W. North Ave.; \$26-\$41 at 312-662-4562 and www.secondcity.com*

“Six Corners” ★★★½

Are cops a force for good? That’s the question writer Keith Huff has pondered in his compelling mystery plays about the Chicago Police Department. And what about the city in which they are obliged to ply their trade? “Six Corners” is Huff’s latest, set mostly in the police station at Belmont and Western. Two partners, played with veracity by Peter DeFaria and Monica Orozco, struggle not just with solving a murder but with getting their other half to agree on the same narrative. *Through March 24 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.; \$19-\$49 at www.americanbluestheater.com*

“Southern Gothic” ★★★

A house has been built inside the Windy City Playhouse on Irving Park Road. Not the usual stage set. As you walk into the theater

for the play “Southern Gothic” by Leslie Liautaud, you’re asked to enter what looks like a real house, replete with a lime-green kitchen, created by set designer Scott Davis for director David Bell’s production. You and your 27 fellow audience members join four couples, variously loving, scheming, cheating and feuding, whose political and personal travails make up a play set entirely during a fraught dinner party in Ashford, Ga., in 1961. Thanks to this theatrical cast, it all works spectacularly well. *Through April 22 at the Windy City Playhouse, 3014 W. Irving Park Road; \$65-\$85 at 773-891-8985 and www.windy-city-playhouse.com*

“The Wolves” ★★★

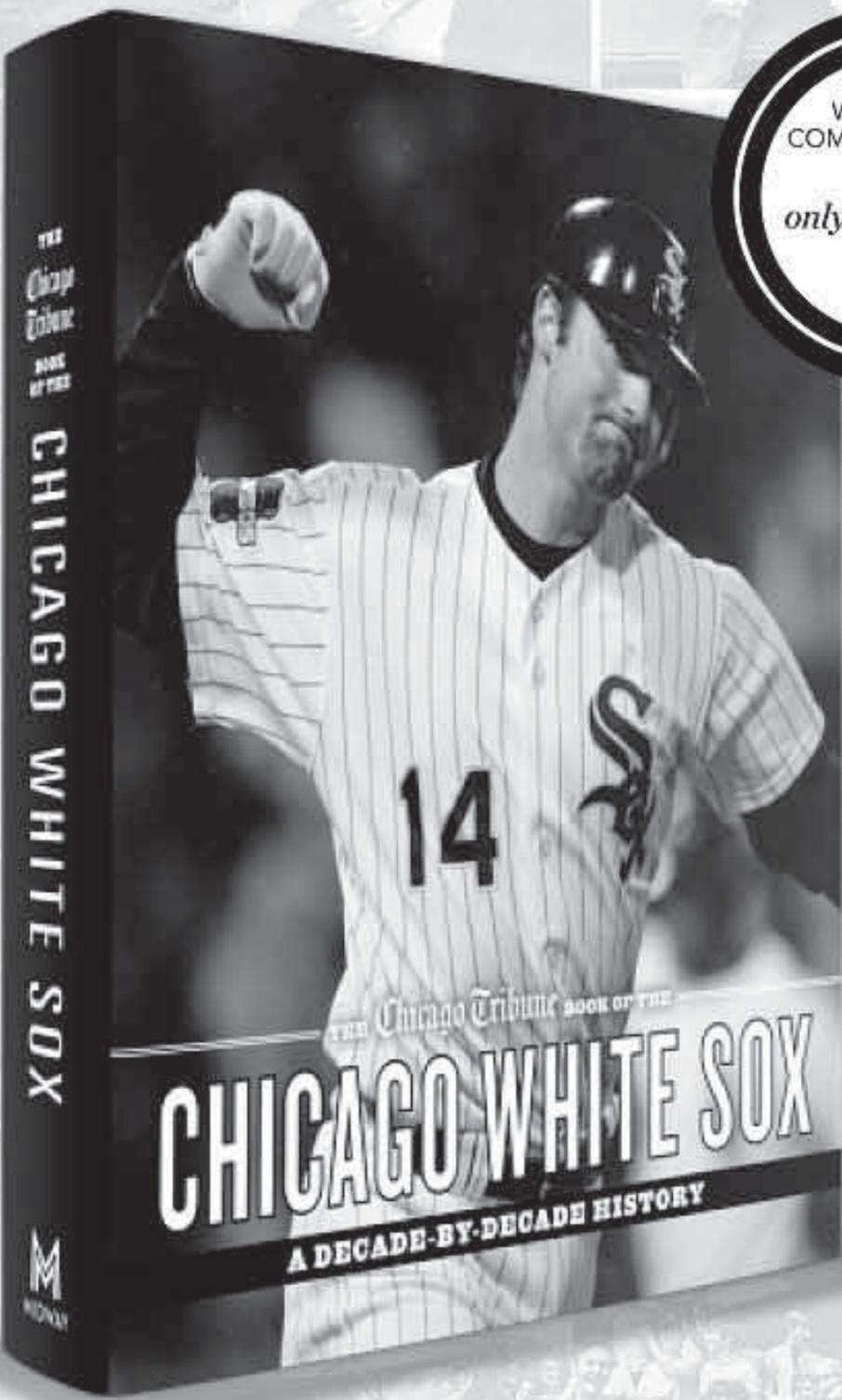
The Wolves are players on a fictional, under-17 girls soccer team in this Pulitzer Prize finalist by Sarah DeLappe now at the Goodman Theatre. “The Wolves” isn’t so much about the world’s most beautiful game as it’s about what it feels like to be an adolescent girl, living and moving in a pack. Under the talented director Vanessa Stalling, the ensemble cast is uniformly excellent, although #46 (Erin O’Shea) not only is especially moving but the most credible as a league soccer player. If you have a soccer-playing girl at home, you don’t want to miss this piece. *Through March 18 at the Goodman’s Owen Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.; \$10-\$47 at 312-443-3800 and www.goodmantheatre.org*

“Yank! A World War II Love Story” ★★★

At the Pride Arts Center, the big draw at the moment is the Chicago premiere of “Yank! A World War II Love Story,” as penned by two gay brothers, Joseph (the composer) and David (the bookwriter and lyricist) Zellnik. As performed by a fresh, non-Equity company of 11 all-singing, all-dancing men and one woman, Molly LeCaptain. *Through March 18 at Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway; \$30-\$40 at www.pridefilmsandplays.com*

Chicago Tribune A HOME RUN FOR WHITE SOX FANS

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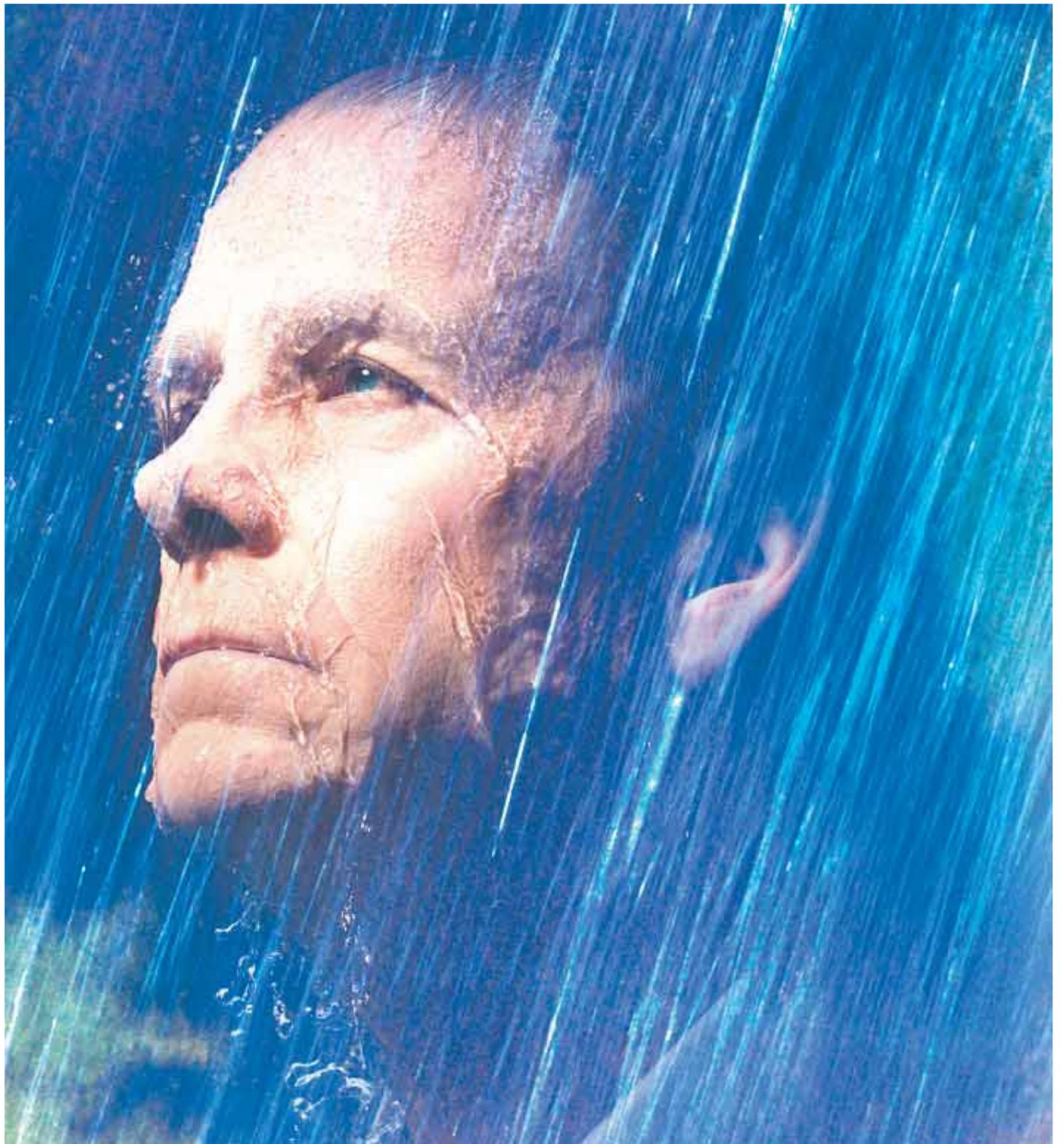


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TIP SHEET



Keeping teen drivers safe

My son just turned 15, a birthday I've been dreading — not just because my sweet little boy is growing up, but also because this birthday marks the beginning of his life as a driver. For parents like me, “teen drivers” are two of the most frightening words in the English language. That's with good reason: Crashes are the leading cause of teen deaths, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

As my son starts to prepare for driver's education, I thought it timely to share some safe-driving tips for the newest — and most inexperienced — driver in your household.

