



500 accused priests unnamed



CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Attorney General Lisa Madigan's report was critical of the six Catholic dioceses that govern Illinois parishes.

State AG report finds extensive abuse, says church yet to ID many

By **ELVIA MALAGON**
Chicago Tribune

A scathing report from Attorney General Lisa Madigan finds the number of Catholic priests accused of sexual abuse against children in Illinois is much higher than previously acknowledged.

The report said accusations have been leveled against 690 priests, while Catholic officials have pub-

licly identified only 185 clergy with credible allegations against them.

The determination is part of a preliminary report made public Wednesday by Madigan's office, which has been investigating Catholic clergy sexual abuse of minors following revelations during the summer of widespread abuse and cover-ups by Catholic officials in Pennsylvania. The report was critical of the six Cath-

olic dioceses that govern parishes across Illinois for their lack of transparency and flawed investigations.

Although the report says that "Clergy sexual abuse of minors in Illinois is significantly more extensive than the Illinois Dioceses previously reported," it does not estimate how many of the allegations against the 690 clergy should have been deemed credible. Some of the allegations go back dec-

ades. The report says Illinois dioceses "have lost sight of both a key tenet" of policies laid out by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as "the most obvious human need as a result of these abhorrent acts of abuse: the healing and reconciliation of survivors."

"Long after legal remedies have expired, the Catholic Church has the ability

and moral responsibility to survivors to offer support and services, and to take swift action to remove abusive clergy," the report states.

In a prepared statement, Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich acknowledged that victims of sexual abuse by Catholic priests continue to live with the pain. He said the archdiocese has been

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ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Zadette Rosado, left, her partner Casey Handal, and their children stand before a gay pride flag in their backyard in suburban Barrington.

At end of family's rainbow, theft of gay pride flag stirs a suburb

Swiping of banner in Barrington fuels community's colorful show of solidarity

By **JOHN KEILMAN**
Chicago Tribune

Casey Handal was hosting a gingerbread decorating party at her Barrington home this month when she glanced out her window and noticed something un-

nerving: The rainbow pride flag she and her fiancée flew from their backyard flagpole was gone, replaced by the Stars and Stripes.

Though Handal considers herself a proud American, she saw the uninvited flag swap as a

hostile gesture aimed at the only openly gay couple in the neighborhood.

"I think the message was quite clear," she said. "It was sort of the intolerant view vs. the inclusive liberal view. I think if somebody would have just taken the flag and not replaced it with anything, that wouldn't necessarily have sent quite the same message. It's more premeditated this

way." Handal went onto the Nextdoor social network to share her alarm and ask if anyone had seen the thief. Her friends were sympathetic, as were neighbors she had never met. But what came next was a surprise — an act of solidarity that turned a disturbing experi-

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State sees spate of departures once again

Population declines for 5th year as 45K people exit Illinois

By **ANGIE LEVENTIS LOURGOS**
Chicago Tribune

Mary Miller lived in Illinois for all of her 44 years until July, when she and her family left their north suburban Wauconda home to resettle in Florida.

"It's taxes. It's corruption. It's politics," she said. "And I don't mean Republicans or Democrats, it's all of them."

Miller wasn't alone in her departure from the state. Illinois has declined in population for the fifth year in a row, losing an estimated 45,116 residents from 2017 to 2018, according to the latest Census Bureau data released Wednesday.

That was a greater drop than the previous year, when Illinois lost about 40,000 people — as well as its spot as the fifth-most populous state in the nation to Pennsylvania.

The drop didn't surprise Miller, who said her parents, sibling and in-laws already had moved away before her, scattering across the country.

"It was hard to leave," she said. "I anticipated dying in Illinois. There are good opportunities, but I think those opportunities are dwindling."

The Land of Lincoln remains the sixth-most popu-

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Man charged in connection with deaths of 2 cops

Two felony weapons charges were filed against Edward Brown, 24, who was being chased by two cops before they were fatally struck by a train. **Chicagoland, Page 4**

Bears remain in the hunt for a first-round bye

Matt Nagy has his priorities straight when he says a first-round bye is the next goal to pursue, writes Brad Biggs. **Chicago Sports**



DELIL SOULEIMAN/GETTY-AFP 2017

A U.S. convoy motors along near the village of Yalanli in northern Syria. Some GOP and military leaders question President Donald Trump's troop withdrawal order Wednesday.

President orders U.S. withdrawal from Syria

Trump says ISIS has lost, moves to bring troops home

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR, ROBERT BURNS AND MATTHEW LEE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is pulling all 2,000 U.S. troops out of Syria, officials announced Wednesday as the president declared victory over the Islamic State, contradicting his own experts' assessments and sparking surprise and outrage from

his party's lawmakers who called his action rash and dangerous.

The U.S. began airstrikes in Syria in 2014, and ground troops moved in the following year to battle the Islamic State, or ISIS, and train Syrian rebels in a country torn apart by civil war. Trump abruptly declared their mission accomplished in a tweet.

"We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency," he said as Vice President Mike

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Tom Skilling's forecast High 47 Low 29

Chicago Weather Center: Complete forecast on back page of A+E section

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The @vintagetribune Instagram, a beloved photography account produced by the photo editors of the Chicago Tribune, has been mining the newspaper's vast archives. These are the images that would have been posted had Instagram existed in, say, 1932 — the offbeat, gritty, funny, rare, everyday images captured in the moments that happened between the events that make up the city's official biography. This book is an unexpected, inspired portrait, told through the lenses of the countless photographers from the city's hometown paper. Get a copy at store.chicagotribune.com/books.

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Visit the Tribune's Freedom Center for a two and half hour tour of the printing presses, press plates and enormous paper rolls, and get a taste of the Tribune's history. **9 a.m. Jan. 16, Chicago Tribune Freedom Center, 777 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago. \$25 tickets.** Free parking, lot opens 20 minutes before start of tour. For tickets, go to chicagotribune.com/freedomcenter

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MARGARET HOLT, standards editor

The Tribune's editorial code of principles governs professional behavior and journalism standards. Everyone in our newsroom must agree to live up to this code of conduct. Read it at chicagotribune.com/accuracy.

Corrections and clarifications: Publishing information quickly and accurately is a central part of the Chicago Tribune's news responsibility.

- A secondary headline on a Page 1 story Wednesday about two Chicago police officers struck by a train incorrectly referred to a locomotive. The train was powered by an electric traction system, not a locomotive.
- John Kass' column Wednesday incorrectly stated that the charge that former Gov. Rod Blagojevich had tried to sell a U.S. Senate seat was thrown out. While some counts involving the Senate seat were overturned on appeal, others stood. The Tribune regrets the errors.

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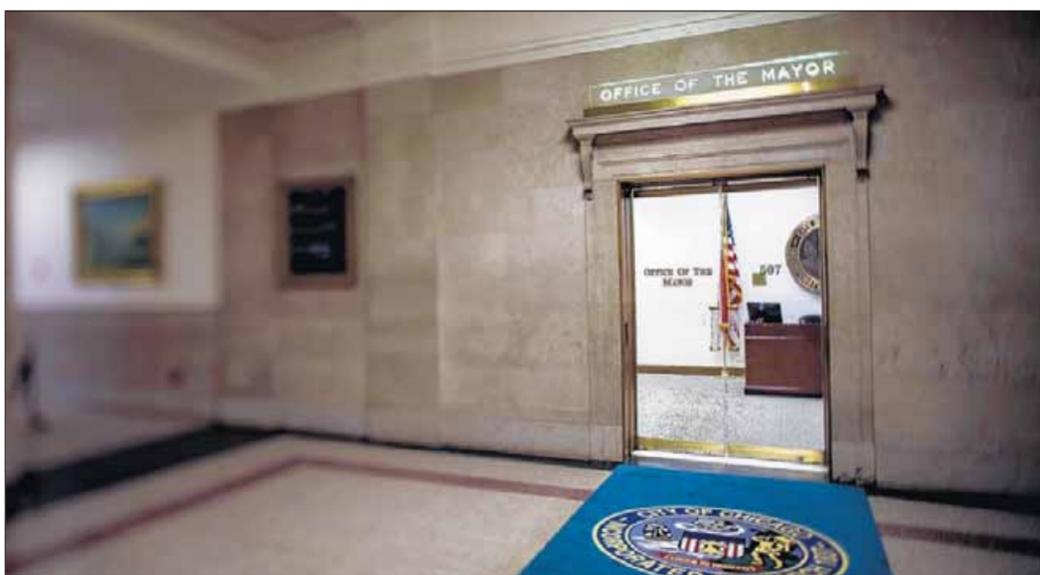
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BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



JOHN KASS

Mayoral race latecomers should get out of the way

The common definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, and by this, Chicago is certifiable in the race for mayor.

But don't worry, I offer a solution to ease the craziness.

This involves the pre-Rahm candidates and the post-Rahm candidates.

The post-Rahm candidates, who didn't have the guts to challenge Mayor Rahm Emanuel, are all about personal ambition, not love for Chicago.

And I think it's best for Chicago that the post-Rahm candidates just take a walk and go. Shoo. Scat.

Because with some 20 mayoral candidates, taxpayers can see nothing but chaos ahead: a snake pit of candidates loudly slapping one another with race cards, gender cards, personality cults, "family mythology cards" and so on.

Some get headlines as they wave fat campaign checks. Others get attention for their bubbly personalities, as if the ability to raise campaign money or to possess a bubbly personality qualifies someone to run a broken city on the edge of fiscal collapse.

The way things are shaping up now, after the February mayoral elections, the April runoff pitting the two top vote-getters in the general election could look like this:

One candidate with a great personality yet absolutely no clue on how to run Chicago; the other some cynical apparatchik from the corrupt status quo that has led Chicago to the abyss.

And who will win? The apparatchik. That's just the way many insiders and oligarchs like it, because they want to keep control.

But they'll need help from all the opportunists who eagerly jumped into the race after Emanuel announced he wouldn't seek re-election. The water wasn't scary anymore.

These include Son of Boss/Bro of Boss William Daley; Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, champion of the public unions who must bleed taxpayers to live; and Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza.

If Mendoza becomes mayor, she'll need an oversized "Get Smart" Cone of Silence in her City Hall office to

accommodate the rather large heads of Ald. Ed Burke and House Speaker Mike Madigan, who will be in there often telling her what to do.

The latecomers also include Rich Daley's former chief of staff and school board president, Gery Chico.

If you don't like what you're reading, then please just go to sleep or smoke a bong, because this is what is happening to Chicago.

I called former federal prosecutor Lori Lightfoot, one of the earliest candidates to announce a run against Rahm. She was disgusted when the apparatchiks jumped in, after Emanuel succumbed to a case of *Laquan McDonald Videoitis*.

"They were so brave, weren't they?" Lightfoot asked me, sarcastically. "They jumped in right after Goliath was slain, after Emanuel was vanquished. They must have thought things were absolutely fine in the city, or is it that they were only worried about themselves, worried about keeping their position?"

Lightfoot doesn't have a bubbly personality. But she's smart as hell, which is why I like her.

"And in every crowd I'm in, I've been very blunt in saying this to the people: that those who didn't have the guts to fight for you when Rahm was in won't stand for you now that he's gone," Lightfoot said.

"The story is different for each of them, but each represents different factions of the failed Democratic machine," Lightfoot said. "Daley, Preckwinkle, Chico, Mendoza. They're just different forms of the same failed status quo."

These are the opportunist and cynical candidates that I call the post-Rahm candidates: those who didn't dare get into the race until after Rahm left. And what does that tell Chicago?

That these candidates are craven and care more about themselves than the city and its people they now vow to champion.

Because if they truly cared about the city, they would have been in the race when it counted. But Preckwinkle didn't want trouble as she ran for re-election as county board president. And Mendoza didn't want trouble

as she ran for state comptroller.

They offer solutions and grand plans now, but where were those grand plans before September, when Rahm pulled the plug?

They were nowhere.

Chico disagrees with me. "In 2011 when I ran against Emanuel, there was nobody with me," Chico said during a taping of an upcoming episode of my podcast, "The Chicago Way," on WGN Plus. "No Preckwinkle, no Daley — in fact the Daleys helped Emanuel. Preckwinkle? I don't know where she was."

But the pre-Rahm candidates had the guts to challenge Rahm directly, and risk his wrath and his oppo-research team.

The pre-Rahm candidates include Lightfoot; former Chicago Public Schools chief Paul Vallas; businessman Willie Wilson; former police Superintendent Garry McCarthy; activist Ja'Mal Green; Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy "Goat Lady" Brown; and Jerry Joyce, son of the man who put Rich Daley in office, Jeremiah Joyce.

They're not perfect, each has flaws. But those are issues for another day.

The pre-Rahm candidates saw Chicago was in trouble and didn't blink when challenging the tiny mayoral Goliath.

And today, Chicago needs clarity, ideas and commitment, not ambitious politicians who were too frightened to challenge the status quo when it counted, yet who know how to get media praise.

Chico, Mendoza, Daley (you really want another Daley?) and Preckwinkle and the other post-Rahm candidates should just fade away.

If you love Chicago, you'll just step off the corner. But if you love yourselves more than you love the city, you'll stick around and promise all sorts of magic.

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Disclosures are 'a matter of dignity'

Airlines now must share data if they break wheelchairs



HEIDI STEVENS
Balancing Act

Beginning as early as January, airline passengers will be able to search the U.S. Department of Transportation website to determine an airlines' record of handling wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

"It's very much a matter of dignity," U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., told me Tuesday.

As part of the five-year re-authorization of the Federal Aviation Administration that Congress passed recently, air carriers have to begin providing monthly reports, accessible to the public, detailing the number of checked bags, wheelchairs and motorized scooters they lost, broke or mishandled.

The rule was actually passed two years ago after receiving bipartisan support, but Duckworth said the Department of Transportation was delaying implementation until she pushed U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Congress to force the airlines to make the data — which they already collect each month — available to the public.

"The first report should be out the first week of January and will cover the month of December," Duckworth said. "It might be as late as February, but we're hoping for a January time frame."

Duckworth, a veteran who uses a wheelchair after losing both of her legs in 2004 while serving in the Iraq War, compared the data to an airline's on-time arrival record. Necessary, in other words, for consumers



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Sen. Tammy Duckworth hosts a meeting with officials from St. Clair County in her office earlier this year at the Hart Senate Office Building.

"When you break my wheelchair, you're basically taking my legs away from me. It is my mobility."

— Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill.

to make informed decisions about where they spend their air-travel money.

Duckworth said two of her wheelchairs have been broken during air travel and one, just two weeks

ago, was banged up so badly that she had to take it to a VA medical center to get it adjusted.

"In one case, they snapped the titanium rod that supports the seat," she said. "It looked OK when they brought it to me, and when I sat on it, it collapsed."

Passengers whose wheelchairs or mobility devices are broken are often stranded on the plane until a new one arrives, Duckworth said, and a new one often means a giant airport-provided wheelchair with no brakes that doesn't fit through most doors. That's what happened to Duckworth the last time hers was broken.

"I couldn't even roll myself — I had to have someone push me," she said. "I couldn't go to the bathroom by myself."

People with cerebral palsy or paralysis often use wheelchairs that have been sculpted specifically for their bodies, she said. Having that caliber of machinery lost or broken is expensive, onerous and dangerous.

"Even if they rip or gouge a seat cushion, that can lead to things like sores and skin breakdowns and all sorts of problems," Duckworth said.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, a group that advocates for quality health care, benefits and civil

rights for veterans and all people with disabilities, helped spearhead and push for the legislation, Duckworth said.

"When you break my wheelchair, you're basically taking my legs away from me," she said. "It is my mobility."

Also attached to the FAA reauthorization was Duckworth's Friendly Airports for Mothers Act, co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb., and U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., requiring all large- and medium-sized airports to provide clean, accessible, private rooms in every terminal for nursing mothers. The bill also requires airports to provide baby-

changing tables in men's and women's bathrooms.

Once again, we're seeing the fruits of a Congress that looks and lives like its diverse body of constituents and brings those lived experiences to the legislative table.

Join the Heidi Stevens' Balancing Act Facebook group, where she hosts live chats every Wednesday at noon. This week, she'll be joined by social worker Caryn Curry from Lurie Children's Hospital's Center for Childhood Resilience to talk about creating a healthy emotional climate at home.

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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGOLAND

Alleged victim of Burge's detectives wins a new trial

Gerald Reed has spent past 20 years in Stateville prison

BY ROSEMARY SOBEL AND MEGAN CREPEAU
Chicago Tribune

After some six years of legal wrangling, a convicted murderer who alleged he was beaten into confessing by disgraced former Chicago police Cmdr. Jon Burge's notorious "midnight crew" of detectives nearly three decades ago won a new trial Wednesday.

As Cook County Judge Thomas V. Gainer Jr. announced his decision, Gerald Reed's mother leaned over and sobbed.

Gainer scheduled a detention hearing for Friday at which time he will decide whether to free Reed from custody while awaiting a new trial.

"He was in a state of shock today," attorney Elliot Zinger declared of Reed, who he said uses a wheelchair because of his injuries from the beating.

Reed has spent the past 28 years in Stateville prison, serving out a life sentence for the 1990 murders of Pamela Powers and Willie Williams on the South Side.

In the days following his arrest, Reed alleges, Detective Victor Breska kicked him so hard that he broke a rod that had been placed in his leg to aid in his healing from a gunshot wound.

A report by the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission concluded there was no evidence that the rod was broken before Reed's arrest or after he arrived at Cook County Jail. The only "plausible explanation" was the beating at the police station, the commission said.

Reed said the beating stopped when Breska's partner, Detective Michael Kill, pulled Breska off of Reed. Kill never reported the beating.

In making his ruling, Gainer noted correctional officer Clarence English had testified that he saw Reed lying on the floor in the jail's intake area. Reed told him he had been beaten by police, English said.

"I can't believe it — it feels so good," said Reed's mother, Armanda Shackelford, wearing a white T-shirt emblazoned with black lettering that read, "Free Gerald Reed."

"Finally!" she said, lean-

ing forward, laughing a bit.

Shackelford said she is hopeful her son will be home by Saturday, his 55th birthday.

"I couldn't sleep last night," she said as her blue eyes welled with tears. "They told me not to get my hopes up, but I believe in God. He's suffered enough. Let him go."

Much of the argument throughout the lengthy post-trial hearings centered on Reed's medical history. A doctor took an X-ray of Reed's leg in 2016 and concluded that the bone had been broken twice — once from the gunshot wound and then from a "direct blow," Reed's attorneys said in closing arguments last month.

"The X-ray doesn't lie. You look at the X-ray, you see what happened. It's very simple. He was kicked. There was trauma. It's on the X-ray," a transcript quoted Zinger, Reed's lawyer, as saying.

Much of Reed's 1990s-era jail medical records were lost. But what little paperwork has been found does not show a second fracture in the leg or any movement in the implanted rod, special prosecutor Lawrence Rosen said in the closing arguments.

Medical experts agree that the rod could have broken on its own as a result of the bone's natural healing process, Rosen said.

"All of the testimony that Reed gave is completely inconsistent with this idea that he had been beaten and that he was in severe pain and that both the rod and the femur were broken," he said.

Rosen also argued that Reed's attorneys presented no "reliable evidence" that Kill was substantially involved in the alleged beating.

Zinger, though, called the now-deceased Kill "one of the most notorious detectives in the city of Chicago."

"Kill in this case is a central figure, though, even if he didn't do the striking," Zinger said during closing arguments. "He threatened Mr. Reed. He knew about the beating. He was outside the door, as Mr. Reed testified, while Breska was beating him. And he also came in and played good cop and pulled Breska off him."

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ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

People watch as ambulances deliver the bodies of Officers Conrad Gary and Eduardo Marmolejo to Blake Lamb Funeral Home.

Man charged in connection with deaths of 2 officers

Edward Brown, 24, faces 2 felony weapons charges

BY JEREMY GORNER
Chicago Tribune

Two felony weapons charges were filed Wednesday against a man who was being chased by two Chicago police officers before they were fatally struck by a train on the Far South Side earlier this week, officials said.

Edward Brown, 24, of Chicago, is charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and reckless discharge of a firearm, according to the Cook County state's attorney's office. He was scheduled to appear for a bond hearing Thursday at the Leighton Criminal Court Building.

Calumet District Officers Eduardo Marmolejo and Conrad Gary had been called to an area near 103rd Street and Dauphin Avenue around 6:20 p.m. Monday after a ShotSpotter sensor picked up gunfire, police officials said. Marmolejo, 36, and Gary, 31, saw a suspect, got out of their car and scrambled up to the tracks, according to police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi.

Video from one of the officers' body cameras shows them crossing the viaduct and heading south.

A northbound Metra Electric train approached ahead of them. They kept walking on tracks used by southbound trains, unaware they were in the path of a South Shore Line train, Guglielmi said. They were struck not far from the 103rd Street Rosemoor stop.

Funerals scheduled for Friday, Saturday

Funerals for the two Chicago police officers killed when struck by a train while pursuing a suspect will be held Friday and Saturday at a church on the Southwest Side, the Police Department announced.

Services for Officer Conrad Gary will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday at St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel at 7740 S. Western Ave., police said in a release. A wake will be held from 3-9 p.m. Thursday at Blake Lamb Funeral Home at 4727 W. 103rd St. in Oak Lawn.

The funeral for Officer Eduardo Marmolejo will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church. The wake will be from 3-9 p.m. Friday at the Blake Lamb Funeral Home.

Burial for both will be private, the department said.

The officers were struck by a South Shore commuter train around 6:20 p.m. Monday as they responded to a call of shots fired near 103rd Street and Dauphin Avenue. They were crossing a viaduct over 103rd when they hit from behind, officials said.

They are the third and fourth Chicago police officers who have died in the line of duty this year.

— Chicago Tribune



Edward Brown is scheduled to appear for a bond hearing on Thursday.

til the Kensington station, about a mile away, according to Michael Noland, CEO and president of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, which operates South Shore trains on Metra tracks.

Marmolejo had been on the force 2½ years and Gary 18 months, police said. Both were fathers of young children. They were among four Chicago police officers killed in the line of duty this year.

On Nov. 19, Officer Samuel Jimenez, 28, was killed in a mass shooting at Mercy Hospital & Medical Center on the Near South Side. Two women, Dr. Tamara O'Neal, 38, and pharmacist Dayna Less, 24, also were killed before the gunman died after he was shot by another officer in the abdomen and shot himself in the head.

On Feb. 13, Cmdr. Paul Bauer, 53, was fatally shot while chasing a suspect to a stairwell outside the Thompson Center in the Loop.

Marmolejo and Gary were assigned to the Calumet District on the Far South Side where three other officers have died at work this year. Two died from suicides outside the district's police station on East 111th Street. The third officer, 47-year-old Vinita Williams, died in July after collapsing at the station.

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Judge reschedules ruling on fate of 3 Chicago officers

Will rule Jan. 15 on fate of cops in cover-up trial

BY MEGAN CREPEAU AND CHRISTY GUTOWSKI
Chicago Tribune

A Cook County judge on Wednesday rescheduled until next month her ruling on the fate of three current or former Chicago police officers on trial on charges of covering up the circumstances of Laquan McDonald's fatal shooting by police.

Associate Judge Domenica Stephenson initially was slated to rule Wednesday in the hot-button case but delayed the decision until Jan. 15.

She gave no reason for the delay.

Ex-Detective David March, former Officer Joseph Walsh and Officer

Thomas Gaffney stood trial before Stephenson on charges they filed false police reports to exaggerate the threat posed by the 17-year-old McDonald. Closing arguments took place Dec. 6.

Each is charged with official misconduct, obstructing justice and conspiracy. It is believed to be Cook County's first criminal case stemming from the so-called police code of silence.

Over the course of the five-day trial, the officers' attorneys argued that any discrepancies in the officers' paperwork could be chalked up to innocent mistakes or differences of opinion.

McDonald was shot 16 times by then-Officer Jason Van Dyke, who was convicted of second-degree murder and aggravated battery by a Cook County jury

in a separate trial this fall. Van Dyke was the first Chicago cop to be convicted of murder for an on-duty incident in half a century. He is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 18.

Special prosecutor Patricia Brown Holmes charged March, Walsh and Gaffney in June 2017, more than 18 months after the court-ordered release of a police dashboard camera video of McDonald's shooting sparked citywide protests and the ouster of several high-ranking public officials.

March was the lead detective in the shooting investigation, Walsh was Van Dyke's partner that night and Gaffney was among the first officers on the scene.

The official misconduct charge carries the most serious potential penalty — up to five years in prison. However, Stephenson also could



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Former Detective David March, from left, and ex-police Officer Joseph Walsh approach the bench with attorneys at a post-trial hearing on Wednesday.

impose probation if she convicts any of the officers on any of the three counts.

The now-infamous dashcam video — released more than a year after McDonald's October 2014 shooting — showed the white officer opening fire within seconds of exiting his squad car as the black teen walked away from police with a knife in

his hand. The video contradicted reports from officers at the scene that McDonald had threatened officers with the weapon.

The Rev. Marvin Hunter, McDonald's great-uncle, came to court Wednesday thinking he would hear the judge's decision. He left disappointed, unaware she had announced the delay

days earlier. "Certainly, there has been enough presented that any reasonable judge should be able to find these gentlemen guilty of the charges," he told reporters.

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Insider laying out case against El Chapo

Half of Chicago twins who turned on kingpin testifies

BY JEFF COEN
Chicago Tribune

NEW YORK — The large November 2008 heroin drop near O'Hare International Airport was unusual for more than one reason.

For starters, the Sinaloa cartel had sent 20 kilos instead of the promised 18, perhaps as a test of loyalty to see whether someone on the receiving end might skim the extra product.

Second, the courier taking delivery of the drugs for the Chicago wing of the cartel was actually a Drug Enforcement Administration agent.

And finally, the ranking cartel member in charge of the city and the U.S. distribution that came with it was using the drug purchase to try to lure the biggest alleged narcotics trafficker in the world, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, into talking about it in a recorded telephone conversation. Pedro Flores eventually spoke to Guzman about whether money for the heroin should go to Mexico or get picked up locally.

"Look, someone is going to give you the number of the guy that is in Chicago. They are going to give it to you now," Guzman could be heard to say.

He then told Flores to say hello to his twin brother, who was helping run the Sinaloa cartel's business in the city, bringing in tons of cocaine for movement around the country.

Flores told the story in his second day on the witness stand in federal court in Brooklyn, where Guzman is the defendant in a landmark drug-trafficking trial, thanks in large part to Flores' work with the DEA.

Flores continued to share with an anonymous jury hearing the case how the drug business worked on the ground, and how El Chapo ruled over it and directed operations.



U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Authorities escort Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the defendant in a landmark trafficking case, in New York early this year.



Margarito Flores Pedro Flores

Secret recordings

Flores and his twin Margarito rose from local dealing in Chicago to run the cartel's massive operation to bring drugs into America, and their cooperation represented a monumental strike against Guzman.

The phone call and others played in court Wednesday were key in the federal effort against the alleged drug lord.

Jurors heard Guzman's own voice greeting Flores with "Amigo!" on a call and discussing a price break on

the Chicago heroin.

The window into Sinaloa drug operations sometimes reached a granular level, as Flores, with his roots in the city's Little Village neighborhood, talked about chores as mundane as setting up the dozens of cell-phones for his crews to use.

When he would do so, he tested out the phones with a number familiar to most Chicagoans, 312-588-2300.

"What's that?" a prosecutor asked.

"That's the number for Empire carpeting," Flores replied, without saying the number in the company's ubiquitous, sing-song advertising jingle. "I used to always dial that number."

The response got little reaction in the New York City courtroom.

El Chapo had arrived at the defense table Wednesday in what seemed like a

good mood. Dressed in a blue suit and tie, he waved to some onlookers and raised a hand to his head in what appeared to almost be a salute to a pair of courtroom sketch artists who have been making chalky drawings of him for days.

He listened as Flores continued to tell jurors that Guzman was the head of cartel operations that included his own branch that moved many tons of drugs to Chicago on trains and trucks for distribution. The panel listened to several calls between Flores and cartel leaders including Guzman, who agreed to drop the price of the Chicago shipment by \$5,000 a kilo.

Flores described being unable to answer one phone call from Guzman because he was standing with a group of people and didn't

want to take his store-bought digital recorder out of his pants pocket to tape the drug kingpin.

Two weeks after the calls with his boss, Flores said he turned himself in to the DEA full time and took himself out of harm's way. He said he was essentially controlling the flow of cartel cocaine and heroin into Chicago and the U.S. from Mexico, right up to that point.

Allegations of a cartel hit

In a cross-examination later Wednesday, Guzman's lawyer, William Purpura, raised questions about past statements Flores has made to authorities about who was supplying his drugs, especially early in his career. The defense has sought to push blame for

drug operations onto Guzman's co-defendant in the case, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, who remains at large.

Purpura tried to cast doubt over whether it was El Chapo's voice on the phone calls at all, playing for jurors a video of a TV interview of him, where Guzman's voice sounded slower than on the Flores recordings.

The lawyer also spent time chipping away at the image Flores had painted for jurors over two days: that he was just in the business for the money, ordered no killings of anyone, and only helped the government once he feared for his life.

To do so he tried to tie Flores to a significant Chicago gang murder. Latin King boss Rudy Rangel Jr. was gunned down in a Little Village barber shop in 2003, and Purpura pointed out Flores had previously described Rangel, whom he knew from the neighborhood, as a thief who would rob drug dealers.

After Rangel was murdered, his widow went on to marry Flores' brother, Margarito, Purpura noted. Flores testified that he did not order anyone to kill Rangel.

The lawyer also tried to show that Flores could have a motive to lie — in helping the government prosecute Guzman, Flores could face as little as two years in prison, instead of life.

Purpura also noted that the twins' spouses have made good on the family's stories. They recently put out a book called "Cartel Wives," which has been optioned for TV or a movie.

Flores might even get to see Margarito again. Purpura asked whether the two are still as close as ever.

"I've been away from him for about nine years," Flores said, "but in spirit, yes."

The trial, which has been going on for a month, is expected to break for the holidays after Thursday, and could last several weeks into the new year.

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JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A plane approaches O'Hare International Airport in November 2015, seen here flying over an area near Center Street and Main Street in Bensenville.

Bensenville residents' suit over O'Hare noise tossed

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI
Chicago Tribune

A Cook County judge on Wednesday tossed out a lawsuit brought by Bensenville residents complaining of noise from O'Hare International Airport, ruling that they waited too long to file their complaint after a new runway began operations.

The owners of 65 homes in west suburban Bensenville filed a lawsuit in October 2015 seeking compensation from the city of Chicago because of the impact of planes taking off and landing near their neighborhood on a runway that opened in October 2013 at O'Hare.

The affected area is immediately west of runway 10 Center/28 Center on O'Hare's south airfield. The lawsuit said that planes coming in to land toward the east pass as low as 100 feet over the rooftops of homes and "literally roar down the streets of the residents."

But Cook County Judge Thomas R. Mulroy ruled that the residents filed

The lawsuit said that planes coming in to land toward the east pass as low as 100 feet over the rooftops of homes.

their suit too late since they had one year from the date when the runway allegedly deprived them of the enjoyment of their property to file a complaint. The lawsuit was not filed until almost two years after runway operations began.

The residents had argued that the impact to their property increased after October 2014, with bigger planes, more cargo planes and more planes flying at odd, late night hours, which extended the statute of limitations. Mulroy ruled that there "were no significant changes" in runway operations be-

tween spring and summer of 2014 and the same period of 2015, outside of normal seasonal variations.

"We are pleased with the decision," said Bill McCaffrey, spokesman for the city's Law Department.

Complaints about runway noise have increased in recent years after Chicago started building new east-west runways that are meant to be safer and more efficient.

Mike Leonard, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, said they plan to appeal. He said that the city was stopped from raising the statute of limitations since city officials, including Mayor Rahm Emanuel, repeatedly made statements that it was acting to reduce the impact of the runway on Bensenville residents. Leonard said the residents relied on the promises of the mayor and other officials and are "essentially punished for doing so and not going directly to court."

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Prosecutors seek to block release on bond of DEA agent

BY JASON MEISNER
Chicago Tribune

Fernando Gomez was a tactical police officer in the north suburbs in 2010 when he and a colleague discussed whether he should apply to be an agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, according to federal prosecutors.

But Gomez's career adviser wasn't a relative or fellow cop. He was a reputed leader of a violent Puerto Rico-based drug cartel who agreed that if Gomez joined the DEA, they would be "unstopable," prosecutors alleged.

The new details of Gomez's allegedly stunning betrayal were laid out by prosecutors in New York, where the DEA agent was charged in a new indictment last week with conspiring for more than a decade with a drug organization responsible for numerous killings and other violence.

"When Gomez swore to uphold our nation's drug laws, he never had any intention of doing that," prosecutors said in a two-page filing that seeks to block his possible release on bond in Chicago. "From the beginning, he was a double agent."

Prosecutors said that as a police officer in Evanston, Gomez had obtained guns from drug dealers and delivered them to gang members in Puerto Rico. He also helped transport "large sums of money" for the drug organization from New York to San Juan, the filing alleged.

And prosecutors said Gomez's plan to join the DEA to protect his friend — alleged drug trafficker Jose Martinez-Diaz, also known as "Tony Zinc" — succeeded. Martinez-Diaz "evaded detection from law enforcement for years" until his arrest in early 2018 — by the FBI, not the DEA, according to prosecutors.

Gomez, who was arrested last week at the DEA Chicago field office when the indictment was unsealed, is asking a federal judge in Chicago to release him to a family friend who's willing to put up equity in her house to secure his bond.

At a hearing this week, U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Cox said she was inclined to grant bond so Gomez could travel to New York on his own to face the charges. She scheduled a hearing for Thursday to review the property that would be posted and question the friend who agreed to ensure that Gomez complied with the conditions of his release.

But prosecutors in Manhattan on Wednesday asked the judge overseeing the case there to override whatever decision Cox makes and deny bond for Gomez, saying he poses a danger to the community and a risk to flee.

U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman has scheduled a detention hearing for Thursday in New York, where Gomez and his attorneys will participate via teleconference.

Gomez, 41, was charged with racketeering conspiracy for his alleged decade-long affiliation with the Organizacion de Narcotraficantes Unidos, a conglomerate of drug traffickers based in Puerto Rico responsible for importing vast shipments of cocaine into New York and elsewhere.

The 40-page indictment alleged the gang participated in at least eight drug-related killings in New York and Puerto Rico dating to 2005.

One of Gomez's co-defendants was a police officer in Puerto Rico when he and another alleged gang member killed a rival in San Juan in 2007, prosecutors charged in court records filed in the case.

Gomez began working

for the gang when he was a detective for Evanston police, according to the charges.

"Gomez then joined the DEA so that he could help members of the narcotics conspiracy, including Martinez-Diaz, evade prosecution by law enforcement," the indictment alleged.

The charges do not allege Gomez personally participated in any of the killings. One of the counts he faces, however, accused him of carrying firearms — "some of which were brandished and discharged" — in relation to a drug-trafficking crime.

Gomez faces a mandatory minimum 20-year sentence and up to life in prison if convicted.

Gomez's attorneys have described him as a dedicated family man who had a distinguished career with the U.S. Marines before going into law enforcement. He owns property in Chicago and shares custody of his young daughter, his attorneys said, and his only ties to Puerto Rico were when he was on assignment there with the DEA.

In asking that Gomez be denied bond, prosecutors said that his law enforcement training makes him "more equipped to evade detection if he chooses to flee."

He also has the resources to flee because of his connection to Martinez-Diaz and "other wealthy drug traffickers with international connections," prosecutors said.

The filing also hinted at the potential for violence if Gomez is released. According to prosecutors, the drug organization he works for has killed suspected informants in the past and there have been "serious, credible threats" made to the lives of witnesses who may testify at Gomez's trial.

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A crowd gathers outside of Mexico Lindo in the Portage Commons shopping center for a protest against ICE raids on Tuesday.

Dozens rally outside Portage eatery after employees detained

4 men, 1 woman picked up during recent ICE raid

BY ROB EARNSHAW AND CAROLE CARLSON
Post-Tribune

Dozens gathered outside of a Portage restaurant Tuesday night to protest a recent raid by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency that detained five workers.

Mexico Lindo, 5908 U.S. 6, in the Portage Commons shopping center, closed down for the protest and employees joined members of NWI Resistance in condemning not just the raid at the Portage location but also one at Mexico Lindo in Knox.

Jessica Fleming, who works at the Portage restaurant, said everybody who knows the business "knows we are not criminals."

"Everyone knows what this restaurant has done for the community," she said. "How supportive this business has been of Portage and Knox."

Fleming told the supporters not to lose faith.

"We will win," she said.

A spokesman for one of the people who was detained who asked not to be identified said Saturday that three employees were picked up by authorities. Two other employees were picked up at another Mexico Lindo restaurant in Knox.

The family spokesman said the agents wore Homeland Security and



Mexico Lindo employee Jessica Fleming wipes a tear as she speaks during a Tuesday protest of the ICE raid.

state excise police jackets.

Nicole Alberico, spokeswoman for ICE in Chicago, referred questions to state officials. She said the "targeted enforcement is an ongoing investigation."

Those detained included four men and one woman, according to the family spokesman. One man was taken to a county detention facility in Kankakee, Ill.

The family source said they were all longtime employees. One waitress is a single mother with three children, the source said.

"They've been good workers," the spokesman said.

A worker's son was in the restaurant and watched as his father was taken away, the spokesman said.

NWI Resistance said that the five workers from Mexico Lindo are being detained in an Illinois facility. The group has been protesting the deportations at the Gary/Chicago International Airport for the last two years.

"It gets me very, very angry," co-organizer Ruth

Needleman said. "The reason why the raids took place was to scare people. And the fact they did it the week before Christmas is an abomination. It is cruel, it is inhuman."

"We will not be divided, we will not be terrorized and we will not stand for these raids and roundups of people who are important contributors to this community," she said.

Leslie Esquivel, a recent Indiana University Northwest graduate and DACA recipient, said the families of those detained will be supported in any way possible.

Esquivel said she is most afraid of coming home and not seeing her parents because they have been deported, leaving her 8-year-old sister behind.

"My dad works so hard," she said.

Esquivel said the immigration system is broken and there is so much more involved in applying for citizenship than people know.

"It is not something you

can order off Amazon and have it delivered in two days," she said. "It is a process that takes years. Sometimes even decades."

One man, who did not want to give his name, said he is the grandfather of children whose parent was one of those detained.

"This has affected my family," he said. "It has affected my granddaughters. They are asking for their dad. We can't give them answers because of this illegal injustice they have done. All they want is to have their family together. This is not right. We have to stop this."

Guillermo Marin said one of the detained men is trying to provide for his family and is not a criminal.

Also speaking was Scott Houldieson, an official with UAW Ford Local 551 in Chicago, who said he is a union guy and working class guy there to support working folks and to show solidarity with the people who have been "suffering by the hands of this administration."

"Why is the federal government targeting hard-working class people — they are afraid," Houldieson said. "When we get together and the power we have when we come together, we can fight off their greed because that is what it is all about. They are trying to divide us so they can steal from us."

Portage Mayor James Snyder and police Chief Troy Williams said Sunday they were not made aware of the raid.

Needleman said Sunday

two patrons were also picked up by ICE at an East Chicago restaurant.

"We need to respond quickly. The fact there were three ICE raids is a bad signal. We are in a crisis," she said. "The impact on the Latino community is immense. It's creating a crisis of trauma."

Merrillville immigration attorney Alfredo Estrada said he's representing one of the East Chicago restaurant patrons.

Typically, he said the first step is to ask a court for a determination on a bond hearing. He said the statutory bond minimum is \$1,500.

"We have to show they're not a danger to the community, not flight or national security risk," he said.

Estrada said his client was taken to a detention facility in Pulaski County in southwestern Illinois, near the Missouri border.

Needleman said NWI Resistance is planning a meeting Jan. 12 at the student library building at Purdue University Northwest's Hammond campus.

She also said the group has secured a billboard to go up on Jan. 7 along Interstate 94 between Indianapolis and Cline avenues that will protest the deportations at Gary/Chicago International Airport.

Needleman said NWI Resistance will return Jan. 18 to the airport for more protests.

Carole Carlson and Rob Earnshaw are freelance reporters for the Post-Tribune.

Another twist in 'Crooked Joe' case

Hearing set amid political mystery of McHenry Co. flyers

BY AMANDA MARRAZZO
Chicago Tribune

An attorney for newly elected McHenry County Clerk Joe Tirio is asking for jail time for two people who have refused a court order to disclose who is behind "defamatory" political flyers that attacked Tirio during the March primary campaign.

McHenry County Judge Kevin Costello had set a deadline of last Thursday for the attorney for the Breaker Press printing company and Janice Dalton, a former political opponent of Tirio in the primary, to reveal the names behind the flyers. But attorney Natalie Harris did not comply.

Instead, Harris filed an appeal last week to stay Costello's ruling until she has had the opportunity to argue the First Amendment case before the Second District Appellate Court.

Harris wrote a letter to the courts "respectfully" declining to comply with the judge's ruling.

"Respondents shall make a good faith request of a 'friendly contempt' strictly to ensure that there is appellate jurisdiction" regarding the judge's ruling, Harris wrote in her letter.

The matter was back in Costello's court Monday, and the parties were ordered back to court Friday.

Tirio's attorney, Phil Prossnitz, said he will ask that Dalton and Breaker Printing President Richard Lewandowski be jailed for contempt "and that the jail provision be lifted once they disclose who the Illinois Integrity Fund is."

Illinois Integrity Fund is the only name associated with the flyers. There is no corporation, limited liability company or nonprofit by that name registered in Illinois, according to online records. Nor is any organization with that moniker registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections.

The three flyers, one with a digitally altered image of Tirio wearing a burglar's mask, were circulated to thousands of McHenry County addresses last spring during the primary. They called Tirio, who ultimately won the election, a "crook" and accused him of stealing from a private slush fund, hiring "cronies" and acquainting himself with an alleged child predator and racists. Each referred to Tirio as "Crooked Joe."

The defamation case has been in court for months. Costello had ruled that the statements were "defamatory" and ordered that the names be revealed.

However, Harris argued that it is all just typical hyperbole and political mudslinging and said turning over the names would be a violation of the creators' First Amendment rights.

Prossnitz is pressing for the names behind the flyers because he fears the statute of limitations for a defamation lawsuit will run out in February. Harris has argued that Prossnitz still can file a lawsuit through her since she represents the Illinois Integrity Fund.

Amanda Marrazzo is a freelance reporter.



McHENRY COUNTY CIRCUIT

Joe Tirio has taken legal action to find who's behind this attack campaign.

Mendoza's foe abandons challenge to petitions

BY JOHN BYRNE
Chicago Tribune

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle will drop her challenge to state Comptroller Susana Mendoza's mayoral petitions, clearing the way for Mendoza to appear as a candidate on the February ballot.

The petition fight between two women who are considered among the mayoral front-runners has been a central focus of the past few weeks of the race.

The Preckwinkle campaign released a statement Wednesday criticizing Mendoza even while saying Preckwinkle wouldn't proceed with the challenge.

"While the campaign is dropping its challenge to Susana Mendoza's petitions, Chicago voters should know that she just barely met the bar to be included on the ballot. This fits a pattern of Mendoza being unprepared to tackle the critical duties of the office," Preckwinkle spokeswoman Monica Trevino said.

Mendoza has hammered

Preckwinkle in recent weeks for trying to knock other contenders off the ballot. Mendoza campaign manager Nicole DeMont on Wednesday continued framing the move as a machine tactic.

"Despite what boss Preckwinkle hoped, there will be an election and voters will hold her accountable for her record of raising taxes first and providing transparency last," DeMont said in a statement.

Preckwinkle challenged Mendoza's petitions Dec. 3, arguing that more than 14,000 of the roughly 25,000 names she turned in to get on the ballot were no good. That would take Mendoza down to only around 10,400 names of "unique valid voters" on her petitions, below the 12,500 she needed to be a mayoral candidate in the Feb. 26 election, the Preckwinkle campaign said.

Preckwinkle argued that her challenges of Mendoza and four other women seeking to run were just part of the process, as every campaign needed to show



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Susana Mendoza, left, has criticized Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, far right, for trying to knock other contenders off the ballot for Chicago's mayoral election.

they could meet the signature standard.

Given Mendoza's political chops, City Hall insiders were surprised she turned in so few signatures. Major candidates aim for at least three times the number required to get on the ballot in order to give themselves a buffer to withstand challenges.

Mendoza countered that she didn't declare her mayoral candidacy until after she won re-election as state

comptroller on Nov. 6, giving her just a few weeks to circulate petitions for the city election. But a movement urging Mendoza to run for mayor had circulated petitions on her behalf before the election.

Mendoza also ripped Preckwinkle, who chairs the Cook County Democratic Party, for targeting her and four African-American women with ballot challenges.

"It's ironic that in the

year of the woman, in Trump's America, the highest-ranking woman in Cook County government, who happens to be the boss of the party bosses, thinks it's a good idea to challenge five women of color and no one else, by the way," Mendoza said last week.

Preckwinkle continues to challenge the petitions of the four other campaigns.

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Lawyer accused of stealing former girlfriend's identity

BY CLIFFORD WARD
Chicago Tribune

A DuPage County lawyer has been charged with stealing his former girlfriend's identity to buy a German performance sedan and to acquire loans that he used to prop up his nut butter business, according to court records.

Leonard S. DeFranco, 65, was named in a 46-count felony indictment Friday in DuPage County, alleging forgery, identity theft, financial institution fraud and operating a continuing financial crimes enterprise. He surrendered to authorities, posted bond and was released Saturday, according to court files.

Authorities say he acquired the personal information of a woman he was dating, and over the course of two years and without the woman's knowledge, took out more than \$80,000 in loans in her name, Assistant State's Attorney Ken Tataralis said Monday.

The largest single loan was for a 2013 Audi A8 sedan, which, authorities said, DeFranco purchased

in 2016 for \$43,500. He bought the car via a loan taken out in the girlfriend's name, and forged a document transferring the car into his name, according to court files.

In addition, DeFranco fraudulently obtained almost \$40,000 in loans and via a line of credit, files say. Much of that money was funneled into Futter's Nut Butters, a business DeFranco operated in addition to his law practice, the prosecutor said.

Secretary of state business records give a Hoffman Estates address for Futter's Nut Butters and show DeFranco as the company president. Tataralis said DeFranco and the woman had been in a long-term dating relationship. She filed for an order of protection Friday against DeFranco, although the woman did not allege any physical battery against DeFranco, only the financial crimes.

In her application for the order, the woman, 63, said in August 2017 that she received a notice from a credit company that the car loan had been taken out in

her name. As she began looking into her credit history, the woman said she found other loans taken out in her name, and she reported it to authorities.

DeFranco has a law practice in Oakbrook Terrace, which according to his website, specializes in estate planning, tax issues and real estate. In addition to the nut butter business, DeFranco owns a company that manufactures a chocolate sold under the name DeFranco's Espresso Secrets, the website said.

James Grogan, spokesperson for the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, said Monday that the commission was aware of the charges and was monitoring the situation. According to commission records, DeFranco's law license was suspended for 30 days in 2008 for charging what the commission said were excessive fees in two estate cases.

Calls placed to DeFranco and his attorney were not immediately returned.

Clifford Ward is a freelance reporter.

Chicagoans will be able to track requests from city via mobile app

BY JOHN BYRNE
Chicago Tribune

Chicago residents will be able to track requests from the city for things such as tree trimming, rat poisoning and garbage bin replacement through a mobile app via the updated 311 system City Hall launched Tuesday.

The new technology could further centralize the kinds of nuts-and-bolts services that were once largely the ward-level purview of aldermen.

In addition to the app, the 311 system now has a new internet portal, according to

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's office. It will be easier for the city to figure out how to more efficiently deliver services by measuring performance, according to the news release.

And callers to the 311 center may request a callback from a 311 operator rather than waiting on hold, according to the release.

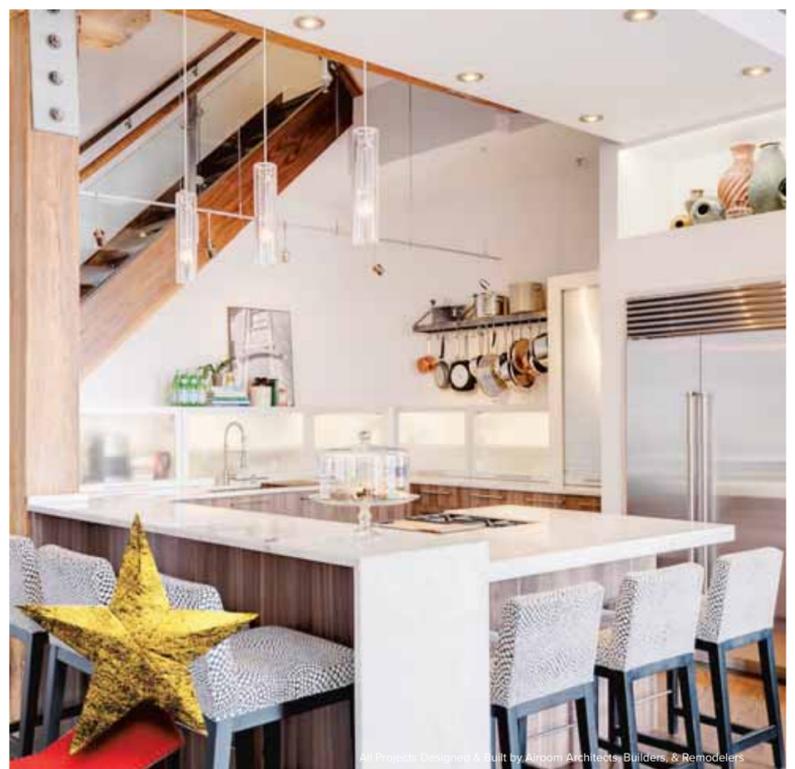
Emanuel has been discussing the 311 upgrade for years. He talked in 2015 about privatizing it, rather than paying for the modernization, only to have aldermen complain about putting control of a service so many Chicagoans use in

the hands of a private company that could employ nonunion workers unfamiliar with the city.

The budget for the 311 work was \$35 million. It was part of his 2018 budget, according to city spokeswoman Tori Joseph.

The 311 system was launched under Mayor Richard M. Daley as a way for city residents to request city services directly from City Hall, cutting out aldermen from the process and diminishing their ward-level power.

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PHELAN M. EBENHACK/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Mary Miller sits with her son, Ryan, 11, and husband, Doug, in their Winter Garden, Fla., home earlier this month.

Once again, spate of departures in state

Population, from Page 1

lous state, with a population estimated at 12,741,080, but there has been a decrease of more than 100,000 residents since 2013, when the population hit almost 12.9 million, the census figures show.

Ohio is next in the rankings at number seven, trailing by more than a million residents.

Illinois suffered the second-largest numeric loss of any state, following only New York, which was down 48,510 residents but has a much larger overall population of more than 19.5 million, according to the data. Other states that declined were West Virginia, Louisiana, Hawaii, Mississippi, Alaska, Connecticut and Wyoming.

No other states in the Midwest had losses.

"I think in a way Illinois is kind of standing out in the Midwest," said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., a not-for-profit public policy organization. "Illinois actually has a population loss, which means immigration and fertility isn't enough to make up for the domestic outmigration. It says something about the relative pull

of the economy of other states compared to Illinois."

He noted that there has been a spike in migration to other states in the past few years that hasn't been offset by new residents. However, international immigration to Illinois has been relatively stable, with about 30,000 new immigrants arriving in the past year.

"The fact that people are moving here from other countries, that's like our saving grace," said Orphe Divounguy, chief economist with the Illinois Policy Institute, a libertarian think tank.

Divounguy said Illinois is facing an "outmigration crisis" having lost a net of 114,000 residents to other states from 2017 to 2018 — more than 300 people a day.

"What we need are pro-growth policies," he said. "We need to lower our tax burden. ... This is what the new governor needs to look at in the new year. Otherwise we're going to continue to see people leaving at an alarming rate."

Divounguy added that pension reform also is critical to keeping residents in Illinois long-term. In analyzing previous census data, he said much of the exodus consists of younger adults in

their working years.

"It's not just retirees going to Florida," he said. "It's also prime working-age individuals and people of childbearing age who are moving ... because job creation in Illinois is also very sluggish compared to the rest of the country."

Census figures released in May showed the Chicago metropolitan area — from the city to the suburbs, as well as swaths of Indiana and Wisconsin — lost residents for the past three consecutive years. Cities across Illinois also have seen recent population declines, including Rockford, Springfield and Peoria; one exception in the May report was Naperville, which gained about 500 residents from 2016 to 2017.

Recent Internal Revenue Service data indicate that warmer-climate states like Florida, California and Texas draw many ex-Illinois residents, though there also is a lot of migration to neighboring states like Indiana and Wisconsin.

Overall, the U.S. population continued to grow in 2018 due to both international migration — which was slightly lower than last year — and natural increases, which were a little higher this year, according

to the December census report.

Nevada and Idaho were states that saw the most proportional growth, with populations increasing about 2.1 percent in the past year. Texas had the most numeric growth over the last year, with an increase of 379,128 people. Florida had the most net domestic migration, with a gain of 132,602 residents last year.

The data cover July 2017 to July 2018 and do not take into account the impact of Hurricane Florence in September, Hurricane Michael in October or the California wildfires.

As for Miller, she says she's been happy living in the Orlando area, finding property taxes and in-state college tuition to generally be less expensive there.

While the weather also is more pleasant, she says the temperature is more of an added benefit than the main attraction.

"It's an influencer, but it's not a decision point," she said. "But I will say I enjoyed wearing shorts yesterday."

Chicago Tribune reporter Elvia Malagon contributed.

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Madigan: List of accused likely to grow

Abuse, from Page 1

looking into the issue of sexual abuse since at least 1991, when then-Cardinal Joseph Bernardin formed a special commission. He also cited the archdiocese's Office for the Protection of Children and Youth as a way to try to help survivors.

"I want to express again the profound regret of the whole church for our failures to address the scourge of clerical sexual abuse," Cupich said in the statement. "It is the courage of the victim-survivors that has shed purifying light on this dark chapter in church history."

Madigan stressed the findings issued in the report are based on a preliminary investigation, and it was too soon to say what, if any, action should be brought by her office. She said she would like to see her successor, Democrat Kwame Raoul, continue the inquiry next year.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Raoul committed to continuing the inquiry once his term begins.

One of the reasons the preliminary findings were made public now is that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is expected to meet in January at Mundelein Seminary in suburban Chicago to discuss the ongoing clergy sex abuse scandal, Madigan said.

"The Catholic church needs to prioritize survivors," Madigan said in a telephone interview. "They can't continue to prioritize criminal clergy or prioritize the preservation of their assets. They have to follow their own charter and heal the survivors."

William Kunkel, the general counsel for the Archdiocese of Chicago, said he doesn't anticipate the public list of Chicago-area priests with credible allegations of abuse to grow. The archdiocese has no immediate plans to review past allegations — some of which go back decades — because it has already reported past allegations to prosecutors in Cook and Lake counties, Kunkel said. In cases involving a priest who has died, children are no longer at risk, Kunkel said.

"We expect to add no further names at this point. We think the list is a complete list of all priests, of all clergy who have worked in the archdiocese who have substantiated claims," Kunkel said.

The archdiocese is working with an independent expert to review its policies and procedures on handling abuse allegations, Kunkel said.

The AG's report found that in many cases, the dioceses did not conduct proper investigations into allegations, particularly when the priest had died, left the ministry or was a member of a religious order and therefore not under the authority of a diocese.

In some cases, the dioceses referred an allegation of abuse to a priest's religious order rather than investigating the abuse themselves. In other cases, an allegation was not investigated at all if a lawsuit had been filed, if the person making the allegation wanted to remain anonymous, if a police agency was investigating the incident or if a priest had left the United States, according to the report.

Madigan's office found instances in which the dioceses used personal information against the person making the allegation to discredit them, which then led to the accusation not being found credible. The report didn't specify when the dioceses used such tactics.

In addition, terminology used by the various state dioceses differs, making it difficult to understand when an allegation of abuse was deemed credible. The dio-

ceses governing the Chicago area and Joliet area were the only ones in the state that made information public about sexual abuse before the attorney general began investigating, according to the report. Last month, the Archdiocese of Chicago added 10 names to an online list of clergy with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse involving children.

It wasn't until this fall that the other dioceses across the state made efforts to make the information public, Madigan said.

Madigan expects the list of priests accused of abusing children to grow as investigators sort through the allegations involving hundreds of priests across the state. Before the investigation began, there were about 140 Catholic priests in Illinois who had been publicly named as having sexually abused children. In the four months of the investigation, that list has already gotten longer as Madigan's office began digging through files, she said.

The office of the attorney general created a hotline for victims of abuse, and it has already fielded 300 calls, Madigan said.

"These survivors, they are calling us recognizing that the criminal justice system may not be one where they will get relief, but they are seeking a

"The Catholic church needs to prioritize survivors. They can't continue to prioritize criminal clergy or prioritize the preservation of their assets."

— Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan

measure of justice, they are seeking closure," Madigan said by phone. "They are seeking an ability to move forward with their lives and a very large part of that is the church taking their allegations seriously, investigating them and acknowledging the crimes that took place, and publicly disclosing the names of the individuals who committed those crimes."

The preliminary report found that some victims of abuse who had previously come forward were never even told the results, if any, of investigations.

None of the dioceses across the state have taken steps to put in place policies to hold officials, such as Catholic bishops, responsible for covering up abuse of children, according to the report.

Larry Antonsen, a Chicago leader of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said he's glad the office of the attorney general is looking into abuse by clergy. He would like to see the clergy files be made public, and he would also like investigators to question religious orders, not just the dioceses, about the abuse allegations.

"I think what she's doing is the right thing," Antonsen said about Madigan's inquiry. "I also think that there should be more of an emphasis on changing the statute of limitation(s). I think that would be a big thing."

Some religious orders have made recent efforts to name priests with credible reports of abuse. This week, the Midwest Province Jesuits, part of a Catholic religious order, released a list of dozens of priests with credible allegations of sexual abuse.

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Neighbors proudly fly flags after flag's theft

Barrington, from Page 1

ence into a vibrant show of unity.

Dozens of neighbors are now displaying rainbow flags outside their own homes, tucking them into their mailboxes, planting them into their front lawns, even incorporating them into Christmas decorations.

"Especially in the climate we're in, it just shows there are a lot of people who have a lot of love in their hearts," said Kristin Cannon, a friend and fellow resident of the Fox Point neighborhood. "That love is bigger than the discrimination against a family like theirs."

Handal and Zedette Rosado moved into their lakeside home in May, eager to raise their daughters — Payton, 9, and Reese, 7 — in a close-knit and peaceful community with amenities such as a swimming pool and tennis courts.

Their house came with a flagpole in the backyard, and they decided to use it to fly a rainbow flag. It wasn't meant to be a political statement, Handal said.

"It was just there to represent our family," she said. "The girls loved it, and not just because it's pretty. Every time they'd have a friend come over they'd be like, 'Hey, look at our flag. Isn't it cool?'"

But in the wee hours of Dec. 9, someone sneaked onto the family's property, lowered it from the pole and took it away. In its place was left an American flag.

The new flag didn't come with a note or any explanation for the theft, but Handal said the intent was obvious enough to her. This didn't appear to be a kid's



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

A pride flags sit on a neighbor's mailbox near Casey Handal and Zedette Rosado's home.



Kim Filian says ordering rainbow flags was "something little" she could do.

prank — how many kids today, she asked, even know how to raise a flag? — but something rooted in hate.

She reported the theft to police, though she said she wasn't really looking to press charges. She just wanted to speak to the person who had shaken her family's sense of security, to learn why they did it and try to convince them of their shared humanity. (Barrington police said no culprit has been found.)

She told her neighbors about the incident on Nextdoor, a neighborhood-centric social media app, and their reaction was almost immediate. They assured her that the theft was not representative of Fox Point, and to drive that point home, Kimberly Filian, a high school social worker, announced she had

ordered four dozen small rainbow flags for neighbors to display.

"I'm so sick of all this hate," Filian said in an interview. "... I felt like it was one thing I could do to show support — just something little."

Soon, the flags were everywhere throughout Fox Point. That turned out to be just the start of the neighborhood's embrace of the family. Several dozen people also volunteered to serve as secret Santas, dropping off small gifts like candy, coffee mugs or socks at the family's house until New Year's Eve — the day Handal and Rosado plan to get married.

Stephanie Paine, a friend of the family and the social chair of the Fox Point Homeowners Association, said people with varying political beliefs are taking part.

"They've come together. Everyone wanted to do their best to make this right," she said.

Some had a personal stake in offering their support. Robert Colvin said his adult son came out as gay a few years ago, and he was glad to see the neighborhood react to the flag theft

with love and affirmation. Rainbow flags, he said, are themselves a bold declaration of patriotism.

"Just because somebody's gay doesn't mean they're wrong, doesn't mean they're bad, it just means they're a little different and that's just fine," he said. "That's America. That's what it should be, anyway."

Handal said the neighborhood's heartening reaction to her family's experience has convinced her not only that she picked the right place to live, but that something good can flower in the aftermath of something terrible.

"The fact that this story might make someone smile, maybe it's not so bad, and maybe the hate we see so much is not the mass of people but individuals," she said. "I think it makes it all worth it if this crummy thing that happened can lead to spreading more joy and happiness in the world."

Chicago Tribune photographer Stacey Wescott contributed.

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Chicago Tribune

NATION & WORLD

Senate votes to OK stopgap measure

Legislation would fund government through Feb. 8

BY LISA MASCARO, MATTHEW DALY AND CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted Wednesday to temporarily fund the government, a key step toward averting a federal shutdown after President Donald Trump backed off his demand for money for a border wall with Mexico.

Senators approved the measure, which would keep government running to Feb. 8. Voting had stalled amid negotiations on other provisions. The House is also expected to move before Friday's deadline, when funding for a portion of the government expires. Without resolution, more than 800,000 federal workers would face furloughs or be forced to work without pay, disrupting government operations days before Christmas.

While the White House indicated Trump was open to reviewing whatever Congress could pass, Trump did not immediately weigh in on the short-term plan.

Many of Trump's supporters were frustrated that he appeared to retreat on his shutdown threats after promising a fight over the wall, which had been central to his presidential campaign. Just last week Trump said he would be "proud" to shut down the government over his demand for \$5 billion for the wall. Some allies described the move as caving on his pledge, expressing concern that it could hurt Trump's 2020



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

The Senate approved bill to fund government through Feb. 8, and the House is expected to move by the Friday deadline.

prospects.

On Twitter, Trump appeared to respond to criticism by insisting that "one way or the other, we will win on the Wall!"

Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway faced questioning on "Fox & Friends," the morning show known to be one of Trump's favorites, with host Brian Kilmeade saying Wednesday that Trump has "no leverage," while Ainsley Earhardt asked why Trump was "softening" his position.

"The president is not softening his stance," Conway said. "He has a responsibility

to keep the government moving forward, and he has a responsibility to get border security."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., portrayed the short-term spending measure as a "simple" bill that would show that Republicans, who control Congress now, will finish the year by not prolonging a potential crisis.

"Republicans will continue to fill our duty to govern," McConnell said.

It was unclear how many House Republicans would return to Washington for votes after losing their ma-

ajority in the midterm election. Passage could depend on Democrats.

Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi, who is on track to become speaker when Democrats take control Jan. 3, signaled support for ensuring funding.

Should the legislation become law, the border money fight would drag into the next Congress, which could prove even more difficult for Trump.

Pelosi will probably be able to quickly win approval of a longer-term measure to keep government running in 2019.

"Democrats will be ready to fully, responsibly fund our government in January," Pelosi said in a statement.

As some Republicans grumbled that Trump caved, McConnell lashed out at Democrats for failing to give Trump any of the \$5 billion that he wanted for the wall. The bill keeps funding at current levels, \$1.3 billion, for border security and fencing, but not for the wall.

"This seems to be the reality of our political moment," McConnell said. "It seems like political spite for

"Democrats will be ready to fully, responsibly fund our government in January."

—Nancy Pelosi

the president may be winning out over sensible policy."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Democrats oppose Trump's border demands because the wall is "inefficient" and because Trump, as a candidate, promised that Mexico would pay for it, which Mexico has refused to do.

"We want smart, effective border security," Schumer said. "That's not a wall."

But the White House showed its willingness to budge as it became apparent the president did not have support in Congress for paying for the wall.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders indicated earlier this week that Trump did not want to shut down the government.

Congress did pass legislation to fund much of the government through the current budget year, until next Oct. 1.

Voting was delayed Wednesday as a bipartisan group of lawmakers, mostly from the West, sought to include language reauthorizing a popular program that supports conservation and outdoor recreation projects.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund expired Sept. 30, and they've been trying to extend it.

Ryan farewell assails politics of 'outrage'

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retiring House Speaker Paul Ryan decried the outrage and bitterness that he said now color American politics in a farewell speech that also acknowledged his inability to achieve two top goals: controlling surging federal debt and reining in Medicare and other mammoth benefit programs.

"Our complex problems are absolutely solvable," Ryan said at the Library of Congress, across the street from the U.S. Capitol, where he's ending two decades in the House. "That is to say our problems are solvable if our politics will allow it."

The Wisconsin Republican's half-hour address, which touted achievements and admitted shortcomings, came as he ends his three-year run as speaker. Despite GOP control of the White House and Congress the past two years, it's been a remarkably tumultuous period dominated by the erratic decision-making and verbal outbursts of President Donald Trump and Republican divisions over top issues like health care and immigration.

Ryan's departure comes six weeks after an Election Day that saw Democrats capture House control. Their triumph followed a campaign in which they pummeled Republicans for trying to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law, a primary GOP priority.

Ryan never mentioned Trump in his remarks. But he bemoaned the divisiveness that has been a hallmark of Trump's relentless, bitter denunciations of his political opponents, often on Twitter.

"All of this gets amplified by technology, with an incentive structure that preys on people's fears, and algorithms that play on anger," he said. "Outrage has become a brand."

He said the combativeness "pulls on the threads of our common humanity in what could be our unraveling," and he conceded that he didn't know how to fix the problem.

Under Ryan, Congress approved the biggest tax cuts in decades, boosted defense spending and rolled back Obama regulations protecting clean air and water. But its attempt to scuttle Obama's health care

statute crashed, annual federal deficits are surging and popular benefit programs remain unchanged.

"We have taken on some of the biggest challenges of our time, and we've made a great and lasting difference in the trajectory of this country," he said, lauding Republicans for trying to tackle issues such as health care and immigration.

Thanks partly to the 10-year, \$1.5 trillion tax cut Republicans enacted last year, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates a record \$12.4 trillion in accumulated federal debt for the coming decade.

"I acknowledge plainly that my ambitions for entitlement reform have outpaced the political reality, and I consider this our greatest unfinished business," he said.

While the House-passed health care bill would have culled savings from Medicaid and other programs, the effort died in the GOP-run Senate, killed by solid Democratic opposition and a handful of Republican opponents.

Ryan was elected to Congress in 1998 and became a leader of Republicans trying to shrink government. As



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Paul Ryan shakes hands with well-wishers after giving a farewell speech Wednesday.

House Budget Committee chairman, he wrote spending plans that envisioned squeezing savings from popular benefit programs like Medicare and eliminating deficits — cuts Congress never enacted.

He was Mitt Romney's vice presidential running mate in 2012 and became speaker in 2015 after conservative unrest prompted the abrupt resignation of his predecessor, John Boehner, R-Ohio.

On immigration, Ryan said no matter how the border wall battle is resolved, "The system will

still be in need of serious reform."

In a departure from Trump's frequent anti-immigrant rhetoric, Ryan said a fix should include not just border security but also help for immigrants in the U.S. illegally to stay "and be a part of our American fabric."

He said that should include "the undocumented population," a group estimated at around 11 million people.

Ryan was long a quiet force for broad immigration overhauls that conservatives opposed as going too

far in offering citizenship to immigrants in the U.S. illegally. As speaker, he couldn't unify Republicans behind one approach.

Resolving the problem would take "some of the venom out of our discourse," he said.

On foreign policy, Ryan called for "committing to the pillars of international relations," a contrast with Trump's pillorying of NATO and withdrawal from some organizations. America must lead "not with bluster but with steady, principled action," he said.

Obamacare sign-ups dip 4% amid late rush, federal agency says

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Affordable Care Act has yet again beaten predictions of its downfall, as government figures released Wednesday showed unexpectedly solid sign-ups for health coverage next year.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said nearly 8.5 million people had enrolled as of last Saturday's deadline, with about a dozen states, in-

cluding California and New York, still left to report. The preliminary number was down about 4 percent, when a much bigger loss had been expected.

Different factors combined to make for an unpredictable sign-up season this year for former President Barack Obama's health care law, commonly referred to as Obamacare.

On the plus side, premiums stabilized and consumers had more coverage choices.

On the negative side, pre-

miums for Obamacare's comprehensive coverage remained unaffordable for many people who don't qualify for financial help. Also, Congress repealed a requirement for Americans to get health insurance, and President Donald Trump's administration scaled back advertising and opened the way for competition from lower-cost insurance that covers less.

Then last Friday, a Republican-appointed federal judge in Texas declared the law unconstitutional on the

eve of the enrollment deadline. Obamacare supporters are planning to appeal.

Experts said the new numbers show staying power for the health law, even with its continuing political problems and premiums that remain too high for many middle-class consumers.

"Despite everything that has been thrown at this market, politically, with premium increases and also regulation changes, there is still a core group of Americans who want this insur-

ance and buy this insurance every year," said Chris Sloan of the consulting firm Avalere Health. "They are a hardy group of people."

But the number of new customers — the key to growing the Obamacare market — remained down by about 15 percent when compared to last year.

Wednesday's figures are for the 39 states using the HealthCare.gov website. Not included are totals from about a dozen states running their own insurance marketplaces. Also to be

added in later are HealthCare.gov customers who signed up close to deadline or who left phone numbers for a callback.

Trump has repeatedly called the health law a "disaster" and last year led an unsuccessful drive to repeal it.

Nearly 11.8 million people signed up during last year's open enrollment season, counting all 50 states. It's possible that number could be matched again, after totals from remaining states are added.

In setback to Trump policies, judge blocks limits on asylum

BY COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Wednesday blocked Trump administration policies that prevented immigrants who suffered gang violence or domestic abuse in their home countries from seeking asylum.

U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan declared that some of the guidance that then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued this year cannot be used to determine whether an immigrant has a credible fear of persecution or torture in their home countries, the first step to making an asylum claim in the United States.

The judge said the administration's policy on asylum seekers violates federal immigration law and that "it is the will of Congress — not the whims of the executive" that sets the standards for expedited removal.

It was another legal blow for President Donald Trump's efforts to harden immigration policies without Congress changing laws. Another case involving whether migrants can claim asylum if they crossed the border illegally was in court in San Francisco. A judge has temporarily stopped that November policy change, and the California proceedings were to determine whether that stay should be continued. The administration has asked the Supreme Court to allow that asylum policy to go forward.

Responding to Sullivan's ruling, a Justice Department spokesman, Steven Stafford, said Sessions' guidance had followed the requirements for asylum under U.S. law.

"We are reviewing our options with regard to this ruling, and we will continue to restore the rule of law in our immigration system," he said.



MOISES CASTILLO/AP

Honduran asylum seekers enter the U.S. from Mexico at San Diego's Otay Mesa port of entry Wednesday.

Trump administration officials say the asylum process is being exploited by immigrants who are counting on passing the initial credible-fear screening and being released into the country. Only about 9 percent of all people who initially claim asylum are granted it, and tens of thousands of families from Central America are coming to the U.S. every month.

The immigration policy change had an immediate effect.

Immigration lawyers say people whom they expected would pass credible-fear screenings began to fail them, and lawyers say immigration judges are signing off on more denials during appeals, effectively ending what could have been a yearslong asylum process before it began.

But Trump officials also say the number of people claiming credible fear has risen dramatically.

Asylum can be granted to people who were persecuted in their home country or could be persecuted if forced to return. Thousands of people seek asylum each month at U.S. Customs and Border Protection stations along the southwest border.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued the government over the June 11 change on behalf of 12

parents and children who were wrongly found not to have a credible fear of return. Sullivan's ruling affects thousands of cases where immigrants are in expedited removal proceedings.

Among the plaintiffs was a woman identified only by a pseudonym, Grace. The ACLU said Grace's partner beat her and her children, and sexually assaulted her and her daughter. Once, the ACLU says, her daughter suffered a miscarriage after he attacked her. The lawsuit says police did not act when she contacted them. The lawsuit says Grace was found not to have a credible fear of persecution.

The judge also ordered the government to return any of the plaintiffs who may have been deported back to the U.S., and prevent further deportations.

"This ruling is a defeat for the Trump administration's all-out assault on the rights of asylum seekers," said Jennifer Chang Newell, managing attorney of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, who argued the case.

The judge who issued the ruling attracted attention a day earlier for his public exhortation of former Trump administration adviser Michael Flynn, saying he felt disgusted of Flynn's crimes.

Obscure ICE Air ferries deported immigrants home

BY NOMAAN MERCHANT
AND ANGELIKI
KASTANIS
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Shackled at their ankles and wrists and their shoelaces removed, a long line of men and women waited on the tarmac as a team of officers patted them down and checked inside their mouths for anything hidden.

Then one by one, they climbed a mobile staircase and onto a charter plane the size of a commercial aircraft.

This was a deportation flight run by ICE Air Operations. The chains would be removed and the shoelaces returned when the plane landed in El Salvador.

An obscure division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operates hundreds of flights each year to remove immigrants. Deportation flights are big business: The federal government has spent about \$1 billion on them in the last decade, and the Trump administration is seeking to raise ICE's budget for charter flights by 30 percent.

ICE Air transports detained immigrants between U.S. cities and, for those with final removal orders, back to their home countries. About 100,000 people a year are deported on such flights.

While Mexican immigrants are generally flown to southern U.S. cities and then driven to the border so they can cross over, Central Americans have to be transported by air. And the large numbers of Mexicans who used to cross the border have largely been replaced by migrants from three impoverished Central American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

According to flight-tracking data, deportation flights to Guatemala and Honduras have sharply increased this year. And ICE's



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

A division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement departs immigrants Nov. 16 from Houston to El Salvador.

budget request for charter flights increased 30 percent last year compared to the year before.

The agency estimated last year that it spends about \$7,785 per hour on the flights.

ICE shifted to chartering private planes about a decade ago after previously using a government service with the U.S. Marshals Service. The agency says going private saves about \$25 million a year and gave it more flexibility.

"I don't want to elongate anybody's detention with us," said Pat Contreras, director of enforcement and removal for ICE's Houston field office. "If a judge says you need to be removed, we should be expeditiously working to execute that order so that person does not spend any longer in detention than necessary."

But migrant advocacy groups say ICE Air is an example of how tougher immigration enforcement — from detention to tracking to removal — enriches private companies.

"The way you would save money on ICE Air is by deporting fewer people, not by privatizing the industry," said Bob Libal, director of Grassroots Leadership, which opposes immigration detention.

The Associated Press observed a deportation flight

last month at a private terminal of Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston.

The Boeing 737 had no markings suggesting it was a deportation flight. Instead, it had the insignia of Swift Air, a private company that also flies charters for political campaigns and professional sports teams, including the NHL's Boston Bruins and Chicago Blackhawks. In this case, Swift Air had been hired by Classic Air Charters, a Huntington, N.Y.-based company that won ICE's deportation flights contract last year.

Classic Air has been paid \$51 million this year by ICE, according to federal spending records.

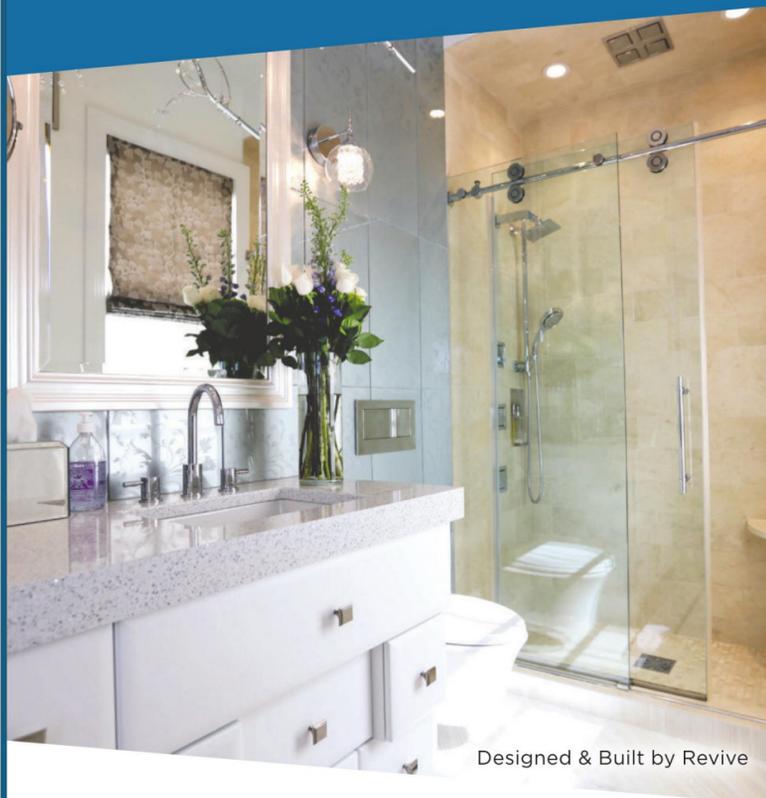
When the plane landed in Houston, about 30 Salvadoran immigrants were already on board, flown in from Alexandria, La., an ICE Air hub. They peered out the windows as the plane sat on the tarmac.

A meal is served, and a doctor is on board. But all detainees — even those considered non-criminal — remain shackled until the plane lands.

"We try and be as humane as we can with everything that we do," Contreras said. "We want to make sure that not one individual does anything wrong."

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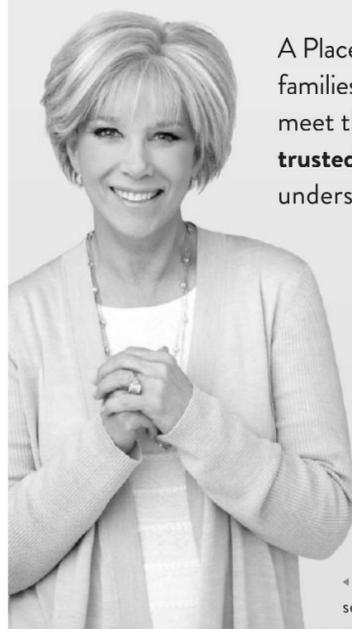
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◀ Joan Lunden former host of Good Morning America and senior living advocate.

Taliban says talks focused on NATO pullout of Afghan War

BY KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The latest talks between the Taliban and a U.S. peace envoy on the war in Afghanistan focused on the withdrawal of NATO troops, the release of prisoners and halting attacks on civilians by pro-government forces, a Taliban spokesman said Wednesday.

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who tweeted that talks held this week in the United Arab Emirates were “productive,” was in Pakistan on Wednesday to meet with the chief of the country’s army before heading to Kabul, the Afghan capital, later in the day.

The UAE talks also involved Saudi, Pakistani and Emirati representatives.

The Taliban have refused to meet directly with the Afghan government, viewing it as a U.S. puppet.

The insurgent group con-



PAKISTAN'S MILITARY INTER SERVICES PUBLIC RELATIONS
U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, left, chats with Pakistan's army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa during a meeting Wednesday in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

trols nearly half of Afghanistan, and are more powerful than at any time since a 2001 U.S.-led invasion. They carry out near-daily attacks, mainly targeting security forces and government officials.

Three representatives of the Haqqani network — Hafiz Yahya, Saadullah Hamas and Dr. Faqeer, who

goes only by a single name — were also present at the talks, according to a Taliban official, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the talks.

This would be the first time a U.S. envoy has met with representatives of the Haqqani network, declared a terrorist group by Washington and considered one

of the most lethal fighting forces in Afghanistan.

Although part of the Taliban, the Haqqani network has its own military committee. Its leader, Sirajuddin Haqqani, is deputy head of the Taliban. Their prowess on the battlefield makes their presence at the meeting significant because it's unlikely any agreement

could be enforced without their support.

At the meeting, Khalilzad pressed for the release of two professors from the American University of Afghanistan — American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks — who were kidnapped from Kabul in August 2016, the Taliban official said. A 2017 video message from King revealed he was in poor health.

It is believed the two are being held by the Haqqani group, which has close ties to Pakistan's premier intelligence agency known as the ISI.

Haqqanis have been demanding the release of Anas Haqqani, a brother of Sirajuddin captured by Afghan intelligence agents in 2014.

Apparently, Taliban leader Haibaitullah Akhundzada ordered the three to attend the UAE meetings, the official said.

Two former inmates at the U.S. prison in Guanta-

namo Bay, ex-Taliban army chief Mohammed Fazle and former governor of western Herat province, Khairullah Khairkhwa, were also at the meetings.

The Afghan government sent a delegation that included national security adviser Hamdullah Mohib to the UAE, but it did not take part in the talks, instead holding separate talks with Khalilzad, who said he would meet with Afghan leaders later Wednesday in the Afghan capital.

Khalilzad's meeting with Pakistan's army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa was presumably to brief him on the talks, which Pakistan helped orchestrate by getting the Taliban to the UAE.

Since being appointed in September, Khalilzad has met on several occasions with all sides to try to start direct peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government aimed at ending America's longest war, now in its 17th year.

Trump orders pullout of troops

Syria, from Page 1

Pence met with top leaders at the Pentagon. U.S. officials said many details of the troop withdrawal had not been finalized, but they expect American forces to be out by mid-January.

Later Wednesday, Trump posted a video on Twitter in which he said it is “heart-breaking” to have to write letters and make calls to the loved ones of those killed in battle. “Now it’s time for our troops to come back home,” he said.

A senior administration official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said Trump made the decision based on his belief that U.S. troops have no role in Syria beyond fighting ISIS, whose fighters are now believed to hold about 1 percent of the territory they did at the peak of their power.

The president informed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of his decision in a telephone call, the official said. Turkey has recently warned that it would launch combat operations across its southern border into northeastern Syria against Kurdish forces who have been allied with the U.S. in the fight against the Islamic State.

Trump's declaration of victory was far from unanimous, and officials said U.S. defense and military leaders were trying to dissuade him from ordering the withdrawal right up until the last minute. His decision immediately triggered demands from Congress — including leading Republicans — for more information and a formal briefing on the matter.

Sen. Lindsay Graham of South Carolina, just returned from Afghanistan, said he was meeting with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Graham, typically a Trump backer, called the decision “a disaster in the making.”

He added, “The biggest winners in this are ISIS and Iran.”

The decision will fulfill Trump's long-stated goal of bringing troops home from Syria, but military leaders have pushed back for months, arguing that ISIS remains a threat and could regroup in Syria's long-running civil war. U.S. policy has been to keep troops in place until the extremists are eradicated.

The senior administration official said American forces would still work with allies to fight ISIS or other extremists in the country but gave no details on what that might entail.

Another official said it is not clear to defense leaders whether U.S. airstrikes against ISIS insurgents will continue in Syria after the American troops leave.

U.S. military officials worry that American-backed Kurdish troops will be targeted by Turkey and the Syrian government, leaving no ally on the



DELIL SOULEIMAN/GETTY-AFP

U.S. troops patrol a Kurdish-held town last month in northeastern Syria, near Turkey. U.S. forces are expected to be out of Syria by mid-January.

ground to help direct the strikes.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who remains concerned about Iranian efforts in the area, was noncommittal after talking with Trump by telephone. “This is, of course, an American decision,” he said. No matter what, he said, “we will safeguard the security of Israel and protect ourselves from this arena.”

Leading GOP senators reacted differently.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida said the withdrawal would be a “grave error” and that Kurdish fighters will stop fighting ISIS when they must confront Turkish troops crossing the border into Syria.

“This is a bad idea because it goes against the fight against ISIS and potentially helps ISIS,” he said, warning it could trigger a broader conflict in the region.

Just last week, the U.S. special envoy to the anti-ISIS coalition, Brett McGurk, said U.S. troops would remain in Syria even after the Islamic State was driven from its strongholds.

“I think it’s fair to say Americans will remain on the ground after the physical defeat of the caliphate, until we have the pieces in place to ensure that that defeat is enduring,” McGurk told reporters Dec. 11. “Nobody is declaring a mission accomplished. Defeating a physical caliphate is one phase of a much longer-term campaign.”

And two weeks ago Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. still has a long way to go in training local Syrian forces to prevent a resurgence of ISIS and stabilize the country.

He said it will take 35,000 to 40,000 local troops in northeastern Syria to maintain security over the long term, but only about 20 percent of that number have been trained.

Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, said

in September that the U.S. would keep a military presence in Syria as long as Iran was active there. “We’re not going to leave as long as Iranian troops are outside Iranian borders and that includes Iranian proxies and militias,” he said.

James Stavridis, a former Navy admiral who served as top NATO commander, tweeted Wednesday that “Pulling troops out of Syria in an ongoing fight is a big mistake. Like walking away from a forest fire that is still

smoldering underfoot. Big winner is Iran, then Russia, then Assad. Wrong move.”

The withdrawal decision, however, is likely to be viewed positively by Turkey, and comes following several conversations between Trump and Erdogan over the past several weeks. The two spoke at the G-20 summit in Argentina and in a phone call Friday.

Just hours before the withdrawal decision became public, the State Department announced late

Tuesday that it had approved the sale of a \$3.5 billion Patriot missile defense system to Turkey. The Turks had complained that the U.S. was slow walking requests for air defenses, and they had signed a deal with Russia to buy a sophisticated system in a deal that Washington and Ankara's other NATO partners opposed.

Completion of that deal with Russia for the S-400 system would have opened up Turkey to possible U.S.

sanctions and driven a wedge between the allies.

Although the withdrawal decision doesn't signal an end to the U.S.-led coalition's fight against ISIS, it will likely erode U.S. leadership of that 31-nation effort.

“The bottom line is that the American withdrawal from eastern Syria will create a power vacuum that will lead to a new phase of international conflict in Syria,” said Jennifer Cafarella, a Syria expert at the Institute for the Study of War.

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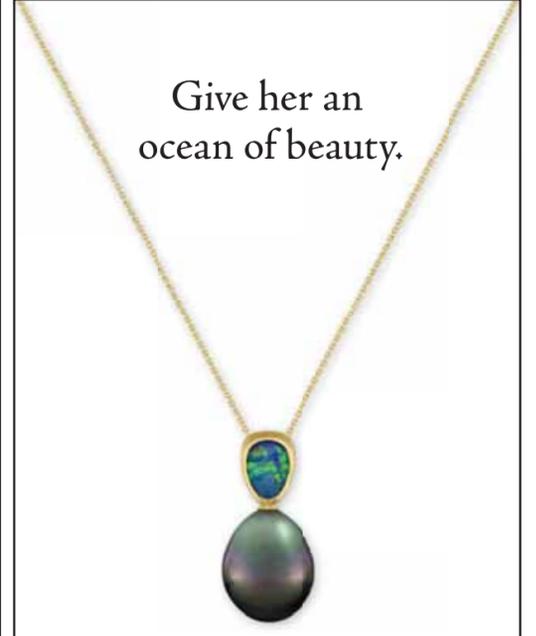
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'John of God' accused of rape

Miracle-worker or fraudster? Hundreds allege sexual abuse by Brazil faith healer

BY MEAGAN FLYNN
The Washington Post

He calls himself "John of God" and dwells in the Brazilian village of Abadiania, an otherwise unremarkable countryside transformed into a fanciful spiritual tourist mecca for his believers, where everybody wears white and waits in line for a moment with the celebrity healer they've all come to see.

Zahira Lieneke Mous was among them.

The Dutch dance choreographer made the pilgrimage four years ago, seeking to heal sexual trauma she said she had suffered in the past. She had read books about "John of God" and watched YouTube videos about his alleged powers and saw his 2010 interview with Oprah Winfrey, an episode that brought the faith healer newfound international fame. The series, since wiped from Oprah's website, was titled, "Do You Believe In Miracles?"

Mous believed she did. She went to see "John of God," whose real name is Joao Teixeira de Faria and who claims to have treated millions of followers since the 1970s. She recounted in an interview with Brazil's Globo TV how she waited in line twice to experience his healing. On the first visit, he scribbled a prescription for an herb she was told would help her. The second time, he offered a private consultation — a "spiritual cleansing."

Mous agreed. She waited until everyone else had their turns in line, until finally she was alone, and "John of God" invited her into his office. And then into his bathroom.

That's where Mous said "John of God" raped her — all while leading her to believe it was part of her

healing.

She is among hundreds of women who have recently come forward with sexual abuse allegations that have razed Faria's image as saintly miracle-worker and replaced it with one of a suspected fraudster who exploited his celebrity to take advantage of female believers.

On Sunday, Faria turned himself in to Brazil's Civil Police on suspicion of sexual abuse, the State Delegation of Criminal Investigation in Goiania, Brazil, confirmed to The Washington Post.

More than 300 women from around the world have contacted prosecutors to accuse him of abuse, largely after Globo TV aired the stories of numerous women in Brazil's first major #MeToo scandal, the newspaper Folha de S.Paulo reported.

But prosecutors told Estadão newspaper that investigators have so far focused their attention on 15 cases. Faria has denied all of the allegations.

"I really hope to help other women to come out of their shadow, because we don't have to feel ashamed," Mous told Globo TV on Dec. 6. "He has to feel ashamed, and all the people that protect him to continue doing what he's doing."

Faria's phenomenon dates back to the 1970s. Since then, he's claimed to have treated millions of people and is either seen as the best healer since Jesus Christ or a hoax, depending on who you ask.

Faria, a second-grade dropout and son of a tailor, claims that he's performed life-altering surgeries on his followers while the spirits of doctors or biblical figures are channeled through him, such as King Solomon, the biblical king of Israel. He stresses that God, not he, is the one performing the op-



MARCELO CAMARGO/AGENCIA BRASIL

Joao Teixeira de Faria, known as "John of God," is a celebrity healer in Abadiania, Brazil.

erations.

These surgeries include showing a pair of forceps up people's noses to the point that it is nearly poking their brains, as his followers have described it, or slicing people open without anesthesia. Alternatively, he is perhaps best known for performing "psychic surgeries," supernatural invisible procedures involving no scalpels or forceps whatsoever, only using the power of what he calls the "Entity."

By channeling these spirits, he has claimed to treat the blind, the paraplegic, those ill with cancer and leprosy and any number of diseases. He has no medical license and has previously been jailed for practicing medicine.

The sexual abuse allegations have been percolating for years, but until now have done little to deter the thousands of visitors in white in the small town of Abadiania. Journalists have attempted to address the allegations for more than a decade.

In a 2005 ABC News "Primetime Live" segment titled, "Is 'John of God' a Healer or a Charlatan?" he was asked about accusations that he had taken advantage of an unnamed woman who came to be healed. "There is a lot of jealousy. People talk," Faria said. "What dictates is the conscience toward God."

In 2014, a reporter from the Sydney Morning Herald traveled to the Casa de Dom Inacio, the name of his spiritual compound, to interview him, squeezing in a few questions before Faria got angry and stormed off while shouting. One question was about sexual abuse allegations. "I thought you came to talk about me," Faria said. "Not other people."

His most famous media segment was with Oprah. In addition to her 2010 "Do You Believe in Miracles?" segment, featuring interviews with both skeptics and believers, Oprah traveled to Abadiania in 2012 to witness the works and con-

troversial methods of John of God herself in an interview that again boosted his profile. In a recent statement to Reuters, she acknowledged the segment and said, "I empathize with the women now coming forward and hope justice is served."

The women who have come forward publicly to accuse Faria, many anonymously, have told similar stories of alleged abuse. First, he told them they were special, they say. Then, he pulled them into a bathroom, where Faria allegedly would grope them, place their hands on his penis, or, as Mous claimed, penetrate them.

Mous has claimed the abuse happened on two separate occasions during her 2014 trip. On the first, she said when she entered his private office, he asked her, "So what are you here for again?"

"And to myself I was thinking, 'Didn't the Entity already know?'" Mous told Globo TV. "Didn't you scan

my energy so you know exactly why I'm here? I said, 'I'm here to heal my sexual trauma.'"

He then told her to stand in front of him, with his back to her, Mous said. He hovered around her like he was smelling her, she said, and then moments later he ushered her into the bathroom. He instructed her to sit in front of the mirror, "and he stood behind me," Mous said, "and then he asked me, 'What do you see?'"

She wasn't sure what he wanted her to say. A woman? Her reflection? But as she searched for meaning, he grabbed her hand. She said he placed it on his penis. She froze. But he kept talking, about her family, her life, as though all of it were just part of the process, Mous said. "So you're being like manipulating into believing, he's scanning me, or he's doing something. And then he says, 'You should smile,'" Mous recalled. "You should feel joy."