No drinking and driving: As adults, we know how important it is not to drive after drinking alcohol, but teens need to be reminded. Twenty percent of 15- to 19-year-old drivers involved in deadly crashes had been drinking alcohol despite the fact that they were too young to legally purchase it.

Buckle up: Seat belts save lives — and they may save the life of your teen. In 2014, 53 percent of teens aged 15 to 19 killed in passenger vehicle crashes died because they weren't buckled up.

No more distractions: Tell your teen driver that a text, social media update or even a call can wait when they're driving. Fifteen- to 19-year-olds have the highest percentage of drivers distracted by cellphone use and involved in a fatal crash. Research shows that texting while driving increases your teen's risk of crashing by 23 times.

Slow down: Inexperienced teen drivers may feel invincible behind the wheel, but they're not. In 2014, 36 percent of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time.

Just me, myself and I: Make it a rule that there can only be one passenger in the car when your teen is driving. For teen drivers, the risk of a fatal crash increases with each additional passenger.

Hands-on practice: Teen drivers can go beyond the basics with defensive driving clinics that teach the ins and outs of emergency braking, evasive maneuvers and more. Many of them offer impaired driving simulators, too. Learn more about these courses here.

In-car monitoring: Ford, Hyundai, Lexus and GM offer teen driver safety features that limit a car's speed, control its radio volume and establish curfew hours. Some even have a geofencing feature that alerts parents when the car leaves an established area.

In-car monitoring apps: For families with cars that don't have in-car monitoring, there are apps that will keep an eye on your teen's driving and allow you to check in for reports.

There's one last thing parents can do: Practice what they preach. If you're underscoring to your teen driver the importance of putting your cellphone away when driving, make sure you follow your own advice and keep that phone stowed.

— Jennifer Newman, Cars.com
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All photos are for illustration purposes only and may not depict actual vehicle. *Sale pricing includes discounts and current manufacturer's applicable: rebates, promotions, incentives and/or bonus cash and does not include tax, title, license or doc. fee. Prior sales are ineligible for advertised pricing. Purchaser/Lessee must qualify w/approved credit. Financing thru Ally. +EPA mileage estimates are provided from manufacturer on vehicles; your actual mileage will vary depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle. Data in this ad is compiled from publicly available sources. Dealer and Manufacturer; it is believed by the publisher to be reliable. However, the publisher/dealer reserves the right to correct error and/or omissions in this data accordingly. We recommend purchasers confirm a vehicle is as desired/required prior to taking possession — No representations express or implied, to any actual or prospective purchaser of the vehicle is being made as to the condition, vehicle specifications, prior ownership history, equipment/accessories and warranties. ++0% APR x 84 mos. on remaining 2017 Outlanders only. Offer excludes Sport model. \$11.90 per \$1,000 financed with \$0 down to qualified buyers with approved credit. Financing thru Ally. *\$500 Veterans rebate applies to veterans & their spouses who are within 12 mos. of separation from the US military. Must qualify for all rebates and have approved credit. Pricing is good for 2-days only. Please contact us by email or phone for additional details desired. **0% x 60: \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed w/\$0 down to qualified buyers with approved credit. Financing thru Ally.

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---	---	--	--

Prices/Payments plus tax, title, license and doc. fee to qualified buyers. ~Jeep Wrangler JL not eligible for employee pricing. *Lease months/amount due at signing plus tax, title, license & doc. fee to qualified buyers on select models: 18 Pacifica CCAP lease 36 months/\$7,499. 0% for 60 months \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed; 18 Ram 36 months/\$3,999. 0% for 75 months \$13.33 per \$1,000 financed; 18 Cherokee 36 months/\$2,999; 18 Cherokee Limited 36 months/\$3,999; 18 Wrangler U.S. Bank Lease 42 months/\$0. No security deposit required. Not all buyers will qualify. †MSRP may not be the price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area. Pictures are for illustration purposes only and may not depict actual sale vehicle. Offers may change per manufacturers. See dealer for complete details on all offers. Offers valid 3 days from publication.

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CAMPERS Colman's RV - We buy/consign used Campers & RV's www.colmansrv.com 217-787-8653

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German Shepherd 763-501-9306
Maple Grove, Minnesota \$3500 Puppies
World Champion Sire: V01,IP03, AD,BH,KK11, "a" normal hips and elbows: Vonozturk.com

German Shepherd 312-929-3394
Chicago \$1500-2500 Male
Puppies, AKC, solid blk, blk & tan. 8 weeks old.

Golden Retriever 815-821-3701
Winslow \$900 Males and females
Beautiful litter of AKC Golden Retriever puppies. Ready to go now.

Rottweiler 773-517-0070
Calumet City \$950 4 F
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Dental Implant \$99/mo call 224-255-6133



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AUCTION 2-Day Gun Auction Saturday & Sunday March 17th & 18th 9AM 900 Firearms, Ammo, Scopes, Reloading, Knives, Military, 2601 Lake Land Blvd. Maitoon, IL www.bauerauction.com XXX-XXX-XXXX

AUCTION ANTIQUE MUSIC AUCTION March 17th 10AM 8512 S. Union Road, Union, IL RARE and quality antique music boxes, phonographs, band organs, piano, vintage advertising, horns, records, parts, and manuals! www.donleyauctions.com 815-223-7000

AUCTION PUBLIC AUCTION March 24th 10AM Paxton American Legion Paxton, IL 470 CATALOGED LOTS OF LONGBERGER, POTTERY, IRON, & MUCH MORE! DETAILS & PHOTOS: www.strebeckauctions.com 217-781-4131

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LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

COUNTY OF COOK
Toni Preckwinkle, President

Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
Shannon E. Andrews,
Chief Procurement Officer

ADVERTISEMENT DATE:
Friday, March 16, 2018

DESCRIPTION: Unarmed Security Services

RFP NO.: 1825-17215

MBE/WBE GOALS:
Target Market. This solicitation is open only to certified MBE and/or WBE vendors who are currently certified through Cook County or the City of Chicago.

RFP DOCUMENTS:
RFP Documents are available for download at:
<http://legacy.cookcountygov.com/purchasing/bids/listAllBids.php>

PRE PROPOSAL CONFERENCE:
Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. C.S.T.
118 N. Clark Street, Room 1018
Chicago, IL 60602

PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
no later than 3:00 P.M. C.S.T.
Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
118 N. Clark Street, Room 1018
Chicago, IL 60602

CONTACT: Hermine Wise, (312) 603-3950, hermine.wise@cookcountylil.gov. Only MBE/WBE firms certified by Cook County or the City of Chicago may submit a proposal. Inquiries regarding Target Market should be directed to the Office of Contract Compliance at (312) 603-5502.

The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

NOTICE
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF PROVISIO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS DISTRICT 209 WILL ACCEPT BIDS FOR A FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY. A PRE-BID MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M. AT 8601 W. ROOSEVELT RD. FOREST PARK, ILLINOIS 60130. SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE AT 8601 WEST ROOSEVELT RD. OR WWW.PTHS209.ORG BIDS WILL BE DUE MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018 BY 10:00 A.M. ALL BIDS WILL BE OPENED AT 10:15 A.M.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Jeremiah Collins AKA Jeremiah K Collins

A MINOR
NO. 2018JD00156

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, **Jeremy Collins (Father)**, respondents, and **TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, that on **January 26, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOX**, STATE'S ATTORNEY OF COOK COUNTY through her assistant State's Attorney in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Terrence Sharkey** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building located at 1100 South Hamilton, Chicago, Illinois, ON **03/29/2018** at **9:00 AM** IN CALENDAR 63 COURTROOM 13,

or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act. The court has authority in this case to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.

Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause to the contrary, an order or judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the petition.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF COURT
March 16, 2018

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY:
L. Turner, N. Gallo
ATTORNEY FOR:
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
ADDRESS: 1100 SOUTH HAMILTON
CITY/STATE: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60612
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (312) 433-7000
ATTORNEY NO.: 33182

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT,
COOK COUNTY OF ILLINOIS

LEGAL NOTICES

"NOTICE TO DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES,

Austin Tyler Construction, 23343 S. Ridge Road, Elwood, IL 60421 (815-726-1090) is seeking disadvantaged, minority and women owned businesses for the projects known as the Village of Downers Grove 2018 Water Main improvements Contract "A" Bid # IEPA18A and 2018 Water Main Improvements Contract "B" Bid #IEPA18B. Austin Tyler Construction has subcontracting opportunities in the following areas: Landscaping, Street Sweeping, Traffic Control, Tree Removal, Pavement Striping, Root Pruning, Tree Protection Fence, Layout, Pre Construction Video, Line Stops & Leak Detection, Supplemental Water, Material Testing, Auger Boring, Trucking. All disadvantaged businesses should contact Brian Broderick in writing (certified letter, return receipt requested), at the above address to discuss the subcontracting opportunities. All negotiations must be completed prior to the bid opening April 6, 2018. Bids will be evaluated on the basis of completeness of scope, qualification and experience of bidder and price.

STATE OF MICHIGAN 37TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLICATION OF HEARING

CASE NO. 15-973NA
PETITION NO.