Mous said Faria told her she may have the skills to become a medium for healing others herself. Still shaken from the alleged abuse, she said she tried to put it behind her, even to see if perhaps it really was supposed to be part of the healing, so that she could spend time learning the mysterious trade. She told Globo TV that she still saw herself as a believer.

But the second time Faria invited her into his private quarters, she said he raped her in the bathroom.

"There has been criticism of me," she told Globo TV. "(People have said), 'Why are you coming out with your story? He's healing so many people.' That's also part of the reason I never said anything. If it's just me," she thought, "let me suck it up, because he's healing so many people, right?"

She said she knows now she was wrong.

Dead zones, vandals rob Venezuela of cell service

BY ALEX VASQUEZ
Bloomberg News

Anytime Margara Bermudez has to make a call, she rides her motorcycle to a tree about five minutes away from her home in a small town on the outskirts of the oil rich city of Maracaibo. That's the only place where there's enough signal for her cellphone to work.

Residents of Los Puertos de Altigracia have figured out that the spot is somehow a refuge from the growing dead zones that leave them unreachable most of the time, the result of a popular crime in the crumbling nation: stealing and vandalizing cellular antennas. So the tree, which always offered a welcome shade in heat that regularly surpasses 86 degrees Fahrenheit, now fills up even at night, illuminated by people answering texts.

Documents indicate that there have been at least 2,000 attacks on Venezuela's network of 6,000 antennas in the last three years. The number includes incidents of vandalism — picking the equipment for parts, which can be resold — and theft.

In 2018, Telefonica subsidiary Movistar, the country's second-biggest op-

erator, has reported 536 stolen antennas. The robberies are adding pressure to companies struggling to survive amid soaring inflation, capped prices and a communications system plagued by rolling blackouts that are leaving millions of Venezuelans who live in smaller cities stranded.

"We are isolated, we are even distancing ourselves from our family. They complain that I don't call them, but how can I?" Bermudez said from the tree. When she needs to make an online bank transfer, she drives there and calls her sister in Caracas to help her. Often, the call cuts off after a few seconds.

State-run Movilnet, the country's leading operator, and privately-owned Digital have also been hit by the crime wave. The equipment stolen, which is often shared by the companies, is later resold for high fees, including power supply cables, copper parts and electronic components, according to documents seen by Bloomberg.

For companies, replacing that stolen equipment has become increasingly difficult. The government hasn't delivered subsidized dollars for imports following the collapse in the price of oil,

its main source of revenue. That, combined with the cap on what they can charge — the price of Movistar's top mobile internet plan is about 100 bolivars, or some \$0.15 at the black market rate, compared to a \$17 price tag for a similar plan offered by the firm in neighboring Colombia — leaves them with no money to invest or improve technology.

"By charging 3 to 4 dollars a month we could start to recover the systems," Jose Luis Rodriguez Zarco, president of Telefonica in Venezuela, told journalists this month, adding that Venezuelan fares are the cheapest in the world. "We are not on the verge of a collapse, but each time we are going to compromise more quality."

Rodriguez said that the company has no plans to leave Venezuela, but is in constant need of help from its parent in Spain to continue operating. Consumption has increased 73 percent in one year while a third of his staff has left the country, he said.

Most of the money now goes to maintenance, including the recovery of stations targeted by theft and vandalism, according to documents. Replacing one



CARLOS BECERRA/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Movistar, the country's second-biggest operator, reported 536 stolen antennas in 2018.

costs 600,000 percent more than last year due to crushing inflation that is at 1.7 million percent annualized over the last 3 months.

"There's smuggling involved, so parts are resold in the Caribbean and neighboring countries," particularly for copper conductors, microwave radios, motor generators and batteries, said Jose Maria de Viana, a former head of Movilnet in Caracas. "A risk like this wouldn't be worth it in other country, but here people do anything for \$10."

For Venezuelans, being cut off from each other and

the rest of the world is yet another blow caused by the deep economic crisis, affecting everything from banking transactions to police operations, causing glitches in daily commercial operations and stranding those needing emergency assistance.

It's already common to have phone chips from more than one operator and switch them around in search of signal (Bermudez has two).

But with the growing dead zones, it's not much help. Widely used web-based services like What-

sApp are now spotty, as is access to news — the government controls all public TV channels and has blocked a number of private networks.

Hundreds of miles away, Alexandra Bellester is facing pretty much the same issues.

Her rural town of El Portal de Los Morros some 50 miles from the capital city of Caracas has few landlines and zero-to-no cellphone signal.

"We have to climb trees or get up on the roofs of some houses to get a steady signal," she said.

Report: Facebook shared messages, friend lists without consent

Associated Press

Facebook gave some companies more extensive access to users' personal data than it has previously revealed, letting them read private messages or see the names of friends without consent, according to a New York Times report.

The newspaper on Wednesday detailed special arrangements between Facebook and companies such as Microsoft, Netflix and Spotify, in revelations on how the social network

shares user data. Here are highlights from the report.

The deals: Facebook shared data with more than 150 companies — not only tech businesses but automakers and media organizations — through apps on its platform even if users disabled sharing. Apps from many of these "integration partners" never even showed up in user application settings, with the company considering them an extension of its own network. The deals dated back

as far as 2010 and were all active in 2017, with some still in effect this year.

Private messages: Spotify, Netflix and the Royal Bank of Canada were able to read, write and delete Facebook users' private messages, and to see everyone on a message thread. Spotify could look at messages of more than 70 million users a month and still lets users share music through Facebook Messenger while Netflix and the Canadian bank have turned off fea-

tures that incorporated message access.

Friends: Facebook let Microsoft's Bing search engine see the names of "virtually all Facebook users' friends without consent," the paper said. Microsoft officials said Bing was using the data to build Facebook user profiles on Microsoft servers but the company has since deleted the data. Yahoo had the ability to show Facebook users' news feeds, including posts by their friends, on its home

page. The search company eliminated the feature in 2012 but still had access last year to data for nearly 100,000 people a month.

Russia: Facebook designated a Russian search site, Yandex, as a partner, giving it access to unique user IDs as recently as 2017 after it stopped sharing them with other applications because of privacy risks.

Sources: The New York Times said it obtained more than 270 pages of Facebook

documents and interviewed more than 60 people, including many former Facebook employees.

Facebook's response: Facebook responded to the report in a blog post, which said the partnerships did allow features like "messaging integrations" but nearly all have been shut down over the past few months, except for deals with Apple and Amazon. None of the deals gave outside companies access to data without user consent, it said.

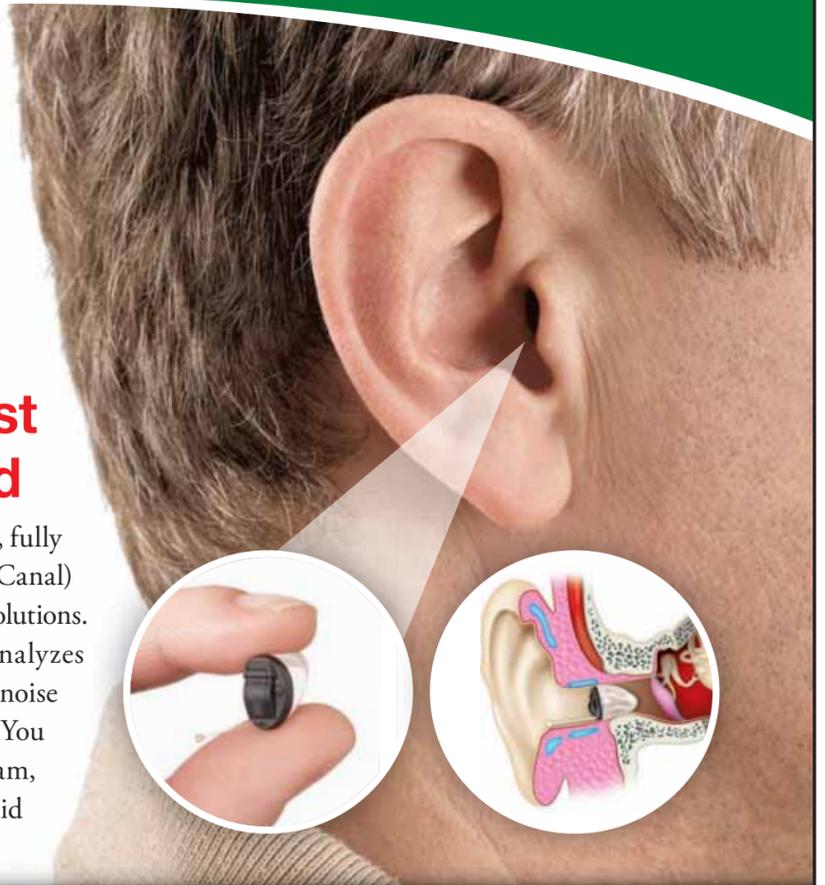
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After Calif. fire, 'angels' find the lost

Volunteers use sleuthing skills to reconnect people

BY JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — They have become known as the Angels of Paradise. But there is nothing ethereal about them.

They are online sleuths who know how to find people, and they have been putting their skills to use in the aftermath of California's catastrophic wildfire.

In the dark days that followed the Nov. 8 inferno, the deadliest in California history, social media filled with posts from people trying to contact loved ones from the Paradise area.

Panic spread as the magnitude of destruction came into focus: At least 85 dead. Nearly 14,000 homes destroyed. From across the U.S., people posted names of aunts, uncles, foster parents, distant relatives and long-lost friends or acquaintances and asked, "Does anyone know if they are safe?"

Nancy Collins knew she could help. A mother of two and a 911 dispatcher, Collins volunteers as a "search angel," someone who helps adoptees find their biological parents. She knows her way around public records and how to track people down.

She offered her services to the administrator of a newly created Facebook page, "Camp Fire Missing Persons, Paradise CA," after noticing panicked posts were piling up.

"I said, 'I have a bunch of genealogy friends, and we can help,'" said Collins, who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed a team of eight "angels" from around the country and one in Canada, all of whom volunteer with a group called Search Squad. "The rest was history."

Working on laptops from their living room sofas,



Diana Sauer holds a photograph of her father, Warren Deboer, holding her as a baby, and his best friend Russell Anderson.

home offices and kitchen counters, they communicated in online chat groups and divvied up hundreds of posts. They used public databases to find property deeds, court records and bankruptcy filings, and logged onto people-finding sites like Ancestry.com, BeenVerified.com, the online White Pages and others. They looked for cell phone numbers and email addresses and names of friends, relatives, neighbors and associates who might have clues.

In the four weeks since the fire started, the search angels have connected nearly 250 people with the relatives and friends they were searching for. They are one of several missing persons groups that sprung up on Facebook with the intention of helping strangers in a time of need, harnessing the power of social media and dogged investigative work.

"I reached out to the angels, and they really are angels," said Delisa Gaeta, 55, who was concerned about her foster father, whom she hadn't seen in years. "I threw a lifeline out there, and they grabbed hold of it and reeled it in. They just made it happen."

At first, Gaeta didn't know if her foster father, Dale Wingett, had made it out of his Paradise home alive. Authorities had no information on him, and after two weeks of trying to contact him, she was losing hope. Then she saw his picture in a local newspaper at a Thanksgiving dinner for survivors in the Northern California city of Redding. Gaeta desperately wanted to speak to Wingett and see if he needed help.

"It became a group project," said Dawn Kosmakos, a search angel who lives in Martinez, in the San Francisco Bay Area. "It was like, 'OK, girls. Let's find him!'"

They alerted the sheriff's office, did online searches and tried calling family and a property management company, Collins said. They found out Wingett had left Redding and was heading about 80 miles south, to the city of Willows.

"We called every hotel in Willows and said, 'If he checks in, can you give him this message?'" said Collins, and that's how they found him. Wingett got the message, called them back, got Gaeta's number and called her. They have since emailed and spoken several times.

For Wingett, the connection brought happiness at a time of great loss.

"We have had really moving talks," said Wingett, contacted by phone at a hotel in Sutter Creek. "She told me that even though I was her foster father, to her I was her father. That hit me pretty strongly."

Gaeta says she has peace

of mind after weeks of sleepless nights.

"I am so grateful to the work of these women," said Gaeta, who lives in the Bay Area city of Santa Clara. "They gave me the best Christmas gift."

Diana Sauer, 39, feels a similar sense of gratitude and wonder for the work of the angels, who use methods for finding people that many don't know exist.

"I owe them everything," said Sauer, who lives in the San Francisco area but grew up in Paradise and was worried about her father's best friend, Russell Anderson. "I don't think I would have found him without them."

Anderson is 70 and lived simply, she said, with no cellphone or internet.

"It made him one of those very difficult people to find," said Sauer, who knew Anderson had no children but was close with his ex-wife's daughter, Char-

maine. Sauer did not know Charmaine's last name, but the angels found her.

"They ended up finding Charmaine's marriage record, then they found birth records showing she had children. They found her children on Facebook and asked, 'Do you know Russell, and is he with you?'"

The answer was yes. She spoke to Anderson on the phone for 40 minutes, and caught him up on her life, her marriage, her own children. They hadn't spoken in 15 years. "It was a very sweet conversation between two people that love each other and haven't seen each other in a long time."

Several people that Collins' group tracked down appeared on the official list of people unaccounted for after the fire. That list, managed by the Butte County Sheriff's Office, is down to six names from a high of 1,300 last month.

Sheriff Kory Honea acknowledged the work of Facebook groups in the effort but said his agency wasn't coordinating with them or using their resources, primarily because it was so swamped with other work.

"If the Facebook group knows that (people) are safe, they should call us and let us know. There's no way my staff can check the myriad of Facebook pages," Honea told The Associated Press.

Collins said when her team located a "missing" person who was on the official list, they emailed the sheriff's office and also told friends and family of those found to contact the sheriff's office to have their names removed.

The angels say they all have personal reasons for doing the work they do.

"I was in a foster home myself. I really don't have much family," said Collins. "So, for me, I get joy connecting others to their family."

Misplaced heart offers peek at nation's transplant system

BY KIMBERLY KINDY
AND LENNY BERNSTEIN
The Washington Post

A human heart left on a commercial airliner provides a glimpse into the nation's transplant system, which relies on an obscure network of nonprofit organizations to collect and transport human organs and tissue.

The heart traveled in the cargo compartment of a Southwest Airlines flight from Sacramento to Seattle on Sunday. It was supposed to be picked up in Seattle but remained on the plane when the aircraft left for Dallas. There are conflicting accounts of what went wrong, and an investigation is underway.

Southwest realized the problem about 90 minutes into the flight to Dallas. The pilot issued an announcement to passengers, made a hairpin turn and headed back to Seattle.

Passengers were at first confused, then generally supported returning to deliver the heart, in case it was needed to save a life, one passenger, Andrew Gottschalk, has told media outlets.

As it turned out, the heart was headed to a "tissue processor" in Renton,

Wash., a suburb of Seattle, where the valves could be removed for transplant, according to an official with LifeNet Health, a nonprofit organization in Virginia Beach that runs the facility.

Tissue processors prepare heart valves, skin, bone and other body parts — but not solid organs — for use in medical procedures.

Initial testing indicates no damage to the valves, which have been removed, said LifeNet Vice President Doug Wilson.

"They are in high demand, so they will likely be transplanted as soon as that testing is complete," he said.

Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., who has been looking into the transplant system, said Friday that the incident "strikes me as another example of a need for more oversight of the entire organ donation system. That system has operated in the darkness for decades, and Congress and the administration need to fix this."

LifeNet Health and Sierra Donor Services, which collected the heart from a donor, are two of 58 "organ procurement organizations" chartered by the federal government to collect hearts, kidneys, livers, pancreases and other human organs.

They also collect human tissue and often sell it to tissue processors, which is sometimes their primary method of raising revenue. It is illegal to sell organs at a profit in the United States, but OPOs may charge significant markups on tissue such as heart valves, corneas and bone. Some OPOs, such as LifeNet Health, perform both tissue collection and processing.

The OPOs whisk solid organs to transplant centers for implantation into critically ill patients. The U.S. has a severe shortage of transplant organs, and speed is critical in keeping them suitable for recipients. Last year, 31,608 organs were transplanted. More than 114,000 people are on waiting lists; 33 die in need of organs each day.

The OPOs' task of transporting organs and tissue involves a number of crucial steps that often rely on airlines and couriers. All of them are potentially subject to human error.

OPOs are lightly regulated by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which has repeatedly found that many do a poor job of recovering enough organs to meet the need. For the first time in more than a decade, the



A Southwest flight had to return to Seattle after someone forgot to unload a human heart.

government is attempting to shut down one OPO for failing to recover enough organs: LiveOnNY, which collects body parts in the New York metropolitan area. Each OPO has a monopoly over a portion of U.S. territory.

Enforcement of OPO safety standards is generally left to the United Network for Organ Sharing, an umbrella nonprofit that coordinates the system. It is difficult to determine how often problems occur because UNOS's records are hidden from scrutiny by the public or Congress. But some incidents have emerged.

In 2014, for example, a

human pancreas was left sitting in a container on a counter for nearly two hours at the Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency, the Miami OPO, according to records obtained by The Washington Post. A spokeswoman for the organization said the organ was successfully transplanted. The courier responsible for the mistake was "re-educated about the proper delivery procedure, and there have been no repeat issues," she said.

The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations declined to comment.

At the moment, it's unclear who was responsible for last week's incident and

why it wasn't discovered until the plane was in the air to Dallas. Sierra Donor Services, the OPO that provided the heart, said a courier did not show up in time to collect the heart. Wilson, the LifeNet spokesman, said that Southwest failed to take the heart off the plane and that the error was discovered by its courier. Southwest acknowledged that its crew did not remove the heart from the cargo compartment but is not sure how the error was discovered.

"We don't know all the details," Wilson said. "We are doing an investigation to make sure this doesn't happen again."

Kansas to pay \$1.1M in look-alike wrongful conviction case

Associated Press

OLATHE, Kan. — Kansas has agreed to pay \$1.1 million to a man who spent 17 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of a robbery that he says was committed by someone who looks just like him.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said Tuesday that a settlement was reached Monday with 42-year-old Richard Anthony Jones of Kansas City, Mo.

Schmidt said Jones is the first person to agree to a

settlement payout under a new state law that provides compensation to people who are wrongly imprisoned. Two other mistaken conviction lawsuits are pending in Kansas.

"We are committed to faithfully administering the new mistaken-conviction statute the legislature enacted," Schmidt said in a news release. "In this case, it was possible on the existing record to resolve all issues quickly, satisfy all of the statute's requirements, and agree to this outcome so Mr.

Jones can receive the benefits to which he is entitled by law because he was mistakenly convicted."

Eyewitness testimony sent Jones to prison for an attack and robbery in a Walmart parking lot in Roeland Park, Kan. No physical evidence linked Jones to the crime, and he maintained his innocence. He was freed after supporters found evidence that another man who looked just like him lived near the Walmart.

His lawyers with the Midwest Innocence Project

and the Paul E. Wilson Defender Project at the University of Kansas presented the other man at a June 2017 hearing. After the victim and witnesses withdrew their identification of Jones, Johnson County District Judge Kevin Moriarty ordered Jones' release. While not saying the other man committed the crime, Moriarty found that based on the new evidence, no reasonable juror would have convicted Jones. The other man, known as "Ricky," testified at the

hearing that he did not commit the robbery.

Investigators focused on Jones after his picture was picked out of a police database three months after the crime by a man who admitted he was on drugs during his only encounter with Jones, according to court documents filed by the defense. Jones' lawyers argued the lineup of photos was "highly suggestive," with Jones' picture the only one of six photographs that resembled the description of the suspect.



TORIANO PORTER/TNS

Richard Anthony Jones is the first person to receive a settlement payout under a new Kansas state law.

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Senate unanimously votes to make lynching a federal crime

WASHINGTON — The Senate has unanimously approved bipartisan legislation that would make lynching a federal crime.

The effort was led by two Democratic senators who are potential presidential contenders in 2020, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California.

Joining them as lead sponsors was the Senate's third African-American member, Tim Scott, R-S.C. Efforts to pass legisla-

tion making lynching a federal crime have failed repeatedly in the past. The sponsors of the bill say there had been nearly 200 attempts in Congress for nearly 100 years.

It's unclear whether the House will act on the measure before the Christmas holiday.

About 3,450 black people were lynched in the U.S. between 1882 and 1968, making up 73 percent of the total, according to the NAACP.

European officials agree on ban of some single-use plastics

BERLIN — The European Union moved closer to banning single-use straws, plates, cutlery and cotton swabs, after officials from the 28-nation bloc and the European Parliament on Wednesday backed recommendations by its executive branch designed to reduce marine pollution.

Environmental campaigners have been calling for curbs on throwaway plastic that's accumulat-

ing in the oceans because, unlike organic materials, it doesn't decompose but simply breaks down into ever smaller pieces.

Once the ban is formally approved, countries will have two years to restrict the use of single-use plastic products, which will also include drink stirrers, balloon sticks, and polystyrene food and beverage containers, though plastic cups are exempt for now.

Pope accepts resignation of LA bishop accused of misconduct

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Los Angeles auxiliary bishop Monsignor Alexander Salazar, following allegations of misconduct with a minor in the 1990s, the Vatican announced the resignation in a statement Wednesday.

The current archbishop of Los Angeles, the Most Rev. Jose Gomez, said the archdiocese was made aware of the claim in 2005,

which law enforcement had declined to prosecute, but that the archdiocese forwarded the complaint to the Vatican office that handles sex abuse cases.

Gomez said that office, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, imposed precautionary measures against Salazar and a further investigation found the allegation credible. Gomez said Salazar, 69, has "consistently denied any wrongdoing."



TIMOTHY A. CLARY/GETTY-AFP

Reflection on the holiday season: The World Trade Center Transportation Hub's Oculus station is reflected in a decorative snowman. The Oculus, which opened in March 2016, replaces the subway station that was destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Consumer financial watchdog abandons name change plan

NEW YORK — The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has decided to abandon a controversial renaming plan, in one of the first big decisions by its new permanent director.

The CFPB no longer wants to call itself the "Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection," a change that had been sought by Mick Mulvaney, who had been President Donald Trump's acting director of the bureau.

The decision was announced in an email by new director Kathy Kraninger on Wednesday, who took over earlier this

month.

The CFPB was created by the Dodd-Frank Act, the law that rewrote the rules governing the banking and financial system after the 2008 financial crisis. The bureau was called the "Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection" in the law, but the CFPB has never referred to itself that way. Mulvaney argued the renaming was just following the letter of the law.

Kraninger cited the cost of renaming the bureau as well as years of branding and identification the CFPB had built up over the last decade.

The banking industry publishes millions of disclosures and paperwork for consumers and regulators that referred to the CFPB every year, and reprinting those documents could have been a significant cost.

The CFPB will still use the "Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection" in some formal situations, like reports to Congress. But the bureau's public image will be the CFPB, Kraninger said.

Many consumer groups and allies of the bureau in Congress argued the name change was unnecessary and purely political.

Ex-Blackwater agent found guilty in Iraq shooting

WASHINGTON — A former Blackwater security contractor has been convicted of murder at his third trial in the 2007 shooting of unarmed civilians in Iraq.

Nicholas Slatten was found guilty of first-degree murder Wednesday in Washington.

Prosecutors say Slatten was the first to fire shots in the killings of 14 Iraqi civilians at a crowded traffic circle in Baghdad. The shooting strained relations with Iraq and drew intense scrutiny of the role of American contractors in the Iraq War.

The defense had argued

that Slatten opened fire because he thought a bomb-laden car was headed toward his convoy.

An appeals court overturned his 2014 conviction, saying he should have been tried separately from three other men. A jury couldn't reach a verdict in his second trial last summer.

Mueller seeks Roger Stone's testimony to House panel

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller asked the House intelligence committee for an official transcript of Trump adviser Roger Stone's testimony, according to people familiar with the request, a sign that prosecutors could be moving to charge him with a crime.

The request Friday is the first time Mueller has formally asked the committee to turn over material the panel has gathered in its investigation of Russian interference of the 2016 campaign, according to the people.

Stone, who was in contact with President Donald Trump during the 2016 campaign, has been a focus of the special counsel as Mueller probes whether the Trump campaign had advance knowledge of WikiLeaks' release of Democratic emails allegedly hacked by Russian operatives.

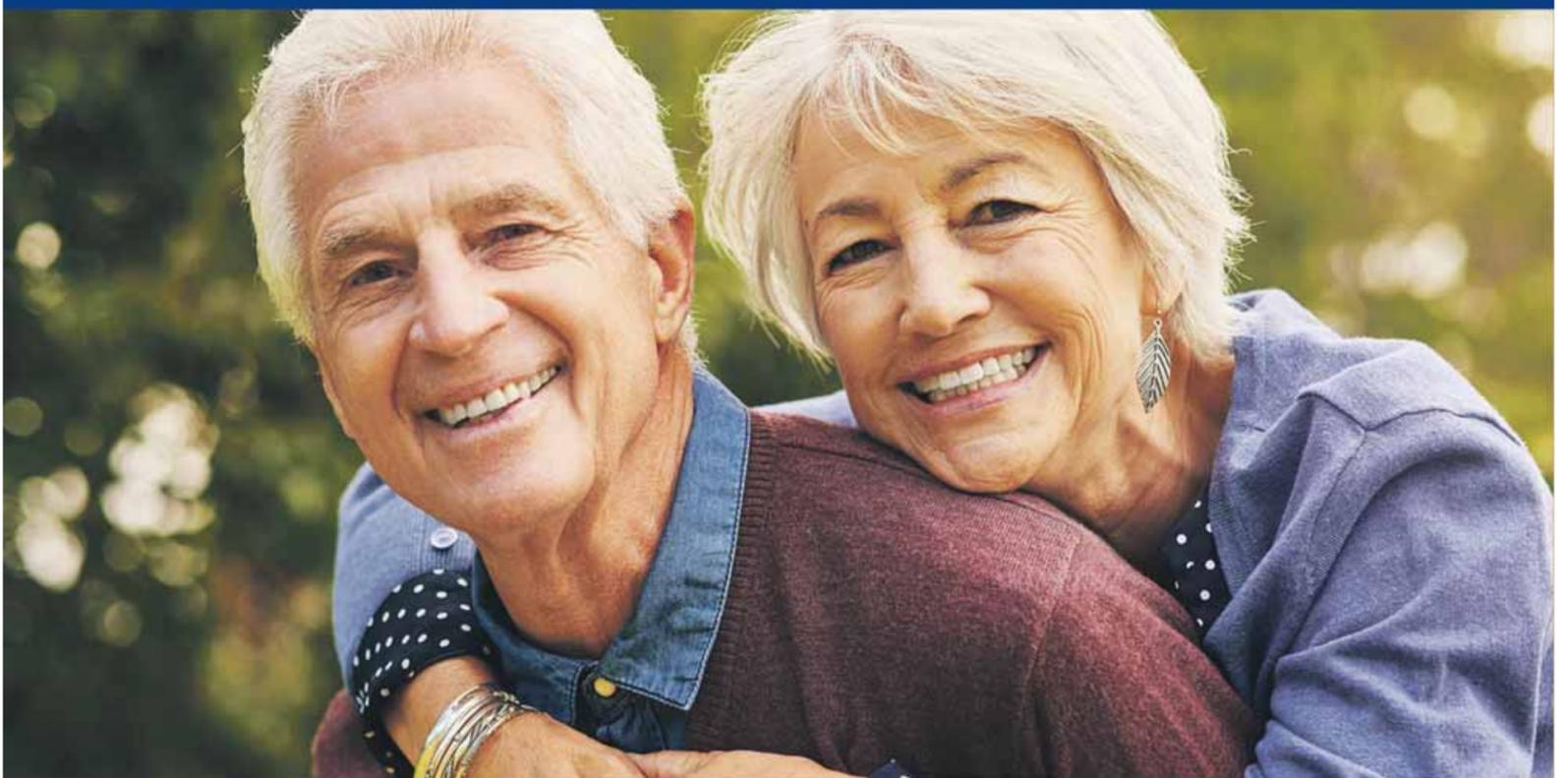
In Europe: The European Union marked 100 days until Brexit on Wednesday by triggering an action plan to ensure planes can still fly and money can still flow between Britain and the bloc in the increasingly likely event that the U.K. leaves the EU without a divorce deal. Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29.

In Congo: The governor of Congo's capital, Kinshasa, banned campaign rallies for all 21 candidates in the city Wednesday, citing security concerns ahead of the Sunday presidential election.

Gov. Andre Kimbuta issued a communique saying he had information that extremists were preparing confrontations.

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HISTORY

Part I - Looking Back: What Would the Founding Fathers Think of America Today?

9:30 AM | Wendy Schiller / Brown University
10:35 AM | Undergraduate Teaching Award



POLITICS

Part II - Looking Forward: The Changing Face of Politics

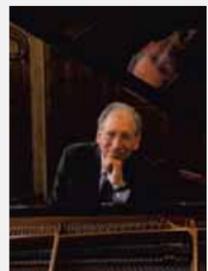
10:50 AM | Sam Potolicchio / Georgetown University
11:55 AM | "America's Best Professors," Princeton Review



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EDITORIALS

How bad does the 'Illinois Exodus' have to get?

When he takes office in January, Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker will have fewer constituents than he might have expected. Unfortunately he'll also have fewer constituents working and paying taxes to support Illinois' state and local governments. Every time a worker departs, the tax burden on those of us who remain grows.

The release on Wednesday of new census data about Illinois was alarming: Not only has the flight of citizens continued for a fifth straight year, but the population loss is intensifying. This year's estimated net reduction of 45,116 residents is the worst of these five losing years.

This is terrible news for House Speaker Michael Madigan and his cronies who in recent decades have steered the Illinois General Assembly toward higher taxes, rising public debt and anti-business policies that discourage employers from locating, expanding or just keeping their workforces here. Residents fed up with the economic climate here are heading for less taxaholic, jobs-friendlier states.

The new numbers confront Democrats who've run the legislature — and who keep raising taxes — with realities they'll wiggle to explain but can't deny: As the nation's population expands, the populations of Illinois and eight other states are declining. On their watch, an Illinois once revered as a land of opportunity now is in decline.

More ominously, every other state in the Midwest is growing.

The most important numbers in the new federal statistics involve domestic migration — the number of people leaving Illinois for other states, such as Texas, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The trend was bad again this year, with some 114,000 people departing — about the same as last year. Those are individuals and households who decided they have a better future elsewhere, or who have given up on Illinois and are, effectively, fleeing.



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The estimated net reduction in Illinois' population this year is 45,116 residents. Every other state in the Midwest is growing.

Why are so many people departing? Certainly some leave because they don't like winter weather, or summer humidity, we suppose. But the trail out West or to down South is well worn. There's nothing new about Sun Belt migration, and indeed, the story in Illinois is that for decades a steady, fairly predictable number of Illinois residents left for other places. Over the past few decades, about 65,000 more people voluntarily left the state each year than arrived. It was neither shocking nor worrisome.

The change came in 2014. That year, with the Great Recession well over, the domestic migration shortfall jumped from 68,204 to 93,704. The negative number jumped again in 2015 (106,544) and again in 2016 (109,941). In 2017, more exodus: 114,779. And now in 2018, Illinois lost another 114,154 people. If you've read our editorials about what we call the "Illinois

Exodus," you've met many of these people and absorbed their families' stories. They include young people who will build their futures elsewhere, far from the families who raised them and hoped to keep them close.

Many of them left because they believed Illinois is headed in the wrong direction. Because Illinois politicians have raised taxes, milked employers and created enormous public indebtedness that the pols want to address with ... still more taxation.

Consider, too, the implications for a diminished Illinois in Congress. When Madigan was born 76 years ago, Illinois boasted 27 seats in the U.S. House. Yet in recent decades as the growth-squelching, hostile-to-employers agenda of Springfield has driven people to economically friendlier states, that number has plummeted to 18. In the next reapportionment, after the

2020 census, that number surely will drop to 17. Wednesday's news of continuing population decline here increases the chance the Illinois' U.S. House delegation instead will shrink to 16.

As we've tried to explain before, the expatriates unhitched their futures from a state awash in debt, mired in political dysfunction and hobbled by weak growth. They worried about rising taxes, declining property values or other profound impacts on their lives. If the economic growth prospects here were better, and if job growth were healthier, fewer people would leave and more people would come.

As population loss worsens, all of us ought to ask the leaders of our state and local governments: How bad does the Illinois Exodus have to get before its dominant politicians understand that their debt-be-damned, tax-and-spend policies are ravaging this state?

Elk Grove Village's savvy football play

We often criticize government officials for wasting taxpayer money: on overly generous pensions, needless services, the \$124 seafood tower at a fancy restaurant (not kidding, it happened). Sure we get cranky, but that doesn't mean we can't recognize a dash of municipal marketing genius when it hits us in the face like a football.

The epiphany struck Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig Johnson last holiday season that his community, eager to recruit employers, could become the sponsor of a college bowl game. And so it happened. In a seeming miracle on par with Northwestern winning the Big Ten's West Division, overlooked Elk Grove Village will be the money and message behind Friday's Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl.

Actually, no miracles required. All it takes is money. The village is spending



AUSTIN ANTHONY/DAILY NEWS

Western Kentucky played in the 2014 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. The 2018 edition is the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl sponsored by Elk Grove Village.

about \$300,000 (plus \$100,000 in TV commercial production costs) to get its marketing slogan — "Makers Wanted" — attached to the gridiron contest between

the University of Toledo and Florida International University. ESPN, broadcasting the game, will play up the Elk Grove Village name and motto. It will show the commercials. Johnson, traveling to the game at his own expense (thank you, sir), told the Tribune's John Keilman he might even get a minute or two in the broadcast booth. All to push Elk Grove Village's big industrial park and convenient access to transportation routes and O'Hare International Airport.

It's easy to laugh or take umbrage at Johnson's audacity, but towns with a business focus have a legitimate need to market themselves. And what's a more novel, more American concept than naming rights on a college football bowl game? This year's games include the Cheez-It Bowl (mmm, delicious) and the San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl (Good

luck, NU), among the many.

So heck, why not the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl, previously sponsored by Popeyes? We've already seen enough media coverage to justify the expense, including explanations of how an obscure Chicago suburb came to sponsor a game played in an island country with December temperatures in the 70s. It seems like such a good idea that other cities might follow. Chicago, for example, is always looking to shine up its image among CEOs. As a favor to City Hall, allow us to eliminate from naming consideration the Freezing Slush Bowl, the Corruption Bowl and the Clout Bowl (possible slogan: Don't rank nobody nobody ranked).

Here's hoping for a good game Friday, with lots of scoring, and plenty of references to a suburban Chicago industrial park.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

When Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May took office in 2016 with a pledge that "Brexit means Brexit," she held all the cards in negotiations over leaving the European Union. She had a direct popular mandate, if not for herself, then at least for Brexit. ... What's more, she held two all-powerful trump cards.

First, there were 3.2 million (now 3.5 million) EU citizens in the United Kingdom who hoped to be allowed to stay, most of them depending on the U.K. economy for their livelihood, compared to only 1.2 million U.K. citizens in Europe, most of them retired.

Second, the Republic of Ireland relied on the U.K. as a transit. With admirable British reasonability, on taking office May immediately guaranteed that under any Brexit deal, all EU citizens in the U.K. would be allowed to stay (and work), and that there would be no border controls between the U.K. and Ireland.

A brawler like Donald Trump could have made billions out of those two cards. Having thrown them out on the first hand, May was left with very little else to play. And so she got the only deal the EU was willing to give: continued subservience to the European Union, with no right (ever) to withdraw from a humiliating transitional agreement, and no say in how the EU would be governed (and govern Britain) in the future.

There's something to be said for being reasonable.

And there's something to be said for being Donald Trump.

Salvatore Babones, *The National Interest*

SCOTT STANTIS



Chicago Tribune PERSPECTIVE



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, right, called for Sen. Al Franken to resign in December 2017 and has faced repercussions from political supporters and fellow Democrats.

Gillibrand faces the Franken backlash — but she was right



STEVE CHAPMAN

On Nov. 15, 2017, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand spoke at a news conference about a bill to reform the handling of sexual harassment allegations from Capitol Hill staffers. “There is a serious sexual harassment problem in Congress, and too many congressional offices are not taking this problem seriously at all,” said the New York Democrat.

The next day, she was faced with an authentic come-to-Jesus moment. Her Democratic colleague Al Franken was accused of forcibly kissing a woman during a USO tour in 2006. Over the next couple of weeks, several women came forward to say the second-term senator from Minnesota had groped or kissed them without their consent.

Senate Democrats agonized over what to do. It was Gillibrand who stepped out front to call for Franken to resign. “Enough is enough,” she said on Dec. 6. “We, as elected leaders, should absolutely be held to a higher standard, not a lower standard.”

The test of any principle is whether

you apply it to your friends as well as your adversaries. Franken’s Democratic colleagues and supporters were loath to abandon someone who was well-regarded, well-known and good at raising money. But Gillibrand decided she couldn’t accept such behavior in a senator of either party.

Her move was a catalyst. Before the day was over, a majority of Democratic senators lined up with her. The next day, Franken announced he would step down.

You could say that was Gillibrand’s finest hour, showing she would not bend her principles for the sake of her party or her friends. But plenty of prominent Democrats think it was her worst. They are still angry at her for turning on Franken — and for her earlier conclusion that Bill Clinton should have resigned from the presidency for preying on a White House intern.

Billionaire donor George Soros denounced Gillibrand over the Franken matter. Susie Tompkins Buell, who founded the Esprit clothing line, said she was “ashamed of the Democrats” and cited Gillibrand’s role as proof “she would eat her own.”

Reports Politico, “More than a dozen prominent West Coast, New York and national donors and bundlers — many of them women — said they would never again donate to or

fundraise for Gillibrand or would do so only if she ended up as the Democratic presidential nominee.” One donor said she was “duplicious.”

But there was no duplicity worthy of the name. In this case, Gillibrand had a choice between abandoning a colleague and betraying victims who had come to see her as a champion. Given her history of working to combat sexual abuse in the military, universities and Congress, her refusal to make excuses for Franken should have come as no surprise.

There was no obvious political gain to be had from sticking her neck out. Gillibrand could have downplayed Franken’s sins, which were less severe than, say, Donald Trump’s or Roy Moore’s. She could have waited to see what other Democrats did. She could have held back until it was clear which way public sentiment was going. That she acted decisively, even ruthlessly, to hold a fellow Democratic senator to account was brave, not cynical.

Likewise with her willingness to condemn Bill Clinton’s conduct — even though she had to know she would elicit charges of hypocrisy because of her past support of them. Realizing she couldn’t defend what he did, she made the sensible choice not

to try.

Both positions happen to be correct. And Gillibrand understood that Democrats could hardly claim the moral high ground on sexual harassment and assault while accommodating a compulsive groper in their Senate ranks.

Had he stayed on, Franken would have been one of the Judiciary Committee members questioning Brett Kavanaugh about the accusations against him. Conservatives in Congress and the media would have used him as tawdry proof of a Democratic double standard every time a Republican was accused of sexual misconduct.

Franken was clearly in the wrong, and he was sure to become a liability. Gillibrand might have protected herself politically by saying as little as possible for as long as possible. But that would have impeded her efforts to protect women from sexual abuse.

It may be that her uncompromising positions will cost her dearly if she runs for president. If so, Gillibrand will have the consolation of knowing that when her moment of truth arrived, she did not prove false.

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

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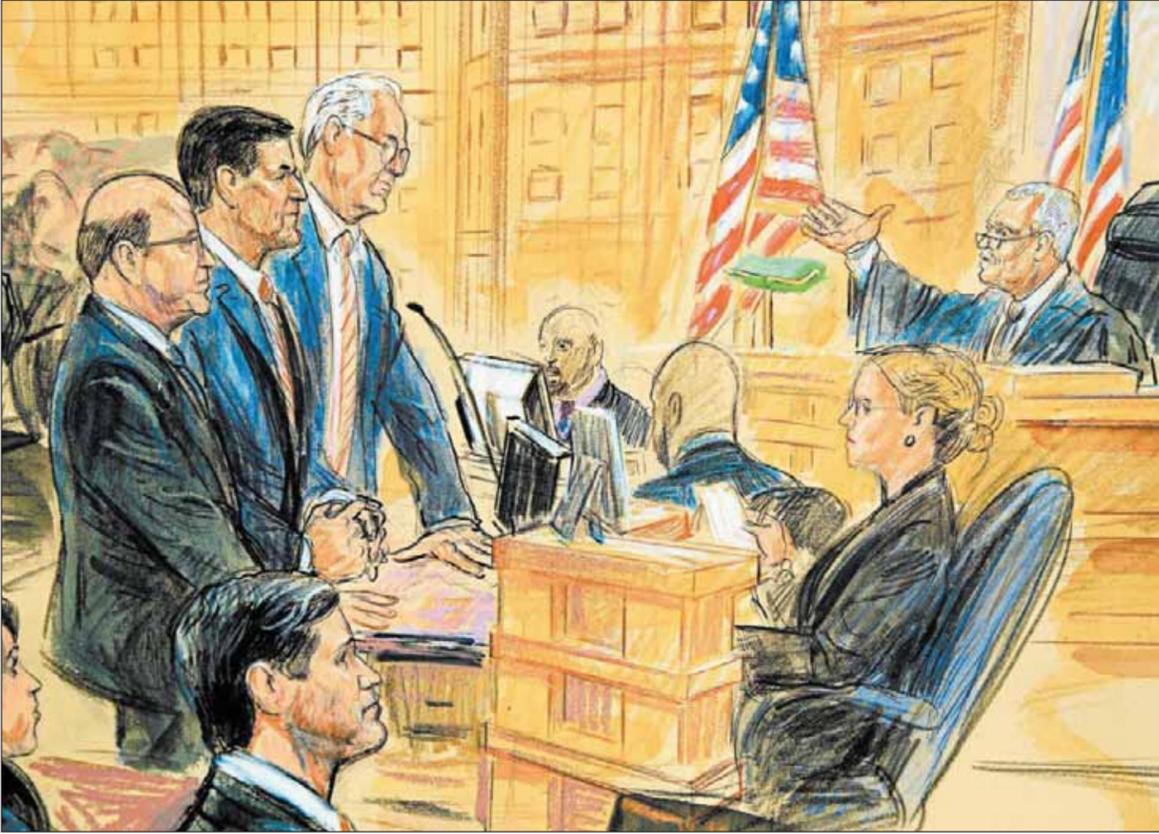
OP-ART JOE FOURNIER

THE FLYNN FLAM MAN BY JOE “WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR” FOURNIER



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PERSPECTIVE



DANA VERKOUTEREN/AP

A sketch depicts former national security adviser Michael Flynn, standing center, flanked by his lawyers as he is castigated Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan, right. President Donald Trump contended Flynn had been entrapped into lying — or didn't lie at all.

Trump's conspiracy theories keep exploding

BY MAX BOOT

The president of the United States is a certified conspiracy theorist who has suggested that Justice Antonin Scalia may have been murdered, that millions of illegal votes were cast in 2016 and that Democrats inflated the death count from Hurricane Maria to make him look bad. So it's no surprise that, to save himself from possible impeachment and prosecution, he spins crazy conspiracy theories to impugn his foes. What is more confounding and dismaying is that so many Republicans and "conservatives" have been so eager to join him in Cloud Cuckoo-Land even though their theories keep exploding like kernels in the popcorn popper.

Remember when Trump claimed that President Barack Obama "had my wires tapped" in Trump Tower? When he said that special counsel Robert Mueller was investigating him because he was angry about a fee dispute at Trump National Golf Club? When he claimed that texts sent between FBI agent Peter Strzok and his girlfriend, Lisa Page, were evidence not only of anti-Trump bias but of "treason"? When he charged that the FBI had infiltrated his campaign with a "spy" to gather political dirt? When he supported Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., in claiming that the FBI had obtained a surveillance warrant for Trump adviser Carter Page based solely on a dossier compiled by British ex-spy Christopher Steele without telling the judges that Steele had been hired by political opponents?

Pop. Pop. Pop. Pop. Each of these conspiracy theories is no more. It turns out that no one tapped Trump Tower. That there is zero evidence of Mueller being angry over golf course fees, much less misusing his authority to gain revenge. That Strzok and Page did not con-

spire against Trump. That the FBI had not infiltrated the campaign but had spoken with an informant on its outskirts to learn about Russian infiltration. And that the FBI investigation into Trump-Kremlin links was prompted not by the Steele dossier but by the admission of a Trump adviser to an Australian diplomat that the Russians had dirt on Hillary Clinton.

Newer conspiracy theories are exploding just as fast. On Sunday, Trump, doing his best imitation of a mafia boss, tweeted that "Michael Cohen only became a 'Rat' after the FBI did something which was absolutely unthinkable & unheard of until the Witch Hunt was illegally started. They BROKE INTO AN ATTORNEY'S OFFICE!" Not even Cohen's attorneys dared to make such a bold claim, because they knew FBI agents had a proper search warrant. If they did not, there is no way Cohen would have pleaded guilty and been sentenced to three years in prison, as he was Dec. 12.

Trump and his acolytes have also claimed that Michael Flynn, his former national security adviser, was entrapped by the FBI into lying — or that he did not lie at all. "They gave General Flynn a great deal," Trump tweeted on Dec. 13, "because they were embarrassed by the way he was treated — the FBI said he didn't lie and they overrode the FBI. They want to scare everybody into making up stories that are not true by catching them in the smallest of misstatements."

Trump followers hoped that U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan, who is presiding over Flynn's case, would back up their claims and toss out his guilty plea. This weekend, Fox News host Jeanine Pirro hailed Sullivan as a "a jurist unafraid of the swamp, a judge who has a track record of calling out prosecutorial misconduct, a man who does not tolerate injustice or abuse of power."

But instead of raging at the FBI and special counsel, Sullivan raged at Flynn himself — in no small part because his attorneys tried the entrapment defense in their sentencing plea. "Arguably, you sold your country out," the judge thundered at the shaken defendant at Tuesday's sentencing hearing. Asked if Flynn was entrapped by the FBI, one of his lawyers answered, "No, your honor," and Flynn admitted that he knew lying to the FBI was wrong.

And just like that the Trump apologists went from hailing Sullivan as a jurist of uncommon wisdom to denouncing him as another cog in a vast left-wing conspiracy. "Can Flynn receive fair treatment from Sullivan in future?" Washington Examiner correspondent Byron York wondered darkly. How long before it is alleged that Sullivan has a fee dispute at a Trump golf club?

Being utterly shameless, Trump does not mind looking foolish by spreading preposterous conspiracy theories. He must figure that he will hoodwink at least a few gullible souls. But, for the life of me, I cannot fathom why so many so-called conservatives are so eager to propagate far-fetched lies on his behalf that are inevitably dispelled almost as quickly as they are created.