TO: AMANDA BLANKENSHIP (09/08/1985)

IN THE MATTER OF: LILYAN BLANKENSHIP (01/23/2001)
CHRISTOPHER BLANKENSHIP (07/08/2002)

A hearing regarding a petition requesting this court to take jurisdiction of the above named minor(s) will be conducted by the court on 04/03/2018 at 01:30 pm in the Calhoun County Justice Center, 161 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014, Courtroom 133 before Referee Makled. You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by judge or jury. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that AMANDA BLANKENSHIP (09/08/1985) personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the termination of your parental rights

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF TRANSMITTAL FOR THE FOLLOWING TOWNSHIPS FROM THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW BACK TO THE COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR FOR THE TAX YEAR 2017:
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 12-50 of the Illinois Property Tax Code Section (35 ILCS 200/12-50), the Board of Review of Cook County has, on this date March 9, 2018, in accordance with Section 16-125 of the Illinois Property Tax Code Section (35 ILCS 200/16-125) transmitted back to the Assessor of Cook County its final action on the following townships in Cook County for the tax year of 2017:
WEST CHICAGO, WHEELING, WORTH,

Dated at Chicago, Illinois by the Cook County Board of Review Room 601, Cook County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602, MARCH 9, 2018.

MICHAEL M. CABONARGI COMMISSIONER
DAN PATLAK COMMISSIONER
LARRY R. ROGERS, JR. COMMISSIONER

NOTICE TO DISADVANTAGE BUSINESSES:

Vian Construction Co., Inc, 1041 Martha Street, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. Phone (847) 364-5369, is seeking Disadvantaged businesses for the Village of Downers Grove "2018 Water Main Improvements - Contract A" for subcontracting opportunities in the following areas: Landscaping, Trucking, Paving, Concrete. All disadvantaged businesses should contact, IN WRITING, (CERTIFIED LETTER, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED), Vince Rendina, to discuss the subcontracting opportunities. All negotiations must be completed prior to the bid opening on Friday, April 6, 2018.

* Subcontracts will be evaluated and awarded to the lowest responsive bidder that is deemed qualified by Vian Construction Co., Inc.

NOTICE TO DISADVANTAGE BUSINESSES:

Vian Construction Co., Inc, 1041 Martha Street, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. Phone (847) 364-5369, is seeking Disadvantaged businesses for the Village of Downers Grove "2018 Water Main Improvements - Contract B" for subcontracting opportunities in the following areas: Landscaping, Trucking, Paving, Concrete. All disadvantaged businesses should contact, IN WRITING, (CERTIFIED LETTER, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED), Vince Rendina, to discuss the subcontracting opportunities. All negotiations must be completed prior to the bid opening on Friday, April 6, 2018.

* Subcontracts will be evaluated and awarded to the lowest responsive bidder that is deemed qualified by Vian Construction Co., Inc.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES PUBLIC NOTICE

Nancy Mills has applied for an IDNR/OWR Permit for the construction of a groin extension in Lake Michigan at 2479 Woodbridge Lane, Highland Park, IL. Inquiries and requests to view the complete application may be directed to Jim Casey of the IDNR/OWR's Chicago Office at (312) 793-5947 or james.casey@illinois.gov. The full application is also available at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/PublicNotices.aspx>. You are invited to send comments regarding this project to 160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 5-703, Chicago, IL 60601 by April 16, 2018.



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 <p>2017 ESCALADE 4WD LUXURY 19956 MI #K4507 \$63,495</p>	 <p>2013 BUICK LACROSSE FWD TOURING 73117 MI. #K4502 \$14,995</p>	 <p>2016 BUICK ENCORE CONVENIENCE FWD 23382 MI, #K4558 \$20,915</p>	 <p>2017 BUICK ENCLAVE LEATHER AWD 30665 MI, #K4504 \$31,246</p>	 <p>2017 GMC TERRAIN AWD SLT 13552 MI #K4554 \$26,891</p>	 <p>2017 GMC YUKON XL 4WD DENALI 20624 MI, #K4530 \$58,998</p>
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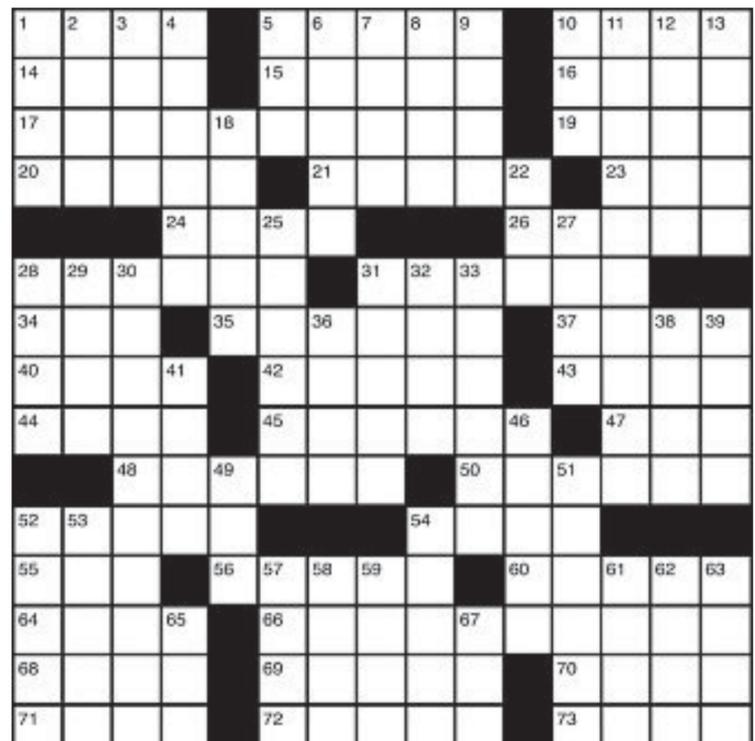
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<p>audi</p> <p>Audi Exchange 2490 Skokie Valley Road Highland Park, IL 60035 888-453-7195 www.audiexchange.com</p>	<p>lexus</p> <p>Bredemann Lexus in Glenview* 2000 Waukegan Road Glenview, IL 60025 847-510-5505 www.bredemann.com</p>	<p>ram</p> <p>Sherman Dodge Jeep Chrysler Ram 7601 N. Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 888-481-1777 ShermanTrib.com</p>	<p>smart</p> <p>Smart Center of St. Charles* 225 N. Randall Road in St. Charles, IL 888-459-2190 st-charles.smartdealersites.com</p>	<p>toyota</p> <p>Bredemann Toyota Scion* 1301 W. Dempster., Park Ridge 847-655-1405 www.bredemann.com</p>
<p>chevrolet</p> <p>Bredemann Chevrolet in Park Ridge* 1401 W. Dempster Street Park Ridge, IL 60068 847-655-1455 www.bredemann.com</p>	<p>mercedes</p> <p>Autohaus On Edens* 1600 Frontage Rd. Northbrook 847-272-7900 www.autohausonedens.com</p>	<p>chrysler</p> <p>Sherman Dodge Jeep Chrysler Ram 7601 N. Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 888-481-1777 ShermanTrib.com</p>	<p>mercedes-benz</p> <p>Mercedes-Benz Of St. Charles* 225 North Randall Road St. Charles, IL 888-742-6095 www.mercedesbenzofstcharles.com</p>	<p>dodge</p> <p>Sherman Dodge Jeep Chrysler Ram 7601 N. Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 888-481-1777 ShermanTrib.com</p>
<p>ford</p> <p>Bredemann Ford in Glenview* 2038 Waukegan Road Glenview, IL 60025 847-510-5555 www.bredemann.com</p>	<p>mitsubishi</p> <p>Biggers Mitsubishi* 1325 E. Chicago St., Elgin 888-612-8400 www.biggersmitsubishi.com</p>	<p>honda</p> <p>Muller Honda* 550 Skokie Valley Road, Highland Park 847-831-4200 www.muller-honda.com</p>	<p>mercedes-benz</p> <p>Mercedes-Benz Of Westmont* 200 E. Ogden Ave. 886-415-8182 www.mbofwestmont.com</p>	<p>jeep</p> <p>Sherman Dodge Jeep Chrysler Ram 7601 N. Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 888-481-1777 ShermanTrib.com</p>
<p>honda</p> <p>Schaumburg Honda Automobiles* 750 E. Golf Rd. 847-88-Honda www.schaumburghondaautos.com</p>	<p>nissan</p> <p>Arlington Nissan* 1100 W. Dundee Rd Arlington Heights, IL 60004 847-590-6100 www.arlingtonnissan.com</p>	<p>jeep</p> <p>Sherman Dodge Jeep Chrysler Ram 7601 N. Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 888-481-1777 ShermanTrib.com</p>	<p>porsche</p> <p>Porsche Exchange* 2300 Skokie Valley Rd. Highland Park #1 Volume Dealer in Illinois 847-266-7000 www.4porsche.com</p>	<p>jeep</p> <p>Sherman Dodge Jeep Chrysler Ram 7601 N. Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 888-481-1777 ShermanTrib.com</p>

Crossword



By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

3/16/18

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mothers of piglets
 - 5 Loose, as a rope
 - 10 Letters asking for urgency
 - 14 Maui feast
 - 15 Vietnam's capital
 - 16 Prefix for gram or meter
 - 17 Not on purpose
 - 19 Social insects
 - 20 Snapshot
 - 21 "Same for me!"
 - 23 "___ whiz!"
 - 24 Likelihood
 - 26 Prize
 - 28 Come forth
 - 31 Handgun
 - 34 Reed or Harrison
 - 35 Take ___; kick in
 - 37 Klutz's word
 - 40 Knocks
 - 42 Toothed-leaved birch tree
 - 43 Button alternative
 - 44 Ladder rung
 - 45 Grassland
 - 47 Large African antelope
 - 48 Make known
 - 50 Old German emperors' title
 - 52 Haughtiness
 - 54 ___ in; bring under control
 - 55 Actress ___ McClanahan
 - 56 Occupation
 - 60 Personnel
 - 64 Curry & Jillian
 - 66 Sure to happen
 - 68 Agreeable
 - 69 Booby prize winner
 - 70 Bit of evidence
 - 71 Part of the leg
 - 72 Banishment
 - 73 Golf ball pegs
- DOWN**
- 1 ___ on the wrist; mild penalty
 - 2 "That hurt!"
 - 3 City in Texas
 - 4 Serious beau
 - 5 TV's "Murder, ___ Wrote"
 - 6 Comes ashore
 - 7 Prefix for social or septic
 - 8 Outer garment
 - 9 Scot's attire
 - 10 Letters before an alias
 - 11 Musical gatherings
 - 12 Modified
 - 13 Prepared to be photographed

Solutions



- 18 Avoid by moving quickly
- 22 Cereal grain
- 25 Slander
- 27 Romances
- 28 Slips up
- 29 Protein source
- 30 Undergo
- 31 Accelerator or brake
- 32 Applied frosting
- 33 Danger from a blocked artery
- 36 Hopping insect
- 38 Window glass
- 39 ___ on; incite
- 41 Drove too fast
- 46 Midsection
- 49 11/11 honoree
- 51 Still whole
- 52 Practical joke
- 53 Altercation
- 54 ___ in; enjoy
- 57 Make angry
- 58 As strong as ___
- 59 Lucie's dad
- 61 Qualified
- 62 Chimney pipe
- 63 Charges
- 65 Observe
- 67 Rage

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PER MONTH¹ / MONTHS AFTER ALL OFFERS
No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra.
Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 10,000 miles.

COURTESY
TRANSPORTATION
VEHICLE



2018 CT6 AWD. Stk. #80193. 2203 miles.
FOR LOYAL CADILLAC LESSEES
\$399 / 36 **\$3,995** DUE AT SIGNING
PER MONTH¹ / MONTHS AFTER ALL OFFERS
No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra.
Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 10,000 miles.

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TRANSPORTATION
VEHICLE



2018 ATS AWD,CTV. Stk. #80240. 2124 miles.
FOR LOYAL CADILLAC LESSEES
\$198 / 27 **\$2,995** DUE AT SIGNING
PER MONTH¹ / MONTHS AFTER ALL OFFERS
No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra.
Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 10,000 miles.

COURTESY
TRANSPORTATION
VEHICLE



2018 ESCALADE Stk. #80179. 2178 miles.
LEASE FOR ONLY
\$699 / 36 **\$4,995** DUE AT SIGNING
PER MONTH¹ / MONTHS AFTER ALL OFFERS
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PRIMETIME

March 16, 2018

Live well. Age well.

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4 **Catching a ride**
Transportation programs help seniors be mobile

5 **In good faith**
Retirement living incorporates spiritual needs

8 **Gear Wise**
Crafting gadgets that help boost your creativity

Look for the next issue of Primetime on April 13.

PACK your BAGS

Best travel times and places to stretch your dollars

Starting as children, most of us are conditioned to plan vacations for the months of June, July and August.

School is out and the weather is good. However, once the children have left the nest, vacation can occur during any time of the year when the weather may be more temperate, the fares more reasonable and the crowds less oppressive. Now you can go love Paris in the springtime and catch the blaze of colors in Maine in the fall.

Here are travel tips from three veteran travel professionals: Greg Pearson vice-president of Traveler International, Inc. based in Hoffman Estates; Karl Jevert, president of All about Vacations in Crown Point, Indiana, and Amanda Holland, area leader of Liberty Travel with offices in Chicago and Schaumburg and 14 other states.

When to go

All three travel mavens agree that summer is the peak travel season so avoiding these months will usually mean lower cost and fewer crowds.

"If you're thinking of traveling to Europe, September, October and even November are less expensive times to travel and there will be fewer tourists," says Jevert. "The cheapest months are December, January and February. The trade-off is the weather. The fall months are pretty mild with only a few rainy days but the winter months will be colder and rainier."

Another note about European travel from Amanda Holland is to

be careful of holidays. "Many of the museums and other attractions close during holidays. Some holidays are different in Europe so check before you go."

Jevert says that fall often means lower prices and fewer crowds to other destinations also. "Travel to the east coast to see fall colors is very popular for the over 55 group. Travel to the Caribbean and Hawaii as well as cruises are also substantially cheaper in the fall but it is also hurricane season. We try to warn our clients that even though the prices are lower, September and October are when hurricanes can come through. We end up working 24 hours a day trying to get our clients home when there is a hurricane."

Jevert has found that spring is a good time for travel out west to locations such as Arizona, California and Nevada when the weather and prices are reasonable. During the winter, she often has clients who want to escape the cold with a trip to Florida.

"I usually try to show them that all-inclusives in the Caribbean and Mexico are a better choice. Nine times out of 10, these all-inclusives are \$600 to \$1,000 less when you add up the cost of lodging, food, drinks and everything else. Cruises can also give you a great value for your dollar and many of the escorted tours can also save you money."

Unraveling airfare

Airfare can be a challenge for travel agents as well as travelers.

"I have been doing this for 15 years and I am still trying



Italy's Amalfi Coast as seen from the Hotel Caesar Augustus in Anacapri.



Left, a mother elephant cares for her baby calf in Sabi Sands Game Reserve, South Africa. Right, individual villas dot the beautiful beachfront in Maldives.



to master airfare" says Holland. "To begin, avoid holiday times if possible. The best savings are on flights on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. About six months from your trip, start watching the airfare. If you must travel during holiday times, start looking at the airfare as soon as those dates are released. The challenge is knowing when an airfare is a good airfare. To be honest, travel consultants are usually the

people who know the answer to that because they are very aware of trends."

Stretching your dollar

One way to get the most for your vacation dollar is to visit places where the dollar is strong. "The U.S. dollar is very strong in Canada, which means great values there when you visit," says Pearson. "South America is another place where the U.S. dollar is

strong. If you are not a vegetarian, go have a 3-inch-thick steak with a glass of Malbec in South America. It is wonderful."

Reveal your age

There are many discounts open to older adults says Holland. "Liberty Travel partners with AARP and offers discounts to people over 50. We also have tours priced specifically for this age group. Always

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Prime Expo focus

Medical expert to highlight progress and promise in fight against cancer

A leading cancer expert will deliver crucial information about the progress being made in the fight against cancer at the Chicago Tribune's Prime Expo, an information-packed, day-long event that will focus on successful aging and staying healthy for older adults.

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), a leading professional organization dedicated to the prevention and cure of all cancers, will host a program "Progress and Promise Against Cancer" at the free expo on April 14 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

Elizabeth Jaffee, M.D., president-elect of the AACR, will present the program at the event, which coincides with the organization's annual 2018 meeting, also being held in Chicago. Jaffee also is deputy director of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins.

Information shared with expo attendees from the AACR's annual meeting will highlight cutting-edge advances along the cancer science continuum — from basic discoveries to translational advances (that go from research to therapies and procedures) to clinical treatments.

"Participating in Prime Expo provides the AACR with an opportunity to educate the public about these many exciting advances," Jaffee says. "By engaging the public and working together, we can help accelerate the pace of progress and save more lives."

The AACR's presentation will cover research advances in cancer



Dr. Elizabeth Jaffee

prevention, early detection, and immunotherapy, a cutting-edge treatment that has shown some success for patients with aggressive cancers that don't respond to standard treatments.

In addition, "Promise and Progress Against Cancer" will feature patient advocates who play a crucial role in supporting cancer research. Jaffee says the perspectives they provide will be invaluable for attendees who want to learn how to become better proponents for their own health and well-being.

"By discussing their cancer journey, these advocates will impart their wisdom on how to become your own advocate, sharing tips on how to seek out new cancer treatments," Jaffee says.

Statistics say

The expo, sponsored by the Chicago Tribune and SilverSun Productions, is geared to people

over 50 and to those who love them.

"Educating all members of the public about cancer and cancer research is important, but raising awareness among those who are 50 or older is critical. This is because they are more likely to be directly affected by cancer," Jaffee says.

Statistics support her assertion. The median age in the U.S. of those diagnosed with cancer is 66, and 78 percent of cancer diagnoses occur among those who are 55 or older, she notes.

Cancer prevention is an important part of combating the disease and Jaffee's presentation also will cover how attendees can create better habits to protect their health.

Forty percent of U.S. cancer cases and deaths are attributable to preventable causes, such as cigarette smoking, excess body weight, alcohol consumption, ultraviolet radiation exposure and infection with human papillomavirus, Jaffee says.

Brighter future

The expo also will provide an important venue for sharing the good news about progress in the battle against cancer with the public. An informed public will be better armed to prevent or fight the disease, she says.

"Advances are being made, but underutilization of our knowledge and interventions that have been developed remain a public health challenge," Jaffee says. Lives are being saved as progress

is made in the battle against cancer. Jaffee believes attendees will find hope in her presentation.

"We hope they will see the promise of an even brighter future, because we now have the scientific knowledge and capability to deliver advances that were previously unimaginable," she says.

While the role of physicians and researcher is crucial in the fight against disease, Jaffee says the public has a role to play too.

"We will need their collaboration if we are to prevent and cure all cancers," Jaffee says.

The AACR, which Jaffee describes as a global brain trust of the cancer field, was founded in May 1907 by a group of 11 prominent physicians and scientists interested in research to further the investigation and spread the knowledge of cancer. Since then, it has grown to more than 40,000 members in the U.S. and 119 other countries.

AACR programs and initiatives help catalyze groundbreaking research discoveries that fuel progress for the benefit of patients everywhere.

And more

In addition to covering health and wellness, the expo will focus on other areas of interest to those age 50 and up, such as financial and legal issues and lifestyle topics.

The event will feature 20 seminars and 60 exhibitors who will showcase and demonstrate their products and services on a

FAST FACTS

What: Chicago Tribune Prime Expo

Who: Adults age 50 or older, but open to anyone interested in aging well

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 14

Where: Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont

Cost: Free

Website: Primeexpo.chicago.com

Chicago Tribune
PRIME
EXPO
Making the most of life after 50

17,000-square-foot interactive show floor. Exhibitors and speakers will have expertise in a wide range of areas including automotive, alternative medicine, assisted living, health and beauty, health care, dating, travel, financial, and social media.

In addition to Jaffee, a slate of other speakers is planned for the expo. They will address such topics as new treatments for joint pain and neuropathy, how exercise impacts Alzheimer's Disease, the Mediterranean Diet, estate planning, dispelling the myths of a reverse mortgage, maximizing Social Security, making retirement income last, dating after 50, planning a cruise vacation and having fun on social media. ■

PRIMETIME

Good staff, happy people

The staff at a retirement community really matters. Just ask Kenn Piotrowski, a resident of Friendship Village, a life plan community in suburban Schaumburg.