When George Santayana warned that "those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it," he could not have imagined that history would be forgotten as quickly as it is today. Trump defenders would be well advised to recall the ignominious fate of previous conspiracy theories before spinning fresh ones.

The Washington Post

Max Boot, a Washington Post columnist, is a senior fellow in national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The flawed ruling that imperils Obamacare

A federal court's declaration that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is unconstitutional could destabilize the ACA marketplaces, which is bad news for small businesses, their employees and solo entrepreneurs that rely on the ACA for quality, affordable insurance.

More than half of all ACA marketplace enrollees nationwide are small business owners, self-employed individuals or small business employees. This decision by a federal judge in Texas, however, could cause prices to rise for millions of people if large numbers of consumers leave health care marketplaces because they believe the ACA will eventually be struck down. If that happens, those who remain in the marketplaces could face higher costs.

The stability of the ACA was already a concern thanks to the Trump administration's injection of chaos into the ACA marketplaces, most notably when the administration and its allies ended the individual mandate. Now that the very existence of the ACA is in question, it's possible even more people will leave the marketplaces. Let's hope the next court that hears this case upholds the ACA and stops numerous Illinois entrepreneurs from being priced out of health insurance.

— Geraldine Aglipay, Chicago

Medicare for all?

Health care is something we've debated for decades. Most people don't want to have insurance because they feel healthy, and relying on private insurance is too expensive — especially if not many people are covering risk. I think it's time we finish the job and strive for a better public/private collaboration.

Yes, Medicare for all. Everyone would have Medicare basic, but then add on supplemental private coverage to help with co-pays and non-covered items. I would get rid of Medicaid and have government pay for plans that meet a set criteria for those who can't afford it. Those who don't want to "pay for insurance" would have Medicare basic anyway, and companies can pay for supplemental plans as a job perk, but not with a tax deduction. Perhaps that can be an easier pill to swallow since it would create the largest competitive insurance pool in history.

— Ted Terziew, Chicago

The wall, a wrongheaded idea

I am writing in regard to the article, "Trump's on-camera wall ultimatum boxes in Republicans," published Dec. 13. It seems as though President Donald Trump believes that a wall between the U.S. and Mexico is going to keep immigrants out. Yes, it will make it harder for illegal immigrants to cross over. But it will not end the problem. Nobody wants to leave home and country unless they have to, whether that be for the safety of themselves, their children, or for the desire for a better life. People will continue to come to the U.S. Spending \$5 billion dollars to build a wall is not going to stop them.

As a daughter of immigrants, I see this as an important issue, but I also see it as something that needs to be fixed. I believe we need to increase border security, whether that be a fence or workers, but I do not believe a wall is the answer. I advise Trump to use the money to help struggling citizens, including veterans in need of jobs and education, and to help unite the country instead of dividing it.

— Alex Martinez, Mundelein

Emanuel and pension reform

As much as I disagree with Mayor Emanuel on his public positions, he's right about the need for a state constitutional amendment to permit pension reform.

First, I would put a pension cap not to exceed a set limit per individual. Second, I would eliminate pension double dipping, when a person retires with a pension, then works for another public sector employer and retires with a second pension.

— Mike Ruffner, Antioch

Saudi rebuke

In an act of bipartisanship, the Senate has voted to withhold American military support from Saudi Arabia for its war in Yemen, and has clearly placed the blame for the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi on the Saudi crown prince. Senators rebuked President Trump, who refuses to accept the conclusions of the CIA that the crown prince ordered the murder.

Clearly, Trump, in keeping with the pattern that defines his presidency, is pursuing a narrow personal agenda with Saudi Arabia that eclipses the interests of the United States.

— Roger Hirschberg, Bondville, Vt.

Will Santa have a driverless sleigh by next Christmas?

BY JENNIFER HUDDLESTON SKEES AND TRACE MITCHELL

For those of us who will soon head over the river and through the woods to meet up with family, the holidays mean travel. Last year, nearly 100 million Americans hit the road during the season, and the number only seems to rise each year. For many people, it is stressful. Travel can also be time-consuming and dangerous, taking some fun out of a joyous time.

Luckily, the latest and greatest tech isn't limited to what's under the tree. Driverless vehicles are poised to make many of our travel headaches a part of Christmas past — and sooner than you think.

Just take a look at what's happening this December alone. Waymo, a leading player in the autonomous vehicle market, in Arizona launched the first driverless taxi service, and General Motors is focusing on similar technology. Just in time for cold winter days, Elon Musk announced that the next Tesla upgrade would enhance its "summon" feature so that your vehicle can come to you so long as it's within your sight.

What once seemed as fantastical as Santa's workshop is now rapidly becoming reality. These advancements will be a wonderful gift for holiday travelers. Driverless cars will help reduce such woes as

fighting traffic or finding the best route to our destinations, lessening the pain of long or crosstown road trips by letting everyone simply enjoy the ride.

Driverless cars will also make it easier for senior or disabled citizens who can't drive on their own and who struggle with day-to-day logistics, such as getting groceries or going Christmas shopping. Groups including AARP and the National Federation of the Blind have partnered with driverless car innovators to promote the increased independence and safety these vehicles provide. In fact, a driverless car may even be able to bring the store to you, as retailers such as Walmart and Kroger experiment with autonomous grocery delivery.

Most importantly, driverless cars can help ensure that everyone makes it home for the holidays safely. More than 94 percent of auto accidents are caused by human error. While the technology isn't perfect yet, it's far better than most people realize — and the vehicles don't get drowsy, drunk or distracted. They could save the lives of many people traveling after holiday parties or on New Year's Eve.

Even more of this technology is right around the corner. GM's semi-autonomous Cadillac Super Cruise driver assist technology will be available in all GM models by 2020. Families in Waymo's early

rider program in Arizona have already experienced the day-to-day advantages driverless vehicles provide. More companies have announced pilot programs in a range of cities from Washington, D.C., to Frisco, Texas. It won't be long before they're widely available for Americans to go dashing across the country.

The policy front is also promising. The U.S. Department of Transportation just finished taking comments on its recent "Autonomous Vehicles 3.0" guidance document, which provides a framework for how the federal government will regulate them. It looks as if the department will continue to encourage innovation by keeping regulations sensible, minimal and flexible — allowing companies to push boundaries of what we previously thought possible while still keeping consumers safe.

For now, a red-nosed reindeer may be guiding Santa's way, but driverless cars will start making it easier for the rest of us. By next year, maybe Rudolph can even take some time off.

Tribune Content Agency

Jennifer Huddleston Skees is a research fellow and Trace Mitchell is a research assistant with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS

Another observatory?

Aon Center owner wants to start building by spring



RYAN ORI
On Real Estate

A planned observatory atop the Aon Center could welcome its first thrill seekers in less than two years as the Chicago skyscraper's owner nears zoning approval for the \$185 million addition overlooking Millennium Park.

The owner of Chicago's third-tallest building, 601W Cos., on

Thursday will present a revised plan to create the observatory and its Sky Summit attraction to the Chicago Plan Commission.

If 601W's plan is approved as expected, it would be a key step toward full City Council approval — and, by the spring, work to build the observatory.

The New York-based developer hopes to start construction by June and complete the estimated \$185 million project by fall 2020, 601W principal Mark Karasick said.

It would make Chicago the second American city with three observatories, joining New York. “With the addition of Millen-

nium Park and Maggie Daley Park, this area has changed over the years,” said Aon Center's general manager, Matthew Amato of Jones Lang LaSalle. “We think this is a great opportunity for the building, for the neighborhood and for the city.”

Under the plan, the yet-to-be-named observatory will include a thrill ride called the Sky Summit, which would lift enclosed cabs filled with visitors over the building's edge for 30 to 40 seconds.

The project's designer, the Hettema Group, also has created a virtual reality attraction for the

Turn to **Observatory, Page 2**



HETTEMA GROUP

The Chicago Plan Commission will vote Thursday on a plan to create an observatory atop the city's third-tallest building, the Aon Center.

GE files for IPO of health care unit

BY KIEL PORTER, NABILA AHMED AND RICHARD CLOUGH

Bloomberg News

General Electric Co. has filed confidentially for an initial public offering of its Chicago-based health care unit, according to people familiar with the matter, moving ahead with plans to spin off its second most profitable business line.

The industrial conglomerate is working with Goldman Sachs Group, Bank of America Corp., Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Morgan Stanley on the planned listing, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the details aren't public. A public filing is likely next spring, they said.

A GE representative declined to comment on plans for the health unit.

“As we announced in June, as an independent global health care business, we will have greater flexibility to pursue future growth opportunities, react quickly to changes in the industry and invest in innovation,” GE said in an emailed statement.

Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan declined to comment. A representative for Morgan Stanley didn't have an immediate comment.

A public listing of GE's health care unit would follow a similar move by Germany's Siemens, which sold shares in its Healthineers business in March. The shares are up 32 percent since the IPO, valuing Siemens Healthineers at about \$42 billion.

A newly public GE health care company would rank among the world's largest, Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Karen Ubelhart said in June. Based on the valuation of peer companies, the new entity could have an enterprise value, which includes debt, of \$65 billion to \$70 billion, Ubelhart said.

With a spin, GE will retreat from one of its largest and most profitable markets. GE Healthcare, which earned \$3.5 billion last year on sales of \$19 billion, specializes in equipment such as MRI scanners and mobile diagnostic machines.

Still, health care has drawn scrutiny from some GE investors, who argue that it doesn't fit well with GE's primary business of making industrial equipment. Former Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Immelt in particular was criticized for the costly 2004 acquisition of British medical company Amersham Plc.

GE is moving away from the market as the company tries to narrow its focus, boost cash and stem one of the deepest slumps in its 126-year history. It agreed in April to sell a trio of health information businesses for \$1.05 billion. It's possible that GE could pursue alternatives to an IPO for its health care unit too.

The separation effort picked up pace in June, as then-Chief Executive Officer John Flannery unveiled a plan to sell 20 percent of GE Healthcare and spin off the rest to shareholders. After he was ousted in October amid mounting problems in the power division, successor Larry Culp went a step further, saying he may sell an even bigger piece as part of the push.



A modified Tesla Model X drives in the tunnel entrance before an unveiling event for the Boring Co. Hawthorne test tunnel in Hawthorne, Calif., Tuesday.
ROBYN BECK/AP PHOTOS

TUNNEL VISION

Ride in Elon Musk's LA tube 'a little bumpy,' Chicago alderman says

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI
Chicago Tribune

A Chicago alderman who was able to take a ride in a transportation tunnel built by tech entrepreneur Elon Musk said he still has “a lot of questions” about how such a tube could be built in Chicago.

Ald. Gilbert Villegas, 36th, chairman of the City Council's Latino Caucus, was one of a group of aldermen and Chicago city officials who were in Los Angeles this week to take a ride through the tunnel, which runs just over a mile.

Villegas described the ride on Tuesday night as “a little bumpy” since Musk's team had not yet smoothed out the surface of the tunnel. The top speed reached was about 34 mph, Villegas said, much slower than Musk's promised future speed of 150 mph. Villegas said he believed the ride would have been twice as fast if the tunnel had been smooth.

A Tesla Model X car was used for the trip.



Elon Musk, co-founder of Tesla Inc., speaks during the unveiling of the Boring Co. Hawthorne test tunnel.

In June, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Musk announced plans for an express, high-speed, underground connection between downtown and O'Hare International Airport.

The mayor, who is not running for a third term, has not wavered on his support for the proposed tunnel despite skepticism from some engineering and transportation experts, who wonder how Musk's Boring Co. can dig a 17-mile tunnel and create passenger service in a few years for just \$1 billion. Some candidates for mayor also have expressed doubts about the idea.

Villegas said his trip was comfortable, but he still has

questions about how the Chicago project will be financed and how taxpayers will be protected.

“It looks OK, but there has to be a lot more questions answered before we can begin a type of project like that,” said Villegas. One concern is making sure the vibrations from digging the tunnel will not cause problems for people living nearby, he said.

Other aldermen on the trip included Aviation Committee Chair Matt O'Shea, 19th, and Budget Committee Chair Carrie Austin, 34th.

Ald. Michael Scott Jr., 24th, who was not able to make the trip to Los Angeles, agreed that a lot is “up in the air” about the project.

“There are lots of things that need to come together before I think it can happen,” said Scott. He said one plus for the project is that it is supposed to be paid for by Musk, not taxpayers.

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Fed hikes interest rate for 4th time this year

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate for the fourth time this year to reflect the economy's continued strength but signaled that it expects to slow its rate hikes next year.

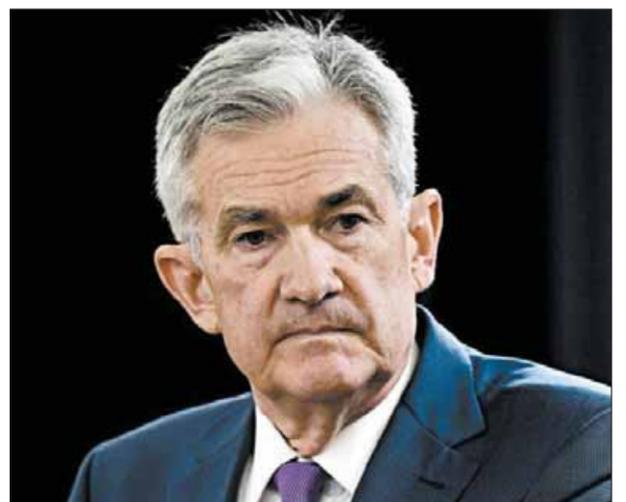
Wednesday's quarter-point increase, to a range of 2.25 percent to 2.5 percent, lifted the Fed's benchmark rate to its highest point since 2008. It will mean higher borrowing costs for many consumers and businesses.

The Fed's move came despite President Donald Trump's attacks in recent weeks on its rate

hikes and on Chairman Jerome Powell personally. The president has complained that the moves are threatening the economy. At a news conference after the Fed's announcement, Powell said Trump's tweets and statements would have no bearing on the central bank's policymaking.

The statement the Fed issued Wednesday after its latest policy meeting said only “some” further gradual rate increases are likely; previously, it referred simply to “further gradual increases.” And its updated forecast projects two rate hikes next year, down from three the Fed had predicted in

Turn to **Rates, Page 4**



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell dismissed President Donald Trump's criticism of the central bank's policy decisions.

Aon Center could house city's third observatory

Observatory, from Page 1

observatory called Ultraflight, Amato said. Guests can go into a virtual reality pod and do a "fly-through" of Chicago's skyline, emulating a flight past Chicago's skyscrapers in conditions including daylight, nighttime or rain.

The 82nd floor, previously used for mechanical systems, will be converted to an observatory with views of the park, Lake Michigan and the skyline, as well as a restaurant.

A partial 83rd floor is planned on what is now the roof, providing an area for guests to enter the Sky Summit ride.

In February, the Tribune reported plans to add a glass elevator tower to the exterior of the skyscraper at 200 E. Randolph St., leading to what would become Chicago's third observation deck. Plans were presented in a May



A 9,000-square-foot pavilion will be built for guests to enter the Aon Center southeast of the tower.

public meeting hosted by Ald. Brendan Reilly, 42nd.

Based on feedback from constituents, Reilly asked for several tweaks that

601W has incorporated into the plans. Changes include removing LED lights from the exterior of the elevator shaft, reducing

the intensity of lights inside elevator cabs, and improving pedestrian crosswalks from Millennium Park to Aon Center.

Initial plans to create new retail space east of the building, where a sunken plaza currently stands, were scrapped. Instead, a 9,000-square-foot pavilion will be built for guests to enter southeast of the tower. After buying tickets, guests will use a walkway under the office tower to access observatory elevators on the northwest corner of the building.

The addition will create 96,000 square feet of new space, including the pavilion, the slender elevator tower and conversion of former mechanical areas into usable space atop the tower, said Jack George, the project's zoning lawyer. 601W will pay almost \$2.4 million in zoning density bonuses, he said.

Legends, a New York-

based firm that operates facilities and provides concessions and other services to venues including the One World Trade Center's observatory, Yankee Stadium and the Rose Bowl, will operate the observatory, Amato said. Legends has yet to determine a name or concept for the 82nd-floor restaurant, he said.

There also will be a small event space that companies can rent for meetings, Amato said.

601W estimates the observatory will generate \$30 million to \$40 million in annual revenue. The firm, whose other Chicago properties include the Old Post Office redevelopment, bought the Aon Center for \$712 million in 2015.

It remains to be seen how a new observatory would affect Willis Tower's Skydeck Chicago, whose thrill attraction is The Ledge, and the former John

Hancock Center's 360 Chicago, which has The Tilt.

Tickets to the observatory are expected to cost about \$25, Amato said. Pricing has yet to be determined for the Sky Summit and virtual reality experiences, he said.

The 1,136-foot-tall Aon Center, designed by New York architect Edward Durrell Stone, was completed in 1973. It originally was known as the Standard Oil Building, then the Amoco Building.

Willis Tower is 1,451 feet tall and Trump International Hotel & Tower is 1,389 feet tall.

The 1,191-foot-tall Vista Tower, under construction nearby at 363 E. Wacker Drive, will knock the Aon Center from the No. 3 spot when it's completed in 2020.

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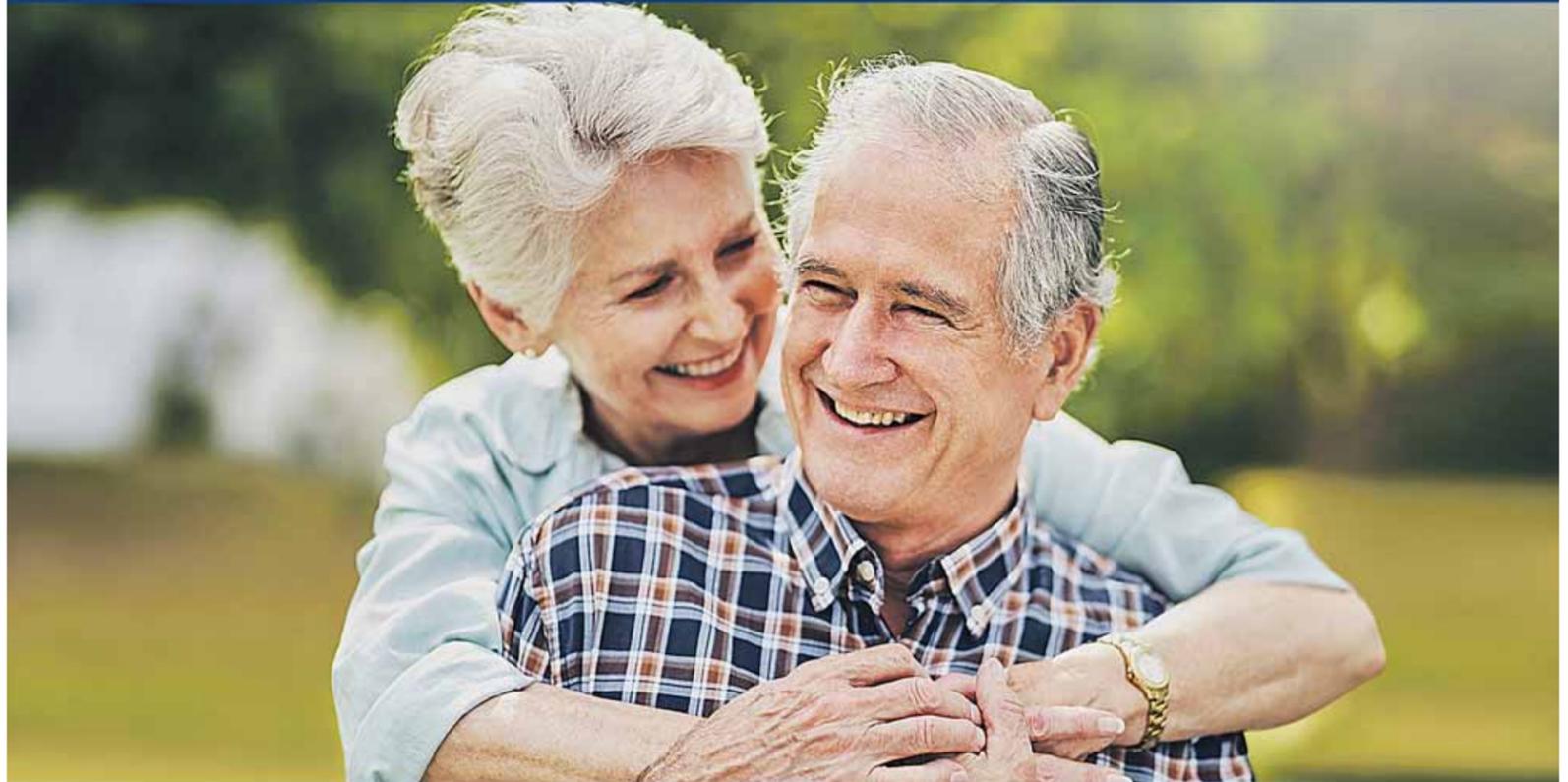


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Health insurance on demand?

Health insurers, employers looking at new ways to implement managed care

BY TOM MURPHY
Associated Press

People with health insurance often pay for coverage they never use. A startup wants to shake that up.

It's a radical idea: On-demand insurance that lets customers buy some of their coverage only if and when they need it, similar to how TV viewers might rent a new release from Amazon instead of paying every month for a pricey cable package they rarely use.

This approach from Bind Benefits is one of the latest wrinkles in a yearslong push by companies and insurers to control costs and make patients smarter health care shoppers. And it's drawing attention from the nation's largest health insurer, UnitedHealthcare, and some sizable employers.

"It's the sort of thing we need entrepreneurs to be doing," said Robert Laszewski, a health care consultant and former insurance executive. "We haven't had a new idea in managed care in I don't know how long."

Bind's plan draws concern from researchers worried about how this may hurt pocketbooks, but it also has attracted employers hungry for a fresh way to tame expenses.

School superintendent Barry Rose picked Bind as the only coverage option earlier this year for the Cumberland, Wis., school district after cycling through numerous health plans in the last six years. Rose said about two-thirds of his workers use \$500 or less in health care every year, and he didn't want to charge them premiums for care they weren't using.

"We have quality health care. If people need it, great. If they don't, at least we're

not soaking them for it," he said.

Minneapolis-based Bind is not an insurer, but it designs health plans for big employers that pay their own bills.

Here's how it works. Under Bind's plan, customers pay a base monthly premium that can be as much as 40 percent cheaper than other options their employer offers, the company says.

That covers most care, such as doctor visits, hospital stays, maternity care, cancer treatment and prescriptions.

A patient can then buy additional coverage for some procedures that aren't urgent, such as knee surgery or hip replacement. In these cases, the patient has time to plan for the care and look at different options for who performs it.

The additional coverage comes with an extra premium and possibly a co-payment, depending on the care provider and what is being purchased. In these cases, patients might get stuck paying more than \$1,000 in additional costs.

Users log onto Bind's website or app to see what is covered and what it will cost. That can vary based on Bind's quality rating for a provider and how efficiently it provides care. Someone with an ear infection might pay nothing for a telemedicine visit. But a trip to an emergency room for such a minor illness might cost a few hundred dollars.

"If we get everyone buying better, we actually make the product more affordable for all of us," said Bind CEO Tony Miller.

If patients stick to the plan's provider network in that core coverage, they will have one bill — a co-payment. Miller said Bind avoids high deductibles or



STACY BENGIS/AP

Nancy Buchholz got Bind Benefits coverage through her employer, Dove Healthcare, in Wisconsin.

co-insurance payments that make it hard for some to understand how much care really costs.

That simplicity helped Nancy Buchholz when she was trying to track her husband's expenses for cancer treatment last spring. She said he died six weeks after being diagnosed, and she became overwhelmed by billing notices from the hospital showing that care costs were approaching \$300,000.

But the only bill she had to pay for his hospital stay was the \$1,900 copayment laid out in the insurance plan.

"When you go through something that's emotionally devastating, the last thing you want to worry about is having to make sure something is paid for," said the Cadott, Wis., resident, who got Bind coverage through her employer, Dove Healthcare.

The potential for unexpected additional costs under Bind's system concerns Sabrina Corlette, a research professor at Georgetown's Center on Health Insurance Reforms. She noted that older customers are more likely to wind up with these big bills because they tend to have

more expensive procedures.

"This gets close to the line if not a little bit over the line of being discriminatory because it would only be people who have certain health conditions that would face higher premiums," she said.

Miller said his plans comply with federal anti-discrimination laws, and they provide all covered members the same benefit at the same cost.

Bind started selling coverage this year and has only a few thousand people enrolled. But it is expanding nationally, with help from

UnitedHealthcare, which covers more than 40 million people. UnitedHealthcare is offering Bind coverage to some employer customers for 2019.

The company will need to offer big discounts to attract more business, said Laszewski, the health care consultant.

He noted that customers are slow to accept new insurance ideas, and Bind relies on patients trusting its quality rating for the doctor they pick. That's a gamble in health care, where it's hard for people to understand and feel comfortable with those measurements.

GSK, Pfizer to merge consumer health units

Associated Press

Drugmakers GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer plan to merge their consumer health businesses into what will be the world leader in sales of nonprescription medicines such as pain relievers, vitamins and cold remedies.

The joint venture would have combined annual sales of \$12.7 billion.

British-based GSK will own 68 percent of the venture, and New York-based Pfizer, the biggest U.S. drugmaker, will own the remaining stake.

The business will sell products under GSK brands like Sensodyne tooth paste, Panadol pain tablets and

Voltaren pain tablets and ointment, along with Pfizer's Advil and Anbesol pain relievers, Chapstick, Centrum and Caltrate supplements, and Nexium heartburn treatment.

The companies said the joint venture will have a worldwide market share of 7.3 percent, ahead of the nearest competitor at 4.1 percent. It will have the No. 1 or 2 market share positions in key countries and regions, including the U.S., Europe, China and India, and in categories including pain relief, respiratory medicines, vitamins and supplements, and digestive health products.

The venture will operate under the GSK Consumer

Healthcare name worldwide. The deal is expected to close in the second half of 2019, after which the two businesses will be integrated and packaging likely will be altered to add the GSK Consumer Healthcare name where needed.

It is expected to take three years to merge the businesses across some 100 countries as well as to wait for the uncertainties surrounding Britain's departure from the European Union to subside. The companies eventually plan to spin off the venture into an independent company.

Shares of Pfizer Inc. fell 43 cents to \$41.97 in trading, while GSK rose 31 cents to \$37.40.



SANG TAN/AP 2009

British-based GSK will own 68 percent of the venture, and U.S. drugmaker Pfizer will own the remaining 32 percent once the merger is finalized.

United adding flights

New routes will connect O'Hare to various destinations

BY LAUREN ZUMBACH
Chicago Tribune

United Airlines is adding seven new routes connecting Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to various destinations this summer.

The airline will start daily flights between Chicago and Eugene, Ore.; Redmond, Ore.; and Halifax, Nova Scotia; on June 6, United said Wednesday in a release.

Flights between Chicago and Eugene will run year-round. Summer flights to Redmond and Halifax are scheduled to end Oct. 26, United said.

United also is adding weekend flights connecting Chicago to Grand Junction and Durango, Colo., and



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A United Airlines jets sit at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in July.

Florida's Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport and Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport.

The Colorado flights will only be offered on Saturdays from June 8 to Oct. 26. Both Florida destinations will have Saturday and Sunday flights scheduled to run from June 8 to Aug. 18, United said.

The new Chicago flights were among 11 summer routes United announced Wednesday, bringing the total number of routes added this year to nearly 100, United said.

American Airlines announced plans for summer

flights between Chicago and Durango last week. The carrier also added seasonal flights to Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport earlier this year.

Southwest has seasonal flights between Chicago and Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport in Panama City Beach, Fla., but United appears to be the only airline with direct flights between Chicago and Grand Junction, Halifax, Eugene and Redmond, according to those cities' airport websites.

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10 Presence hospitals losing present name in acquisition

BY LISA SCHENCKER
Chicago Tribune

Ten hospitals that were formerly part of the Presence Health system have officially dropped that name from their titles, adding Amita Health in its place.

The name change follows the acquisition of Presence Health by Catholic hospital system Ascension in March, making Presence part of Amita Health. Amita is a joint operating company formed by Adventist Midwest Health and Ascension's Alexian Brothers Health System in 2015.

The name change will extend to all former Presence Health facilities.

The newly renamed hospitals are: Amita Health Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines, Amita Health Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, Amita Health Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago, Amita Health Saint Francis Hospital in



WARREN SKALSKI/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet will be renamed Amita Health Saint Joseph Medical Center.

Evanston, Amita Health Saint Joseph Hospital Chicago, Amita Health Saint Joseph Hospital Elgin, Amita Health Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, Amita Health Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center in Chicago (two hospitals on one campus), and Amita Health St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee.

In all, Amita has 18 hospitals in Illinois.

A number of hospitals and systems have merged

in recent years, in hopes, they say, of lowering costs and improving quality. The Federal Trade Commission, however, has challenged some of those deals over concerns they would raise prices.

In April, Medvocate Health Care merged with Wisconsin's Aurora Health Care, creating the 10th largest not-for-profit hospital system in the country.

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One man taking on Boeing

\$22B jet order at stake amid feud over Lion Air crash

BY HARRY SUHARTONO AND ANGUS WHITLEY
Bloomberg News

The crash of a Boeing plane that killed 189 people in Indonesia is spiraling into a \$22 billion feud between the aircraft maker and one of Asia's most influential aviation bosses.

In a rare public dispute between the planemaker and one of its biggest customers, the head of PT Lion Mentari Airlines has threatened to cancel an order for billions of dollars worth of jets because of what he says is Boeing's unfair reaction to the crash.

The man standing up to the U.S. aviation giant is Rusdi Kirana, Lion Air's owner, and while he was little known to the public outside Southeast Asia before the crash, he's something of a legend in the industry. Eighteen years after he and his brother rented a Boeing 737-200 to start a service from Jakarta to Bali, Kirana, 55, has turned Lion Air into Indonesia's largest airline, with one of the biggest order books in the world.

"He is, by virtue of the significance of Indonesia, right now probably the most important aviation figure in Southeast Asia," said Shukor Yusuf, founder of aviation consultancy Endau Analytics in Kuala Lumpur.

Kirana's undiminished appetite for expansion — he wants to start flights to destinations such as London and Dubai — has made him a key customer for both Boeing and its European rival Airbus SE. Lion Air is the third-largest buyer of Boeing's updated 737. But seven weeks after a two-month-old 737 Max jet operated by the carrier plunged into waters off Jakarta, Kirana has started a public spat with the plane-



DIMAS ARDIAN/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Rusdi Kirana says Boeing is unfairly pointing the finger at Lion Air regarding the October plane crash in Jakarta, Indonesia.

maker. Lion Air is drafting documents to scrap its \$22 billion worth of orders with Boeing because, Kirana says, the manufacturer unfairly implicated his airline in the disaster.

"I was in a tough situation and they decided to beat me up," Kirana said, referring to Boeing's response to Indonesia's preliminary report into the accident. "They have been behaving unethically, they have been acting immorally in this relationship, so we just go our separate ways."

Boeing wouldn't comment on the discussions with Kirana, but said in a statement that "Lion Air is a valued customer and we are supporting them through this difficult time." The company said it is "taking every measure to fully understand all aspects of this accident, and are working closely with the investi-

gating team and all regulatory authorities involved."

The dispute revolves around Indonesia's worst air disaster in two decades. Moments after takeoff on Oct. 29, the pilots on Lion Air Flight 610 battled to control their 737 Max as faulty data from a sensor repeatedly forced the aircraft to tilt its nose down, according to the preliminary report, which included evidence for the plane's flight data recorder, retrieved by divers. The plane slammed into the Java Sea minutes after leaving Jakarta, killing everyone on board.

The report by Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee last month didn't find a cause for the crash. But it showed that a malfunctioning sensor wasn't repaired before the fatal flight, even though it failed on the plane's previ-

ous trip, and it criticized Lion Air's safety culture. The plane's cockpit voice recorder has yet to be found.

Boeing's response to the NTSC report upset Kirana. In a statement, the Chicago-based manufacturer noted the doomed plane continued to suffer airspeed and altitude issues on previous flights, even after maintenance work was carried out. And Boeing said the pilots on the flight immediately prior to JT610 had overcome similar problems by following appropriate procedures. It said the 737 Max "is as safe as any airplane that has ever flown the skies."

Kirana took the response as an attempt by Boeing to shift the blame onto him.

"The plane was having an issue," he said. "I was the customer. Why are they doing it now and doing it

against me — creating a perception that I was to blame for the accident?"

According to Kirana, Boeing has yet to deliver about 250 jets to Lion Air. The manufacturer's orders and deliveries website shows 188 unfulfilled orders.

It's almost impossible to cancel firm plane orders without financial penalties. Kirana rejected suggestions that his threat to scrap purchases is a ploy to trim an unnecessarily large order book and that Lion Air is struggling to pay for its planes. The airline's deliveries are fully funded through the end of 2020, he said.

But Kirana may have other options, and a big cancellation from a major customer that called into question the reliability of Boeing's bestselling plane could have repercussions for the manufacturer, even

if it managed to squeeze financial penalties from Lion Air. If Kirana can't annul the orders, he might still be able to resell or lease the new Boeing aircraft to other airlines, said Gerry Soejatman, an Indonesia aviation analyst. That, in turn, would distort the market for new and used Boeing 737s, he said. "The ecosystem is so intertwined."

Even after a major accident, it's rare for a public dispute to arise between airlines and the big plane manufacturers when the cause of the accident hasn't been determined. But Kirana has a reputation for toughness and perseverance.

"He's very loyal to those within his circle — as long as they don't betray him," Soejatman said. "He can be very unforgiving."

A onetime salesman for products including typewriters and cake ingredients, Kirana got his first taste of how the aviation industry works at 27, holding up placards with customers' names at the airport, to help them with customs and transit. One day in the late 1990s he came across an article about online ticketing.

"I realized back then this would make the travel-agency business obsolete," he said in the interview. "That was the moment I contemplated setting up an airline."

With the savings from his various jobs, he and his brother rented a jet, designed some uniforms, hired four sets of crew and started Lion Air. In the early days, the airline was so unknown that travel agents refused to pay a deposit when they received his tickets. So Kirana allowed them to pay him after they sold the seats.

Now Lion Air as a group has nearly 350 aircraft flying to around 300 locations, with a further 467 planes from Boeing and Airbus on order.

How do you package pot in the age of legalized marijuana?

BY JACK KASKEY
Bloomberg News

As marijuana grows up, the clear plastic bags just won't do anymore.

Pot retailers need better containers to hold their merchandise as commercial weed goes mainstream. And therein lies both a lucrative new market and a minefield of potential legal and public relations disasters for packaging companies looking to spur growth.

The legal cannabis industry is demanding products like the FunkSac bag, which keeps odors in and children out, one of 1,500 products offered by KushCo Holding Co. Now bigger, mainstream packagers such as Reynolds Group Holdings are eyeing a \$110 million market that could grow six-fold by 2030 as legaliza-

tion spreads. But they're treading cautiously, with some worried about being associated with a federally banned drug.

"There's a high degree of interest, but it's very polarized," said Jim Chrzan, a vice president at industry association PMMI Media Group. "Some companies do not want to be dealing with cannabis."

Designing the best container for any product requires a mix of technical, marketing and legal issues. Those challenges are magnified exponentially in the nascent legal marijuana market, where container-makers must navigate a web of laws among the 33 states that allow pot sales.

Most require opaque containers, food-grade plastics and child resistant packaging, but how those stand-

ards are met can vary. Colorado, for instance, allows edibles to be bundled in resealable containers, while Washington allows only single-serving packages.

Cannabis is still just a sliver of the \$205 billion U.S. packaging market, but it's a bright spot in a mature industry growing at just 2.1 percent a year, according to PMMI.

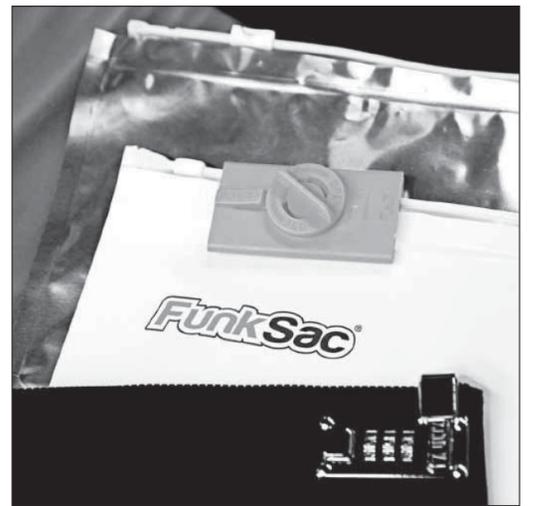
Eye-popping growth prospects are what's drawing interest from mainstream packagers like Berry Global Group Inc., which has \$79 billion of worldwide sales. The company estimates a market equal to about 1 percent of legal marijuana sales, which research firm Cowen & Co. expects to reach \$75 billion by 2030.

"It's a rare occasion in the packaging space that a new

market forms and gets to that type of growth so quickly," said Brian Hunt, vice president of sales and marketing. "It's hard to ignore."

Some larger companies still worry about alienating their traditional customer base, which might view the packager as supplying "the drug trade" amid the federal prohibition, Chrzan said.

A case in point: Illinois Tool Works Inc. touted its Safety-Lok child-resistant slider bag as "ideal" for medical marijuana on the website of its Zip-Pak unit. But hours after Bloomberg News inquired about the pitch, the company deleted the reference to marijuana. Zip-Pak hasn't "marketed or developed products specifically for the cannabis market," spokeswoman Tr-



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The child-resistant FunkSac bag by KushCo Holding Co. keeps odors in and children out.

isha Knych said in an email.

Reynolds is promoting a similar product, the Presto Child-Guard zipper, as a way to keep youngsters out of cannabis edibles. The company, which makes Hefty bags and aluminum foil, devotes a lengthy blog

post on its Presto Products website touting the cannabis market. Reynolds has received "a continuous stream" of queries from marijuana companies, the company wrote. "Support is at an all-time high (no pun intended)."

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Deposit & Loan Guide

Institution	Int Chking Money	3 mo Acct	6 mo CD	12 mo CD	18 mo CD	24 mo CD	36 mo CD	60 mo CD	Phone / Website
Synchrony Bank	NA	1.20	NA	2.65	2.75	2.80	2.85	3.10	800-869-3813 www.synchronybank.com
	NA	0	NA	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	

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Savings Update

What is a jumbo CD, and should I open one?

Anytime you shop around for CDs, you'll notice that, in addition to their menu of standard options, some banks and credit unions also offer an array of jumbo certificates. What are these products and do they follow different rules than regular CDs?

As you can guess, a jumbo CD simply requires a much larger deposit than a standard CD. Traditionally, the threshold for jumbo CDs has been \$100,000. But with no formal rules on the minimum, some financial institutions have taken marketing liberties to apply the term to \$50,000 or even \$25,000 CDs.

Also historically, jumbo CDs paid higher rates than standard CDs. But ever since deposit rates plummeted and then stagnated after the Great Recession, the spread between standard and jumbo rates has greatly compressed, to the point that jumbo CDs generally pay only a tiny fraction more than regular certificates.

Everything else about jumbo CDs works the same as standard CDs. A fixed interest rate and maturity term are specified at the outset, and the account must stay funded for the full duration. If cashed out early, a penalty will be applied, and whether this is the same as the penalty for regular CDs will depend on the bank.

So if you have a large sum to save in a deposit account, should you open a jumbo CD?

As always, your best bet is to simply shop for the highest rate you can earn, at an institution you feel comfortable with, for the amount you want to invest. Whether your top find is a jumbo CD or a standard one really makes no difference, since these are just marketing names.

In fact, you may be able to maximize your return and your flexibility (should you need the cash early) by opening multiple smaller CDs instead of one large certificate.

Rate Criteria: Rates effective as of 12/19/18 and may change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC, does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates in this table. Banks, Thrifts and credit unions pay to advertise in this guide. N/A means rates are not available or not offered at the time rates were surveyed. All institutions are FDIC or NCUA insured. Yields represent annual percentage yield (APY) paid by participating institutions. Rates may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce the earnings on the account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.

Market plunges in reaction

Rates, from Page 1

September.

U.S. stocks had been sharply higher before the Fed's announcement but began falling afterward — and then accelerated into a plunge during Powell's news conference.

The market finished at its lowest level since September 2017.

The Dow Jones industrial average plunged nearly 352 points, or 1.49 percent, to 23,323. The S&P 500 index, a broader measure, lost 1.5 percent, falling 39 points to 2,506. The Nasdaq composite fell 1.47 percent, or 2.2 percent, to 6,636.

Investors were apparently hoping that Powell would go further than he did to signal a slowdown in interest rate increases.

The central bank has raised rates with steady regularity as the economy has strengthened. Wednes-

day's was the Fed's ninth hike since it began gradually tightening credit three years ago.

But a mix of factors — a global slowdown, a U.S.-China trade war, still-mild inflation, stomach-churning drops in stock prices — has led the Fed to consider slowing its rate hikes in 2019 to avoid weakening the economy too much. It's now likely to suit its rate policy to the latest economic data — to become more flexible or, in Fed parlance, "data-dependent."

"The Fed must tread more carefully as it contemplates further rate hikes," said Ellen Zentner, an economist at Morgan Stanley, who thinks the Fed "sees greater uncertainty around the path for policy next year."

The Fed has managed to telegraph its actions weeks in advance to prepare the financial markets for any shift. But now, the risks of a

surprise could rise. Next year, Powell will begin holding a news conference after each of the Fed's eight meetings each year, rather than only quarterly. This will allow him to explain any abrupt policy changes. But it also raises the risk that the Fed will jolt the markets by catching them off guard.

At his news conference, Powell acknowledged the shift in the Fed's communications strategy. Powell said future rate decisions will likely depend more on newly released economic data than in the recent past.

For now, most U.S. economic barometers are still showing strength. The unemployment rate is 3.7 percent, a 49-year low. The economy is thought to have grown close to 3 percent this year, its best performance in more than a decade. Consumers, the main driver of the economy, are spending freely.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow High: 24,057.34 Low: 23,162.64 Previous: 23,675.64



Nasdaq	S&P 500	Russell 2000
-147.08 (-2.17%)	-39.20 (-1.54%)	-27.95 (-2.03%)
Close: 6,636.83	Close: 2,506.96	Close: 1,349.23
High: 6,868.86	High: 2,585.29	High: 1,392.92
Low: 6,586.50	Low: 2,488.96	Low: 1,344.15
Previous: 6,783.91	Previous: 2,546.16	Previous: 1,377.18

10-yr T-note	Gold futures	Yen	Euro	Crude Oil
-0.05 to 2.77%	+2.90 to \$1,252.10	-0.17 to 112.36/\$1	-0.0009 to .8796/\$1	+1.72 to \$47.96

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
-4.91	-6.50	-5.44	-4.66	-4.81	-5.40	-5.67	-4.66	-6.43

COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 19	532.75	533	521.50	522.75	-10
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 19	385	385.25	381.50	381.50	-4
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 19	907	909.75	899.25	900.50	-7.25
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	Jan 19	28.41	28.82	28.26	28.48	+0.07
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	Jan 19	310.30	310.60	307.50	308.00	-2.40
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl- dollars per bbl.	Jan 19	45.93	48.00	45.93	47.96	+1.72
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, \$ per mm btu	Jan 19	3.839	3.893	3.563	3.726	-0.112
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Jan 19	1.3425	1.4063	1.3425	1.3863	+0.0358

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.
Abbott Labs	N	69.00	-1.08	Equity Lifesty Prop	N	98.63	-0.47
AbbVie Inc	N	83.52	-0.06	Equity Residential	N	68.23	-0.09
Alstate Corp	N	80.98	-0.35	Exelon Corp	N	45.72	-0.08
Aptargroup Inc	N	95.59	-2.35	First Indl RT	N	30.07	-0.34
Arch Dan Mid	N	64.05	-1.06	Fortune Brds Hm&Sec	N	73.32	+0.47
Baxter Int'l	N	319.55	-8.51	Gainger W W	N	278.43	-4.43
Boeing Co	N	45.10	+0.02	GrubHub Inc	N	72.71	-3.24
Brunswick Corp	N	98.08	-1.07	Hill-Rom Hldgs	N	90.16	-0.45
CBOE Global Markets	O	46.47	-0.19	IDEX Corp	N	125.70	-3.34
CDW Corp	O	84.25	-0.79	ITW	N	125.61	-1.61
CF Industries	N	41.92	+0.16	Ingredion Inc	N	90.94	-1.34
CME Group	O	185.53	+2.74	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	128.47	-3.19
CNA Financial	N	43.95	+0.21	Kemper Corp	N	64.62	+1.08
Caterpillar Inc	N	122.33	-1.94	Kraft Heinz Co	O	45.09	-1.06
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	29.09	+0.53	LKQ Corporation	O	24.33	-0.22
Deere Co	N	146.08	-3.15	Littelfuse Inc	O	164.88	-1.11
Discover Fin Svcs	N	58.40	-1.12	MB Financial	O	38.09	-0.99
Dover Corp	N	71.70	-2.25	McDonalds Corp	N	179.16	-0.55
Equity Commonwealth	N	30.22	-0.55	Middleby Corp	O	107.28	-0.90
				Mondelez Intl	O	41.41	-0.73
				Morningstar Inc	O	111.79	-0.58
				Motorola Solutions	N	119.05	-2.84
				NiSource Inc	O	26.37	-0.11
				Nthn Trust Co	O	20.73	-1.60
				Old Republic	O	20.73	-1.08
				Packaging Corp Am	N	85.71	-1.13
				Paylocity Hldg	O	61.56	-3.1
				Stericycle Inc	O	38.66	-22
				Teleph Data	N	33.18	-1.3
				TransUnion	N	55.73	+6.2
				Tribune Media Co A	N	45.30	+1.0
				US Foods Holding	N	31.58	-16
				USG Corp	N	42.90	+0.7
				Ultra Salon Cosmetics	O	239.23	-1.68
				Ventas Inc	N	86.37	-1.43
				Ventus Inc	N	61.41	-2.3
				Walgreen Boots Alli	O	73.29	-2.19
				Wintrust Financial	O	65.84	-1.83
				Zebra Tech	O	159.04	-3.89

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Gen Electric	7.66	+0.39
Bank of America	24.18	-0.29
Ford Motor	8.32	-0.15
Enbridge Energy Ptrs	10.43	+0.16
Chesapeake Energy	2.02	-0.10
AT&T Inc	29.82	+0.07
Kinross Gold	2.87	-0.21
Pfizer Inc	41.97	-0.43
Oracle Corp	46.45	+0.60
Wells Fargo & Co	45.67	-0.85
Weatherford Intl Ltd	3.7	-0.02
Petrobras	12.67	-0.21
Johnson & Johnson	127.61	-2.81
Microsoft Corp	103.69	-2.28
Pfizer Inc	41.97	-0.43
Royal Dutch Shell B	58.32	+0.22
Royal Dutch Shell A	56.90	-0.11
Unitedhealth Group	250.31	-2.66
Verizon Comm	55.86	+0.21
Visa Inc	131.26	-1.40
WalMart Strs	90.55	-0.53

LARGEST COMPANIES

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Alibaba Group Hldg	137.14	-3.68
Alphabet Inc C	1023.01	-5.70
Alphabet Inc A	1035.46	-7.95
Amazon.com Inc	1495.08	-56.40
Apple Inc	160.89	-5.18
Bank of America	24.18	-0.29
Berkshire Hath B	195.17	-1.35
Exxon Mobil Corp	70.78	-1.22
Facebook Inc	133.24	-10.42
JPMorgan Chase	97.29	-1.25
Johnson & Johnson	127.61	-2.81
Microsoft Corp	103.69	-2.28
Pfizer Inc	41.97	-0.43
Royal Dutch Shell B	58.32	+0.22
Royal Dutch Shell A	56.90	-0.11
Unitedhealth Group	250.31	-2.66
Verizon Comm	55.86	+0.21
Visa Inc	131.26	-1.40
WalMart Strs	90.55	-0.53

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

FUND	NAV	CHG	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AMCPA m	29.93	-0.47	-2.6
American Funds AMRNBAL m	24.83	-0.19	-2.8
American Funds CptWldGrInCA m	242.51	-4.4	-10.4
American Funds CptlncBldrA m	56.77	-0.25	-7.0
American Funds FdmTlInvsA m	56.83	-0.90	-7.0
American Funds GfrAmrCA m	47.86	-0.78	-3.2
American Funds InvCAMrCA x	33.80	-3.45	-7.0
American Funds NwPrsptcVA m	40.35	-0.56	-6.3
American Funds WAMTInvsA m	42.21	-0.50	-3.1
DFA IntlCorEqIn	11.66	-0.09	-16.4
Dodge & Cox IntlStk x	13.39	+0.01	-2
Dodge & Cox Stk x	36.92	-1.42	-17.0
DoubleLine TlRetBdl	173.08	-15.49	-6.5
Fidelity TlRetBdl	10.41	+0.01	+1.6
Fidelity 500DxInvsPrrm	87.17	-1.35	-4.7
Fidelity Contrafund	10.93	-0.19	-3.4
Fidelity ContrafundK	10.93	-0.19	-3.3
Fidelity TlMktDxInvsPrrm	70.60	-1.11	-5.5
Fidelity USBdInvsPrrm	11.26	+0.03	+1.1
Franklin Templeton Inca1 m	2.15	-0.02	-4.5
Metropolitan West TlRetBdl	10.38	+0.03	+3
PIMCO IncInslT	11.80	-	+8
PIMCO TlRetIns	9.96	+0.01	+1
Schwab SP500Idx	39.35	-0.61	-4.7
T. Rowe Price BCGr	95.43	-1.68	+6
T. Rowe Price GrStk	56.89	-1.00	-2.2
Vanguard 500DxAdmrl	231.34	-3.59	-4.7
Vanguard DivGrIn	24.48	-0.28	+2
Vanguard EqInAdmrl	66.29	-0.82	-5.7
Vanguard GrlDxAdmrl	69.27	-1.35	-4.1
Vanguard HCAmrl	11.96	-1.27	-6
Vanguard InTrnGAdm	9.37	+0.02	-5
Vanguard InTrnEAdmrl	13.87	+0.01	+1.5
Vanguard InslDxIn	227.45	-3.54	-4.7
Vanguard InslDxInPlus	227.47	-3.53	-4.7
Vanguard InsTlSMInPls	55.44	-0.87	-5.3
Vanguard MDCpDxAdmrl	172.34	-2.67	-8.8
Vanguard PrrmCpAdmrl	120.18	-2.36	-3.1
Vanguard STInvmGrdAdmrl	10.42	-	+7
Vanguard SmCpDxAdmrl	63.58	-1.16	-8.9
Vanguard TrgtRtr2020Inv	29.97	-0.16	-4.1
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Inv	17.50	-0.11	-5.0
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Inv	31.58	-0.24	-5.7
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Inv	19.27	-0.17	-6.5
Vanguard TlBMDxAdmrl	10.43	+0.02	
Vanguard TlBMDxIn	10.43	+0.02	
Vanguard TlInBdAdmrl	22.08	+0.03	+2.6
Vanguard TlInBdIn	33.14	+0.05	+2.6
Vanguard TlInBdInxv	11.04	+0.01	+2.5
Vanguard TlInSdAdmrl	25.53	-0.17	-13.6
Vanguard TlInSdIn	102.12	-0.67	-13.5
Vanguard TlInSdInPlus	102.14	-0.66	-13.5
Vanguard TlInSdInxv	15.26	-0.10	-13.6
Vanguard TlSMldxAdmrl	62.40	-0.99	-5.4
Vanguard TlSMldxIn	62.42	-0.98	-5.4
Vanguard TlSMldxInxv	62.37	-0.99	-5.5
Vanguard WlgnTAdmrl	64.00	-0.39	-3.2
Vanguard WlslvAdmrl	59.14	-0.13	-2.1
Vanguard WndsrInAdmrl	55.39	-0.57	-7.9

TREASURY YIELDS

DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month disc	2.34	2.32
6-month disc	2.46	2.46
2-year	2.65	2.66
10-year	2.77	2.82
30-year	3.01	3.08

SPOT METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	\$1252.10	\$1249.20
Silver	\$14.702	\$14.585
Platinum	\$796.00	\$794.80

INTEREST RATES

Prime Rate	5.50
Discount Rate Primary	3.00
Fed Funds Target	2.25-2.50
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.56

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

A U.S. Dollar buys...	
Argentina (Peso)	38.3678
Australia (Dollar)	1.4060
Brazil (Real)	3.8945
Britain (Pound)	.7924
Canada (Dollar)	1.3497
China (Yuan)	6.8913
Euro	.8796
India (Rupee)	70.408
Israel (Shekel)	3.7564
Japan (Yen)	112.36
Mexico (Peso)	20.1068
Poland (Zloty)	3.77
So. Korea (Won)	1126.35
Taiwan (Dollar)	30.82
Thailand (Baht)	32.73

FOREIGN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG./%
Shanghai	2549.56	-27.1/-1.1
Stoxx600	341.52	+1.1/+0.3
Nikkei	20987.92	-127.5/-0.6
MSCI-EAFE	1742.07	+5.1/+0.3
Bovespa	85673.50	-937.0/-1.1
FTSE 100	6765.94	+64.4/+0.9
CAC-40	4777.45	+23.4/+0.5

THE LADDER: Have a hiring or promotion you'd like to tell the world about in print and online? Go to chicagotribune.com/theladder to share your news. Be sure to include a photo. We'll publish on our site and in the printed editions of the Chicago Tribune as space allows.

Chicago Tribune

New Car Dealer Directory

audi

Audi Exchange
2490 Skokie Valley Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
888-453-7195
www.audiexchange.com

chrysler

Sherman Dodge Jeep Chrysler Ram
7601 N. Skokie Blvd.
Skokie, IL 60077
888-481-1777
ShermanTrib.com

dodge

Sherman Dodge Jeep Chrysler Ram
7601 N. Skokie Blvd.
Skokie, IL 60077
888-481-1777
ShermanTrib.com

honda

Muller Honda*

OBITUARIES

WALTER NATHAN 1923-2018

Navy veteran who started local paper tube company

BY GRAYDON MEGAN
Chicago Tribune

Walter Nathan came to Chicago from Europe as a 14-year-old boy on the eve of World War II and went on to earn a degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology, serve in the U.S. Navy and found RTC Industries, which today operates in 12 countries from its Rolling Meadows headquarters.

Nathan, 95, died of natural causes Nov. 24 in his Chicago home, said his son, Richard. His survivors include his wife of 68 years, Ann, who until recently ran the Ann Nathan Gallery on Superior Street in Chicago.

Nathan was born in Frankfurt, Germany, attended middle school in Belgium and came to Chicago in 1938 to join his parents and two older brothers who were already here. "It became apparent (then) that things were going the wrong way in Germany for a Jewish family," his son said.

He graduated from Lake View High School before going on to study mechanical engineering at IIT, graduating in 1944, his family said. He joined the Navy at the tail end of the war and spent most of his hitch at Navy Pier as an instructor in radar technology, his family said.

In the late 1940s, not long after leaving the Navy, he and a partner co-founded a company that in 1950 became Round Tubes and Cores, making paper tubes and cores for industrial use. His co-founder recognized the market need for small-diameter paper tubes but didn't know how to produce the products. Nathan designed machinery to make them, his son said.

The small tubes were first used in industrial products but soon became low-cost elements in point-of-sale displays. Tubes of the correct diameter, for example,



RTC INDUSTRIES

Walter Nathan, co-founder of RTC Industries, died on Nov. 24. He was 95.

could fit over the necks of bottles to support sale signs and other displays. The company has shifted its focus and its products over the years and now makes retail displays and environments for many top brands. Paper tubes have given way to metal and plastic.

Nathan became a trustee for IIT and was deeply involved with the school's Institute of Design, according to longtime Dean Patrick Whitney.

"To attract students and to strengthen the school, he supported facilities, fellowships and research projects," Whitney said. "He was focused on making design understandable to the people of Chicago."

Nathan was a staunch supporter of the American Jewish Committee, according to Executive Director David Harris. Nathan was on the national board of governors and on the board of the Chicago branch of the organization and very active in overseas work, both in Germany and more broadly in the European Union.

"I knew him as a leader," Harris said. "Having seen firsthand what happened to the Jews of Europe in the 1930s and 1940s, he felt it was his obligation to try and make sure it would never happen again.

"I think it also helped him understand the importance of America as a beacon of freedom and a haven for persecuted people like himself."

Harris recalled a meeting several years ago with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in which Nathan spoke passionately and eloquently to her about his views on an upcoming United Nations vote. "He had strong feelings, and he expressed them very convincingly," Harris said.

Closer to home, Nathan was active as a board member of the Chicago Lighthouse, where he had been on the board since 2013, according to President and CEO Janet Szlyk.

"He was proud of our mission," Szlyk said. "He was invested in expanding employment opportunities for people who are blind, visually impaired, the disabled and veterans."

One of those missions involves clients assembling clocks, many of which go to the federal government. But the organization recently got a line of fashionable clocks into Target stores, and Nathan got involved.

"RTC designed kiosks for the clocks," Szlyk said. "He loved rolling up his sleeves and had that childlike curiosity. Kind, smart, inquisitive — he was all-in."

Nathan was a U.S. citizen but about eight years ago was re-naturalized as a German citizen, according to Herbert Quelle, Germany's consul general in Chicago. His son said he did that as an expression of reconciliation while remaining "very proud of what America did for him and for his family."

In addition to his wife and son, Nathan is survived by three daughters, Susan Sholl, Nina Schroeder and Betsy, and 14 grandchildren. Services were held.

Graydon Megan is a freelance reporter.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON DECEMBER 20 ...

In 1803 the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States during ceremonies in New Orleans.

In 1813 Congress established a system of internal revenue to raise government funds.

In 1820 Missouri imposed a \$1 per year bachelor tax on unmarried men 21 to 50.

In 1860 South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union.

In 1864 Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

In 1945 the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1946 the Frank Capra film "It's A Wonderful Life" had a preview showing for charity at New York City's Globe Theatre, a day before its official world premiere.

In 1922 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was

formed.

In 1963 the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1969 American bomber jets hammered Vietnam's A Shau Valley, where communist activity had recently stepped up.

In 1973 Spanish Premier Luis Carrero Blanco was killed when assassins bombed his car in Madrid.

In 1976 Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died of a heart attack in his doctor's office; he was 74.

In 1977 President Jimmy Carter signed into law a measure mandating substantial increases in Social Security payroll taxes, saying the legislation would guarantee "that from 1980 through 2030, the Social Security system will be sound."

In 1978 former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman was released from prison after serving 18 months for his role in the Watergate cover-up.

In 1983 PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and 4,000 guerrilla loyalists evacuated their stronghold in Tripoli, Lebanon, and left aboard five Greek ships, after being driven out by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels.

In 1989 the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1998 Nkem Chukwu gave birth in Houston to five girls and two boys, 12 days after giving birth to another child, a girl. (However, the tiniest of the octuplets died a week later.)

In 2000 President-elect George W. Bush named businessman Paul O'Neill to be his treasury secretary; Ann Veneman to be the first female secretary of agriculture; Mel Martinez to be secretary of housing and urban development; and Don Evans, secretary of commerce.

In 2005 a federal judge ruled "intelligent design" could not be mentioned in biology classes in a Pennsylvania public school district.

In 2013 Utah legalized same-sex marriage after a federal judge struck down the state ban on such unions. (The U.S. Supreme Court later put a halt to gay marriage in Utah.)

In 2015 at least 91 people were killed or went missing and 33 buildings were buried after a massive landslide of construction waste swept through an industrial park in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen.

In 2016 The U.S. Census Bureau released data showing that Illinois lost more residents—37,508—in 2016 than any other state, putting the state's population at its lowest in at least a decade.

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS
Dec. 19
Powerball jackpot: \$262M
Lotto jackpot: \$3.75M
Pick 3 midday 585 / 6
Pick 4 midday 6963 / 2
Lucky Day Lotto midday
09 18 21 23 24
Pick 3 evening 723 / 2
Pick 4 evening 4701 / 4
Lucky Day Lotto evening
13 22 26 30 33

Dec. 21 Mega Millions: \$305M

WISCONSIN
Dec. 19
Megabucks 01 02 07 29 39 48
Pick 3 066
Pick 4 0933
Badger 5 05 11 12 24 29
SuperCash 03 08 16 18 22 38

INDIANA
Dec. 19
Lotto 03 16 19 26 29 30
Daily 3 midday 028 / 1
Daily 4 midday 1215 / 1
Daily 3 evening 628 / 5
Daily 4 evening 0088 / 5
Cash 5 04 08 12 23 34

MICHIGAN
Dec. 19
Lotto 01 21 26 28 33 41
Daily 3 midday 087
Daily 4 midday 6313
Daily 3 evening 697
Daily 4 evening 4384
Fantasy 5 02 16 26 30 36
Keno 02 04 08 19 20 29
33 34 38 41 42 43 48 55
56 58 62 64 73 74 78 79

More winning numbers at
chicagotribune.com/lottery

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

Antonelli, Randall

Randall Antonelli, 63, of Arlington Hts. Loving son of Frederick and the late Margaret "Margie" (nee DeGeorge) Antonelli; fond brother of Celeste French, Thomas Antonelli and Mary (late Vlado) Leno; dear uncle of Amanda, Andrew, Michael, Jessica and Samantha and great uncle to Roman. Visitation from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM Friday at the Glueckert Funeral Home, Ltd., 1520 N. Arlington Hts Rd., Arlington Hts and Saturday from 9:00 AM until the time of Mass at 10:00 AM at St. Edna Catholic Church, 2525 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Hts. Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to St. Edna Catholic Church. Funeral info. & condolences www.GlueckertFH.com or (847) 253-0168.

Glueckert
Funeral Home Ltd.

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Battle, Elizabeth Anne

On December 17 in Durham, NC, Elizabeth Anne Battle, 37, beloved daughter of Kevin and Celia Casas Battle, brother of Michael and the late Jack Battle; granddaughter of Rosa and the late Ramon Casas, M.D. and the late Dorothy and Frank Battle; niece of Dean (Cristina) Monco, Ray (Ali) Casas, Robert (Margarita) Bartels, Hugh (Betty) Hogan, Paul (Tess) Hogan, Frank (Priscilla Ryan) Battle, Janis Battle and Wendell (Patty) Burt; fiancée of John Schwinn. Visitation Saturday, December 22, 2018, 12:30 p.m. until time of the Funeral Mass 1:30 p.m. at Saint Norbert Church, 1809 Walvers Avenue, Northbrook, IL 60062. Interment Calvary Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or stjude.org. Info: 847-675-1990 or www.donnellanfuneral.com.

Donnellan
Family Funeral Services

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Blocker, James

James Blocker, born March 30, 1926 peacefully began his final journey on December 16, 2018. He was preceded in death by his first wife Arnetta. He is survived by his beloved wife Joy Currie, loving son Kevin (Sharon) adored stepdaughter Debbie (Randy) Jennifer (Craig) 5 grandchildren Amy, Sarah, Allison, Heidi and Ryan. He is also survived by 3 dear Great Grandchildren.

Jim grew up in the north side of Chicago and attended Lakeview high school and Chicago teachers college. He was drafted in 1945 and again in 1950. After proudly serving his country his successful teaching career began at Lane Tech high school where he was a track and field coach and drivers education instructor.

A lifelong devoted Cubs fan, a life master bridge player, traveler and Wisconsin fisherman. He brought brightness, joy, and love to our lives. He will be forever missed. A memorial celebration of Jim's life will be held on Thursday January 10th from 10am-2pm at Woodlawn Funeral Home 7750 W. Cermak Rd. Forest Park, IL with Inurnment to follow at Woodlawn Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be sent to the charity of choice or American Cancer Society.

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Cellini, Dorothy J.

Dorothy J. Cellini, age 89, formerly of Melrose Park, passed away Dec 15. Arrangements handled by Malone Funeral Home in Geneva 630-232-8233.

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Clark, Patricia M.

Patricia M. Clark (Cadigirl) 65 of Chicago died peacefully Sunday evening, December 16, 2018. Devoted mother to her precious "Sonny Boy" the late Joseph "Joey" Miller (Noele DeRobertis). Loving daughter of the late Joseph and Marie Calcagno. Cherished sister of Gina Carley and the late Carmen (Jim) Holohan. Loving aunt of Brigitte (Angelo Tosado) Balice, Scott Lorenzen, Heather (Rob) Ewen & Kevin (Mindy) Holohan Sincere childhood and lifelong friend Val Sarvin. Pat was a pillar in the Edison Park Community, serving on the Chamber for many years as well as establishing Clark Fabisch Realty Inc. with her business partner Gale Fabisch where she worked passionately as Realtor and Property Manager. Her trusted staff Ziggy, Nickie, John (the plumber) and Angie will miss her dearly as well as her pampered pooch "Lucy". Entombment House of Heave Mausoleum, Hillside, Illinois. May she rest in heavenly eternal joy and peace with Joey. They will remain in our hearts forever.

FRIEL
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Gnap, Jeannine 'Jean'

Jeannine 'Jean' Gnap (nee Kuhn), age 79, beloved wife of Dr. John J. Gnap; loving mother of Paul (Kerri) Gnap, Jean Marie (Kevin) Walsh, Jennifer Gnap and the late John Gnap; cherished grandmother of Samantha, Amanda, Sabrina, Olivia, Brooke, Caitlyn, and Jaclyn; dear sister of Lawrence (Ruth) Kuhn, and the late Robert Kuhn; dear sister-in-law of Michael Novak, Jeff Novak, Marian (Jeff) Baird; devoted aunt, cousin and friend to many. Jean was a former alderman of Palos Heights and a very proud author. Visitation Friday, December 21, 2018 3-9 P.M. Funeral Saturday, December 22, 2018 9:15 A.M., from Lawn Funeral Home, 7732 W. 159th St., Orland Park, IL to St. Julie Billiard Church Mass 10:00 A.M. Interment Good Shepherd Cemetery. Funeral info: (708) 429-3200.

Lawn
Funeral Home

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Gruenholz, Leo E.

Leo E. Gruenholz, Navy Veteran age 78. Beloved husband of Patricia E. (nee Kruchten). Loving father of Mary Pat DeGrassi and Michael (Erin) Gruenholz. Devoted grandfather of Frank M. Anthony (Alexandra), Ashley DeGrassi and Jacob Gruenholz. Great-grandfather of Brody, Brock, Evelyn, Harlan and Remedy. Dear brother of Anne (Scott) Dalke. Fond uncle of many. Funeral Saturday 9:15am from RICHARD J. MODELL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, 12641 W. 143rd St., Homer Glen to Our Mother of Good Counsel Church, Mass 10am. Interment private. Visitation Friday 3pm to 9pm. 708-301-3595 or rjmodellfh.com.

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Harden, Dr. William J.

Dr. William J. Harden, former CPS Director of the Board of Education's Bureau of Health, Physical Education and Safety passed away from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, December 13, 2018. He was born in his Woodlawn Neighborhood Chicago home on February 21, 1934.



After graduating from Englewood High School, he entered into Southern University (Baton Rouge, LA) where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education, graduating in 1956. While at Southern, he played both football and baseball. He excelled academically, was involved in many campus activities, and was initiated into the Alpha Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity (1953).

In 1956, he began teaching with CPS before being drafted into military duty with the United States Army in 1957. After an honorable discharge in 1959, he returned to the CPS Board of Education where he taught and coached basketball, football, and golf for 11 years at Harrison High School before becoming a League Supervisor in 1970. In 1972 he became an Area Supervisor at the Board Central Office in downtown Chicago. Throughout his time teaching and coaching he continued his studies in education, earning a Master of Education from Loyola University Chicago and a Doctorate in Education from

Nova Southeastern University. In addition to his love for learning and quest for higher education, he enjoyed time doing the play-by-play in the broadcast booth, during the football season, with Sportscenter Bob Greenberg on WBEZ-FM radio station. He often spoke of the late Bob Greenberg, who was blind, as one of the best radio sportscasters and compared him to a sportscaster he listened to growing up named Bill Stern.

In 1976, Dr. Harden became the Director of Health, Physical Education and Safety for CPS, becoming the first African-American appointed to this position in the city of Chicago. After serving nearly 40 years with the CPS Board of Education, he retired. During his retirement years, he enjoyed traveling with his wife "Jenny", engaging in lively discussions with his daughters, reading, and playing golf...the most thrilling of his hobbies.

William "Bill" Harden was preceded in death by his parents William and Madora (nee Sumner) Harden; and a sister Henrietta Harden Marshall. He is survived by his loving wife of over 60 years, Geneva (nee Justin) Harden; daughters Shawn Marie Harden and Dr. Shellie Maria Harden; a sister Ann Harden Barnes; sister-in-laws and brother-in-laws; and many beloved nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 22, 2018, with a Wake at 9:00 a.m., Reflections and Resolutions from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Felicitas Catholic Church, 1526 E. 84th Street in Chicago, IL. 60619.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to The ALS Association Greater Chicago Chapter 220 West Huron Street, Suite 4003, Chicago, IL. 60654.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Kafkas, Tom (Anastasios)

Tom (Anastasios) Kafkas, age 91, passed away on December 14, 2018, surrounded by his loving family. Born September 1, 1927, to Angelo and Vassiliki Kafkas, nee Kalomaras, in Filiatra, Greece. Beloved husband of Emily Kafkas, nee Karavites, for 62 years. Loving father of Bessie (James) Hatzis, George (Anastasia) Kafkas, and Angelo (Lamprini) Kafkas. Proud grandfather of George Hatzis, Thomas Hatzis, Thomas (Alison) Kafkas, Elyse (Ben) Cox, Emily Kafkas, Emily Kafkas, and Julia Kafkas. Brother of the late Gregory (the late Efstathia) Kafkas, Panayioti (Eleni) Kafkis, and Theofilos (the late Evangelia) Kafkas. Brother-in-law of the late Yianni (the late Meropi) Karavites, the late Panayioti Karavites, and the late George Karavites. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Visitation Friday, December 21, 2018 from 4:00pm-9:00pm at Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home 6150 N Cicero Ave, Chicago. Family and friends will meet Saturday morning at St. George Greek Orthodox Church 2701 N. Sheffield Ave Chicago, IL for funeral service at 9:00am. Interment Elmwood Cemetery. Memorial donations to St. George Greek Orthodox Church or to Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Centre www.greekamericanicare.org. Arrangements by John G. Adinamis Funeral Director, Ltd. For more information please call 773-736-3833.



John G. Adinamis
Funeral Director, Ltd.
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Kalck, Eugene J.

Eugene J. Kalck, Proud WWII Army Veteran; Platoon Sergeant in the Battle of the Bulge, and Bronze Star recipient; Died peacefully at home on Dec. 18, 2018; Loving husband of Rosemary, nee Sheehan; Beloved father of Catherine "Bunny" (William)



Keane, Jeanne (Terry) Bogdan, Maureen (John) Mackey, and Michael (Doreen); Proud grandpa of Kelly, Michael Brian, Kate, Terry Scott, Jeff, Jennie, Kerry, Katelyn, Ryan, Patrick, Eileen, and Megan; Cherished great-grandpa of 17; Visitation Thursday 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Funeral Friday 8:30 a.m. from Curley Funeral Home, 6116 W. 111th Street, Chicago Ridge to Incarnation Church, 5757 W. 127th Street, Palos Heights. Mass 9:30 a.m. Interment Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 24th; In lieu of flowers, Eugene would be proud that donations be made to the Disabled Patriot Fund, www.disabledpatriotfund.org. For funeral info 708-422-2700, or www.curleyfuneralhome.com



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Kaplan, Natalie

Natalie Kaplan nee Greenberg, Beloved wife of the late LeRoy Kaplan OD. Devoted mother of Marla (David) Schexnider and Lori B. Kaplan. Proud grandmother of Jocelyn Chilson, Lisa Kollath, Daniel Schexnider and Michael Schexnider. Cherished great grandmother of David Lopez, Angelena Schexnider, Sage Chilson, Quinn Chilson and Kaylee Schexnider. Dear sister of the late Barbara Miles. Will be missed by many nieces and nephews. Service Friday 9:30AM at Chicago Jewish Funerals, 8851 Skokie Blvd. (at Niles Center Road) Skokie. Interment Zion Gardens. Memorials in her memory to the Jewish United Fund 30 S. Wells St., Chicago, Illinois 60606, www.juf.org would be appreciated. Arrangements by Chicago Jewish Funerals- Skokie Chapel 847.229.8822, www.cjinfo.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

Kelly, Charlene

Charlene Kelly nee Werner Beloved wife and best friend of Tom. Loving mother of Marifran (George) Opatrny, Christine (Rich) Holden, and Thomas (Karen). Loving grandma of Kelly (Pat) Smolen, Amanda, Ryan, Jessica, Nicole, and Owen. Loving aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Saturday 3:00 PM until 9:00 PM with a funeral service at 5:30 PM at the **Jaeger Funeral Home** 3526 N. Cicero Ave. Cremation Private. Info (773) 545-1320.

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Kloss, Eugene 'Bud'

Eugene "Bud" Kloss, age 87, of Libertyville. Beloved husband of Marie for 62 years. Loving dad of Tom (Katie), Tammy (Stan) Cook, Peggy (Dave) Anderson, Kim (John) Sullivan, Mike (Dorie), and the late Susan. Papa of Michael, Christy, Tom, Joey, Mary, Kevin, Kari, Casey, Ryan, Tim, Katie, Billy, Johnny, Cassidy, Megan, Ben, and Abbey. Great-grandpa of Ellie, Charley, Colette, Lilly, Nolan, Davey, Liam, Gavin, Avery, Harper, and Arlo. Brother of Nancy Bruzzini, and the late Marilyn Halpin. He was preceded in death by his parents August and Martha Kloss. Bud was the founder and owner of Kloss Distributing in Gurnee, a beer distributor in Lake County since 1973.

Visitation Thursday 3-8 PM at Marsh Funeral Home, 305 N Cemetery Rd, Gurnee. Prayers at the funeral home Friday between 10:30-11:30am, followed by mass of Christian Burial Friday 12 Noon at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, 6401 Gages Lake Rd, Gurnee. Interment Ascension Cemetery, Libertyville. For funeral info: MarshFuneralHome.com or 847-336-0127.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Koranda, M. Kristine

M. Kristine Koranda Devoted daughter of Beverly and the late Edward; Loving sister of the late Ed (Dottie), Karen (Jack) O'Keefe, Jan (Lowell) Isenberg, Bob (Pat), and Mark (Peg); Beloved aunt and great-aunt of many nieces and nephews; Devoted teacher for District 130 for over 30 years; In lieu of flowers, donations to the Mulliganeers, www.mulliganeers.org would be appreciated. Visitation Saturday 9:00 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass 10:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church 8245 W 111th St, Palos Hills; Interment Private; Arrangements entrusted to **Curley Funeral Home**; For Funeral info (708) 422-2700 or www.curleyfuneralhome.com



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Maestri, Bruno A.

Bruno A. Maestri, 101, of Downers Grove, beloved husband of the late Katherine; dear father of Marilyn Andrask, Frances (Daniel) McLaughlin, Robert (Karen) Maestri and the late Sandra; proud grandfather of Raymond, Michael Andrask, Karen Pyka, Tiffany (Greg) Whalen, Melissa (Terry) Coughlin, Shirlee Scott. Preceded in death by three

sisters and two grandsons; cherished great-grandfather of ten; and fond Uncle of many. Born Oct 9, 1917 in Chicago to Urbano and Frances, he went to be with his Lord, peacefully at home on Mon, Dec 17. Funeral service, Sat, Dec 22, 2018 at Western Springs Baptist Church, 4475 Wolf Rd, Western Springs, IL 60558. Visitation, 10 a.m., service begins at 11 a.m. Interment, Clarendon Hills Cemetery, Darien, IL. Memorials to U.S Dept of Veterans Affairs, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital. Info and online guestbook at hultgrenfh.com or call **Hultgren Funeral Home**, 630-668-0027.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Matthews, James J.

James J. Matthews, Age 82. Dec. 15th. Beloved husband of the late Berniece (nee Lovelady). Dear brother of Mary (the late David) Falk and the late William (the late Anna), the late Patrick (Denise) and the late Thomas (Anne). Dear uncle and great uncle to many nieces and nephews. Kind, humble and generous friend of many. Fond Math Teacher of many at Morgan Park High School. Memorial Visitation Friday, December 21st from 10:30 A.M. until time of Memorial Mass 11:30 A.M. at St. Barnabas Church 10134 South Longwood Drive Chicago, IL 60643. Int. Private. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Emilie's Fund c/o Smith Village 2320 W. 113th PL. Chicago, IL 60643. Arrangements entrusted to **Donnellan Funeral Home** (773) 238-0075. Sign guestbook at info@donnellanfuneralhome.com



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Nealis, Hon. Paul J.

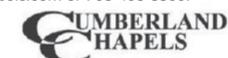
Hon. Paul J. Nealis, Vietnam Veteran, United States Marine Corps. Retired Judge Cook County Court. Former Asst. States Attorney and former Sgt. C.P.D. Beloved Husband of Jane (C.P.D. Ret.) (nee Meany). Cherished father of the late Jinelle Gould and father-in-law of Dave (Danielle) Gould. Brother of John (Beverly) Nealis, Margaret (Byron) Bradley, James (Marie), Terence and Kevin (Lynn) Nealis. Brother-in-law of Clare (James) Dwyer and Kathleen Meany (Sal Attinello). Uncle and great uncle of many nieces and nephews. Funeral Saturday 9:00 a.m. from **Donnellan Funeral Home** 10525 S. Western Ave. Chicago to St. Alexander Church 7025 W. 126th St. Palos Heights, IL for 10:00 a.m. Mass. Int. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Visitation Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Smile Train 633 Third Avenue, 9th floor, New York, NY 10017. Info (773) 238-0075. Sign guestbook at www.donnellanfuneralhome.com.



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Rakitan, Robert William

Robert William Rakitan passed away on December 13, 2018 at the age of 79. Beloved husband of the late Alice Rakitan nee Svoboda; beloved son of the late John and Mary Rakitan nee Schoditsch; dear brother of Lois (Art) Hammar, John (Doris) Rakitan, and Gail Steel; fond uncle of Cheryl (Kevin) Brunk, Lori (Ernie) Sapigao, Jonathan (Jennifer) Hammar, Timothy Rakitan, John T. Rakitan, William (Mary Ann) Rowe. Robert was a 1957 graduate of Lane Tech High School, received advanced degrees from Northwestern University, taught biological sciences at Wright College, was a registered Pharmacist, and was a member of the Gottlieb Center for Fitness. A celebration and remembrance of Robert will take place at a later date. For more info www.cumberlandchapels.com or 708-456-8300.



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Repass, Patricia M.

Patricia M. Repass, nee Moore, age 89, of Skokie. Beloved wife of the late Emory; dear mother of Lawrence M. (Evelyn), Lynn (Mark) Shaw, and Lisa (Paul) Wisowaty; loving grandmother of Adam, Robert, Andrew, Brittany, Chad, and the late Alexander; fond sister of the late Janice (Robert) Cordts and William Moore. Visitation, Friday, December 21, 2018, from 12 noon until time of Funeral Service, 1:30 p.m., at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Interment, Memorial Park Cemetery, Skokie. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Sheffert, Dave G.

Dave G. Sheffert 55, of Park Ridge. At Peace with Christ, Tuesday, December 18, 2018. Beloved husband of Bridget nee Casey. Loving father of Ian, Clare, Mary Frances and Kathleen. Beloved son of Gary and the late Dalphine. Dear brother of Kathy (Dan) Lingeitch, Kristen (Mark) Hodnett and the late Karen. Fond uncle and friend to many. Visitation Friday from 3:00 to 8:00 P.M. at Cumberland Chapels (FRIEL FUNERAL DIRECTORS) 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. Funeral Services Begin: Saturday 9:30 A.M. at the Funeral Home and will proceed to St. Paul of the Cross Church, Park Ridge. Funeral Mass 10:30 A.M., Interment Forestville Cemetery, Dundee, Iowa. Member of Maria Council 4836 Knights of Columbus. www.cumberlandchapels.com or 708/456-8300



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Von Wahlde, Rosalie H.

Rosalie H. Von Wahlde, nee DeGeorge; Beloved wife of the late Richard; Loving mother of Christine (Christopher) Kavanaugh, and Joseph (Lori); Devoted grandma of Michael, Daniel, and Andrew; Fond aunt and cousin of many; Rosalie was actively involved in various activities, St. Bede Church, Red Hat Club, and an avid bowler for the Mod Squad; Visitation Friday 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Funeral Saturday, 8:30 a.m. from Curley Funeral Home, 6116 W. 111th Street, Chicago Ridge to St. Bede the Venerable Church, 4440 W. 83rd Street, Chicago; Mass 9:30 a.m.; Interment St. Mary Cemetery; In lieu of flowers, donations to Misericordia Heart of Mercy www.misericordia.org or National Multiple Sclerosis Society, www.nationalmssociety.org would be appreciated; For Funeral info: (708) 422-2700 of www.curleyfuneralhome.com



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Yufit, Robert Isaac

Robert Isaac Yufit, Age 88, died on December 19. Beloved husband of the late Gloria L. Yufit, nee Krinn. Devoted father of Lisa Yufit (Michael Cher), David Yufit, and Aveva Yufit (David Clark). Proud grandfather of Benjamin Cher and Jonathan Cher. Graveside services Thursday, 2PM at Waldheim Jewish Cemetery (Gate 204) 16th & Harlem, Forest Park. Memorial contributions may be made to KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation, 1100 E. Hyde Park Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615, www.kamii.org, Selfhelp Home, 908 W. Argyle, Chicago, IL 60640, www.selfhelphome.org, or the charity of your choice. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals** - Buffalo Grove Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjinfo.com

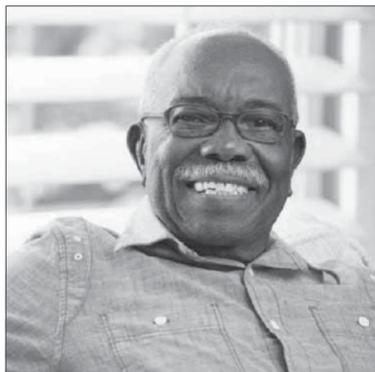


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Zawodniak, Janice

Janice Zawodniak nee DeNardo, Loving wife of the late Richard R. Zawodniak, Beloved mother of Lisa (Mark) Heritage, Laura Zawodniak and Richard J. (Kimberly) Zawodniak. Dear grandmother of Madeline and Andrew Heritage and Ciara (Evaristo) Ramirez-TZ, Richard D. and Rebecca Zawodniak. Cherished great-grandmother of Anaisabela, Evaristo, Jr. and Xiomara Ramirez-Tz. Fond sister of the late William (Ruth) DeNardo and the late Agnes (Norbert) Kozicki. Special aunt of Bob Kozicki, John DeNardo and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Memorial Visitation Saturday 8:30 a.m. until time of prayers at 10:30 a.m. at **Modell Funeral Home**, 7710 S. Cass Ave., Darien processing to St. Scholastica Church. Mass 11:00 a.m. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. For funeral info: (630) 852-3595 www.modelldarien.com

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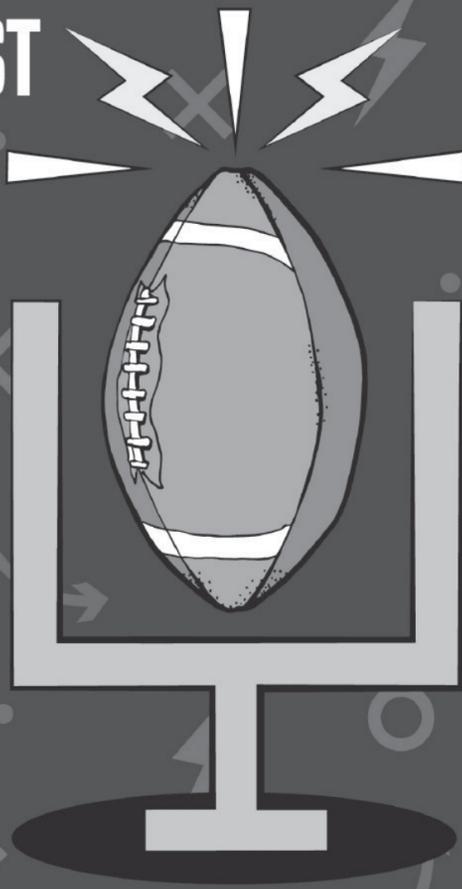
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DOGS

Cane Corso 708-793-7885
Evanson \$1000 Pups
Cane Corso Puppies for SALE.

German Shepherd 1-920-336-8780
Green Bay, WI \$1200-\$1500 M/F
Puppies. 8wks. Top Lines. OFA-DM tested. Stable, great for security. foxwoodkennels.com

German Shepherd 765-385-0463
Oxford, IN 800 Male & Female
AKC Long coated Christmas puppies All colors

Labrador Retriever 630-365-6792
ELBURN, IL 850 males & females
AKC/OFA Light yellows ready now. Pictures & info on our Web Site www.lvlabradors.com

Mastiff 574-546-3771
Bremen 800 F
2 Neapolitan/English. 1st shots/wormed - ready!

Vizsla 507-829-2212
South Dakota \$1,750 Males / Females
Pups are now ready to go, and just in time for Christmas! Pups will go home with an updated vaccination record, health certificate, our health guarantee, and AKC registration papers with champion bloodlines.



DOGS

Worshire Terrier 217-543-2159
Arthur 2000 M/F
8 weeks. Vet checked, health guarantee. Other breeds available. Google Meadow Pond Puppies.

LOST & FOUND

Lost A Green Conure With Red Tail Feathers On December 16th. REWARD! 773-504-4456

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ASSUMED NAMES

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County File No. **D18155993** on the Date: **NOVEMBER 26, 2018** Under the Assumed Name of: **IDIOMATIC MUSIC** with the business located at: **PO BOX 613 FOREST PARK, IL, 60130** The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **RICHARD HARRIS 1110 S EAST AVE OAK PARK, IL, 60304**

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Christopher Webb

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Goldie Vaughn (Mother) AKA Camesha Hoskins AKA Keisha Hoskins AKA Shawanna Friday Chris Webb (Father) Chris Webber Jr.

JUVENILE NO.: **17JA00062**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Chris Webb (Father), AKA Chris Webber Jr., Any And All Unknown Fathers Any**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **November 20, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Robert Balanoff** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/11/2019**, at **9:30 AM** in CALENDAR 12 COURTROOM L, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS December 20, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Christopher Lara

A MINOR NO. **2018JD01965**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, **Unknown (Father), respondents, and TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, that on **December 6, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX, STATE'S ATTORNEY OF COOK COUNTY** through her assistant State's Attorney in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Stuart Lubin** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, located at 1100 South Hamilton, Chicago, Illinois on **01/04/2019 at 9:00 AM** in CALENDAR 58 COURTROOM 11,

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 of judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the petition.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF COURT December 20, 2018

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY: B. Pucci, E. Bammel 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 GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Christopher Webb

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Goldie Vaughn (Mother) AKA Camesha Hoskins AKA Keisha Hoskins AKA Shawanna Friday

JUVENILE NO.: **17JA00062**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Goldie Vaughn (Mother) AKA Camesha Hoskins AKA Keisha Hoskins AKA Shawanna Friday, respondents, and to All Whom It May Concern**, that on **November 20, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Robert Balanoff** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/11/2019**, at **9:30 AM** in CALENDAR 12 COURTROOM L, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS December 20, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Daniel Larson

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Leslie Filipowski (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: **18JA00968**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Leslie Filipowski (Mother), respondents, and to All Whom It May Concern**, that on **September 26, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Patrick Murphy** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/11/2019 at 9:30 AM** in CALENDAR 1 COURTROOM A, 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, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS December 20, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Emareon K Lewis

A MINOR NO. **2018660207**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, **Kenya Lewis (Mother), respondents, and TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, that on **December 7, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX, STATE'S ATTORNEY OF COOK COUNTY** through her assistant State's Attorney in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Sanju Oommen Green** in the Cook County 6th Municipal Courthouse located at 16501 South Kedzie Parkway, Markham, Illinois on **01/03/2019 at 9:00 AM** in CALENDAR 76 COURTROOM 099,

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 of judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the petition.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF COURT December 20, 2018

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY: C. Astrella, Z. Peasall, E. Rubio ATTORNEY FOR: THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ADDRESS: 16501 South Kedzie Parkway CITY/STATE: Markham, Illinois 60428 TELEPHONE NUMBER: (708) 232-4061 ATTORNEY NO.: 33182

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, COOK COUNTY OF ILLINOIS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (the "Authority"), gives notice that it will hold a public hearing on January 17, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. at the offices of the Authority located at 111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1000, Chicago, Illinois 60601, in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and in connection with a plan of finance by the Authority to issue not to exceed \$100,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its mortgage revenue bonds, in one or more series, on one or more issue dates during the next three (3) years (the "Bonds").

The Bonds will be issued (i) to finance previously originated qualifying mortgage loans on residences located in the State of Illinois through the purchase of Mortgage Backed Securities owned and held by the Authority in its Administrative Fund or other Authority funds or participation interests in such Mortgage Backed Securities; (ii) to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds; (iii) to pay accrued interest and capitalized interest on the Bonds; and/or (iv) to finance second lien loans for down payment assistance or closing cost assistance that will not be subject to the lien and pledge of the General Indenture pursuant to which the Bonds will be issued.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing to express their views relative to the proposed financing either orally or in writing. Written comments presented prior to the public hearing should be sent to the Authority, attention: Legal Department, at the above address or maohle@ihda.org. Oral comments will be limited to ten minutes per commentator. Accommodation will be made for persons with special needs by contacting the Legal Department at the above address. Further information may be obtained in advance of the public hearing by calling the offices of the Authority, Legal Department, Maureen G. Ohle at 312-836-5339 on regular business days between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Date of Notice: December 20, 2018 Audra Hamerik Executive Director Illinois Housing Development Authority

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

CITY OF EVANSTON NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Purchasing Office in Room 200, Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201, until 2:00 P.M. local time on February 19, 2019. Proposals shall cover the following:
1909 RAW WATER INTAKE REPLACEMENT
RFP Number: 18-CV-0526
The City of Evanston's Capital Planning and Engineering Bureau of the Evanston Public Works Agency is seeking proposals from experienced firms for:
Professional engineering services in support of the design, permitting and construction of a new raw water intake into Lake Michigan. The new intake will replace an existing intake, and will consist of a new intake structure, pipeline, and shore-side connection into existing facilities. Engineering services to be provided include Preliminary Design, Field Investigations, Detailed Design, Final Design, Permitting, IEPA SRP Loan Support, Project Management, Bidding, Construction Administration, and Construction Inspection.

There will be a mandatory pre-proposal meeting January 17, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. at the Evanston Water Plant located at 555 Lincoln Street, Evanston, IL 60201. NO ADMISSION AFTER 9:15 A.M. All firms intending to submit a proposal for this project are required to attend to discuss the proposed work and receive answers to questions related to the project. For security reasons, parties must submit the Non-Disclosure Agreement included in the RFP with a list of employee names that will be attending to Paul Moyano at pmoyano@cityofevanston.org by close of business January 14, 2019 in order to attend.

The above item shall conform to the RFP on file in the Purchasing Office. The document, including all necessary plans and specifications, will be available in the Purchasing Office on December 20, 2018. Parties interested in submitting a bid should contact the Purchasing Office to receive a copy of the bid or to schedule a meeting at: www.cityofevanston.org/business/bids-proposals/ or Demandstar at www.demandstar.com.

The City (the City of Evanston) in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, hereby notifies all firms that it will affirmatively ensure that the contract(s) entered into pursuant to this notice will be awarded to the successful firm without discrimination of employee names that will be attending to Paul Moyano at pmoyano@cityofevanston.org by close of business January 14, 2019 in order to attend.

Each Proposer shall be required to submit with his/her proposal a Disclosure of Ownership Interest Statement Form in accordance with Section 1-18-1 et seq. of the City Code. Failure to submit such information may result in the disqualification of such proposal.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this request for proposals are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). This procurement is also subject to the City's policy regarding the increased use of disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE). The City's policy requires all consultants proposing to undertake specified affirmative efforts at least sixteen (16) days prior to bid opening. Requirements for compliance with the IEPA loan program for professional services contracts and DBE participation are included in the RFP and the attached Professional Services Agreement.