"I love the staff here," says Piotrowski, who's very active at the community and knows many of the staff members. "I have been here three years and no one on the staff has been dismissive or flippant." He adds that he has never seen a "sour apple." "They're so warm and friendly," he says.

Piotrowski also works with the staff. He's a member of two of the community's 10 resident committees, each of which includes a staff liaison. He's a volunteer Tai Chi teacher in the fitness center where he has formed strong bonds with the wellness staff. In fact, he was practicing Tai Chi in the wellness center when Julie Hubbard, an exercise specialist at the community, first noticed his expertise. She enlisted him to teach her Tai Chi, and then got him to start a Tai Chi class for residents.

Hubbard calls Piotrowski "incredible" and a "superman." Her upbeat attitude reflects that of many staffers who often become buddies with residents. "The experience of getting to know the residents is a privilege," says Hubbard. "It's the relationships you build with the residents. It doesn't get much better than that."

Welcomed and safe

A good staff will make residents feel welcomed and safe. Most importantly, a good staff will make residents feel at home.

"My passion is helping people feel good about themselves," says Lori Griffin, director of life enrichment at the Clare, a life plan retirement community in downtown Chicago. "When people feel at home, they're happy."

Griffin plans activities at the Clare, an important role at retirement communities.



Exercise specialist Julie Hubbard gives resident Kenn Piotrowski some tips at Friendship Village.

On Valentine's Day, she arranged to have Stan's Donuts' pink van park at the building so the staff and residents could get donuts and coffee. "Residents are looking for a community to help them stay active and involved," says Griffin.

Big retirement communities typically have a large staff. The Clare, for example, has 250 employees. The high-rise has 350 residents. Staffers include everyone from doormen and a concierge to housekeepers and chefs, nurses, and aides.

Staffing at retirement and assisted living communities will vary based on the type of services and care offered. Life plan retirement communities typically have levels of care, including independent living, assisted living for those who need more help, and skilled nursing care for residents who need 24-hour supervision.

Extra help

Staffing increases as residents require more care. For example, Denver-based Spectrum Retirement operates five communities in the Chicago area: Lombard Place in Lombard; Westbrook Senior Living in Streamwood; Three Oaks in Cary; Cedar Lake in Lake Zurich; and Green Oaks Senior Living in Libertyville.

Some of Spectrum's buildings offer independent living apartments, but they all offer assisted living and memory care. A nurse

is on staff for assisted living residents around the clock. Aides are available to help residents with the activities of daily living, such as bathing and dressing.

Residents in memory care require more supervision than assisted living residents. Memory care units have high staffing ratios — the number of staffers to residents. "The staffing should meet the needs of the resident," says Lesley Durkan, vice president of operations at Spectrum.

What to ask

When looking at retirement communities, it's important to ask about staffing, Durkan says. A key question: What is the staff turnover rate at the community, or how many staffers leave annually? The top managers at well run communities tend to stay in place.

Ask about staff training too. The staff should have the necessary professional and academic designations to carry out their duties. Most communities also have internal training programs. New hires receive general training, and also instruction specific to their jobs.

Another question is: What are the organization's core values? Friendship Senior Options, owner of Friendship Village, bases its values on: community, service, integrity, faith, stewardship and growth. ■

Hospice provides support to patients and families

Discussing end-of-life care is painful, difficult and unavoidable. Hospice care can be an option as patients and families decide the next steps.

In her role as Community Education Program Manager for the Mount Prospect-based nonprofit Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, Nancy Flowers dispels the fear and anxiety that surrounds hospice.

Hospice care, Flowers says, is "a specialized area of medical and psychosocial care for people who have a life expectancy of six months or less."

"The focus of hospice care is not to speed up the dying process; it really is to support patients and their families through the dying process to focus on making them comfortable and as pain-free as possible," Flowers explains. "Also, we want to give them the emotional and physical support needed to prepare for their dying and to be able to die well."

Before entering hospice, patients, their families and physicians need to agree that this is an option, Flowers says. A physician's referral order is then made. Private insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid cover hospice.

This type of care is very personalized and heavily involves patients' circles of support and professionals. Rainbow, for example, forms an interdisciplinary team, which includes physicians, nurses, home health aides, music and massage therapists, spiritual care providers, social workers, and trained volunteers to consult with patients, their doctors, families, caregivers and friends.

Hospice may take place at a home, a hospital or a nursing home. Within the first five days, Flowers says, team members visit the patient to set up the care plan and schedule visits.

To address emotional and spiritual needs, there is bereavement counseling and consideration of specific religious customs regarding death.

Finding answers

Families raise many questions, such as "How long is the length of stay?" Depending on the person's condition, death may not occur automatically and some may leave hospice. Others may remain until they die.

"With the right kind of support, pain medication and support for respiratory issues, the dying slows down a bit," Flowers says. "People can start to do better."

Also on families' minds is when is the right time to enter hospice. There is hesitation, Flowers says, since death is the "big unknown" and people have a will to live.

"There is a perception that people die quickly once they go in hospice or that hospice is something that you do at the very, very end of life," Flowers says. "What we see nationwide is that people wait. Health care providers wait to refer and people wait to come on sometimes until the last days and hours of their lives."

Another question is how much care does hospice provide. "We support and supplement the family or the nursing home care staff but we don't move in and provide 24-hour care," she says. "Our role is to provide a great deal of education, a lot of emotional support and assistance with pain and symptom management. So we do active teaching and active intervention around medications that may help and other interventions."

Chicago resident Bob Shea, 63, is a six-year Rainbow

Hospice volunteer. Shea's roles include visiting dying hospice patients, training new volunteers and being the volunteer representative in interdisciplinary team meetings.

Shea finds connections with the patients since he was on the other side of the bed. Though not in hospice, in 2002, Shea was gravely ill with Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a disorder where one's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system. Slowly, his condition improved and had a period of physical and occupational therapy.

In 2005, he recovered though his mobility in his hands and legs are still impaired.

"I understand what it means to be the person in the bed dying," he says.

Shea also has a personal connection with Rainbow since his mother, who was diagnosed with vascular dementia, went into its hospice program last year.

"The big mistake when considering hospice is people choose this just when they are ready to die," he says. "My mother was on for a year and we just had a patient passed who was almost four years on service. Some patients get discharged thanks to this elevated medical care. They get better."

As a volunteer, Shea is a calm and reassuring presence. Becoming a volunteer doesn't require a specific trait but some understanding.

"Anybody is capable of doing hospice," he says. "There is nothing unique or special about me at all. The only thing that is different about me is that I took the journey and therefore life is experiential. I'm not afraid of (dying). The easiest thing to do in your life is to pass away. Once they understand that, they're ready." ■

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<p>Hackneys Restaurant Tuesday, April 10th 6pm</p> <p>Dinner Provided 9550 W. 123rd St. Palos Park</p>	<p>Jenny's Steakhouse Wednesday, April 11th 6pm</p> <p>Dinner Provided 11041 Menard Ave. Chicago Ridge</p>	<p>Mr. Benny's Steakhouse Thursday, April 12th 6pm</p> <p>Dinner Provided 19200 Everett Ln. Mokena</p>

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PRIMETIME

Having wheels | Transportation programs allow seniors to be mobile

For seniors no longer able to drive, transportation is a key part of maintaining independence. While a multitude of transportation programs exist in the Chicago area, some are local and limited while others offer more comprehensive service.

Melvina (Betty) Greco, 94, is happy with the transportation that Schaumburg Township provides to residents 60 and older and adults with disabilities. Riders can get transportation Monday through Friday to anywhere within the township and 5 miles outside of it for medical appointments. Rides cost \$1 for a one-way trip.

"I use it a lot. It's keeping me going," Greco says. "I don't know what I would do without it."

When Glen Ellyn senior Patrick Byrne, who is blind and uses a Seeing Eye dog, wants to go somewhere, he has a variety of options for getting around. For shopping in downtown Glen Ellyn, he may use the Pace fixed route bus service that goes through town. When he worked in Chicago, he took the Metra train on a regular basis.

But Byrne, who qualifies for transportation service under the Americans with Disabilities Act, also can use the curb-to-curb paratransit service provided by Pace. If he wants to travel outside the paratransit boundaries and hours, he has the option of booking a trip through Ride DuPage, a 24/7 service of which the Village of Glen Ellyn is a sponsor.

"It pretty much does meet my needs," Byrne says of Ride DuPage and paratransit. "Generally it's on time. Generally I get to where I need to go," he says.

Not all seniors who do not drive have as many choices as Byrne does. Federally-mandated and state transportation pro-

grams are open to any who qualify. On the local level, counties, townships and municipalities offer their own programs individually or in partnership with other agencies. Each program has its own eligibility requirements, geographic boundaries, hours of operation and ridership fees. Some offer wheelchair-accessible vehicles and some do not.

Ride DuPage

Few transportation programs are as comprehensive as Ride DuPage.

"It's a nationally recognized program," says Jodi Hefler, senior services coordinator for the Village of Glen Ellyn, an original sponsor of the Ride DuPage program started in 2004. Open to seniors 65 and older and individuals with disabilities who live in an area served by one of the sponsoring agencies, Ride DuPage operates 24/7 and allows riders to travel anywhere within the six Chicago area counties served by the Regional Transportation Authority.

Sponsors could limit where riders can go, but most do not and the vast majority of riders stay within DuPage, Hefler says. Fees are set by the sponsoring agencies. For riders in Glen Ellyn and a number of the other sponsoring townships and municipalities, the cost is a \$2 flat fee plus \$1 per mile.

"It's a wonderful program for those unable to drive," Hefler says. "We've had a lot of interest from other communities, but there's a lot of fear of cost and change."

In addition to Glen Ellyn, sponsors include the townships of Addison, Lisle, Milton, Wheatland and Naperville; the cities of Wheaton and Naperville; and some DuPage County departments. For more information on Ride DuPage, visit www.ridedupage.org.