Linda Thomas
Purchasing Specialist

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Ricardo Cruz Xavier Cruz Nathaniel Cruz Nicholas Cruz

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Cynthia Rivera (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: **18JA01094 18JA01095 18JA01093 18JA01096**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Ricardo Cruz (Father) Any And All Unknown Fathers Any, respondents, and to All Whom It May Concern**, that on **November 14, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Peter Vilkelis** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/11/2019 at 11:00 AM** in CALENDAR 13 COURTROOM M, 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, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS December 20, 2018

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES

Joseph J. Henderson & Son, Inc., 4288 Old Sunrise, Suite 1, 60031-1474 244-3222 is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer seeking disadvantaged businesses for the Eastside Wastewater Treatment Plant Phosphorus Removal and Expansion project located in Joliet, Illinois. For the City of Joliet for subcontracting/supplying opportunities in the following areas (but not limited to): Concrete Reinforcement; Precast Concrete; Masonry; Structural Steel & Metal Fabrications; Interior Architectural Woodwork; Roofing; Sealants; Doors and Frames; Overhead Coiling Doors; Aluminum Framed Entrances and Storefronts; Drywall; Flooring; Acoustical Ceilings; Painting; Division 10 Specialties; Audio Visual Systems; Laboratory Casework; Window Treatments; Office Furniture; Hoisting Equipment; Fire Suppression; Plumbing; HVAC; Electrical; Asphalt Paving; Fencing; and Landscaping. All interested disadvantaged businesses should contact IN WRITING (certified letter and return receipt requested), Marc Gilman, to discuss the subcontracting opportunities. All negotiations must be completed prior to the bid opening date of January 24, 2019. Proposals will be evaluated based on scope of work and price, and subcontracts will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. 6031104 12/20/2018

NOTICE OF THE ILLINOIS SPORTS FACILITIES AUTHORITY TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) TO PROVIDE AUDIT SERVICES OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE SCHEDULE OF FEES TO THE AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority (ISFA) located at 333 West 35th St. in Chicago, IL, is requesting proposals from firms interested in providing audit services. To access this RFP, visit ISFA's website at www.isfaauthority.com. Under the "Business Inquiries" tab, click on "Finance". Responses are due on January 20, 2019 at 1:00 pm CST. At its discretion, ISFA reserves the right to reject any and all responses and to waive any informalities or irregularities.

"NOTICE TO DEFENDANT VASKEN KODJAVAKIAN, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF CAPITAL ONE EQUIPMENT FINANCE CORP. f/k/a All Points Capital Corp., d/b/a Capital One Taxi Medallion Finance, a New York corporation, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division, in the case captioned Capital One Equipment Finance Corp. f/k/a All Points Capital Corp. d/b/a Capital One Taxi Medallion Finance v. Vasken Cab, Inc. IV & Vasken Kodjaviakian, Case No. 1:18-cv-05256. You must file a written response with the Court to the Complaint filed by Plaintiff on or before January 21, 2019, or the Court may decide against you without your being heard."

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at 7:00 a.m., the Hillside-Berkeley Water Commission will hold a public hearing pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Budget Law, 50 ILCS 330/3 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, on its Fiscal Year 2019 budget, at its office, 211 Eastern Avenue, Bellwood, Illinois. Copies of the tentative budget will be available for public inspection as of December 21, 2018, at the Commission office from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

549551_1

NOTICE TO DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES

Archon Construction at 563 S Route 53, Addison, IL 60101 (630) 495-0015 is seeking qualified disadvantaged businesses for the Village of Indian Head Park, Illinois, "Water Main Replacement Program 1-2018" project for subcontracting opportunities in the following areas:
Landscaping, Paving, Concrete Work, Trucking, and Traffic Control. All disadvantaged businesses should contact, IN WRITING, (certified letter, return receipt requested), Dominic Fiorirossa, to discuss the subcontracting opportunities. All negotiations must be completed 7 days prior to the bid opening date of 1/17/2019. Subcontracting will be evaluated according to the lowest responsive qualified bidder.

FORECLOSURES

MANLEY, DEAS, KOCHALSKI LLC
One East Wacker - Suite 1250
Chicago, IL 60601

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff, v. UNKNOWN SUCCESSOR, TRUSTEES OF THE WARREN W. LOSER DECLARATION OF TRUST, DATED OCTOBER 15, 2001 AND EXECUTED ON NOVEMBER 1, 2001; THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; CARRIAGE WAY CONDOMINIUM HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION; CARRIAGE WAY COURT CONDOMINIUM BUILDING NO. 5100 ASSOCIATION, Defendants, Case No. 2018CH14224

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Unknown Successor, Trustees of the Warren W. Loser Declaration of Trust, dated October 15, 2001 and executed on November 1, 2001, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, and the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Cook County Judicial Circuit, Cook County, Illinois by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

Unit No. 302 in the Carriage Way Court Condominium Building No. 5100, as delineated on the survey of the following described real estate (hereinafter referred to as "parcel"):

That part of Lot 4 of Three Fountains at Plum Grove (according to the plat thereof recorded July 8, 1968, as Document Number 20 543 261) being a subdivision in Section 8, Township 41 North, Range 11, East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows:

Commencing at the most Northeasterly corner of Lot 4 aforesaid; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East along the Easterly line thereof 50.37 feet; thence North 90 degrees West (at right angles thereto) 116.04 feet to the point of beginning; thence South 74 degrees 22 minutes 04 seconds West 89.58 feet; thence South 15 degrees 37 minutes 56 seconds East 233.00 feet; thence North 74 degrees 22 minutes 04 seconds East 89.58 feet; thence North 15 degrees 37 minutes 56 seconds West 233.00 feet to the place of beginning, in Cook County, Illinois which survey is attached to Exhibit "B" to the Declaration of Condominium for Building No. 5100 recorded in the Office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds as Document No. 26 119 596.

5100 Carriageaway Drive #302, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
08-08-301-064-1027

Now, therefore, unless you, Unknown Successor, Trustees of the Warren W. Loser Declaration of Trust



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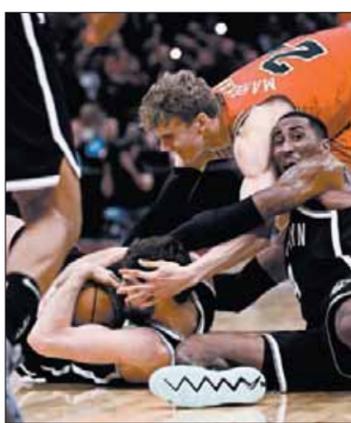
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Chicago Tribune CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Lauri Markkanen can't beat the Nets to the ball Wednesday after Justin Holiday loses possession with 2.3 seconds left.

NETS 96, BULLS 93

The losses just keep on coming

LaVine to miss 2-4 weeks with 'unusual' ankle sprain

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN
Chicago Tribune

Jim Boylen huddled up his players after Wednesday's shootaround to talk about his second-favorite sport: football.

He gave them a quote about remaining focused, uttered by Georgia coach Kirby Smart: "Keep the main thing the main thing."

The main thing for the Bulls is getting healthy. That's been the story all season.

Fred Hoiberg had no luck, losing nearly half of his rotation for most of his 2018 tenure. Boylen is now feeling the pain, losing Zach LaVine to an ankle injury.

The Bulls announced before their 96-93 loss to the Nets that LaVine would miss 2-4 weeks with what Boylen called "an unusual sprain" — a lower left ankle sprain of the deltoid ligament.

"I'm sure they will be very cautious with it," Boylen said, "and make sure his ankle is stable before we get him back."

LaVine offered a more positive outlook: "I'm about a week out now (since the injury) so maybe another week. Hopefully there will be no setbacks. Once that swelling goes down, I can give you an estimate in the next 3-4 days."

Turn to Bulls, Page 3



TIM VIZER/PIONEER PRESS

Notre Dame signed Edwardsville wide receiver Kendall Abdur-Rahman.



JON LANGHAM/THE BEACON-NEWS

Northwestern signed Batavia linebacker Michael Jansey.



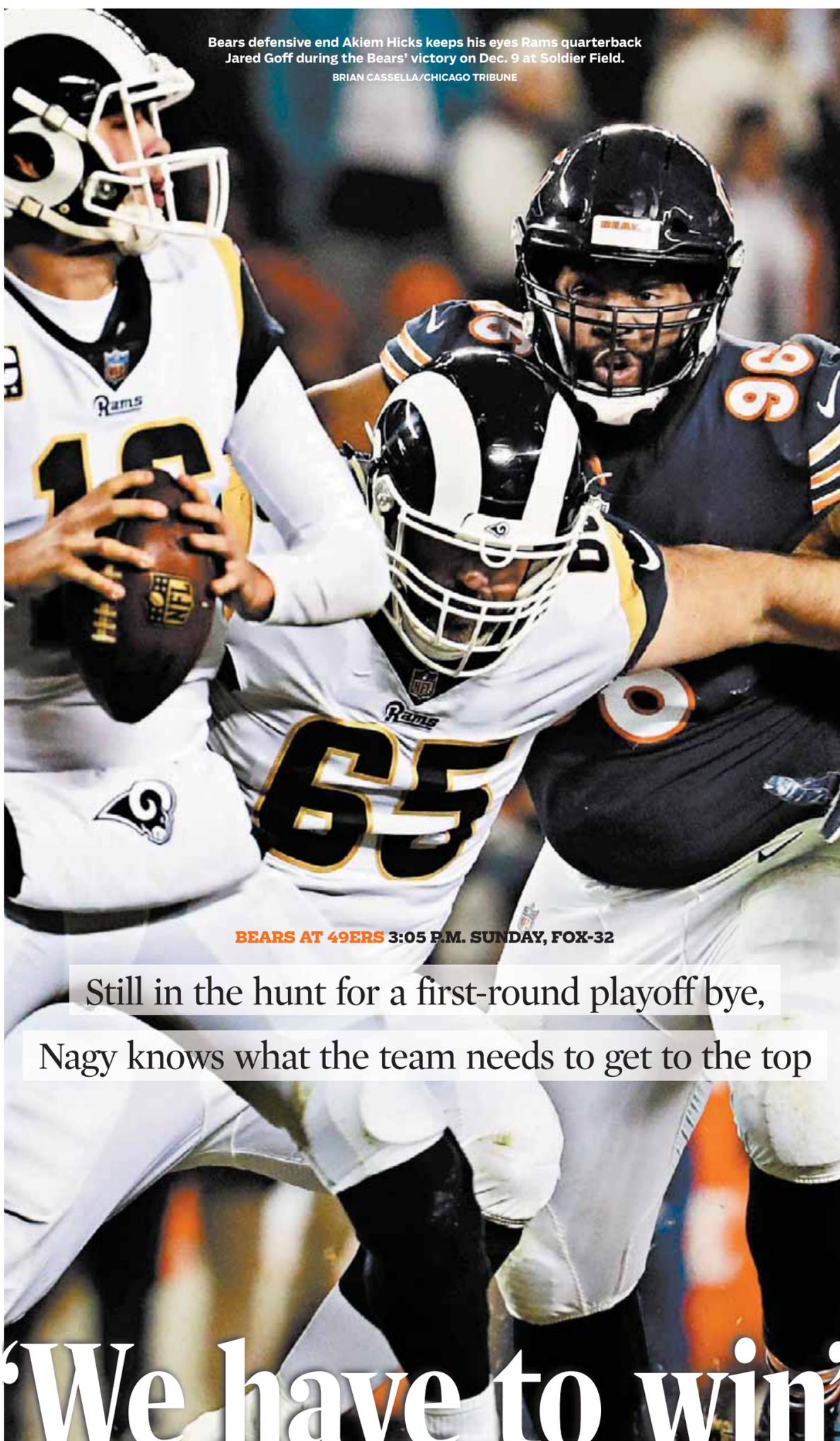
STLHIGHSCOOLSPORTS.COM

QB Isaiah Williams became the ninth-highest-rated player to sign with Illinois.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL EARLY SIGNING DAY

Next chance for greatness

A look at Notre Dame, Northwestern and Illinois' recruiting starts Wednesday as they work to finalize their classes. After Friday, high school recruits can't sign national letters of intent until Feb. 6. **Back Page**



Bears defensive end Akiem Hicks keeps his eyes on Rams quarterback Jared Goff during the Bears' victory on Dec. 9 at Soldier Field.

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BEARS AT 49ERS 3:05 P.M. SUNDAY, FOX-32

Still in the hunt for a first-round playoff bye, Nagy knows what the team needs to get to the top

'We have to win'

NFC PLAYOFF PICTURE

The Bears would win a tiebreaker with the Saints at 12-4 by virtue of their superior record against NFC opponents. But it's highly improbable the Saints will lose their final two games at home to drop to 12-4. The realistic best-case scenario for the Bears is overtaking the Rams for the No. 2 seed and a first-round bye. The Bears own the tiebreaker with the Rams because of their head-to-head victory Dec. 9. Here's the full Week 16 playoff picture in the NFC:

STANDINGS

Top two seeds get byes; division winners are top four; seeds 5 and 6 are wild-card

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Saints (12-2) vs. Steelers | 4. Cowboys (8-6) vs. Buccaneers |
| 2. Rams (11-3) at Cardinals | 5. Seahawks (8-6) vs. Chiefs |
| 3. Bears (10-4) at 49ers | 6. Vikings (7-6-1) at Lions |
7. Eagles (7-7) vs. Texans | 8. Redskins (7-7) at Titans | 9. Panthers (6-8) vs. Falcons

SCENARIOS

Saints: Already clinched the NFC South title. Would clinch home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs and a first-round bye with:
1. Win OR
2. Tie PLUS Rams loss or tie OR
3. Bears loss or tie PLUS Rams loss

Rams: Already clinched NFC West title. Would clinch first-round bye with:
1. Win PLUS Bears loss or tie OR
2. Tie PLUS Bears loss

Bears: Already clinched the NFC North title. Cannot clinch a first-round bye this week. Would clinch at least the No. 3 seed with:
1. Win or tie OR
2. Cowboys loss or tie.

Cowboys: Would clinch NFC East title with:
1. Win OR
2. Tie PLUS Eagles loss or tie PLUS Redskins loss or tie OR
3. Eagles loss PLUS Redskins loss

Seahawks: Would clinch a playoff berth with:
1. Win PLUS Redskins loss or tie OR
2. Win or tie PLUS Vikings loss OR
3. Win PLUS Seahawks clinch strength-of-victory tiebreaker over Redskins OR
4. Win PLUS Vikings tie PLUS Seahawks clinch strength-of-victory tiebreaker over Vikings
5. Tie plus Redskins loss PLUS Eagles loss or tie

Vikings: Would clinch a playoff berth with:
1. Win PLUS Eagles loss or tie PLUS Redskins loss



BRAD BIGGS
On the Bears

Matt Nagy has his priorities straight when he says a first-round bye is the next goal to pursue.

Odds don't favor the 10-4 Bears as they prepare for Sunday's game against the 49ers at Levi's Stadium. The Bears trail the Rams by one game and the Saints by two with two games remaining. The Bears, who have won seven of their last eight games, look most likely to finish as the third seed, which would give them a home playoff game on wild-card weekend Jan. 5-6.

The Rams are scuffling, having lost consecutive regular-season games for the first time in two seasons under coach Sean McVay, but they finish the season at the Cardinals (3-11) on Sunday and then at home against the 49ers (4-10) on Dec. 30. They're 13½-point favorites against the Cardinals and should be heavily favored against the 49ers. Of course, the Rams were a big chalk play last week when they were sloppy in a home loss to the Eagles.

Until their chances to earn a top-two seed are extinguished, the Bears should do everything in their power to keep the heat on the Rams because recent history doesn't favor teams playing on wild-card weekend reaching the Super Bowl, let alone winning it.

"We're in a great situation right now where we could be a lot of different

Turn to Biggs, Page 4

TOP OF THE SECOND



PAUL SULLIVAN

Ricketts emails a riveting read

We would all shudder to think of our personal emails leaking out to the public, as happened to the Cubs owners Tuesday when a web site printed a trove of their emails and family documents.

And certainly the Rickettses are no different from you or me, only much, much richer.

While I feel their pain, it was hard to turn away from the emails leaked to Splinter. Like a rubbernecker staring at a highway wreck, I scrolled through them all, searching for their inner thoughts on Sammy Sosa, Lou Piniella, Mike Quade and, well, some of the Cubs beat writers.

Instead I saw emails about a decision to serve warm bison at a mediation with IRS agents and about what game to play at the next family get-together, along with attachments relating to a “vast left-wing conspiracy” and one urging the family members to bolt Wrigley Field and play in another city.

It wasn't as juicy as I'd hoped but fascinating nonetheless.

Focusing only on emails and documents related to the Ricketts family's ownership of the Cubs, here are three takeaways from the Splinter leak:

1. The juiciest Cubs-related revelation was from Todd Ricketts, the youngest of the four siblings, who famously failed as a hot-dog vendor on the reality show “Undercover Boss” and currently serves as the Republican National Committee's finance chairman.

Back in 2013, Todd emailed his siblings and father in response to Mayor Rahm Emanuel's insistence no taxpayer subsidies be provided for the renovation of Wrigley Field.

“I think we should contemplate moving, or at least recognize that we are maybe not the right organization to own the Cubs,” Todd wrote.

Another email from Todd to the gang on the same day added: “I just hate the thought of Tom having to grovel to this guy to put money into a building we already own.”

It's no secret the Cubs threatened to move because they leaked it themselves at the time. No one believed them, for good reason.

The Cubs lost their battle with Emanuel, and now it's all water under the bridge. They managed to finance the ballpark renovations themselves, selling six minor-



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Tom Ricketts can clutch the World Series trophy and always find a secret exit door.

ity ownership stakes in 2015 to buyers that included the family of current Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

Those renovations were supposed to provide a “wheelbarrow full of cash” for Cubs President Theo Epstein to spend freely on annually improving the roster. But the wheelbarrow somehow broke this winter, and the Cubs are avoiding the prime-time free agents to avoid paying a luxury tax.

2. My favorite leak was a document referred to as the “Ricketts Family Constitution.” Needless to say, it's far different than the Sullivan Family Constitution, which has only one rule: “Don't interrupt me when I'm interrupting you.”

According to Splinter, here are the “extra-family Expectations & Responsibilities” from 2010 on dealing with the media:

- Media requests must go through the Cubs public relations. Avoid all media contacts where possible if not through the Cubs (i.e. ambush interviews).
- Can talk to the media about other topics besides baseball.
- Stick to talking points if trapped in an unschedule (sic) interview.
- Bring a World Series to Chicago.
- Save Wrigley Field.
- Be a good neighbor.

- We are excited to be the owners.
 - Never talk about players or Jim Hendry.
- I can attest the Rickettses generally followed their “talking points,” including not talking about Hendry, who was on the hot seat as general manager.

Chairman Tom Ricketts proved quite adept at avoiding ambush interviews when beat writers waited for him outside conference rooms at various owners meetings. Somehow he would always find a secret exit.

Laura Ricketts, the friendliest of the four siblings, was less averse to nosy reporters. I sneaked up to her box seat last summer and asked her opinion of the acquisition of Daniel Murphy, who had upset members of the LGBTQ community years ago by saying he disagreed with the gay “lifestyle.” After first declining to comment, Laura said of the trade for Murphy: “It was not made in a vacuum. It was made thoughtfully.”

Ambush-wary or not, at least the Cubs owners followed through on their main talking point, not only bringing a World Series to Chicago but winning it.

3. Dealing with media attention was a learning process for the four siblings when they were on the verge of buying the Cubs in 2009.

In a 2009 email to Pete, Todd and family patriarch Joe Ricketts, Laura wrote it was “disappointing” to see Tom's photo on the Tribune's front page next to the headline “Meet the Cubs' \$900 Million Man.”

“I definitely think we should request that various friends, specifically (redacted), not speak to the press for now,” Laura wrote.

Pete, currently governor of Nebraska, replied with an email to Joe, Laura, Tom and Todd: “Folks, I appreciate the concern to make sure the PR stays on message but I would also like to remind you that, based upon my experience for 14 months during my campaign and all my time at (TD Ameritrade), the press says any damn thing they feel like if it will get them audience.”

Give Pete credit. He knew it was impossible to stop the media from reporting stories readers were interested in, as evidenced by this trove of leaked emails.

Now if Splinter can find some emails about Sammy Sosa.

psullivan@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @PWSullivan

ASK THE REPORTER MARK GONZALES

Hunt for leadoff man lasted entire season



Why not make Albert Almora Jr. the leadoff man and stop with Anthony Rizzo and everyone else trying it?

Jeffrey C.

Almora's first two months in 2018 were extremely impressive, and one American League scout took note of him being one of the top fastball hitters during that span. But Almora tailed off, and he could be better served as a No. 6 hitter. The decision to use Rizzo at the leadoff spot last season was an attempt to get him back on track, and it worked until the bottom of the order stopped getting on base. But it wasn't as if anyone else showed he could succeed at leadoff over an extended period, which led to the Cubs' acquisition of Daniel Murphy.

Who is going to get the bench coach job?

Jim M.

The timing wasn't great for Brandon Hyde's departure, but you can't blame him for taking the Orioles' managerial job — even with less than two months before spring training. He'll need to assemble a coaching staff immediately. The obvious choice to replace Hyde would have been David Ross, but he signed a multiyear extension with ESPN on Tuesday to continue working as a game analyst and studio commentator. Mark DeRosa turned down a chance to interview for the Rangers' managerial position and does a fine job with the MLB Network. Triple-A Iowa manager Marty Pevey does an exceptional job handling players on the verge of promotion as well as veterans who believe they deserve another shot at the big leagues. So Pevey, like many Triple-A managers, is almost too valuable to be considered for a major-league coaching job. Promoting Mike Borzello to bench coach would make sense, but he has enough on his plate with the title of associate pitching coach added to his strategy and catching duties. Promoting minor-league coordinator Tim Cossins to handle the catching duties would allow Borzello to handle some of the bench coach duties, but I wouldn't be surprised if Hyde asks the Cubs permission to hire Cossins.

Chicago Tribune

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BULLS

BULLS NOTES

Lopez fined \$25,000

Scrum against Thunder also costs Dunn, Grant

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN
Chicago Tribune

When he's not grabbing rebounds or defending teammates, Robin Lopez likes to play a board game called Ticket to Ride that involves a cross-country train adventure.

Told that his next ticket would be more costly, Lopez replied: "That's OK. With my luck I'll just put some cash on it and let it ride."

Lopez is \$25,000 poorer after the NBA weighed in on Monday's Bulls-Thunder melee in Oklahoma City. Lopez was assessed the largest fine for "escalating the altercation," according to league officials, and Kris Dunn got docked \$15,000 for "instigating" it.

The Thunder's Jerami Grant was fined \$20,000.

While arranging his socks before Wednesday night's game against the Nets, Lopez described his actions this way: "I was just trying to get (Grant) off my guy's

back. But if they want to call that escalation, I suppose I'm a little too preoccupied with my socks to get into a debate over word choice."

Thunder guards Raymond Felton and Dennis Schroder were suspended for one game apiece for leaving the bench area. No Bulls were suspended.

"I was relieved," Bulls coach Jim Boylen said. "I'm grateful my assistants kept our guys on the bench."

The fracas started when Russell Westbrook pushed away Dunn, who retaliated with a shove. Players from both sides jumped in, and the scuffle spilled over into the court-side seats.

"Things just got out of hand," Dunn said Monday.

An NBA source praised Boylen for following the league's desired protocol by pulling players from the pile.

"Nobody wants to see a fight," Boylen said. "Nobody wants to see anybody get hurt."

Speaking of money: Getting paid has not changed Spencer Dinwiddie, a swingman the Pis-

tons and Bulls sent packing. Dinwiddie not only has found a home with the Nets, with whom he's scoring more than 17 points a game, last week he signed a three-year, \$34 million deal.

"I haven't seen any dip in his play," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said. "He keeps improving. I don't want to put a ceiling on him."

The Bulls acquired Dinwiddie from the Pistons for Cameron Baird in June 2016, waived him in July, re-signed him the same month, then waived him again in October, all before he played a game as a Bull. He did play nine games for the Windy City Bulls, averaging 19.4 points and 8.1 assists before the Nets signed him.

Atkinson expected Dinwiddie to play with a little extra fire Wednesday at the United Center: "I don't know if (players) admit it, but they always have a little edge when they play their former team."

Still ill: Jabari Parker missed Wednesday's game with a stomach ailment, stemming from the teams' trip to Mexico City.

BLACKHAWKS



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Goalie Collin Delia has played consistently well over the last 12 months, including a two-game call-up to the Blackhawks last March.

Hawks getting a good Delia

With Crawford out, backup goalie called up after breakout year

UP NEXT
Blackhawks at Stars
7:30 p.m. Thursday, NBCSCH

BY JIMMY GREENFIELD
Chicago Tribune

Collin Delia's current stint with the Blackhawks may be a brief one, and if it is he'll be just fine with that.

The reason Delia is with the Hawks now is because a concussion sidelined Corey Crawford, who Sunday night was the victim of a violent collision in front of the net that's every goalie's worst nightmare.

"We're not expecting crashing bodies," Delia said. "Your main goal is to stop the puck, so you're not really expecting that. It was just really unfortunate to see that happen and I hope he's OK."

While Crawford's injury opened the door for Delia to join the Hawks, Delia's consistently stellar play over the last 12 months led to his promotion.

Delia's final season at Merrimack College was in the books when the Hawks signed him to a two-year deal during the summer of 2017. He began his pro career with the East Coast Hockey League's Indy Fuel and didn't post the kind of numbers that would get anybody's attention.

But when Crawford went down with a concussion last December, the Hawks called up Jeff Glass, which in turn created an opening with the Ice Hogs for Delia, who began working with Hawks developmental goaltending coach Peter Aubry and credits him with instilling "little habits" that led to career-changing results.

"I think I finally turned the page around Christmastime, New Year's Eve last year," Delia said. "Everything started to click, and I got to thankfully apply that in a few game scenarios and had some success, and that really helped kind of build confidence in the muscle memory."

Delia posted a 2.72 goals-against average and a .900 save percentage in 28 regular-season games for the Ice Hogs and

earned a two-game call-up to the Hawks in late March. But it was his performance in the Calder Cup playoffs that stood out. His 2.34 GAA and .924 save percentage in 10 games helped lead the Ice Hogs to the conference finals.

That success carried over into this season as Delia's .933 save percentage was leading the AHL at the time of his call-up.

"It definitely helped," Delia said of the playoff run. "Just experience, continue to build on the 'games played' stat. I think that's one of the most important stats for goaltenders, just playing games and seeing different situations, so that was huge."

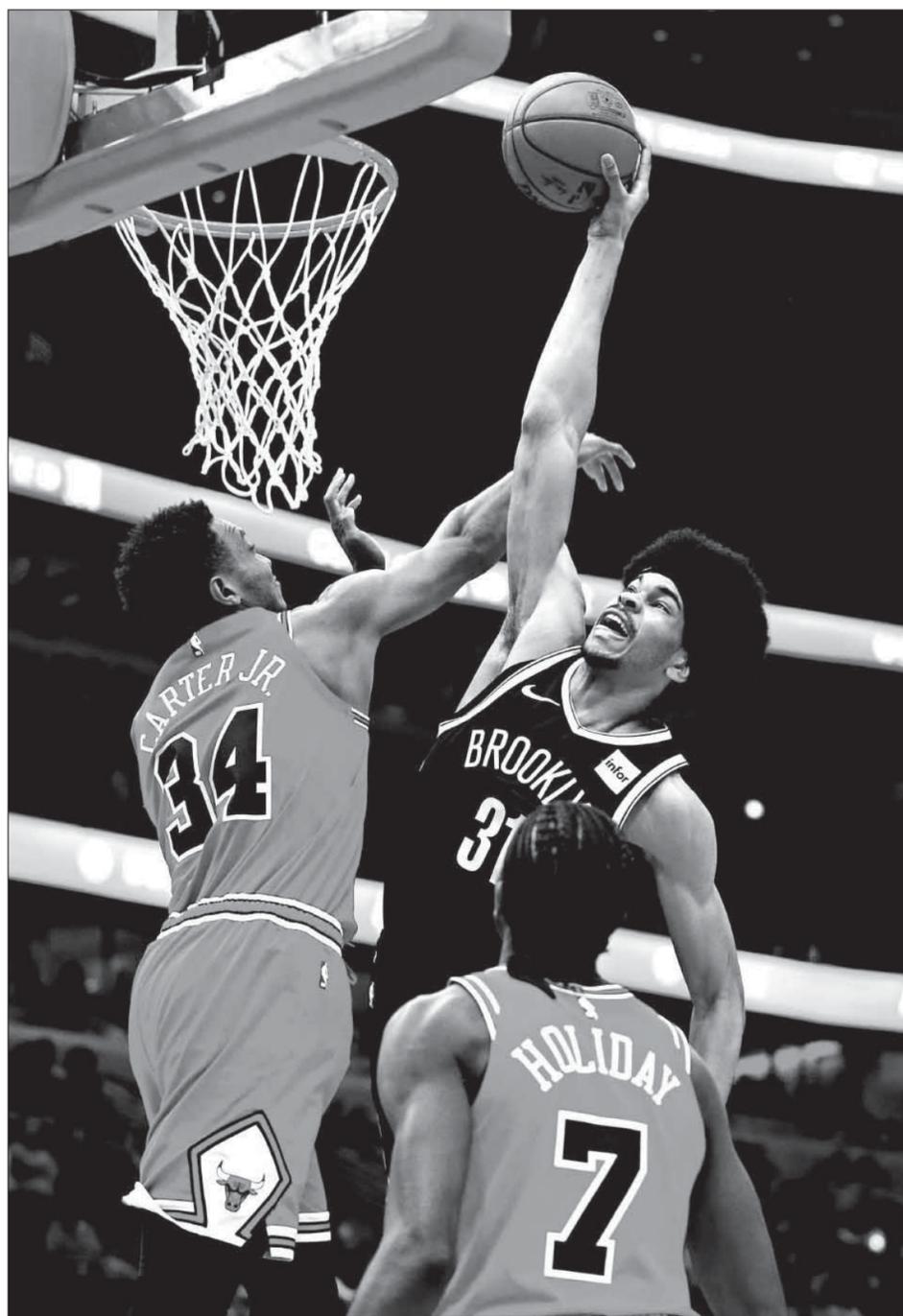
Hawks coach Jeremy Colliton, who was head coach of the Ice Hogs while Delia was there until his own call-up to the Hawks last month, has seen most of Delia's progression first-hand.

"He came a long way in a short time," Colliton said. "Very important, high-pressure games in the spring and he did a great job. He's kind of picked up where he left off down in Rockford. Excited to get him here, of course. The circumstances are less than ideal, but a lot of times that's when guys break through. They get opportunity through circumstances that are sometimes negative. It's an opportunity for him."

In the Hawks' first game without Crawford, Cam Ward played brilliantly, stopping 30 of 31 shots in Tuesday's 2-1 win over the Predators. Delia likely will start against either the Stars or the Avalanche on the upcoming road trip. Just how many more he'll get remains to be seen, but Colliton has faith in him.

"(Delia) was in the East Coast League, but it didn't mean he wasn't a huge prospect," Colliton said. "He had the chance then and he has the chance now to be a great player in this league."

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Twitter @jgreenx



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Justin Holiday gets a good look as the Nets' Jarrett Allen dunks over Wendell Carter Jr. on Wednesday night.

Nets rally late to beat Bulls

Bulls, from Page 1

LaVine suffered the injury Thursday against the Magic in Mexico City. He went up for a rebound and Nikola Vucevic stepped on his foot.

"I'm doing a lot of icing, ultrasound, something called the Hivamat," he said. "I don't know what it is, but it vibrates your ankle, feels pretty good. I'm doing everything I can, a lot of 'stim' stuff at home."

Bottom line, this will be another stretch in which LaVine, Kris Dunn and Lauri Markkanen do not share the court. They've played only 14 games together — two this season — since the Bulls acquired them in the Jimmy Butler trade.

"It's heartbreaking for me," Boylen said. "The injury thing is out of your control; it's difficult. We'll just get them together when they're available, and we'll evaluate from there. I don't know what else to do really."

LaVine put it in less dramatic terms, saying: "We'll get it together. It's not like I'm out for an extended period of time. We still have a lot of season left. We'll get it down."

Shaquille Harrison got extra minutes in LaVine's absence and made the most of them. The second-year guard scored 13 points and had back-to-back strong finishes in the fourth quarter.

Cameron Payne dove for a loose ball, flung a pass over his head and hit Harrison for a thunderous two-handed slam. Then Bobby Portis hit Harrison for an up-and-under layup that gave the Bulls a 79-78 lead.

Portis recorded his first double-double (16 points, 11 rebounds) since opening night.

Dunn more than doubled his season average, scoring 24 points on 11-for-21 shooting.

The Bulls led 93-92 but could not convert down the stretch. They gave up an offensive rebound to Rondae Hollis-Jefferson, Wendell Carter Jr. got juked on a basket by Joe Harris, and Dunn got called for an illegal screen.

"That's frustrating," Boylen said. "Same thing happened (late) in Orlando. We have to evaluate that."

Down 94-93, Justin Holiday's pass to Dunn got slapped loose by Spencer Dinwiddie.

"It's the NBA, it's tough," Dunn

said. "You can play a great basketball game and still lose. We fought and got the stops but credit them."

Dinwiddie, a one-time Bull, added to his game-high 27 points by making both free throws.

"We're happy for Dinwiddie," Boylen said. "He's a great kid, a terrific guy."

Harrison's three-quarter court pass to Markkanen got batted away at the buzzer.

The Nets (15-18) won their seventh straight, while the Bulls fell to 2-6 under Boylen and, at 7-25, own the NBA's worst record.

"Defensively, we were good," Boylen said. "We gave them (only) seven offensive rebounds, which is great, but two in the last two minutes, which is not great."

Boylen also said he wants to get more shots for Markkanen, who scored eight points on 3-for-6 shooting.

"That's not enough," Boylen said. "We need him at 15 shots."

Markkanen said he's not frustrated: "I'm not worried about that right now. It's still a new system, and everybody's trying to figure it out."

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BLACKHAWKS NOTES

Kruger latest Hawk to head out with concussion

BY JIMMY GREENFIELD
Chicago Tribune

The Blackhawks placed center Marcus Kruger on injured reserve Wednesday with a concussion, making him the third Hawks player in 10 days to lose time to the serious head injury.

The Hawks recalled forward Luke Johnson from Rockford to take Kruger's roster spot. Johnson, who had one assist over 13 games in two previous stints with the Hawks, has four goals and three assists in 10 games with the IceHogs.

During the second period of Tuesday's 2-1 victory over the Predators, former Hawk Ryan Hartman was backing up when Kruger approached him from behind. Kruger's head struck Hartman's elbow and he immediately fell to the ice, bleeding profusely. He left the game and didn't return.

Artem Anisimov suffered a concussion Dec. 9 against the Canadiens and missed four games before returning against the Predators. Goalie Corey Crawford remains out with a concussion after striking his head on a post Sunday against

the Sharks.

Kruger and Crawford will be eligible to return Dec. 27 against the Wild.

Force awakens: Erik Gustafsson's winning goal against the Predators gave him six goals in his last 12 games and gives those watching his development hope that he's on the verge of becoming an offensive force.

That won't happen, coach Jeremy Colliton said, until Gustafsson shores up his defensive deficiencies.

"He's always had the ability," Colliton said. "He continues to battle the puck decisions, engagement defensively."

Colliton appears to be Gustafsson's biggest supporter despite having made the defenseman a healthy scratch Dec. 2 against the Flames.

"He's got the world at his feet if he wants as far as his ability to contribute in this league at a high level," Colliton said. "He's going to make — you've heard me say this before — those special plays. But it's raising the minimum level that he plays at. If he does that, then he can be a top player on top teams."

NFL

“We’re trying to win. There are too many other things that can happen. Realistically speaking, we can be a higher seed. If you have an opportunity to do that, why wouldn’t you try for that?”

— Bears coach Matt Nagy

A simple plan: Win

Biggs, from Page 1

seeds,” Nagy said. “And so the question that comes up of resting starters (for the playoffs), that’s not even in the world of consideration for us. We’re trying to win. There are too many other things that can happen. Realistically speaking, we can be a higher seed. If you have an opportunity to do that, why wouldn’t you try for that?”

In four of the last five years, the Super Bowl has pitted the No. 1 seed from the NFC against the No. 1 seed from the AFC, with the exception two years ago when the Patriots (No. 1 AFC seed) defeated the Falcons (No. 2 NFC seed).

However, in the eight-year span from 2006 through 2013, seven times a team that played on wild-card weekend reached the Super Bowl with five of those teams winning it all — the Ravens (fourth seed 2013), Giants (fourth seed 2012), Packers (sixth seed 2011), Colts (third seed 2007) and Steelers (sixth seed 2006). That’s evidence an extra playoff game doesn’t create insurmountable odds for succeeding in January and playing into February.

Cornerback Prince Amukamara was a rookie for the Giants in 2011 when they won the NFC East with a 9-7 record, won a home playoff game over the Falcons before springing upsets in Green Bay and San Francisco and then stunning the Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI. That was after the Giants beat the Jets and Cowboys in the final two weeks of the regular season just to get in.

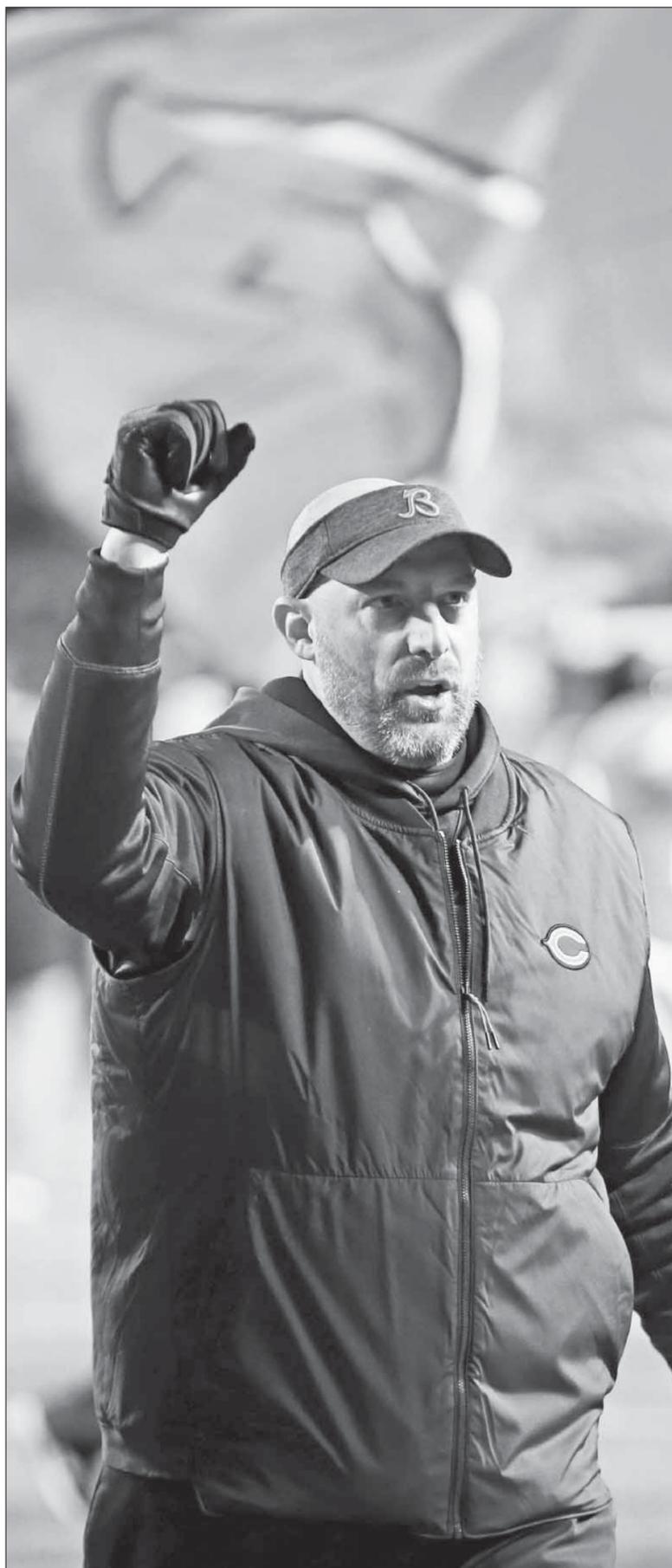
“We were already in a position where we had to win out, so we already had our backs against the wall to even get in,” Amukamara said. “Once we experienced that, there was really no pressure in the playoffs because we already had that feeling, ‘Hey, it’s win or go home.’”

That doesn’t apply to the Bears, but what the Giants did was get on a roll entering the playoffs and after getting into the playoffs, the next important thing is peaking at that time of year.

“(Nagy) addressed us in the meeting already this week,” Amukamara said. “He said our mindset is just to go 2-0 these next two weeks and don’t worry about anything else and then we’ll see where we are. We’re playing wild-card weekend or we’re not.”

The current format with six playoff teams in each conference was introduced in 1990. In 28 years since, 12 teams that played on wild-card weekend reached the Super Bowl with seven winning it.

The Bears are 7-1 at Soldier Field this season, their best record at home since they were 7-1 in 2005. Nagy has made creating a home-field advantage a top priority, and based on the energized crowds for the last two wins over the Rams and Packers, he has succeeded.



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears coach Matt Nagy celebrates the win against the Vikings on Nov. 18 at Soldier Field.

Since 1990, teams playing at home are 71-41 (.634) in the wild-card round, 81-31 (.723) in the divisional round and 37-19 (.661) in the conference championship round. Overall, home teams are 189-91 (.675). Home-field advantage in the playoffs is certainly reflective of the fact that higher-seeded teams are usually better. The edge isn’t as significant in the wild-card round, where a better record can travel to play a division winner with, say, a 9-7 record.

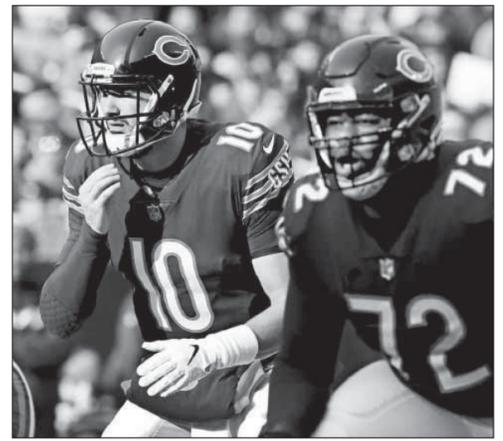
The Bears have not played a road playoff game since January 1995. They went to the Metrodome and upset the Vikings 35-18 at the end of Dave Wannstedt’s second season as Bears coach. They were dispatched the next week in the divisional round by the 49ers in San Francisco.

They’re guaranteed at least one playoff round at home, and Nagy needs to keep pressing forward with the hope the Rams don’t get their act together Sunday against the Cardinals. If circumstances change

before the season finale Dec. 30 in Minnesota, may be the Bears change course, but if they take care of business against the 49ers, they’ll remain within striking distance of at least the No. 2 seed regardless of what the Rams do this week.

“Unless you’re locked in and you can’t move, then you have to decide” how to handle a game, Nagy said. “Right now, we have to win.”

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ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears quarterback Mitch Trubisky was recognized as one of seven Bears named Pro Bowl alternates Tuesday.

BEARS NOTES

Trubisky: We can’t accept any letdown

BY COLLEEN KANE
Chicago Tribune

Mitch Trubisky put it on himself and other team leaders to make sure the Bears don’t experience a letdown after clinching the NFC North and a playoff berth Sunday against the Packers.

The Bears could earn a first-round bye if they gain a game on the Rams over the final two regular-season games on the road against the 49ers and Vikings.

“It will tell a lot about the type of guys we have,” Trubisky said Wednesday. “It’s kind of like coming off a bye or coming off a loss. It’s how you’re going to respond to it. We’ve got to have a workman’s attitude — come to work, continue to get better, stay rested and try to go 1-0 each week. It doesn’t matter if it’s the regular season or postseason.”

Trubisky said it was “cool” to be recognized as one of seven Bears Pro Bowl alternates Tuesday, but he added, “I definitely don’t feel like I’ve played my best football yet.”

The Saints’ Drew Brees, Rams’ Jared Goff and Packers’ Aaron Rodgers were the NFC quarterbacks invited to the Pro Bowl. If any of them declines the invitation or can’t play because of injury, the next invitee is selected from a pool of alternates.

“I feel like you’ve got to appreciate how far you’ve come, which I have,” Trubisky said. “But I know I still have a long way to go. ... If I keep getting better, everything else will take care of itself.”

Slim pickings: The 49ers have only two interceptions all season, a fact Bears coach Matt Nagy certainly will address with Trubisky this week. The 1982 Houston Oilers hold the record for fewest interceptions in a season with three, so the 49ers have a chance to be the worst in NFL history when it comes to picks.

But Nagy said the Bears won’t change their game plan much based on that stat.

“I’m so focused right now with Mitch on making sure that we do our stuff,” Nagy said. “And we

don’t try to do something too different based off of the defenses. That’s our job as coaches to make sure that we put him into the best situation, so I don’t want him to tweak it too much.

“He’ll know the big picture as to what their weaknesses are and what they’re good at, and then we’ll attack their weaknesses.”

Injury updates: Safety Eddie Jackson and outside linebacker Aaron Lynch did not practice Wednesday. Jackson sprained his right ankle against the Packers, and Lynch is out with a sprained elbow. Nagy reiterated he doesn’t think either injury will be season-ending.

The Bears can play it safe with both players’ recoveries because they have clinched a playoff spot. Nagy said the Bears will handle Jackson’s injury similarly to how they managed injuries to Khalil Mack, Allen Robinson and Trubisky this year. Each missed two games as he recovered.

“What it’s been with our other players in these situations (is): ‘Where are you at pain-wise? Where are you at health-wise? Where are you at with the team?’ ” Nagy said. “And then we put all that together and make the decision at the end of the week.”

In other injury news, Nagy left open the possibility of right guard Kyle Long returning to practice this week. Long has been on injured reserve with a right foot injury since Nov. 3 and would be eligible to return to game action in Week 17 against the Vikings. Bryan Witzmann has made six starts in Long’s absence.

Trubisky said he didn’t know Long’s timetable but his return would be “big.”

“Kyle is an incredible O-lineman, and just his leadership and everything he brings to the table as far as that goes, it would be huge for this offense,” Trubisky said. “So we’ll see if he’s ready. I know he’s eager to get back out there. And we’re going to be happy to have him when he’s ready.”

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NFL NOTES

Falcons rule running back Freeman out for season

Associated Press

Falcons coach Dan Quinn says running back Devonta Freeman won’t make it back for the final two games of the season.

The Falcons were mathematically eliminated from the playoffs this week. Even though their chances were less than 1 percent, Quinn didn’t want to rule Freeman out for the rest of the year until he was certain.

Quinn said Wednesday the Falcons “were going to keep all of our options open in the hopes that the season would keep extending so he

would have the largest window if he could come back. We know where that window is closing, so he won’t make it in time.”

Freeman, signed to the NFL’s richest contract for a running back before the 2017 season, has missed 14 games over the last two years with head, knee and groin injuries. He is still not fully recovered from in-season groin surgery, and he hasn’t practiced since Week 5.

Tevin Coleman, Brian Hill and Jeremy Langford will handle the running duties Sunday when the

Falcons (5-9) visit the Panthers (6-8).

Newton sits: Cam Newton is headed to the bench with a sore shoulder.

The Panthers made the decision to shut down the 2015 league MVP for at least one game and possibly the remainder of the season due to a lingering right shoulder problem.

Coach Ron Rivera said Taylor Heinicke will make his first career start against the Falcons on Sunday. Kyle Allen will be the backup and Newton will be inactive.

“It was a good conversa-

tion with Cam and he understood our thinking behind this,” Rivera said. “He’s disappointed and he’s frustrated. You know him, he wants to play.”

But Rivera said a “healthy Taylor Heinicke” gives the Panthers the best chance to win this week. He hasn’t made a decision about Newton’s status for Week 17 against the Saints, saying the focus is on the Falcons.

The Panthers (6-8) have lost six straight games and are all but out of playoff contention as Newton has struggled with the unknown shoulder issue.

Extra points: NFL interceptions co-leader Xavien Howard returned to practice for the Dolphins after missing two games because of a left knee injury. Howard said he’s hopeful but uncertain whether he’ll be able to play Sunday against the Jaguars. ... The Jets placed RT Brandon Shell on season-ending injured reserve with a knee injury. ... The Lions put rookie RB Kerryon Johnson on injured reserve with a knee injury. ... Dolphins RB Frank Gore was placed on injured reserve because of a season-ending sprained

foot. DT Kendrick Norton was signed to take Gore’s roster spot. ... The Broncos placed CB Chris Harris Jr. on injured reserve and signed free agent Craig Mager. ... The Raiders signed QB Nathan Peterman to the practice squad. Peterman was cut by the Bills last month after struggling when given a chance to start. ... Redskins S Montae Nicholson was placed on the NFL reserve/non-football injury list. He was arrested early Tuesday and charged with assault and battery and being drunk in public.

SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

TEAM	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
				@SF 3:05 FOX-32, AM-780			
		ORL 7 NBCSCH, AM-670		@CLE 5 NBCSCH, AM-670			MIN 7 NBCSCH, AM-670
	@DAL 7:30 NBCSCH, AM-720	@COL 8 NBCSCH+, AM-720		FLA 6 WGN-9, AM-720			

THURSDAY ON TV/RADIO

NBA	7 p.m.	Rockets at Heat	TNT
	9:30 p.m.	Mavericks at Clippers	TNT
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL			
6 p.m.	Jacksonville at Notre Dame	WMVP-AM 1000	
6 p.m.	Ohio at Purdue	BTN	
6 p.m.	Texas Tech vs. Duke	ESPN2	
7 p.m.	Coe at Creighton	FS1	
COLLEGE FOOTBALL			
7 p.m.	Gasparilla Bowl: Marshall vs. South Florida	ESPN	
NHL			
7:30 p.m.	Blackhawks at Stars	NBCSCH, WGN-AM 720	

LATEST LINE

NBA	pregame.com	THURSDAY
Houston	3	Mavericks
LA Clippers	3½	at Dallas
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
at Purdue	16	THURSDAY
at Duke	7½	Texas Tech
at N. Kentucky	7½	N. Illinois
at Fordham	5	James Madison
at Houston	5½	Utah St.
Tampa Bay	+15	at Calgary
at Beach St.	4½	Pepperdine
NHL		
at Dallas	-187	Blackhawks
at Columbus	off	New Jersey
Nashville	-116	at Phila.
Toronto	+205	Florida
at Carolina	off	Detroit
at Boston	-158	Anaheim
at Pittsburgh	-119	Minnesota
at San Jose	+123	Winnipeg
at Arizona	off	Montreal
at Las Vegas	-190	NY Islanders
at Vancouver	-110	St. Louis
at San Jose	+123	Winnipeg
at Columbus	+172	New Jersey
at Philadelphia	+106	at Phila.
at Carolina	+185	at Phila.
at Boston	+148	Anaheim
at Pittsburgh	+109	Minnesota
at San Jose	+123	Winnipeg
at Arizona	off	Montreal
at Las Vegas	-190	NY Islanders
at Vancouver	-110	St. Louis
at San Jose	+123	Winnipeg

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2018-19 DIV. I BOWL GLANCE	DATE	BOWL	SITE	TEAMS	TM
Wed	Frisco	Frisco, Tex.	Ohio 27, San Diego State 0		7
Thu	Gasparilla	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Marshall (9-4) vs. USF (7-5)		
Fri	Bahamas	Nassau	Toledo (7-5) vs. FIU (8-4)	11:30*	
Fri	Idaho Potato	Boise	W Michigan (7-5) vs. BYU (6-6)	3	
Sat	Birmingham	Birmingham, Ala.	Memphis (8-5) vs. Wake Forest (6-6)	11*	
Sat	Armed Forces	Fort Worth, Tex.	Houston (8-4) vs. Army (10-2)	2:30	
Sat	Dollar General	Mobile, Ala.	Buffalo (10-3) vs. Troy (9-3)	6	
Sat	Hawaii	Honolulu	La Tech (7-5) vs. Hawaii (8-5)	9:30	
D26	SERVPRO	Dallas	Boston Coll. (7-5) vs. Boise St. (10-3)	12:30	
D26	Quick Lane	Detroit	Minnesota (6-5) vs. Ga. Tech (7-5)	4:15	
D26	Cheez-It	Phoenix	California (7-5) vs. TCU (6-6)	4	
D27	Independence	Shreveport, La.	Temple (8-4) vs. Duke (7-5)	12:30	
D27	Pinstripe	Miami, N.Y.	Miami (7-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-5)	4:15	
D27	Texas	Houston	Baylor (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6)	8	
D28	Musix City	Nashville	Purdue (6-6) vs. Auburn (7-5)	12:30	
D28	Camping World	Orlando	W. Virginia (8-3) vs. Syracuse (9-3)	4:15	
D28	Alamo	San Antonio	Iowa St. (8-4) vs. Wash. St. (10-2)	8	
D29	Peach	Atlanta	Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2)	11*	
D29	Belk	Charlotte, N.C.	S. Carolina (7-5) vs. Virginia (7-5)	11*	
D29	Arizona	Tucson, Ariz.	Ark. St. (8-4) vs. Nevada (7-5)	12:15	
D29	Cotton	Arlington, Tex.	Notre Dame (12-0) vs. Clemson (13-0)	3	
D29	Orange	Orlando, Fla.	Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Alabama (13-0)	4	
D31	Military	Annapolis, Md.	Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Va. Tech (6-6)	11*	
D31	SUN	El Paso, Tex.	Stanford (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (7-5)	1	
D31	Redbox	Santa Clara, Calif.	Michigan St. (7-5) vs. Oregon (8-4)	2	
D31	Liberty	Memphis, Tenn.	Memphis (8-4) vs. Oklahoma St. (6-6)	2:45	
D31	Holiday	San Diego	Northwestern (8-5) vs. Utah (9-4)	6	
D31	Gator	Jacksonville, Fla.	NC St. (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (8-4)	6:30	
J1	Outback	Tampa, Fla.	Mississippi St. (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4)	11*	
J1	Citrus	Orlando	Kentucky (9-3) vs. Penn St. (9-3)	noon	
J1	Fiesta	Glendale, Ariz.	LSU (9-3) vs. UCF (12-0)	noon	
J1	Rose	Pasadena, Calif.	Wash. St. vs. Ohio St. (11-2)	4	
J1	Sugar	New Orleans	Texas (9-4) vs. Georgia (12-1)	7:45	
J7	CFP Final	Santa Clara, Calif.	Cotton vs. Orange winners	7	

OTHER BOWLS

J19	Shrine	St. Petersburg, Fla.	East vs. West	2
J19	Collegiate	Pasadena, Calif.	American vs. National	3
J26	Senior	Mobile, Ala.	North vs. South	1:30

DATE BOWL

DATE	BOWL	SITE	RESULT
D15	Celebration	Atlanta	NC A&T 24, Alcorn St. 22
D15	Cure	Orlando	Tulane 41, La. Lafayette 24
D15	New Mexico	Albuquerque	Utah State 52, N. Texas13
D15	Las Vegas	Vegas	Fresno St. 31, Arizona, St. 20
D15	Camellia	Montgomery, Ala.	Ga. Southern 23, E. Michigan 21
D15	New Orleans	New Orleans	Appalachian State 45, MTSU 13
D18	Boca Raton	Boca Raton, Fla.	UAB 37, N. Illinois 13

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED WEDNESDAY
1. Kansas (10-0) did not play. Next: at No. 18 Arizona State, Saturday.
2. Duke (10-1) did not play. Next: at No. 12 Texas Tech, Thursday.
3. Tennessee (9-1) beat Samford 83-70. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Saturday.
4. Michigan (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Air Force, Saturday.
5. Virginia (10-0) beat South Carolina 69-52. Next: vs. William & Mary, Saturday.
6. Nevada (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Oakland, Thursday.
7. Auburn (9-2) lost to N.C. State 78-71. Next: vs. Murray State, Saturday.
8. Gonzaga (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Denver, Friday.
9. North Carolina (8-2) did not play. Next: at No. 19 Kentucky, Saturday.
10. Michigan State (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Saturday.
11. Florida State (10-1) beat North Florida 95-81. Next: vs. Saint Louis, Saturday.
12. Texas Tech (10-0) did not play. Next: at No. 2 Duke, Thursday.
13. Virginia Tech (10-1) beat N.C. A&T 82-60. Next: vs. Md-Eastern Shore, Fri., Dec. 28.
14. Florida State (9-2) did not play. Next: at Wake Marquette, Friday.
15. Ohio State (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. U.C.L.A., Saturday.
16. Wisconsin (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Grambling State, Saturday.
17. Mississippi State (10-1) beat Wofford 98-87. Next: vs. Wright State, Saturday.
18. Iowa State (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Kansas, Saturday.
19. Kentucky (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 North Carolina, Saturday.
20. Marquette (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 Buffalo, Friday.
21. Houston (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Utah State, Thursday.
22. Indiana (10-2) beat Central Arkansas 86-53. Next: vs. Jacksonville, Saturday.
23. Iowa (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Savannah State, Saturday.
24. Furman (12-0) did not play. Next: at LSU, Friday.
25. Nebraska (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Cal State Fullerton, Saturday.

HOW WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED WEDNESDAY

1. UConn (10-0) beat Oklahoma 72-63. Next: at No. 14 California, Saturday.
2. Notre Dame (10-1) beat Western Kentucky 94-53. Next: at No. 19 Marquette, Sat.
3. Louisville (11-0) did not play. Next: at Central Michigan, Thursday.
4. Mississippi State (10-1) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday.
5. Maryland (10-0) did not play. Next: at Delaware, Thursday.
6. Baylor (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Monday.
7. Oregon (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Air Force, Thursday.
8. Stanford (7-1) did not play. Next: at Buffalo, Saturday.
9. Tennessee (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Chattanooga, Friday.
10. N.C. State (11-0) did not play. Next: at Chattanooga, Friday.
11. Oregon State (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Duke, Thursday.
12. Texas (7-2) did not play. Next: at Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Thursday.
13. Minnesota (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Saturday.
14. California (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 UConn, Saturday.
15. Syracuse (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Duquesne, Friday.
16. Iowa (9-2) did not play. Next: at Drake, Friday.
17. Arizona State (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Fresno State, Thursday.
18. Kentucky (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Murray State, Friday.
19. Marquette (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 2 Notre Dame, Saturday.
20. DePaul (8-3) did not play. Next: at Loyola of Chicago, Thursday.
21. Gonzaga (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Idaho, Thursday.
22. Michigan State (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. FAU, Thursday.
23. Texas A&M (9-2) beat Southern Cal 71-51. Next: vs. Prairie View A&M, Friday.
24. Miami (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Thursday.
25. South Carolina (6-4) did not play. Next: vs. Temple, Friday.

MEN'S SCORES

MIDWEST	Gardner-Webb 106, Brevard College 29	Valparaiso 68, Bowling Green 71
Augustana (SD) 83, Peru St. 86	Wayne St. 86, NC-Wilm. 71	Villanova 53, St. Mary's 49
Cent. Michigan 81, UMKC 72	Grambling St. 69, SE Louisiana 68	Wayne (Neb.) 64, Midland 53
Cleveland St. 82, Niagara 70	Memphis 99, UALR 89	Holy Cross 61, Manhattan 53
Coe 86, Belmont 63	Miami 80, Houston Baptist 73	Northwood (N.H.) 68, Navy 67
Davenport 103, Goshen 52	Mississippi St. 98, Wofford 87	Pinceton 83, UT 61
Penn St. W. 109, Michigan 72	NC St. 78, Auburn 71	Francis Brooklyn 64
Drake 76, Rider 58	Old Dom. 63, Richmond 54	Providence 66, Pepperdine 47
Hillsdale 84, Lourdes 74	CS Northridge 52, Virginia Tech 58	Quinnipiac 65, Richmond 48
Indiana 86, Cent. Arkansas 51	Truett-McConnell 54	St. Francis (Pa.) 83
Kansas St. 50, Miss. 61	S. Alabama 79, Ala A&M 67	Morehead St. 83
Lawrence 65, Wisc. Luth. 55	Tennessee 83, Samford 70	SOUTH
Madonna 82, Grace Bible 81	W. Kentucky 54, Carolina 52	of Charleston 79
Mech. Tech 69, Winona St. 50	Virginia Tech 58, NC A&T 60	Charleston Southern 52
Miss. St. Moorhead 87, Northern St. (SD) 69	Lamar 80, Texas S. 72	East Carolina 61, Longwood 52
Mount St. Joseph 63, Hope 62	Texas A&M 71, Valparaiso 49	Florida Gulf Coast 93, Coppin State 61
N. Dakota 50, Northland 43	Arizona 61, Montana 42	Georgia 77, Lipscomb 45
Omaha 85, UCSB 74	NC State 52, Virginia Tech 58	La Salle 74, N. Kentucky 56
Saint Louis 74, NC Central 65	Utah 78, Utah St. 77	McNeese St. 86
Spring Arbor 72, Dearborn 51	WEST	W. Kentucky 54, Carolina 52
Toledo 86, Cornell 70	Arizona 61, Montana 42	Purdue 53, Albany (NY) 41
Uc Irvine 52, E. Michigan 48	Utah 78, Utah St. 77	UCLA 78, UC 47
Wichita St. 84, Oral Roberts 63	WOMEN'S SCORES	

EAST

Delaware St. 73, Delaware 71	Fairleigh Dickinson 83, St. Peter's 74	Hofstra 71, Stony Brook 64	Lafayette 95, Rosemont 54	Marrist 58, New Hampshire 49	Penn St. 73, Duquesne 87	Quinnipiac 87, Beth-Cook 63	Seton Hall 90, Sacred Heart 75	St. John's 86, St. Francis 52	SOUTH
Belmont 80, W. Kentucky 74	California Baptist 79, S. U. 76	FAU 76, Florida College 64	Fla. Gulf Coast 87, Keiser 85	Florida St. 95, N. Florida 81					

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL	AMERICAN LEAGUE	NATIONAL LEAGUE	NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION	FOOTBALL
White Sox: Agreed to terms with C James McCann on a one-year contract.	Houston: Agreed to terms with OF Michael Brantley on a two-year contract.	Arizona: Named Joe Garagiola Jr. special adviser to the president and CEO.	Milwaukee: Signed RHP Chris Dula to a minor league contract.	NATIONAL LEAGUE Arizona: Named Joe Garagiola Jr. special adviser to the president and CEO.
Basketball Sacramento: Assigned F Harry Giles to Stockton (NBALG). Transferred F Troy Williams to Stockton.	National Football League Arizona: Released OL Justin Evans from practice squad. Activated WR on injured reserve. Signed CB Craig Mager.	Defeat: Placed RB Kerry Johnson on injured reserve. Released G Saliesi.	Utafe: Placed RB Kyrion Johnson on injured reserve. Activated RB Frank Gore on injured reserve. Signed DT Kendrick Norton.	N.Y. Giants: Placed DB Antonio Hamilton on injured reserve. Activated WR on injured reserve. Signed DT Kendrick Norton.

ALLIANCE OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL

San Diego: Named Eric Allen defensive backs coach and Lamont Jordan running backs coach.	Hockey NHL: Fined St. Louis D Vince Dunn \$1,942.20 for cross-checking Edmonton F Juhar Khaira.	Arizona: Assigned G Adin Hail and F Connor Garland to Tucson (AHL).	Dallas: Reassigned D Joel Hanley to Texas (AHL).	N.Y. Islanders: Recalled D Devon Toews from Bridgeport (AHL).
Tampa Bay: Signed C Gabriel Fortier to a three-year, entry-level contract.	Olympic Sports U.S. Anti-Doping Agency: Announced American gymnast Laura Zeng has accepted a six-month suspension for an anti-doping rule violation.	Soccer Major League Soccer LA: Re-signed M Chris Pontius.	Orlando: Traded G Earl Edwards Jr. to D.C. United for a 2019 second-round draft pick.	Philadelphia: Traded D Keegan Rosenberry to Colorado for general and targeted allocation money.
Chicago: Named Rusty Wright football coach.	Michigan: LB Devin Bush will enter the NFL draft.	North Carolina: Signed men's basketball coach Roy Williams to an eight-year contract extension through the 2027-28 season.	Val: Named Brendan Faherty women's soccer coach.	

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE Wolverhampton vs. Liverpool 2	SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE Arsenal vs. Burnley, 6:30 a.m.	SUNDAY, Dec. 26 Fulham vs. Wolverhampton, 6:30 a.m.
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WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia 10, Austin 9	Lakeland 109, Maine 107	Iowa 113, Westchester 106
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THURSDAY'S SCHEDULE

Atlanta at Carolina, noon	Philadelphia at Philadelphia, noon	N.Y. Giants at Indianapolis, noon (CBS-2)
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FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Atlanta at Carolina, noon	Philadelphia at Philadelphia, noon	N.Y. Giants at Indianapolis, noon (CBS-2)
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SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Washington at Tennessee, 3:30 (NFLN)	Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, 7:20 (NFLN)	SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE
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MONDAY'S SCHEDULE

Denver at Oakland, 7:15 (ESPN)	WEEK 17
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TUESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Bears at Minnesota, noon	Green Bay at N.Y. Jets, noon	Cleveland at Baltimore, noon
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WEDNESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Carolina at New Orleans, noon	N.Y. Jets at New England, noon	Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, noon
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THURSDAY'S SCHEDULE

Detroit at Green Bay, noon	Indianapolis at Tennessee, noon	Philadelphia at Washington, noon
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FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, 7:20 (NFLN)	Atlanta at Carolina, noon	Philadelphia at Philadelphia, noon
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SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Washington at Tennessee, 3:30 (NFLN)	Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, 7:20 (NFLN)	SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE
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MONDAY'S SCHEDULE

Denver at Oakland, 7:15 (ESPN)	WEEK 16
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TUESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Bears at Minnesota, noon	Green Bay at N.Y. Jets, noon	Cleveland at Baltimore, noon
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WEDNESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Carolina at New Orleans, noon	N.Y. Jets at New England, noon	Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, noon</
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FOOTBALL



RICK ULREICH/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Four-star quarterback Isaiah Williams of St. Louis is one of the highest-rated players Illinois has signed in the recruiting rankings era.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SIGNING DAY

The future is now

Notre Dame, Northwestern and Illinois are high on the potential of their recruiting classes through the first day of the early signing period, especially the Irish, who restocked their offensive and defensive lines as part of their 13th-ranked group

Notre Dame

Early signees: 21.
Class rank: 13th nationally.
Top of the class: The Irish emphasized the offensive and defensive lines, adding four four-star offensive linemen in Quinn Carroll, Zeke Correll, John Olmstead and Andrew Kristofic. Carroll is the top-rated player in Minnesota. “They all had to have an edge to them,” coach Brian Kelly said. Notre Dame also signed four four-star defensive linemen — NaNa Osafo-Mensah, Jacob Lacey, Hunter Spears and Howard Cross — and four-star safety Kyle Hamilton, the highest-rated player in the class (No. 103 nationally). “We just love his versatility, his no-nonsense approach — he sent all the right messages that this was a great fit for us,” Kelly said of the 6-foot-3, 190-pound Hamilton. “We loved his film and we loved the fact that he fit.”

Hidden gems: Marist Liufau was the final player to sign. The three-star linebacker attends Punahou, the same Honolulu school that produced Manti Te'o. “He’s a guy that’s going to develop,” Kelly said. “He’s not ready to come in and start, but he is a guy that is going to develop into a great player here.” ... Three-star wide receiver Kendall Abdur-Rahman will make a position switch after playing quarterback at Edwardsville, Ill. “We really liked his football knowledge,” Kelly said.

Work to do: Kelly didn’t want to divulge a specific number but said the Irish “created some more room to add to this list.” Linebacker Asa Turner is one possibility. The four-star recruit is committed to Washington but announced Wednesday he is taking more time to decide between the Huskies and Irish. Notre Dame is also in the running for four-star defensive end Isaiah Foskey.

The quote: “Offensive line (and) defensive line were the immediate focus,” Kelly said. “And then we were looking for length and athleticism on defense. And from an offensive standpoint, continue to build the speed on the perimeter.”

— LaMond Pope

Northwestern

Early signees: 18.
Class rank: 45th nationally, 11th in Big Ten.

Top of the class: Receivers Bryce Kirtz (6-0, 180) and Genson Hooper Price (6-5, 206) headline the class with Batavia linebacker Michael Jansey. Hooper Price, who has run 100 meters in 10.57 seconds, turned down the likes of Notre Dame and Nebraska. Kirtz played at Indiana’s Brownsburg High School, which produced quarterback Hunter Johnson, the transfer from Clemson expected to take over for Clayton Thorson next season. NU coach Pat Fitzgerald called Jansey “instinctual, real physical and from a great family.” He said Hooper Price is “really explosive, a guy who can do it all. He has a chance to be an instant impact player. He has top-end speed, great hands and can be used in a lot of ways.”

Hidden gems: Cornerback Rod Heard wasn’t ranked that high nationally (903rd), but he received an offer from in-state Michigan and will enroll early, joining the program next month. ... Bryce Gallagher, brother of NU standout linebacker Blake Gallagher, was the first in the 2019 class to commit. He’s also a top student who was sought by Duke, Vanderbilt and Boston College.

Work to do: This class has no running backs, so Northwestern could add one in February. But Isaiah Bowser is a freshman and Drake Anderson will redshirt, giving him four more seasons.

The quote: Fitzgerald on New Trier defensive tackle Duke Olges (6-4, 242): “Duke is a big kid, really physical. He was a two-way player in high school that we will start on the D-line. I like his athleticism and size potential. He’s a really good baseball player too. As we were evaluating, the question was: Can he get big enough? And then all of a sudden we see him in May and it’s: Oh, he’s big enough now.”

— Teddy Greenstein

Illinois

Early signees: 11.
Class rank: 67th nationally, 13th in Big Ten.

Top of the class: Four-star cornerback Marquez Beason (No. 84 nationally) of Duncanville, Texas, and four-star quarterback Isaiah Williams (No. 109) of St. Louis are the eighth- and ninth-highest-rated players to sign with Illinois in the recruiting rankings era, according to 247Sports.com. Beason, the No. 14 prospect in Texas, chose Illinois over Nebraska, Arizona, Arizona State and Arkansas. “He and his family bought into what we were saying and what we were building,” coach Lovie Smith said. ... Illinois got big news Wednesday when Belleville West defensive end Keith Randolph, the No. 9 player in the state, picked the Illini over Michigan State and late pushes from Florida State and Colorado. “Illinois was on me since day one,” the 6-5, 270-pound Randolph told reporters.

Hidden gems: The signing of Seth Coleman, a three-star defensive end from Melbourne, Fla., was a relief for the Illini. Utah had made an aggressive push for Coleman, who committed to Illinois in July. ... The Illini also held off a late charge from Texas Tech for Kyron Cumbly, a 5-8, 175-pound running back from Plano, Texas. ... Griffin Moore (6-4, 225 pounds) played quarterback at Bloomington, Ill., but Illinois recruited him as a tight end.

Work to do: The Illini will focus on closing with four-star linebacker Shammond Cooper, who played at Trinity Catholic in St. Louis with Williams. The No. 5 prospect in Missouri, the 6-2, 195-pound Cooper also has offers from Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri. Illinois will also look to the transfer market to add depth on the offensive line and perhaps at wide receiver. With only eight seniors on scholarship this past season, the Illini expected to have a small class, and the group that signed Wednesday would rank 31st nationally by average rating.

The quote: “I feel like this class will change Illinois football,” Smith said.

— Shannon Ryan

Q&A WITH CHARGERS RB JUSTIN JACKSON

Ex-NU star having fun in the sun

By **TEDDY GREENSTEIN**
Chicago Tribune

Justin Jackson’s life hasn’t changed much since he went from anonymous special teamer to starting running back for the Chargers.

“A few more media requests,” he said. And idiots like me thanking him for the fantasy points.

Top dog Melvin Gordon (knee) and primary backup Austin Ekeler (neck/concussion) could return for Saturday night’s game against the Ravens. Or Jackson could continue to be the featured back after averaging 5 yards per carry with two touchdowns and 69 receiving yards over his last four games.

The Chargers’ regular season ends Dec. 30 in Denver. Conveniently enough, Northwestern’s bowl game is Dec. 31 in San Diego, about 90 miles from where Jackson stays in Newport Beach, Calif. Assuming his schedule allows, Jackson will reconnect with his former NU teammates at the Holiday Bowl, in which the Wildcats take on Utah.

Jackson shared some thoughts in an interview with the Tribune:

Is the thrill of winning an NFL game any different from college?

We get a little more media coverage than we did at Northwestern. In that sense, it’s a little bigger. But as far as the elation of winning a close game, I don’t think it matters what level you’re on. The big games we won at Northwestern, that feeling of getting to hang with your guys, it’s amazing. Even going back to high school basketball (at Glenbard North).

The end of your win over the Chiefs on Thursday was wild. Did you know you would go for two with four seconds to play?

I didn’t. I don’t think anyone on the offense knew. Our kicker ran on, the holder ran on, but the long snapper never did. Coach (Anthony) Lynn put up two fingers. We all said: “Let’s do it. Let’s go get this.” I had to block the (left) edge. I kept running my feet, making sure my guy (Chiefs defensive back Daniel Sorensen) didn’t ruin stuff for us. I saw Phil (Rivers) throwing out of the corner of my eye and I saw Mike (Williams) open. I said, “No (bleeping) way!” We came back from 14 down. During the game (in Kansas City) it was so loud, I literally could not hear some of what Phil said. I’d go right next to him and have him yell the protection in my ear ... To hear the crowd go silent (after the game), wow.

Is the NFL game way more complicated than college?

It’s just deeper. More checks, different types of coverages, more blitzes. But at the end of the day, it’s still football — run where they’re not and try not to get tackled.

What’s your take on Northwestern this season?

Man. Crazy year. We were resilient. We lost probably our best player (tailback Jeremy Larkin, who medically retired) and had Clayton (Thorson) coming off a knee injury. All those close games, we gritted it out. So many guys stepped up — (Isaiah) Bowser, the young DBs, (superback) Cam Green.

Bowser averaged 100-plus yards over the final seven games. Did you guys talk during the season?

Yes. He got there early (in January), so I know him a little bit. I actually coached him when he was here at camp, between my sophomore and junior year. He did so well that they offered (a scholarship). Coach Mac (Matt MacPherson) came up to me and asked me about him. I said for his size, he is really athletic. He is going to have a great career. He is so durable and runs through contact.

Do you think Thorson can make it in the pros?

A lot of people don’t understand how tough it is to come back from an injury like that. You’re a quarterback and people are always around your legs. He battled a lot of adversity and came out on top. He definitely has a future in the league. He has all the tools and the right mindset. He just needs to get in the right system and learn from a vet.

Do you see similarities between him and Trevor Siemian (now backing up Kirk Cousins with the Vikings)?

They’re both great dudes. As far as preparation, Trev is an extremely smart guy. Same with Clayton; I lived with him. Football-wise they’re a little different. Trev is very savvy in the pocket but does not have as strong an arm. He is very calculating with his throws. Clayton has more raw talent; his ceiling is really high.

Did you give Melvin Gordon a hard time after Northwestern beat Wisconsin?

Oh, yeah, him and (fullback) Derek Watt. My coach (Alfredo Roberts) also likes to troll. We have a great room. They make it fun.

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Huskies sack master Smith leaving for NFL draft

By **SHANNON RYAN**
Chicago Tribune

Northern Illinois defensive end Sutton Smith, an All-America selection the last two seasons, announced he will forgo his fifth year of eligibility.

“I’m sincerely grateful to NIU, the entire coaching staff (and) my teammates for their support,” he wrote in a Twitter post Wednesday morning, about 10 hours after the Huskies lost to UAB 37-13 in the Boca Raton Bowl. “I’m excited to represent NIU in my next chapter.”

The redshirt junior finished the season with 15 sacks — tied for the FBS lead — and

an FBS-best 26 ½ tackles for a loss.

The 6-foot-1, 237-pound Smith, from St. Charles, Mo., won the Vern Smith Leadership Award — given to the Mid-American Conference’s top player — and earned his second consecutive MAC Defensive Player of the Year award in leading NIU to its first conference title since 2014.

He had five tackles, including two for a loss, Tuesday against UAB. The Huskies finished 8-6.

Huskies sign 16: NIU unveiled a 16-player recruiting class on the first day of the early signing period that included 11 in-state prospects. Among them were Nazareth

athlete Michael Love — the younger brother of Notre Dame All-America cornerback Julian Love — and Phillips wide receiver Fabian McCray, a former Illinois commitment.

Four of the signees — Kenwood defensive back Mark Aitken, Oswego East wide receiver Justin Clark, former Glenbard North defensive back Tyrik Henderson (who spent this fall at a prep school in Connecticut) and former Homewood-Flossmoor wide receiver Tyrice Richie (a junior-college transfer) — are expected to be early enrollees.

sryan@chicagotribune.com Twitter @sryantribune

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —

STICKER SHOCK

5 of top 6 best-paid QBs likely to watch cheaper counterparts in playoffs

BY ADAM KILGORE | Washington Post

Late last summer, near the conclusion of training camp, a reporter asked Bears general manager Ryan Pace about his team's window of contention. How cognizant was Pace of not only building for the future with a second-year quarterback but also attempting to win immediately, before Mitch Trubisky's bargain rookie deal grew more expensive?

"That is something we internally talk about," Pace replied. "There's no question, the obvious advantages to that, versus going out and signing. In a perfect world, any franchise would want to hit on a young, drafted quarterback, as opposed to maybe hitting on it in free agency, where the financial part is different."

Less than a week later, the Bears traded two first-round draft picks for Khalil Mack and made him the highest-paid defensive player in the NFL. It was the ultimate win-now-and-forget-tomorrow move, and the Bears had the financial capacity to pull it off in large part because they needed to pay Trubisky a small fraction of their salary cap, his salary suppressed for five years by the collectively bargained rookie pay scale.

Sunday afternoon, Pace's plan reached fruition. The Bears beat the Packers 24-17 at Soldier Field to claim the NFC North title for the first time in eight years. The Bears were an 8-to-1 long shot to win the division before the season, but they believed now was their time. The season validated their belief, and the underlying reason they won is the same reason they were overlooked.

For so long, NFL conventional wisdom demanded that only teams with elite quarterbacks could be Super Bowl contenders. But teams don't need an experienced, elite, big-money quarterback to win. In fact, they may be better off without one.

Last week, a factoid tweeted by the NFL's research department spread around social media. Five of the six highest-paid NFL quarterbacks based on average annual value — Aaron Rodgers, Matt Ryan, Jimmy Garoppolo, Matthew Stafford and Derek Carr — are in line to miss the playoffs. And Kirk Cousins, the other member of the top six, has the Vikings clinging to the second wild-card spot in the NFC.

The graphic was slightly disingenuous: Garoppolo tore his left ACL in Week 3, costing him the remainder of the season. It was also slightly arbitrary: Drew Brees, the seventh-highest paid quarterback, has led the Saints to the best record in the NFC and may win the MVP.

The overall point was accurate. The NFL's most valuable commodity is a capable quarterback on his rookie contract. It allows teams to build strong, deep rosters.

More than ever, it does not force teams to pay a prohibitive penalty for not playing an elite player at the sport's most important position.

The Eagles won the Super Bowl last year with backup quarterback Nick Foles after second-year starter Carson Wentz went down with an injury. As the playoff picture stands, three of the four teams with byes — the Chiefs (Patrick Mahomes), the Texans (Deshaun Watson) and the Rams (Jared Goff) — start a quarterback on a rookie contract.

New rules and new schematic innovations, both benefiting offense, have made playing quarterback easier than at any point in recent league history. With that, the value of an elite quarterback has decreased, to the point that it may be better to employ a merely competent one at a cheap price.

The current NFL environment diminishes the advantage of having one of the best quarterbacks in the league. The chasm between players like Rodgers and players like Goff even a few seasons ago could not be closed through building a better roster around the quarterback. Now, the gap can be closed and tilted toward the lesser quarterback.

The importance of rookie-deal quarterbacks has shaped the 2018 season. Trubisky and Goff lead teams that have clinched division titles. Watson, Mahomes and the Cowboys' Dak Prescott have their teams leading three other divisions. The Ravens have gone 4-1 since Lamar Jackson replaced Joe Flacco. The Browns might be playoff contenders had Baker Mayfield not been saddled with Hue Jackson as his coach for half a season.

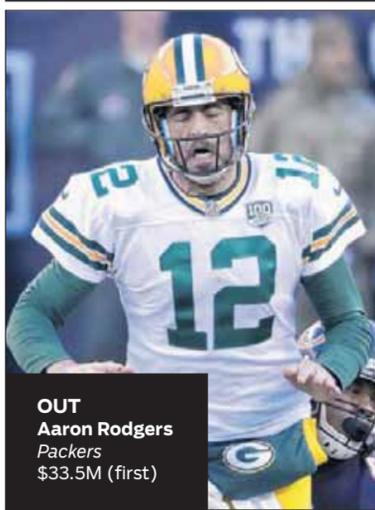
Quarterbacks are coming into a league filled with coaches open to implementing concepts borrowed from college with which they can find comfort. They're facing rushers who can't hit them high, low or late. They're throwing to receivers more protected from helmet-to-helmet contact. All of the factors leading to historic offensive output across the league double as factors that make quarterback a simpler position to play.

Trubisky's circumstances illustrate the point perfectly. For all of his dazzling physical attributes, Trubisky struggles with making quick decisions and throwing accurate passes.

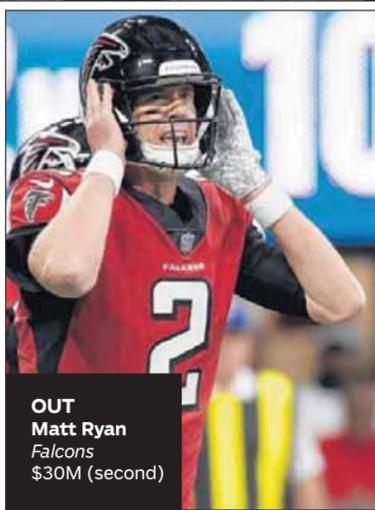
But the Bears had the resources to build a stellar defense, which took pressure off him. They could spend money on free agent receiving targets Allen Robinson, Trey Burton and Taylor Gabriel. They hired a coach, Matt Nagy, who uses wildly creative schemes that help simplify Trubisky's job.



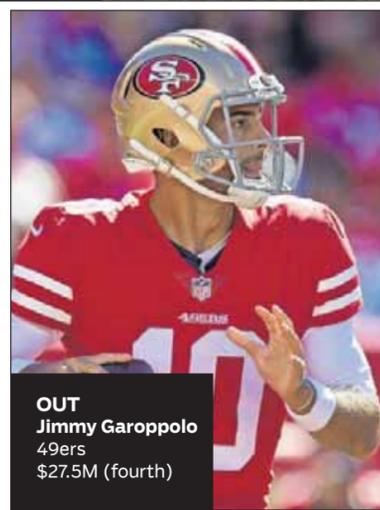
IN (CLINCHED NFC NORTH)
Mitch Trubisky
Bears
\$7.26M (average value, ranked 26th)



OUT
Aaron Rodgers
Packers
\$33.5M (first)



OUT
Matt Ryan
Falcons
\$30M (second)



OUT
Jimmy Garoppolo
49ers
\$27.5M (fourth)



OUT
Matthew Stafford
Lions
\$27M (fifth)



OUT
Derek Carr
Raiders
\$25M (sixth)

Sunday afternoon, Trubisky faced Rodgers, the highest-paid and perhaps most talented quarterback in the NFL. The Packers had a lesser roster, and they had fired coach Mike McCarthy two weeks ago. Rodgers has not had his best season, diminished by the knee injury he suffered in the season opener, but no one questions his talent. Trubisky's Bears won to clinch the

division and officially knock the Packers out. "There's no denying, there's obviously a benefit to (a quarterback on his rookie deal) financially," Pace said back in the summer. "But I think first and foremost, when you talk about building around a young quarterback, we know you can't win consistently without a quarterback. You might have a flash year or maybe two, but nothing is ever

going to be consistent. You can hit on a lot of positions, but unless you hit on a quarterback, and until you get that right, the rest of it is not right."

Trubisky has his flaws, but in this NFL, it's becoming clear that the right quarterback isn't necessarily the best quarterback. It's the one that lets you build a contender around him.

Salary data source: overthecap.com

GETTY, AP AND CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —

Thompson glad to make 'Birdies for the Brave' trip

BY DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

Right about the time Kyle Thompson was ready to abandon his struggles on the PGA Tour, he jumped at a chance to give back.

Thompson was on the practice range at the Wyndham Championship, where the only way to keep his full card was to win, when he received an email from the PGA Tour looking for players who wanted to travel to Djibouti, Africa, in December to visit the troops.

"The email said the first five who want to do this trip to Africa get to go," Thompson said. "Before talking to my wife, I said, 'I'm going.' I come from a big military family, and I thought it would be really neat."

It lived up to his expectations.

Thompson joined David Hearn of Canada, Kris Blanks, Shaun Micheel and Billy Hurley III, a surface warfare officer in the Navy and the only player from a service academy to win on the PGA Tour.

They met with the troops at Camp Lemonnier, a forward deployed military base in a country on the Gulf of Aden that shares a border with Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. They saw the operations, gave a golf clinic and individual lessons to anyone who wanted them and even had a trivia night. It was part of the tour's "Birdies for the Brave" program. This trip was mainly about boosting morale and showing support.

"Not one person was unimpressive," Thompson said. "The coolest thing was a lot of these guys were in the reserves. The commanding officer works for Dell. The No. 2 guy works at Booz Allen. And they've been stationed over there for a year."

Thompson's military history runs deep. His grandfather was wounded on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion, which is how he met his wife, a nurse. Five of their 11 children served in the military. His maternal grandfather was a prisoner of war in a Japanese camp during World War II.

The other players also had military connections. Blanks grew up on military bases until he graduated high school. Hearn's grandfather was in the Canadian Army during World War II. Micheel's father was a cryptologist who worked on behalf of the Air Force Security Service.

Thompson was overwhelmed by the operation, and thankful to have Hurley along to explain.

"They speak in acronyms that go over my head," Thompson said.

Thompson returned home to a future that won't include much golf. He decided to retire after making just two cuts this year. It was his third full season on the PGA Tour, and Thompson failed to keep his card each time. With three kids (ages 9, 7 and 2) and a wife who has endured Thompson grinding away in a sport with no guarantees, the 39-year-old didn't want to lose any more time with them. He starts a job as an insurance broker in January.

"This golf thing is stressful," he said. "I'm done with golf, to be honest with you. I'll be a part-time pro golfer."

Unless, of course, the tour calls offering another trip to be with the troops.

"If ever asked to do it again, I'd drop everything in a heartbeat," he said.

Masters field: Ian Poulter, the last man into the Masters this year, won't have to wait until the final week to make plans for Augusta National. He was among 13 players who earned an invitation by finishing the year among the top 50 in the world ranking.

The other dozen not otherwise eligible except through the world ranking were Alex Noren, Tyrrell Hatton, Rafa Cabrera-Bello, Eddie Pepperell, Kiradech Aphibarnrat, Matt Fitzpatrick, Li Haotong, Thorbjorn Olesen, Matt Wallace, Lucas Bjerregaard, Emiliano Grillo and Branden Grace.

That brings the field to 79 players who are expected to compete, one fewer than at this time a year ago. And it virtually assures the club of having fewer than 100 players at the Masters, which Augusta National prefers.

Players can get into the Masters by winning a PGA Tour event that



ERIC RISBERG/AP

One of Kyle Thompson's last hurrahs as a full-time pro golfer was his chance to visit a military base in Africa to show support for the troops.



WILLIAM WEST/GETTY-AFP

Ian Poulter earned an invitation to the Masters by finishing the year among the top 50 in the world ranking.

offers full FedEx Cup points or through top 50 in the world ranking on March 31, the week after the Dell Match Play in Austin, Texas.

In the five years since the PGA Tour went to a wraparound schedule, players have earned a Masters invitation by winning early in the year only 19 times out of 65 opportunities. Russell Henley did it twice (Honda Classic in 2014, Houston Open in 2017). Matt Every did it in consecutive years at the same tournament (Bay Hill).

Four of those early tournaments have not produced a winner that wasn't already eligible for the Masters — the Tournament of Champions, Sony Open and both World Golf Championships. The Tournament of Champions has

four opposite-field winners and Ted Potter Jr. who are not yet in the Masters.

Golf on TV:

PGA Tour Live, the direct-to-consumer subscription video service that offers live streaming of featured group, is beefing up its product and will be part of NBC Sports Gold starting in January. The cost for the year is \$49.99 (or \$9.99 a month) if bought by Jan. 20. After that, a season pass goes for \$64.99.

The product will have double the amount of hours and more than twice as many supported platforms compared with 2018, along with expanding live coverage to all four days at 27 tournaments outside of the majors. It also will such features as

10-minute "speed round" recaps for featured players, Shot Tracer on every hole on the golf course and integrated scoring and statistics.

Back in the crowd: Keegan Bradley ended more than six years without a PGA Tour victory at the BMW Championship, and there were plenty of low points along the way.

The biggest was not being invited to dinner for prospective Ryder Cup players in late February.

Sure, it hurt to be left off the last four U.S. teams in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup. He had to go through U.S. Open qualifying the last two years (made it both times), and it really stunk to be home the first full week in April

instead of playing in the Masters in each of the last two years.

But there was one moment when it hit him just how far he had fallen.

"There was a point as early as last year, even two years ago, I was involved in some of the Ryder Cup meetings. I was invited," Bradley said. "This past year at one of the tournaments, I heard a couple guys talking and I realized I wasn't even invited — nor did I deserve to be. It was like, 'Wow. I've come pretty far there.' Now I'm not in the conversation. Those times hurt."

Divots: Thanks to "PGA Tour Live" streaming featured pairings, the PGA Tour has on video all 59 of Brandt Snedeker's shots from the Wyndham Championship. It is the only sub-60 round in PGA Tour history with video of every shot. In other cases, cameras didn't pick up a player until the middle of his magical round. ... The 3M Open in Minnesota got its first big commitment when Bryson DeChambeau said he would play next summer. The inaugural tournament at the TPC Twin Cities is July 4-7, two weeks before the British Open. ... The BBC named British Open champion and Ryder Cup star Francesco Molinari its "World Sport Star of the Year" last week. The main award is "Sports Personality of the Year," which went to Welsh cyclist Geraint Thomas. Only two golfers have won SPOTY — Nick Faldo in 1989 and Dai Rees in 1957.

State of the week: Brooks Koepka is the sixth straight player to end the year at No. 1, a streak that began with Tiger Woods in 2013.

Final word: "Never watched it. I'd rather buy two shares of General Electric and invest those and have a long-term investment than pay \$20 to watch that." — Greg Norman, on the pay-per-view match between Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

Chicago Tribune
A+E
 ARTS+ENTERTAINMENT



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Senior industrial engineer Igor Zemskov disassembles a prototype in the Radio Flyer prototype shop in the company's Chicago home office on Dec. 10.

BUILDING A BETTER WAGON

Inside Chicago's Radio Flyer prototype shop

BY CHRISTOPHER BORRELLI
 Chicago Tribune

At the western edge of Chicago, across from an Old Country Buffet and within barking distance of a PetSmart, the prototype shop at Radio Flyer toils in anonymity. Or rather, as much anonymity as you can have when you work inside a large modernist glass rectangle washed in natural light, with a Godzilla-sized toy red wagon on your front lawn. Here, on this property, for a century, the classic red wagon has been developed. And developed. Then developed some more. You'd think they would have figured it out by now. "But we're slow learners," said Robert Pasin, Radio Flyer's chief wagon officer. That's his actual title. He's the closest thing Radio Flyer

has to a Santa Claus. His grandfather, Antonio Pasin, founded the company in 1917 (initially as Liberty Coaster) after arriving from Italy three years earlier (he died in 1990). Antonio was a carpenter who made grape presses for Italian immigrants in Chicago still longing for home; a decade later, his company was stamping out 1,500 little red wagons every day, and from this very building, which has stood in the Belmont Cragin neighborhood, in various iterations, for decades. Antonio's wagons are still fine-tuned daily inside its prototype shop, which is found behind a large white door at the

Editor's note
 This is the second in a three-part series about toy-making in the Chicago area.

Turn to **Toys**, Page 4



KATHLEEN BALLARD

Penny Marshall, left, and Cindy Williams in 1976, the year "Laverne & Shirley" first aired on ABC.

APPRECIATION

Marshall blazed her own trail with authenticity

BY ROBERT LLOYD
 Los Angeles Times

In terms of historical importance, Penny Marshall's career as a film director — her "Big" was the first picture by a woman to gross more than \$100 million at the U.S. box office — overshadows her work as an actress, mostly in television. Yet millions unaware that she ever directed a movie will remember her fondly as Laverne DeFazio, friend, roommate and coworker to Cindy Williams' Shirley Feeney in the sitcom "Laverne &

Shirley," which ran on ABC from 1976 to 1983. Many will remember her as well as Oscar Madison's secretary Myrna on "The Odd Couple," and some for a few appearances on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," or as a regular in the short-lived "Paul Sand in Friends and Lovers." Before and after "Laverne," with greater and lesser regularity, until her final appearance, in 2016, on an episode of the rebooted "Odd Couple," Marshall remained a television presence.