Pace

Many communities partner with Pace suburban bus service (www.pacebus.com) to provide local Dial-a-Ride and Call-n-Ride programs. Call-n-Ride services are open to all, and Dial-a-Ride may be open to the general public or just to seniors and those with disabilities.

Pace also provides the paratransit service mandated by the federal government. Although not specifically for seniors, it is open to any persons with disabilities or medical conditions that do not allow them to use fixed route bus and rail service in any or some circumstances. Paratransit provides curb-to-curb transportation within three-quarter miles of fixed routes and during the same hours as the fixed route service. Persons must go through an application and interview process that starts by contacting the RTA at 312-663-4357 or 312-913-3122 (TTY). Current rates are \$3.25 for a one-way trip.

City of Chicago

Within the city of Chicago, Pace offers the Taxi Access Program known as TAP that allows certified paratransit customers to ride in taxis at reduced rates. Those applying for ADA service, but not yet certified for it, may use an Emergency Medical Transportation Service for a limited time (cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/fss/supp_info/senior_transportationprograms.html).

For those with mobility needs, more than 20 taxi companies in Chicago operate wheelchair-accessible vehicles. Accessible cabs may be scheduled by contacting Open Taxis, a centralized dispatch service, at 855-928-1010 or Dispatch1@opendoorssnfp.org.

Reduced fares

All seniors 65 and older, adults with disabilities and



Schaumburg Township has eight lift-equipped buses, providing 90 to 160 rides a day.

Medicare recipients may qualify for a RTA reduced fare permit that allows them to ride Metra trains, Pace buses, and CTA fixed route buses and trains for a reduced fare. Most fixed-route transportation is wheelchair-accessible. Contact www.rtachicago.org or 312-913-3110.

Low-income seniors 65 and older and persons with disabilities may also qualify for free rides on fixed route trains and buses through the Benefit Access Program administered by the Illinois Department of Aging, state.il.us/aging or 800-252-8966.

Local programs

Most communities are served by more than one local transportation program. Some municipalities have a subsidized taxi program. Volunteer groups, such as the American Cancer Society, provide rides for specific needs.

"I always advise people to get in as many transportation programs as they can," says Jim Vondran, assistant supervisor of Lisle Township.

But where to find out what transportation programs are available? Townships are a good place to start since they often provide or fund transportation services.

Susan Vosmik, Schaumburg Township's director of transportation, says the township started with one bus 20 years ago and now has eight lift-equipped buses, providing 90 to 160 rides a day.

Senior centers, municipalities and counties also often have information on their websites or can provide information about transportation programs. For instance, North Shore Senior Center (www.nssc.org) in Northfield offers escorted transportation for medical and dental appointments, as well as a guide of transportation services available in individual North Shore communities.

Lake County is in the midst of a transportation study to better determine its needs. Several townships and municipalities have joined together to create Ride Lake County Central and Ride Lake County West, which provide more expanded areas of service for seniors and those with disabilities than most individual programs.

"The goal is working toward a more coordinated system, but we're nowhere near there," says Kathleen O'Connor, chair of the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee and supervisor of Liberty Township. "The challenge is it's very expensive." ■

PACK YOUR BAGS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
mention your age to see if there are discounts."

Things to consider
When choosing a vacation destination, Jevert says to be sure it is safe. "We have people who want to go to Egypt but I am very cautious. I always ask my clients if they are aware of what is going on in the Middle East just to be sure."

Jevert also reminds travelers that English is not spoken everywhere. "Sometimes you will need a local guide who you can trust to help you get to the places you want to visit."

Where to go
"In the wonderful world of travel today, if you can dream it, you can do it," says Pearson. "We are already working on arranging space flights. You can go to Alaska and be close to animals. You can go to Haiti and help people rebuild their homes."

Pearson recalls a trip he organized where the group cruised to South Africa, toured the vineyards of the Winelands and then went on a safari. "We were in the middle of a reserve in a Land Rover watching a leopard in a tree eating its kill while a herd of elephants were passing by with white rhinos grazing nearby," he says. "Travel can be amazing."

"Iceland is very popular right now," says Holland. "People go for the scenery, the hot springs and the Northern Lights. Eco-lovers go to the Galapagos Islands. People used to go to Tahiti for a sunny getaway but now the place to go is Maldives because it is more affordable. Cuba is coming onto the market creating interest. Croatia is also beautiful, filled with history and very affordable."

Who to call
In this age of Internet booking, many try "do-it-yourself" travel. However, if you are going to somewhere you have never been, it might be wise to meet with a travel agent. As Pearson points out, "we have been where you are going." ■

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All in good faith

Retirement communities minister to their residents' spiritual needs

Good faith was in abundance as a standing-room-only crowd gathered in February to dedicate a new chapel at The Moorings of Arlington Heights, a retirement community in the northwest suburb. The chapel was the joyful result of a 15-year-long effort by the community to create a place where members could come together to celebrate their spiritual life.

The chapel is part of The Moorings' \$70 million expansion project, which includes 70 new assisted living apartments. Twenty additional assisted living/memory support apartments are slated for completion next year. Residents raised about \$4.5 million for the 225-seat chapel, which welcomes all.

"It was a long and beautiful journey," says Margaret Johnson, The Moorings' resident who helped spearhead the effort to build the chapel, which is named after her late husband, Odean

"Jack" Johnson. "Faith is in the people," she says.

Come one, come all

Faith-based retirement communities are common throughout the Chicago and Northwest Indiana area. A wide variety of faiths sponsor the communities. For example, CJE SeniorLife, founded by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, operates the Weinberg Community for Senior Living in north suburban Deerfield, as well as the Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation in Skokie.

Many faith-based communities were originally started by church members to care for their elders. But that has changed.

It's a common misconception that a resident has to be of a certain faith to join a retirement community sponsored by a particular religious group. Retirement communities are inclusive and typically provide spiritual programs for all faiths.

The Moorings, for example, is operated by the Presbyterian Homes. The new chapel holds weekly services for several different faiths.

Resident Johnson, who helped raise funds for the new chapel, is a life-long Catholic. "Our chapel is a place where all faiths are welcome," says Johnson. "We also welcome people of no faith. They can come and sit, and rest and be part of the community, and they will be touched."

Elders embrace faith

Spirituality is one of the six dimensions of wellness that many retirement communities offer residents. The other dimensions are physical, social, intellectual, occupational and emotional. It is believed that elders who follow this integrated approach to wellness will lead happier and longer lives.

The environment at faith-based communities is welcoming and support-



Above, the four Covenant Retirement communities in the Chicago area have a chaplain, ecumenical services and other spiritual programs. Right, members of the community meet for regular Bible Study classes.



ive, residents say. They feel accepted as they are.

Faith often becomes important in the latter portion of life, says Terri Cunliffe, president and CEO at Covenant Retirement Communities. The Skokie-based organization owns and manages 14 communities. Four are located in the Chicago area: Covenant Village of Northbrook; The Holmstad in Batavia; Windsor Park in Carol Stream; and Geneva Place in Geneva.

"People live out their faiths in different ways," says Cunliffe. "But all residents appreciate the culture of care and concern at our communities."

To serve the residents' spiritual needs, each Covenant community has a chaplain, regular Bible study classes, ecumenical services and other spiritual programs.

John and Kathleen Pearson live at The Holmstad community. They moved there about six months ago from South Carolina to be closer to their children and grandchildren. "People here come from different faith communities, but have the value system we like," says John.

Formal religious services are included at faith-based communities. Toni Baumgartner, 87, tries to attend daily mass at Villa St. Benedict, the retirement

community where she lives in west suburban Lisle. She likes the sermons by the visiting priest from the nearby Saint Procopius Abbey.

"He speaks to our lives, preparing us for the inevitable in a kind and gracious way," Baumgartner says, adding that the gorgeous chapel is a warm and caring environment that offers comfort and quiet.

Leading the flock

Many faith-based communities have full-time chaplains. They hold religious services and also provide spiritual counseling and emotional support to residents.

Sister Mary Hauke is the chaplain at Mercy Circle, a retirement community on Chicago's Southwest Side. She works primarily with skilled nursing and memory care residents.

Hauke meets with new residents to assess their spiritual needs. Morning prayer sessions are held four mornings a week. Her goal is to help residents articulate the purpose of their lives and determine their true legacy.

"We reinforce positive messages," says Hauke, re-

peating a message of hope. "God loves you. God cares for you."

Andrew Rosencrans is the chaplain at Lake Forest Place, a retirement community in the northern suburb operated by Presbyterian Homes. Rosencrans runs the community's pastoral care program. It consists of worship services, weekly Bible study, support groups and one-on-one spiritual counseling.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Rosencrans has officiated at Jewish services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. "I did my homework," he says. "I wanted to be authentic to the Jewish faith and our residents were very appreciative."

The shift toward inclusiveness among those of different faiths is something Rosencrans has noticed among older residents. The closer they get to the end of life, the more likely they are to embrace spiritual differences and allow space for other practices, he says.

"These residents are thoughtful and, in reflection, they realize that the world of faith is very broad," says Rosencrans. "I find that very refreshing." ■



Inset, Margaret Johnson, left, helped spearhead the effort to build the Odean Johnson Chapel named for her husband, at the Moorings of Arlington Heights.

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How to spread some cheer

When your co-worker ends up in the hospital after surgery or grandma makes the move to a skilled care facility, a visit seems appropriate.

Figuring out what to say, what to bring and when to go can be so overwhelming that you send a card instead. Although greeting cards are welcome, they may lack the level of concern you would like to convey. Here are some visiting tips to help you move beyond the get well card.

Hospital visits

Julie Danker, manager of patient experience for Edward-Elmhurst Health with hospitals in Naperville and Elmhurst, says that the timing of a visit can be difficult.

"Hospitals function 24 hours a day so there is no one visiting time that is best," she notes. "You can really never know when the doctor will be stopping in to see a patient or when a test is scheduled." If the person you are visiting is busy, be prepared to wait.

Danker explains that bringing a gift is popular. "Some people love flowers and some people love candy. A very contemporary gift is an edible bouquet of cookies or fruit," she says. However, she reminds everyone that the person will have to take home all their gifts when they are discharged, which can be a burden.

Instead of an item, Danker suggests offering support. "Patients are very vulnerable so let them know they have your support," she says. "They may not have known they would be hospitalized so offering to take in their mail, care for their pet or pick up their children from an event are all appreciated."

During the visit, let the patient be the center of attention. "Listening is key," says Danker. "Remember that this is their crisis and right now, nothing is more important to them." If the conversation slows down,



try to bring up anticipated future events like weddings or birthdays.

Be cautious about bringing in a crowd, including children, adds Danker. "If someone is hospitalized, they most likely do not feel well. Remember a time when you didn't feel well and think about whether you wanted to visit with a crowd. For most, one or two visitors at a time is enough."

Short-term care visits

After a medical event like a knee replacement, some people spend time in a short-term rehabilitation center. Deb Hoch is the admissions director of Hartsfield Village, a continuing care retirement community situated on a 38-acre site in Munster, Indiana. She recommends calling ahead so the visit will not interfere with planned activities.

"Focus on the person. Ask how they are doing and based on the response, you will know what else to say," she suggests. If there is a reluctance to talk about their condition, turn to general topics like pets or the weather. "Sometimes it is helpful to bring something like a photo to share," she adds.

Gifts do not have to be part of the visit. "Space in the room is limited. I would suggest asking if they need anything if you want to bring a gift," says Hoch. "People really appreciate the gift of your time and conversation most of all."

The length of the visit depends upon the person being visited. "Be mindful

that they are recovering and may get tired more quickly. Sometimes 20 minutes is long enough. If you make a longer visit, make sure it is about them, not you. When the weather is nice, some people like to go outside for a walk. Don't hesitate to ask, 'what would you like to do?'"

Long-term care visits

Frank Guajardo is the executive director of Smith Crossing, a continuing care retirement community in Orland Park. He says that many people have misconceptions about people living in these communities. "There is a perception that people living here have no interests. This is wrong. This is their home. They have activities. They go on outings. They are interested in life and what is going on," says Guajardo. "This is a new generation of nursing homes."

Guajardo suggests starting a visit with conversation about any shared experiences like memories or family. "They also are very interested in current events. Some of them have embraced technology so bring your tablet to show them pictures," he suggests.

If you feel like bringing a gift, Guajardo suggests bringing items to decorate their room like a picture frame, an interesting figurine or a holiday decoration to cheer up their "home."

Average visits are 30 to 60 minutes but should really be determined by the person you are visiting, adds

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Keeping up with the don

Men half his age might be hard-pressed to keep up with the schedule of activities that Don Figarelli, age 84, tackles on a regular basis.

Let's start in the gym. Figarelli recently undertook a 21-day challenge at Anytime Fitness in his hometown of Addison. His goal?

"Could you make me look like Arnold Schwarzenegger?" Figarelli jokingly asked one of the trainers. All kidding aside, he wanted to put on three pounds of muscle while maintaining his body weight, which is around 170 pounds.

Keeping fit is important to Figarelli, who describes his blood pressure and cholesterol as "good," his heartbeat as "great" and he doesn't take any medication.

"Not one pill," he says. "Just some vitamins. No prescriptions."

When he's not at Anytime Fitness, you'll find him at the Stardust Bowl in Addison either bowling with, or cheering on, his team that's part of the Thursday night 14-team Tradesmen's League.

"We're in first place," he points out.

The Don of Sports

Once a month on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening, Figarelli hosts a television program, "The Addison Sports Special," which can be seen on Addison Community Television (ACTV, Comcast Channel 6) and normally features teams, coaches and individual athletes or sports personalities from schools and sports leagues in Addison.

Then, once a month on a Wednesday morning, he travels to Norridge, where he and John Divita, chief engineer and program manager for the Windy City Hometown Entertainment Network meet at the John Divita Broadcast Center. Divita will turn 80 in July, by the way. The men do an hour-long sports podcast, complete with sponsors, that can be found on



Don Figarelli is an active participant in all things sports and a talk show host.

windycityhometown.com.

Figarelli has regular guests on the podcast who usually discuss the ups and downs of the Cubs, White Sox, Bears, Bulls and Blackhawks, but any topic in the world of sports is fair game.

"He does a very nice job and is very knowledgeable about sports," says Divita, who also was Figarelli's engineer when Figarelli did a Saturday morning sports program on then-WJGG-AM 1530 for 10 years until 2011. "His personality, knowledge, appearance, everything, on a scale of 1 to 10, I'd give him a 12."

That show on WJGG was called "The Don of Sports" — the same title used for the podcast. It's a moniker Figarelli goes by to this day. The Don of Sports came to be after Figarelli met Mike North, a former host on 670-AM The Score — an all-sports talk radio station in Chicago — one evening several years ago at an Addison Trail High School basketball game and fundraiser.

"Someone introduced me to Mike, and I said, 'My name is Don,'" Figarelli recalls. "He (North) said, 'Is it your name or your title?' I was intrigued by that, so that kind of triggered, '(am I) the Don of a family? No, the Don of Sports."

Man for all sports

In July, Figarelli will be participating in the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association's Six-County Senior Games for adults 50-and-over. He first began

competing at age 74. Now in the 80- to 85-year-old age bracket, he consistently places first or second in events such as swimming, basketball (free-throw shooting), tennis, golf, bowling and track. Every year, Figarelli hosts a golf outing called "The Addison Cup," usually held the last Saturday in May at the Links & Tees Golf Facility in Addison.

"It's an invitation only (event for four golfers)," he says. "I try to invite the best golfers that I know for nine holes. It's a fun event, but competitive. The overall champion gets his name on a trophy."

Fitness and family

Figarelli also helps his son, John Figarelli, as a spokesman for the National Fitness Hall of Fame and Museum, founded by John in Minooka in 2004 to recognize pioneers and leaders in the fitness industry. The Class of 2018 will be selected in April.

"Every other industry recognizes their founders and their leaders, like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates with computers," says John, a Minooka resident. "They didn't have that for fitness, and I said, 'That has to change.' I had all this fitness memorabilia and said, 'You know what? I should maybe start a museum with all this stuff.' Then my Dad suggested, 'Well, if you're going to do that, make it a hall of fame so you can involve some of these people.' That's how it got started."

Don and his wife, Julia, have three children — John, Don Jr. and Teri — and four grandchildren. The couple will be celebrating their 58th anniversary in June.

"Anybody you talk to can't believe he's 84 years old; he's like 70 years old," John says. "He's retired but he's not sitting still. He keeps busy and active with community stuff. In his personal and family life he's always active so you're not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Staying healthy, staying involved



Mercy Circle resident Sister Ellen Marie Ryan, RSM with rehab manager Joanna Ruzich

"Thanks to Mercy Circle's short-term rehab, I'm already back in step as a volunteer at Mother McAuley High School," says Sister Ellen Marie Ryan, RSM. "I taught music there for more than 30 years. Helping out is a great encore."

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SPREAD SOME CHEER
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Guajardo. Taking the person out for a meal is sometimes a fun activity if the resident is able. "But if taking them out is hard, usually you can have a meal with them. Smith Crossing even has a bistro where residents can go with their guests. Visitors can also attend activities with residents. We have concerts and other activities each week."

The benefits of a visit

Aurora resident, Jo Fredell Higgins, has made a commitment to visit several home-bound friends over the years.

"I find that most of them are just so hungry for company," she says. "They don't want a handout or your pity. And they don't want you to feel sorry for them. They just value friendship. Someone who has led a full life has so much to offer even if they have health limitations. I often ask for their advice and learn so many things from them."

Higgins has found some friends just like to talk while others want to play cards or do other activities. She often snaps a selfie with the person she is visiting, which usually is a welcome gesture.

"Making visits is very reciprocal," sums up Higgins. "It is a nice time for both people. I think it is important to bring some light into someone's day and it is so easy to do." ■

KEEPING UP
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

going to see him sitting on the couch with a remote."

Don't sit around and watch TV, Don urges seniors. "You can jog, you can do two blocks or a half mile that keeps your wind stronger and lose weight. I recommend that. Of course, diet comes into it. Do pushaways — push away from the (dinner) table; one serving is enough. Exercise at home and get interested in a sport. Join a tennis club or a bowling league. Golf is a wonderful sport."

Words to the wise — and to live by — brought to you by the Don of Sports. ■

Out of here | Figuring out where to live in retirement

Okay. You've decided it may be time to make the move — either literally or figuratively. Retirement. As exciting as that is, it's also kind of scary.

The first thing to do is have a talk with yourself and ask some questions, such as where on earth do you want to live? And importantly, where can you afford to live?

Coming up with the answers to those questions brings up even more questions and ultimately, choices. Do you want to be near friends or family? Or do you want to try something totally new? Or to go somewhere that's been a second home for years?

Will you have a social network to plug into? If not, how do you find one? One tool to use is meetup.com. You'll find groups that are geographically suited, with interests that are shared.

Another way to build a social network is the tried and true one of connecting with others via church and religious groups, as well as community groups. Something to note: Be friendly. Remember you want to expand your social circle.

Are you married or single? That can be important. It's generally easier for a couple to make a big move because they provide their own social lives until they make new friends.

How do you like to spend your time? Doing active things like hiking or tennis? Or do you prefer participating in the theater or arts?

What's your financial story? Are you planning to continue working? Do you dream of turning a hobby into a new future? Is there a better place to do it?

Do you want to be near "civilization?" Or do you prefer natural beauty or wide-open spaces? Is there a sense of community and do you want one?

Answers

One of the best sources for advice and facts on all aspects of deciding where to move in retirement is



Hendersonville, North Carolina, has a quaint downtown and an active artist's community, drawing retirees looking to relocate. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, located on the Asheville campus of University of North Carolina, will host a Creative Exploration Retirement Weekend in June.

"Sperling's Best Places," (bestplaces.net) a very popular website and guide that covers everything about potential locations from altitudes to lifestyle attitudes to cost of living.

Patricia Cummings, a retiree from Richmond, near the Wisconsin border, says she has used Sperling's Best Places to help her explore various location options.

"I checked out California and Arizona," Cummings says. In California, she considered Pismo Beach. Cummings also took a look at Wyoming.

And after reviewing the guides' information, Cummings also looked online to see what residents had noted about the destinations themselves. She even checked snowfall figures because, after years of living on the Wisconsin border, she'd had it with snow.

When Cummings was planning for her retirement, she worked three part-time jobs for three years to make sure her funding needs were covered. During that time, she worked in condominium sales for two top luxury hotels in downtown Chicago. Earlier, as a third-generation horse

trainer, she also worked at two top thoroughbred breeding farms in Virginia.

Cummings moved to scenic Lake Lure in North Carolina three years ago. She's currently renting and on the waitlist for an apartment in nearby Hendersonville.

She still appreciates the beauty of Lake Lure, but has decided she'd rather live in Hendersonville, which has theater companies, good musicians performing in local clubs and provides a better connecting point to other communities in the larger area.

Go visit

Once you've done your preliminary research, it's essential to visit the location, ideally under a range of climatic conditions, time- and cost-permitting. Give yourself time to get a feel for the place. What's the weather like? How is the traffic? Can you see yourself living there?

To make the process more productive, various lifelong learning programs run by different institutions offer familiarization tours for prospective retirees. North Carolina is

a popular retirement state that offers such tours. The program at the University of North Carolina in Asheville covers a long weekend and is offered through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on the Asheville campus.

The program, the Creative Retirement Exploration Weekend or CREW, also includes a panel discussion with retirees from other nearby communities so attendees get a better feel for the whole area.

This year, OLLI at Asheville will be offering the CREW Program Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2, with an optional day added on Sunday, June 3. For more information, visit: olliasheville.com/creative-retirement-exploration-weekend.

What's trending

Like every endeavor, retirement planning takes some thought and homework.

In the meantime, here are some tips and trends.

Stretch your income. One good way to do this is to get a roommate. It's one of the boomer trends. It can also be a good way to expand your social network. And ward off loneliness.

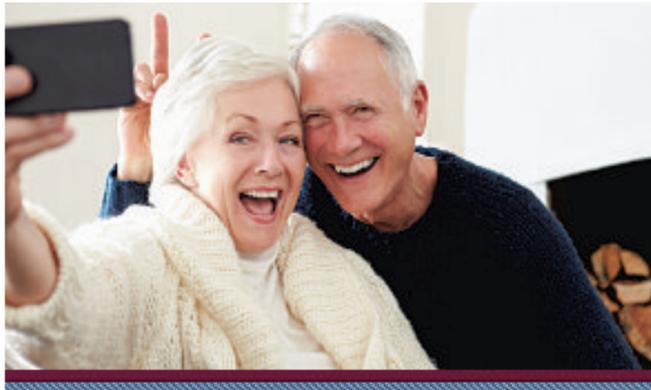
What about paying guests? A related big trend, particularly in retirement areas like Florida and the Carolinas, is to rent out one's house or one or two rooms to paying guests.

Move farther afield. A number of seniors are also experimenting with moves to foreign countries where their money goes further and which may offer a more relaxed way of life. This is easier if one knows people who are already on that path, which is an adventurous one.

So keep an eye on the Internet or even TV, to spot trends and be ready to think on your feet. ■

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1. Yarn tote bag

There are lots of yarn tote bags out there, but the BeCreative yarn bag is an Amazon best seller. This is the perfect bag to take your knitting or crocheting with you anywhere you go. It holds 10 skeins of yarn, and has five pockets on the outside and two on the inside to hold needles, hooks, scissors, glasses, phone, patterns, etc. The top of the bag has holes for the yarn to come out, so you can work while keeping your yarn clean. The bag has a detachable shoulder strap, and is sturdy enough to stand up by itself. Sold on amazon.com for \$22.

2. Coloring markers

Professional art markers in vibrant colors will make your coloring book designs pop. Prismacolor Premier Brush/Fine Art Markers have been the choice of artists for decades. These dual-headed markers have a brush tip at one end for flexible strokes and a fine tip at the other for precise lines. The markers come in 196 colors using alcohol-based, permanent ink. The most cost-effective way to buy them is in sets at art supply stores or craft stores. A set of 12 costs \$21 at Blick, dickblick.com.

3. Glue gun

There are many cheap hot glue guns on the market, but it is

better to pay a little more and get some safety features on your glue gun. Surebonder specializes in making versatile glue guns for different purposes. The DT-3100F Ultra Series 100 watt full size glue gun is a good all-purpose home glue gun. It is dual-temperature, so you can regulate how hot you want the glue, which determines how fast it dries. It also has auto shut-off technology, so it will cool down by itself after 30 minutes of disuse. The insulated nozzle helps protect your fingers from burns. It even has a body design that allows you to lay the glue gun on its side without causing a mess. Surebonder glue guns are available at the company website, surebonder.com, but amazon.com is selling this model for less, at \$21.

4. Cutting machine

Ever wonder how crafters cut those intricate designs in all kinds of materials, from paper to leather? They use specialized cutting machines like the Cricut Explore Air 2. The machine is Bluetooth enabled, which allows you to send a design from your computer, phone or tablet to the cutter, which cuts it out quickly and precisely. Swap the blades for a pen, and the Cricut Explore Air 2 will draw any design that you send to it onto your chosen material. There is also a scoring function for making fold lines on paper. The Cricut Explore Air 2 costs about \$199-\$299 depending on the extras bundled with it, such as fonts, paper, pens, mats, etc. Check Amazon and craft store websites to find the best deal. ■

Follow reason, not emotions, when it comes to retirement

Older adults seeking to fund secure retirement nest eggs are typically urged to follow several steps. These include creating financial plans, identifying asset allocation levels appropriate for their risk tolerance, routinely funding their tax-advantaged savings accounts and systematically rebalancing their portfolios. So what could go wrong?

The answer rests in our very human tendency to make emotional, rather than reasoned, decisions. Faced with a tanking stock market, many investors panic and sell out of stock positions, locking in losses. Confronted with a soaring market, many greedily purchase stocks at nosebleed levels, right before a market correction sends prices slaloming.

Those investors who typically fare best in the long run, ultimately savoring more-than-adequately-funded retirement portfolios, are the very people able to focus the most dispassionate eye on their financial goals. With the right strategies, you, too, can be among those with clear-eyed, objective, unemotional approaches to investing.

Three investor types

"Everyone experiences emotions when dealing with money," says Michael Hackett, vice president and trust officer with Harbour Trust Investment Management Company in Michigan City, Indiana. "Even professionals do. We say we're unemotional, long term-investors. Then why do we all turn on CNBC to find out what the jobs numbers were?"

Laurie P. Barry, CFP, wealth advisor and senior vice president in wealth management with UBS in Chicago, has seen her clients fall prey to fear and greed. "Emotion can hamper their preparedness because they veer off track," she says. "(Investors) listen to outside distractions when they should be paying attention to their plans. They may see something on TV or on the Internet... Or their co-worker may be moving something around in their portfolio because they're nervous, and convince them to do that too."

According to Chris White, CFA, senior portfolio manager at Hemenway Trust Company

in Salem, N.H., and author with Richard Koonce of "Working with the Emotional Investor," we all deal with two kinds of worlds. They are the low-stakes, everyday world, and the high-stakes world. Investment decisions are considered part of the high-stakes world.

"In high-stakes decision making, people's worst inclinations come to the fore," White says. "They tend to make decisions that are very damaging to their own personal interests. If they were to step back from the ledge, they would make saner decisions. But they are so terrified. They begin to feel if the market goes down there will be nothing left. They will lose everything. And that triggers their dark zone."

High-stakes behaviors should be viewed, White says, in the context of three broad investor types: protectors, fixers and survivors. "Protectors in the low stakes are protective, but as the stakes rise, there's an anxiety that develops," he reports. "They feel powerless, often will blame others and play the role of the victim. When it comes to investment decision making, they often sell at the bottom."

Fixers in low-stakes times are charming and magnetic, White says. These people have "can-do" personalities. Many CEOs are fixers. "But as tensions rise, and we move into high stakes, the fixer gets controlling, manipulative and abusive," he adds. "The fixer always has to win. He'll do anything to win... Feeling he has to win at any cost, when the market sells off he will buy too early, try to catch a falling knife and get cut."

By contrast, survivors are wrapped up in their own worlds, generally unaware of how their investments are faring. Survivors often adhere to their past investing approach, even after sound philosophy would suggest changes should have been made.

"Fear and greed are both exhibited in high-stakes situations," White says. "Greed will be exhibited more often by the fixer, fear more often by the protector. And the survivor doesn't necessarily exhibit either one, but in

being unaware damages his own interests."

Staying unemotional

Becoming an unemotional investor starts with avoiding blaring stock market headlines and sound bites.

"I can't tell you how often I've gotten calls from fixer and protector clients who've been watching CNBC; I can hear the program in the background," White says. "And I say, 'Turn that thing off!' The absence of that stimulation lets us move out of the dark zone high stakes and back into the light zone low-stakes world."

Ensuring proper asset allocation is another way to stave off emotions. "If you have enough assets outside the market, now you've got your cushion to live off," Hackett says. "People sell at the wrong time because they didn't have the right amount in stocks to begin with. So ask yourself, 'Am I in the right allocation?' If it is the right allocation, you never have to sell at the wrong time. And you can ride out the downturns."

Maintaining wise counsel can also prevent you from making emotional decisions you'll come to regret. "Listening to a trusted advisor or a team of advisors (is) a great way to maintain the course that will help you reach your financial goals," Barry says. "If you have people around you like a CPA, financial advisor and attorney, you tend to make very good decisions, stay true to your financial plans and keep the emotions out of it. Having a team and having a plan are two of the biggest things you can do to help you stay unemotional."

The best suggestion may be to know yourself, White says. "No one is really all one type, fixer, protector or survivor," he observes.

"I'm predominantly a protector. And I can feel it in my stomach and back and begin to feel powerless when I get into the dark zone. When that happens, I know myself well enough that I know I need to take a deep breath, acknowledge emotions are at the fore, calm down and make a more rational, quantitative-based decision." ■

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