Turn to **Marshall**, Page 5

BEST OF THE ARTS 2018 Museums

Troll sentries, Mexican art leave lasting impressions

BY STEVE JOHNSON
 Chicago Tribune

Chicago's museums and nature parks always have a lot going on, but the year that is about to pass has been an unusually vibrant one.

Major institutions celebrated milestone anniversaries, with the Art Institute and Field Museum marking year 125 and Lincoln Park Zoo topping them by a quarter century. The Field took the occasion to make over its massive central hall and relocate its signature T. rex, two thoughtful and effective updates that made my Top 10 exhibitions list, below.

The venerable Newberry Library, in the 125th anniversary year of its headquarters building, unveiled a renovation of that structure designed to make the institution more friendly to the public. For the first time, temporary exhibitions are joined by a display of items from the rich and quirky permanent collection; the first display included, yes, aged books, but also a pussy



MORTON ARBORETUM

"Troll Hunt" was created by recycled wood artist Thomas Dambo.

hat from the 2017 Women's March.

The Chicago Architecture Foundation, renowned for making people look upward through its vibrant menu of tours, opened a new headquarters and building museum, the Chicago Architecture Center, along the Chicago River.

Also on the river, Art on the Mart kicked off its nightly curated light show projected onto the south facade of the hulking Merchandise Mart, visible from the Riverwalk across the way.

And up in Lincoln Park, philanthropist Fred Eychaner

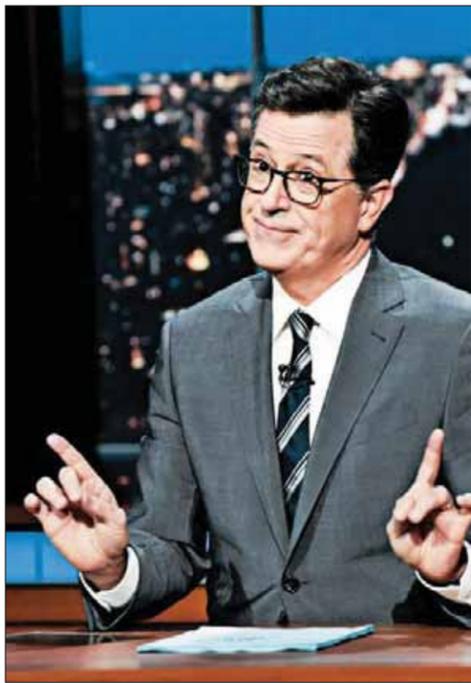
opened Wrightwood 659 (guess the address), a sleek new space designed by Japanese master Tadao Ando that will focus on architecture exhibitions. The first spotlighted Ando and his lodestar, Le Corbusier.

A big temporary exhibition devoted to all things "Hamilton" (the play and the man) threatened to temporarily join the Museum Campus on Northerly Island, but then was postponed until the start of milder weather in 2019. "Hamilton: The Exhibition" is not throwing away its

Turn to **Museums**, Page 4

CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services



SCOTT KOWALCHYK/AP

"The Late Show" host Stephen Colbert has made light of various situations at CBS in recent months.

Colbert mocks former CBS CEO

Leslie Moonves was known to take an active dislike of David Letterman making fun of him during that host's tenure on CBS' "The Late Show." He probably isn't enjoying being mentioned by Stephen Colbert either.

Colbert used his monologue on Tuesday's broadcast to poke fun at the former CBS Corp. CEO, who recently learned that the board of his former company had decided not to pay him \$120 million in severance after investigating claims of unwanted sexual harassment made against him by various women. Moonves has said he never engaged in any nonconsensual behavior.

"Every show he's greenlit for the last 20 years was about investigations," Colbert said about Moonves, adding, "On the bright side, CBS has enough material for a new program: 'NCIS: Human Resources.'"

Colbert also considered what might happen to the money previously earmarked for Moonves.

"I'm pretty sure it goes to me," he said. "I get half of it, the other half goes to Tom Selleck's mustache."

Colbert has not been shy about addressing various situations at CBS in recent months. When Charlie Rose was ousted from "CBS This Morning" after claims were made about sexual harassment, Colbert made fun of him in his monologue as well.

— Variety



RICHARD SHOTWELL/INVISION

Newton-John memoir: Olivia Newton-John's autobiography, released last fall in her longtime home Australia, comes out in the U.S. in 2019. Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced Tuesday that "Don't Stop Believin'" would be published March 12. The book will include a new afterword by the award-winning singer and actress. The 70-year-old said in September that she was again being treated for breast cancer.

'Sabrina' renewed: Netflix has renewed "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina." The streamer has ordered another 16 episodes of the series, which will be split into two parts. The new season will begin production in 2019. The series also launched a holiday special, "A Midwinter's Tale," last Friday. "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina the Teenage Witch as a dark coming-of-age story.

'Queer as Folk' reboot in development: Bravo is developing a new version of "Queer as Folk." Russell T. Davies, the creator of the original U.K. series, is aboard the new project as an executive producer. The original "Queer as Folk" ran for 10 episodes between 1999 and 2000 in the U.K. A North American remake was then launched in 2000. That series ran for five seasons and starred Gale Harold, Randy Harrison, Hal Sparks, Peter Paige and Scott Lowell.

Dec. 20 birthdays: Musician Alan Parsons is 70. Country singer Kris Tyler is 54. Singer David Cook is 36. Actor Jonah Hill is 35. Singer JoJo is 28.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Christmas crashers ponder exclusion

Dear Amy: My husband and I live five hours away from our first grandchild. We see him several times a year and have a good relationship with our son and his wife. Our daughter-in-law's parents have a lovely home five minutes from the young couple's apartment.

Last Christmas we basically "crashed" her parents' Christmas midday dinner — our son had given this his OK, but we now realize that was wrong.

Our son even had it out with his mother-in-law last year over this. She responded, "Christmas morning is just for family." In retrospect, we probably shouldn't have made the trip at all, but it was the baby's first Christmas.

So, it is obvious that these people don't think of us as "family," and her parents have failed to invite us to their home — for any length of time — this Christmas when we visit. We always thought we got along just fine with them; we're generous with what we bring and we always offer to help.

We're not sure what, if anything, we're doing wrong. Are we wrong in thinking the other mother-in-law is rude and unmannered? We can't imagine shutting out the other grandparents, especially if they had traveled so far.

Dear Unmerry: You have admitted that "crashing" this couple's home on Christmas was a mistake and that you regretted doing it. Have you told this to them and apologized, in addition to thanking them for hosting you that day? It seems you are leaving

the communication here to your son, and he's not doing a good job. When he invited you to "crash" his in-laws' Christmas meal, you could have contacted them to check: "Danny has invited us to join you at your home on Christmas morning. Are you sure it's OK if we swing by? Can we bring some homemade sweet rolls?"

Of course your son's in-laws should have welcomed you with open arms even if they didn't expect you. But they are no more perfect or well-mannered than you are!

As it is, their current "only family" dictate is going to be hardest on their daughter, who will no doubt become torn and exhausted, racing between her unwelcoming parents and her gate-crashing in-laws on Christmas Day.

You should invite these other parents out for coffee, a drink or a meal during your visit this year. Just the four of you. Your generosity, kindness and good manners might inspire them to behave differently.

Dear Amy: I'm a man. Here's a scenario: I'm going through a door (especially a spring-loaded door) with a woman. I hold it open for her. If the next person is a man, I'm thinking that I release the door for him, and he holds it open for his companion.

What if the next few individuals are women? Do I hold it open for them, until the next man appears, all the while my companion is farther and farther away? Or do I release it at the woman immediately after my companion ... even if she is a woman?

Dear Gentleman: Here's the good news: The world has finally shifted on its cultural axis, and lovely and thoughtful people like you no longer have to worry excessively about gendered door-holding.

Whoever gets to the door first should open it. If the door is especially heavy, or if you instinctively want/need to do this, you should position yourself, or scoot in and say, "Here, let me get this."

The idea being that the stronger/younger/hardier person opens and holds the door, releasing it gently to the next stronger/younger/hardier person who comes along, without regard to gender.

And here's a counterintuitive tip, especially for my wind-blown Chicago friends: When approaching a revolving door, the younger/stronger person should go FIRST. This way you can thoughtfully control the speed of the door, making sure your companion gets through safely.

Dear Amy: I was shocked when you revealed that you had smoked cigarettes and vaped! This is awful, unhealthy and hardly behavior we should expect from someone dispensing advice!

Dear Disappointed: I'm honest about my own frailty and failings. I think it's the only appropriate response to readers who are equally honest, searching and trying to improve.

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Kurt Vile finally feels free to do whatever he wants

By refusing to 'Bottle It In,' his new album does anything but

By JESSI ROTI
Chicago Tribune

Kurt Vile has the amiable ability of sounding like a man wise beyond his years and a mischievous child in the same breath. Many might argue this duality is at the crux of his appeal.

Over the past decade, Vile has grown his fan base by turning out songs — what he calls "psychedelic-roots-American music" — that discuss the banal complexities of living life: knowing where to park for free, feeling like a wet-dry vac coughing up dust bunnies, all with unassuming, dry humor delivered with a slacker drawl.

At least on the surface. With Vile, what you see — the shaggy hair, worn-in

jeans and laid-back vibe — isn't necessarily what you get. That's never been more apparent than on his latest, most ambitious, LP "Bottle It In." A journey through guitar music's long-standing traditions — swirling solos made wonky through a buffet of fuzzy distortions, banjo frills, muted-yet-arena-sized percussion and the singer-songwriter's drawn-out manipulation of words — the album is a far cry from the electronic-driven, sensory-overload bites of pop masquerading as "rock" currently topping the charts.

Clocking in at nearly 90 minutes, "Bottle It In" does anything but.

"I literally felt like I had to put this record out," Vile explains. "Now I feel like I

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave.

Tickets: \$36; www.riviera-theatre.com

can do whatever I want. We'll do this tour, we'll put many other things out and there will be more tours. But I can see it with this band, this record and the people watching — I can do whatever I want from now on. It finally feels real."

Despite being respected by critics and indie fans early on, Vile's major breakthrough came with the release of the single "Pretty Pimpin'" from his sixth album, 2015's "B'lieve I'm goin down..." The track was his first to chart on



JO MCCAUGHEY

Kurt Vile's latest album, "Bottle It In," brings him to Chicago for a show Saturday at the Riv.

Billboard, holding a place for nearly 10 weeks, eventually sitting atop its Adult Alternative rankings in early 2016.

Last year he teamed up with Aussie six-string slinger Courtney Barnett for the "electric campfire" album "Lotta Sea Lice" — which led to a monthlong tour that included three shows in Chicago — and ultimately, him pushing back his own record.

"The thing with Courtney was a side thing that blew up in a good way, you know? At first it was just gonna be an EP or something, but then there was the tour," Vile says. "It came together real nice, working with someone new, it was a special moment. Had I not put that out, I probably would've gone crazy by now."

He laughs. "But when I decided to push things back, I went straight from that tour to recording a bit more in L.A., songs like 'Skinny Mini,' which I wrote on the road," he continues. "Being on the road makes recording a lot better, performance in the studio is more, it can be too — comfortable."

Getting back together with his band the Violators, the goal was simple: make the best record — if only to

have more songs to fill their live sets. Of the creative process, Vile explains the group picked up where it left off — at the start of a nine-minute song, of which "Bottle It In" has many.

Compared to Vile's previous releases, instrumentation was put ahead of cosmic lyricism, though he says the titular track captures the mood of the record and where he was personally. Leaving hand-fuls of his observations and questions around aging, the evolving ways of the world and death unanswered (on "One Trick Ponies," he stops himself mid-muse, opting for the line "And all that other mystical, well, never you mind...") as the song rolls into its chorus), many of the album's stand-out tracks double as its lengthiest and most exploratory sonically.

"It's a little weirder, I mean maybe weirder than I could tell at the time," Vile confesses. "I don't really care if someone is against long songs or says these songs are too long for these times. That doesn't upset me. Even on (2011's) 'Smoke Ring for my Halo,' I had songs that I wanted to be longer but we held off on 'em. I've noticed in general, people think I'm stoned, but I just think we're super heady and musical. We just

came out swinging and we've earned some space to get away with it for sure."

Now on the road again — with a show at the Riviera Theatre on Saturday night — he seems hungry to "rip the world a new one" (as he sings on the single "Loading Zones"), ready to take his career — and expanded catalog — to new heights.

"I'm not ready to play a stadium just yet, it feels good to be killing it with these 1 to 2,000-people rooms. But I'm definitely competitive," he says matter-of-factly. "Not with hip-hop or something, but in my world. I have a lot more albums than some of my contemporaries and, maybe it goes in and out of being accessible — I think it's all accessible, but sometimes you have to give it a few listens for it to kick in. Just because someone has more sales and charts doesn't mean that sometimes my music's not better. I take it slow, but it's strong. I feel like I have it down in some ways, you know?"

Vile starts laughing again. "I won't say who I'm competitive with or anything like that, let's not start a beef — though that'd be fun."

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YEAR IN REVIEW BEST CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A year of visually stirring, heartfelt gems

BY NARA SCHOENBERG
Chicago Tribune

A baby monkey with a knack for detective work, a mysterious green creature that takes up residence in an Australian farmhouse and a 9-year-old stuck in a Russian-style summer camp are among the chief attractions of an exciting year in children's literature.

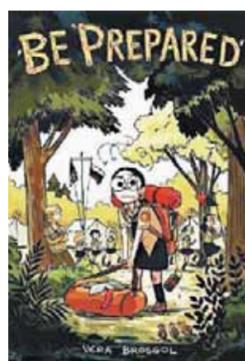
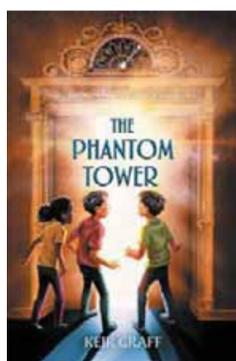
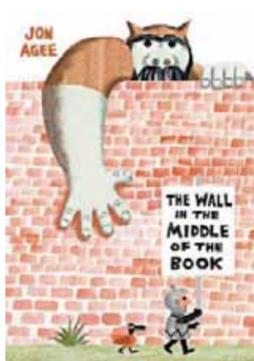
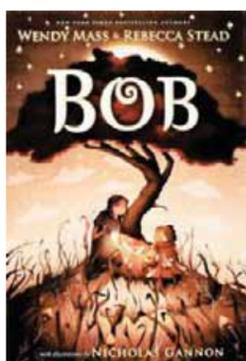
There's also a book-length poem about feeling different from your classmates by National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson, and a wise and witty take on finding your first friends by Newbery Medal winner Kate DiCamillo. Newcomer Daniel Haack has penned a much-needed LGBT fairy tale about a prince who finds love with a knight, and Chicago author Keir Graff brings the city to life in a smart and endearing middle-grade novel.

A dazzling picture book about a Mexican immigrant's love affair with a library, a deft fable about a wall that divides but cannot protect, a deeply funny story of a girl who receives a chicken for her birthday and the tale of one very bad cat round out the field.

"Bob" by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead, illustrated by Nicholas Gannon, Feiwel and Friends, 208 pages, \$16.99, ages 8-12

At age 10, Livy returns to Australia with no recollection of the little green creature who has been waiting for her in the closet since her visit five years earlier. Livy is Bob's only friend, and Livy comes to realize that it's up to her to help him find his way home. A magical tale, told in two compelling voices, "Bob" delights from start to finish.

"Baby Monkey, Private Eye" by Brian Selznick and David Serlin, illustrated by Brian Selznick, Scholastic, 192 pages,



"The Day You Begin" by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael Lopez, Nancy Paulsen, 32 pages, \$18.99, ages 5-8

Jacqueline Woodson, a National Book Award winner, explores the uncertainty that comes from feeling different, in a poem that's funny and heart-breaking, soaring and intimate. A little girl with brown skin and curly black hair feels different from her classmates, who in turn feel different for their own reasons. Woodson's powerful voice and Lopez's exuberant illustrations take us to places near and far, and bring us back home, stronger than before.

"Prince & Knight" by Daniel Haack, illustrated by Stevie Lewis, Little Bee, 40 pages, \$17.99, ages 4-8

The prince, deftly drawn by Stevie Lewis, is charming and sincere. Women love him. But our hero is looking for "something different" in a life partner. When the prince rides off to battle a dragon, he meets a brave and resourceful knight, and love blossoms. This much-needed LGBT fairy tale hits the right notes; it's at once matter-of-fact and alive to the magic of true love.

"Dreamers" by Yuyi Morales, Neal Porter, 40 pages, \$18.99, ages 4-8

A mother and her baby boy cross a bridge "outstretched like the universe" and enter the U.S. from Mexico. In this dazzling mixed-media account, photographs and embroidery, paint and ink conjure the immigrants' dislocation and hope. Every word feels urgent and necessary as we venture into the library that brings mother and son the language, stories and knowledge they need to put down roots.

nschoenberg@chicagotribune.com

\$16.99, ages 4-8

Full of crosshatched depth and detail, "Baby Monkey" is an irresistible early reader that also can be read to the little ones. A scamp ensconced in an office befitting an old-time private eye, Baby Monkey meets colorful clients and solves mysteries. The pictures tell most of the story, and the silliness will have the kids in stitches.

"I Got a Chicken for My Birthday" by Laura Gehl, illustrated by Sarah Horne, Carolrhoda, 32 pages, \$17.99, ages 5-8

Our heroine asked for tickets to an amusement park for her birthday. Abuela Lola sent a chicken. Now our heroine has to feed the chicken, who turns out to be a picky eater with a shopping list, a tool belt and an elaborate plan. The heroine's indignant voice is pitch-perfect, and the illustrations capture the wonder and wackiness. It's funny, silly and meaningful.

"The Wall in the Middle of the Book" by Jon Agee, Dial Books for Young Readers, 48 pages, \$17.99, ages 4 and up.

This is one smart picture book about a brick wall, fierce beasts and a knight congratulating himself on being on the other side. The beasts do look scary, but as the knight climbs a ladder up the wall, we see threats on his side as well. Illustrations of bulky creatures with expressive faces enhance a fable about the dangers of seeing things in terms of us and them.

"Who Will Bell the Cat?" by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Christopher Cyr, Holiday House, 32 pages, \$17.95, ages 4-8

The kindly mice are adorable with their bulging eyes, soft fur and big rounded ears. But it's when Marmalade, the evil barn cat, emerges from the shadows — yellow eyes aglow, each tooth and claw illumi-

nated — that this tale of mice trying to subdue their oppressor really comes to life. The mice in this tale, beautifully told with striking art, hatch plan after plan to bell the cat, but justice comes only when a new creature arrives.

"The Phantom Tower" by Keir Graff, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 288 pages, \$16.99, ages 8-12

"The Phantom Tower" has genuine roots in Chicago — not just a few landmarks thrown in. Here, 12-year-old twins move into the haunted Brunhild Tower on the North Side and discover a phantom second tower where time has stopped. Exciting action, a creepy curse and well-drawn characters make for cozy reading.

"Be Prepared" by Vera Brosgol, First Second, 256 pages, \$12.99, ages 10-14

Vera Brosgol's graphic novel about a 9-year-old from a Russian immigrant

family, determined to fit in despite economic and cultural barriers, is full of hope and pain, adventure and love. Vera attends a camp for kids of Russian descent, but when she gets stuck in a tent with cliquey older girls, her confidence wavers. Beautifully drawn, this book deftly captures the pain of homesickness and power of friendship.

"Good Rosie!" by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Harry Bliss, Candlewick, 32 pages, \$16.99, ages 5-8

Part picture book, part chapter book, part graphic novel, this story of a dog in search of her first friends is wise, endearing and full of hard-won insights. Rosie, a wistful Jack Russell terrier, wants to get to know other dogs, but the dog park intimidates her. DiCamillo endows the dogs with pitch-perfect voices, and Bliss' watercolors tell their own vivid story. Rosie has to overcome her fears; she is rewarded when she does.

BOOK REVIEW

Washington overcomes odds in showdown at Yorktown

BY CAROL BERKIN
The Washington Post

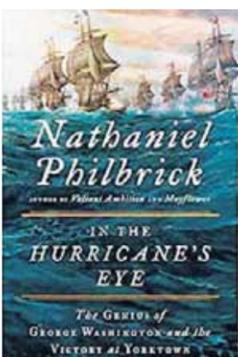
Since 2014, in "Bunker Hill" and "Valiant Ambition," Nathaniel Philbrick has been narrating the story of America's struggle for independence. In his latest book, "In the Hurricane's Eye," he picks up this saga in 1780, as Washington and his Continental Army, low on supplies, idle and restless, wait anxiously for the French navy to come to their aid.

What follows is a tension-filled and riveting account of the alliance that assured American independence.

Philbrick is a master of narrative, and he does not disappoint as he provides a meticulous and often hair-raising account of a naval war between France and England and a land war that pitted American and French troops against British regulars and Loyalist volunteers. The French government, Philbrick reminds us, was driven less by a commitment to American liberty than by a desire for revenge against its imperial rival, England.

With no navy of their own, the Americans remained confined to land operations in 1780 and 1781, as they had been throughout the war. By the winter of 1780, Continental Army morale was low — and it would sink even deeper in early 1781 when news reached Washington that Benedict Arnold had escaped capture after pillaging Richmond.

But the loss of Arnold was far from the only thing troubling Washington. For many months, he had nurtured a fervent wish that the French navy would mount a joint effort with his army to recapture New York City. The French, however, had



"In the Hurricane's Eye"

By Nathaniel Philbrick, Viking, 366 pages, \$30

other plans: an assault on Lord Charles Cornwallis' army at Yorktown. A bitter Washington knew he was in no position to argue.

Ragged and driven beyond endurance, Washington's men persevered, and together, the revolution's military and naval forces would bring Cornwallis to his knees. This is the moment Philbrick has been building to, and he recreates the battle with all the drama it deserves.

Not everyone will find Philbrick's detailed coverage of naval and military engagements easy to follow or fully engaging. A landlubber like me felt overwhelmed by some of the nautical language. This should not deter readers, however, for those engagements are not the entire focus of the book. Philbrick has a second, perhaps more compelling theme: how the character of men shapes the history they make.

Hurricanes may destroy ships as if they were matchsticks; the sea may swallow up men. Yet how men respond to the man-made hurricanes that

whirl around them lies at the heart of the story. Philbrick offers finely drawn portraits of men whose characters shaped history.

These include the self-absorbed Adm. Marriot Arbuthnot, the blood-thirsty cavalry commander Banastre Tarleton, the genial Marquis de Lafayette and the callous Lord Cornwallis, but the central figure — the man who overshadows all others — is Gen. George Washington.

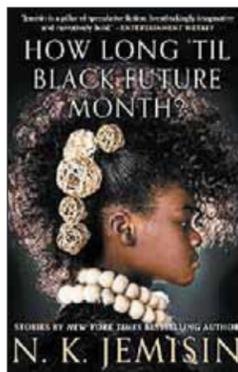
In the face of mounting frustration with the French, intense disappointment with the American public's response to the Army's needs and a growing fear that the American cause would be lost, Washington struggled to maintain his equanimity. To his credit, Philbrick resists the temptation to descend into hagiography. Washington, he admits, defended slavery and was not free of racial bias.

In "In the Hurricane's Eye" Philbrick occasionally succumbs to the lure of historical fortune-telling that marred his previous book. Here he declares that Yorktown "was where the road to the Civil War began." But such pronouncements do not detract from the authentic drama of the story Philbrick has to tell, a drama that ultimately centers not on nature but on Washington. From his anguished question "Whom can we trust now?" after learning of Arnold's treason to his "silent adieu" to his troops at New York's Whitehall, Washington remains the true eye of the hurricane, the calm within the storm.

Carol Berkin's latest book is "A Sovereign People: The Crises of the 1790s and the Birth of American Nationalism."

Science fiction roundup

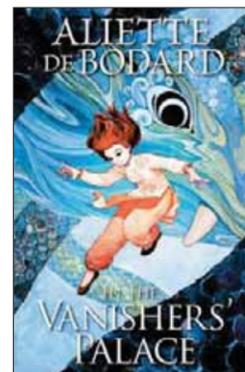
BY GARY K. WOLFE
Chicago Tribune



"How Long 'til Black Future Month?" by N.K. Jemison, Orbit, 416 pages, \$26

N.K. Jemison made science-fiction history when she became the first author to win three consecutive Hugo Awards for her "Broken Earth" trilogy, so her first story collection comes with high expectations. It does not disappoint, although only a couple of the stories take place in the familiar worlds of her novels. Instead, Jemison shows an impressive thematic range with some stories directly addressing classic science-fiction works by forbears like Ursula K. Le Guin and Robert A. Heinlein, while others explore the mysteries of urban life.

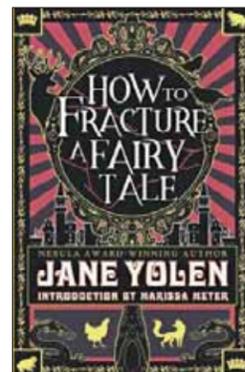
Some of the most powerful tales take place in the South. A poor Birmingham mother foresees her family threatened by a "White Lady," but also a more hopeful future for her descendants. A tale of power, corruption and revolution with distinctly contemporary overtones is set in a steampunk 19th-century New Orleans. Perhaps most effectively, a previously unpublished story features a small-time drug dealer who finds his courage with the aid of a dragon in a vividly depicted New Orleans devastated by Katrina. Jemison's passion and anger are never far from the surface, but neither is the sheer joy of storytelling.



"In the Vanishers' Palace" by Alette de Bodard, JABberwocky, 208 pages, \$12.99

Popular culture is full of reimaginings of "Beauty and the Beast," but few are as imaginative and visually sumptuous as Alette de Bodard's. Set in a world part fantasy, part science fiction, it draws on her Vietnamese heritage. Years before the story begins, a mysterious race of aliens visited this world, bringing sophisticated technology and enslaving the local population, but then vanished just as abruptly. The ritual-bound village culture the aliens left behind is plagued by illnesses and high-tech artifacts that become superstitious totems. And there's also a wise old dragon.

Yen, a young scholar who has failed her exams, is the daughter of a healer. When her mother fails to save a child, the villagers call upon an all-powerful dragon for help, but in exchange Yen is given in service to the dragon. Surprisingly, though, what the dragon really wants is for her to tutor a pair of undisciplined adopted kids, in the fabulous, ever-shifting palace the Vanishers left behind. Yen and the dragon develop an unlikely romance. De Bodard insightfully explores not only the problematic power differential inherent in the classic tale but also the problems faced by postcolonial cultures after the conquerors have left.



"How to Fracture a Fairy Tale" by Jane Yolen, Tachyon, 320 pages, \$16.95

Fairy tales survive because they are infinitely adaptable, and no one knows this better than Jane Yolen. Her astonishing output (close to 370 children's and adult books) has earned her a reputation as America's pre-eminent reinterpreter of these familiar stories. Her latest collection of tales and poems could serve as an entertaining textbook on the topic. What would Red Riding Hood look like from the wolf's perspective? Spoiled, selfish princesses get their due in "Sleeping Ugly," as do wicked step-sisters who body-shame their larger sibling in "Cinder Elephant."

But Yolen doesn't confine herself to offering critical versions of the familiar Western tales. She also draws on Chinese, Japanese and Native American traditions, and, perhaps more important, digs below some of the stories' innocent surfaces to examine the darker subtexts. A version of Rumpelstiltskin persuasively reveals anti-Semitic undertones, while two of the most moving stories touch upon the Holocaust, in terms of the myth of L'ilith and the tradition of Elijah's cup. Yolen's story notes and poems only add to her insights.

Gary K. Wolfe is the editor of "American Science Fiction."

Toys

Continued from Page 1

end of a long white hallway. To reach it, you pass the Engine Room, a conference space where designers hash out secrets; a wall of framed patents that stretches back decades; and the Competitive Product Library, which is essentially every tricycle, pull wagon and rocking horse not made by Radio Flyer, aisle after aisle of toys, bought and hoarded for “research purposes.” The prototype shop itself is quiet at the holidays. Anything found under a Christmas tree that came out of this space was conceived, tested and built ages ago. The busiest time at Radio Flyer is August to October, when the company presents its latest creations to retailers like Walmart and Target, then hopes for the best.

Most of what gets developed in the prototype shop, though, never makes it that far. Tom Schlegel, executive vice president of design and business development — essentially head elf of Radio Flyer — explains in much blunter fashion.

“Most of what we do fails,” he says.

He has black hair with tufts of white working themselves into his beard; he does not look elfish, but if Santa’s workshop employed a casually dressed industrial designer of average height who knew his way around a 3D printer, Schlegel would be that guy. He carries a twinkle in his eye — that vanishes quickly on the subject of failure.

He bends to demonstrate the Radio Flyer folding wagon, outfitted with a tailgate feature — the latest in a century of options created for the company’s little red wagon. He lifts a blue Igloo cooler and wool blanket from the tailgate and drops them into the wagon basin, illustrating how a foldable wagon with fabric sides fixed in place by a steel frame might carry children or picnics, or both at the same time. He explains that they only arrived at this, a workable, foldable wagon — now Radio Flyer’s best-selling variation of its red wagon — in 2016, after more than a decade of disasters.

“It was a low point in the workshop,” Schlegel says.

“It was a big test of our relationship,” Pasin says. “We spent a ton of money trying to get it right. And it wasn’t happening, so I said, ‘We’ve got to kill this thing.’ Tom hadn’t been here that long (back around 2003), so he thought he was definitely going to be fired. But really, it solidified our friendship. This, I said, is how we innovate.”

The wagon made to carry one child only didn’t sell.

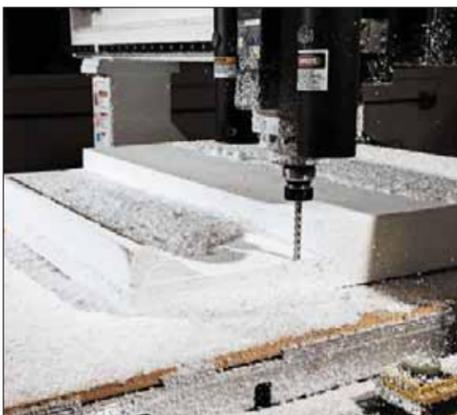
The “Jungle Express” wagon was a “total loser,” Pasin said.

Yet they survived. Their workshop today is a sea



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

An employee’s workbench at the prototype shop bears tools, supplies and figurines for inspiration.



A CNC (computer numeric control) machine cuts modeling foam in shop.

of wooden tables on steel legs and familiar Radio Flyer red, on toy wagons and toy cars and color swatches and every tool cabinet. The space was once a Radio Flyer factory floor (the wagons themselves are now built in China). Schlegel said that when he started at the company, the closest thing Radio Flyer had to a prototype shop was “a small closet with a band saw.” Today the room contains 3D printers, a milling machine, a grinder for metal and a drum sander for wood. A CNC (computer numeric control) machine that can carve anything can be seen through a window, dominating in its own office, its long, tubelike arm reaching across the room and, like Daniel Day-Lewis, dipping down to drink the milkshake of whatever material is placed before it. There is a woodworking space (for quicker prototypes), and a room for testing paints, lined with ventilation screens, color-splattered surfaces and looking vaguely sinister.

At any given time, a few of the 16 full-time designer elves can be

found in the prototype shop. Most of them, like Schlegel, have industrial design and mechanical engineering backgrounds. Tyler Cross, the prototype shop manager, i.e., the elf foreman, hails from Minnesota and started here eight years ago and says he comes from a long lineage of industrial designers — his grandfather did similar design work at General Motors in Flint, Mich.

Asked what innovations he would like to see come to the red wagon if he ran Radio Flyer, he laughs nervously and says the job is really about thinking three steps ahead ...

Yes, but innovations? Rocket wagons perhaps?

“I’m not going to answer,” he answers.

In a corner, several large lumps sit beneath black tarps, prototypes that are not for a stranger’s eyes. On a window ledge sits a wagon redesigned to resemble an old-school Soap Box Derby car. It’s very cool, and it will never get made, because the company decided that it would never sell.

“We think it’s cool, too,”

Schlegel says sadly.

In the next room, beyond the drill presses, is the Bone Yard, containing dead husks of doomed ideas; you are not allowed to see inside. Still, a peek reveals a large warehouse space lined with cinder block walls and many, many variations on toy wagons and toy cars and toy riding horses. Cross figures there were 500 concepts developed in the Radio Flyer prototype shop last year alone; of those ideas, only 50 made it to an actual prototype-building stage; and of those, maybe 15 were presented to retailers in the fall; and of those, maybe 12 became toys that were sold in stores.

Most of what they develop, Schlegel notes, were not even wagons; the company’s tricycles are its biggest sellers these days. Radio Flyer is, if nothing else, a creature of its time.

A boomer standard that became a yuppie standard that became every helicopter parent’s must-have. Even the company name, for instance: It’s a 1920s mashup of once cutting-edge inventions, radio and flight. (Pasin

jokes that if his grandfather started Radio Flyer today, the company would be named “Quantum AI Dronester.”)

Beside the reception area — which, like the rest of the building, is behind steel gates and not open to the public — there is a museum devoted to products that have come out of its workshops, from garden wagons to their own take on the classic Playskool Inchworm riding toy (Radio Flyer now has the trademark). Among the artifacts, an original Liberty Coaster from Antonio, who spoke no English when he moved to Chicago and worked initially in a local piano factory. Gradually, besides his grape presses, he made a series of tricycles and phonograph cabinets and furniture for other newly arrived families. He also built a wooden wagon, presumably for carrying tools. (His grandson said the family doesn’t know for sure why he built the wagon.)

To trace the evolution of that little red invention is, in a way, to sketch a cultural history of the country: In the 1920s, the first wagons had a baked enamel finish and curled, streamline body (which remains the signature design). By the ’30s, Antonio was selling a “Lindy Flyer,” in honor of Charles Lindbergh. Working headlights came soon after. World War II brought the “American Beauty” wagon. Davy Crockett wagons premiered in the ’50s. In the 1960s, a wood-paneled “Town & Country” wagon debuted, then a “Radio Astronaut” wagon. Muscle cars got a nod in ’70s designs. The company, which was slow to embrace plastic, unveiled its first plastic wagon in 1994, years after its competitors. Cup holders arrived two years later; seat belts in 2003.

Pasin, who became company head in 1997, said the wagon has become a “kid transport,” with some of the most popular tweaks coming from ingenious hacks of unsuspecting customers. Their canopies, for example, are formal variations on what they saw parents jury-rigging above Radio Flyers on rainy days in Lincoln Park.

Pasin says the company has come to recognize his grandfather’s red metal wagon as a blank canvas — one that still sells, but only a fraction of the 140 or so toys and wagons they also sell. So on a snowy December day, through a skylight in the workshop, you can see an old stone chimney from the 20th-century days of Antonio, then you look down and see a company that now seems more like a tech start-up, one that still makes a toy from the 1920s that no one ever needed to improve on, yet remains, forever, a work in progress.

Up next: *Big Monster Toys in Chicago*

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Museums

Continued from Page 1

shot, but it is postponing pulling the trigger.

The new fad of Instagram-friendly “museums” — or, perhaps, more accurately, “backdrop collections” — hit Chicago. Happy Place ran over the summer and Wndr Museum, after a bumpy opening, is still running. Clear those memory cards.

But the big dog this year in Chicago museums has been the bold and broadly invigorating yearlong Art Design Chicago initiative backed by the Terra Foundation for American Art (with help from the Driehaus Foundation). The ADC imprimatur (and funding!) was behind dozens of exhibitions, scores of public events, and reams of new research all finding fresh or deeper takes on the city’s visual arts history.

And almost inevitably, Art Design Chicago is responsible for many of the shows (Nos. 10, 5, 3 and 1) on the following list of my favorite new or temporary exhibitions from 2018:

10. “Keep Moving: Designing Chicago’s Bicycle Culture” through March 3 at Design Museum of Chicago: Yes, if you make a show about bikes or beer (which the nascent Chicago Brewseum has done at the Field), I’m an easy mark. But this exhibition is especially well done. It details how Chicago became bike-making champ even as the newfangled invention inspired neighborhood clubs, mayoral candidates and women’s liberation. And despite its small footprint, it shows plenty of bikes and bike parts.

9. “The Science Behind Pixar” through Jan. 6 at Museum of Science and Industry: Done poorly, a gigantic exploration of the work of the innovative animation studio could come off as merely a tunnel to the gift shop.



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

“Arte Diseno Xicano” at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen.

Instead, the traveling show designed in part by Pixar lives up to its title as it delves into the complex math and physics that go into making high-end modern animation. But the explanations of rendering and such don’t overwhelm all of those great Pixar characters, from Buzz Lightyear to the “Monsters Inc.” critters.

8. “Mr. Akeley’s Movie Camera” through March 17 at Field Museum: The Field mounted big, thoroughly engaging shows on “Mummies” and “Antarctic Dinosaurs” this year. But one that was unexpected — and especially fascinating — was this modest, one-room look at the museum’s taxidermy pioneer Carl Akeley (he did the fighting elephants in the main hall) and the portable camera he invented for nature filming that became a Hollywood standard.

7. “Underwater Beauty” through late 2019 at Shedd Aquarium: The lakefront fish house has made a winning habit out of designing temporary exhibitions that spotlight certain animals (“Jellies”) or classes of animals (“Amphibians”). This new one, though, shows off underwater creatures according to aesthetic standards, grouping them by modes of beauty: color, pattern, movement, etc. It’s a little

bit of the art museum leaking, winningly, into the more scientific realm of zookeeping.

6. “History Lessons: Everyday Objects from Chicago Public Housing” at National Public Housing Museum headquarters: The NPHM doesn’t have its Taylor Street building ready yet to join the nation’s “museums of conscience” that tell stories rooted in a social-justice ideal. But this resonant summer-time show at the museum’s River North offices gave a taste of what might be coming. Instead of showcasing rarefied objects in the standard museum fashion, this one put on display mundane things from public housing residents — a mason’s tools, a Pyrex dish, a garden hose — and told the deep human stories behind them.

5. “Modern by Design: Chicago Streamlines America” through Dec. 2, 2019 at Chicago History Museum: If you’re wondering where that mid-century modern furniture you drool over at antique shops comes from, this exhibition should satisfy some of your curiosity. The show makes the case that the streamlined design that would show up in Sunbeam mixers, Schwinn bicycles, Sears steel-legged sofas and even a bright red International Harvester tractor had its

roots in the Zephyr train and Chicago’s 1933 World’s Fair.

4. Stanley Field Hall redesign and new Sue gallery ongoing at Field Museum: The Field went bold for its milestone 125th birthday. Prized T. rex skeleton Sue left its almost two-decade home in the main hall. In its place came a two-story-tall replica of a Titanosaur skeleton, newly discovered and hailed as the biggest species yet found. Around that came new flying reptiles and softening touches to make the hard-surfaced hall more welcoming, especially a range of benches and innovative megaplanters suspended from the ceiling. Completing the makeover was the new, second-floor gallery for Sue, opening this week. It’s an immersive, creative and elegant look at the world of this very special specimen.

3. “Flesh: Ivan Albright at the Art Institute of Chicago”: The Michigan Avenue treasure palace mounted major looks at Charles White and John Singer Sargent in 2018. But if I could see one again it would be this intense, one-gallery focus on Albright, the 20th-century Chicago painter known for his obsession with depicting the human form in an exaggerated, almost macabre decline. “Flesh” made the case for Albright as a new old master rather than the Goth-anticipating genre painter some seem inclined to write him off as.

2. “Troll Hunt” ongoing at Morton Arboretum: In the beginning months of the year, an effervescent new-world hippy Danish artist and his team moved into the Lisle tree park and began making enormous modern mythical creatures out of recycled wood. Now six of Thomas Dambo’s giants patrol the grounds, one hiding behind bushes, one lolling in a meadow, one standing sentinel over (and visible from) the adjacent I-88, guarding the arboretum, in Dambo’s fertile mind, against encroachment by the

modern world. These trolls, which will be on display until decay begins to render them unsafe, are an absolute delight.

1. “Arte Diseno Xicano: Mexican Inspiration from the World’s Columbian Exposition to the Civil Rights Era” at the National Museum of Mexican Art: If you had to pick one exhibition as the kind of ur-Art Design Chicago show, it might well be this one. The museum’s survey of Mexican made and influenced art in the city demonstrated, with a bevy of vivid pieces, how interconnected everything has been. Showcasing fine Mexican artists — Errol and Luis Ortiz, Enrique Alferéz, and Jesus Torres among them — the show crossed paths with a who’s who and what’s what in Chicago. Lorado Taft, Margaret Burroughs, Archibald Motley Jr., Charles White, Jane Addams Hull House, even Mayor Richard J. Daley all made appearances, suggesting the story of Mexican art here is in some essential way the story of Chicago art.

Ten other favorites, in no particular order: “Chicago Calling: Art Against the Flow” through Feb. 10 at Intuit; The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art; “Keith Haring: The Chicago Mural” at Chicago Cultural Center; “Mummies” at Field Museum; Art on the Mart ongoing along the Riverwalk; “A Johnson Publishing Story” at Stony Island Arts Bank; “Enrico David: Gradations of Slow Release” through March 10 at MCA Chicago; “Amplified: Chicago Blues” through Aug. 10 at Chicago History Museum; “Up is Down: Mid-Century Experiments in Advertising and Film at the Goldshell Studio” at Block Museum; “Never a Lovely So Real: Photography and Film in Chicago, 1950-1980” at Art Institute of Chicago; “The Time Is Now! Art Worlds of Chicago’s South Side, 1960-1980” through Dec. 30 at Smart Museum of Art.

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WATCH THIS: THURSDAY



Matt Lanter

"Timeless" (7 p.m., NBC): Miracles are nothing new to the ardent but smallish fan base of this engaging sci-fi time-travel drama, which NBC canceled at the end of Season 1, despite strong critical support. Then, three days later, the network unexpectedly reversed itself, ordering 10 new episodes for Season 2, which earned even better reviews. The show wraps things up tonight with a two-part series finale. Matt Lanter and Malcolm Barrett star.

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" (7 p.m., ABC): When Charlie Brown complains about the materialism he sees during the holidays, Lucy suggests he direct the Christmas pageant. He accepts, but it proves to be a frustrating struggle. When his attempt to restore the proper spirit with a forlorn little fir tree fails, he needs Linus' help to learn the real meaning of Christmas. The animated classic's memorable music score is by Vince Guaraldi.

"A Christmas Story Live!" (7 p.m., FOX): They won Oscars for their work on "La La Land" and Tonys for their score to Broadway's "Dear Evan Hansen," and the red-hot song-writing team of Benj Pasek and Justin Paul brought this stage musical adaptation of a favorite holiday movie to television in 2017. Seattle newcomer Andy Walken stars as Ralphie, with Maya Rudolph and Chris Diamantopoulos as his mom and dad. Jane Krakowski also stars as school teacher Miss Shields.

"The 4th Annual Howie Mandel Stand-Up Extravaganza" (7 p.m., CW): "America's Got Talent" judge and veteran comic Howie Mandel is a native of Toronto, Canada, but this new two-hour special was recorded in Montreal at the Just for Laughs Festival, the largest such comedy event in the world. As host for this offering, Mandel introduces some of the hottest comedians working today.

"Ex on the Beach" (7 p.m., 10:03 p.m., MTV): Host Romeo Miller returns to oversee a second season of sexy shenanigans as this provocative dating series returns. Reality TV stars from "Survivor," "The Bachelorette," "Big Brother," "Teen Mom" and "Are You the One?," among others — all of whom have suffered a recent romantic mishap — come to Malibu Beach seeking love, only to confront their exes.

"Top Chef" (8 p.m., 9:01 p.m., Bravo): Richard Blais and Brooke Williamson try to interject some festive holiday cheer in the new episode "Naughty and Nice" by presenting a "white elephant"-style quickfire challenge. Next, chef Eric Ripert treats the competing chefs to a traditional French Christmas dinner. Once the last bite is taken, however, Ripert points out that they're missing the final part of "Le Reveillon de Noel": the presentation of 13 desserts. A midnight pastry free-for-all ensues.

TALK SHOWS

"The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (10:34 p.m., NBC): Actress Felicity Jones; comic Jimmy Carr; Bebe Rexha performs.*

"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (10:35 p.m., CBS): Actor John C. Reilly; political commentator Ana Navarro; Jessie J performs.*

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" (10:35 p.m., ABC): Music group Beastie Boys; TV personality Jonathan Van Ness; Mitski performs.*

* Subject to change

Hey, TV lovers: Looking for detailed show listings? TV Weekly is an ideal companion. To subscribe, go to www.tvweekly.com or call 1-877-580-4159

Marshall

Continued from Page 1

Although her mother ran a dance school where Marshall herself taught tap, and her father directed industrial films, and her brother Garry Marshall wrote for the sitcoms of Lucille Ball, Danny Thomas and Dick Van Dyke before developing "The Odd Couple" and creating "Happy Days" — and though she was named Carole Penny Marshall for Carole Lombard — by her own account, she walked in sideways to acting.

She had majored in math and psychology at the University of New Mexico, got pregnant there, got married, got divorced and worked as a secretary, the career she envisioned for herself in her high school yearbook. (Her daughter Tracy was later adopted by Marshall's second husband, Rob Reiner, whom she married in 1971.) Notwithstanding some performing with the Albuquerque Civic Light Opera, "I didn't plan on being in the business," she said in a 2013 video interview for the Archive of American Television.

She left Albuquerque to join her brother in Los Angeles. Garry, who thought she was "sort of funny," encouraged her to take some acting classes — she studied with Harvey Lembeck and Jeff Corey, which is to say, the cream of the crop. After a one-word part in an episode of "That Girl" earned her more money than a week of work as a temp typist, she switched careers. "The Odd Couple" was her first regular gig; she is sweet and eccentric in it, and she does a lot with a little.

Laverne and Shirley were born as guest characters on "Happy Days," 1950s-style wild girls on a double date with Fonzie (Henry Winkler) and Richie (Ron Howard). Popular with viewers, they returned for several more episodes before being spun off into their own series, Marshall's first and only starring role.

Bottle-cappers in a Milwaukee brewery, living in a basement apartment, the roommates, who were somewhat improper by "Happy Days" standards, were recast to make them more family-friendly: "We were the slutty girls who became virgins," as Marshall put it, though it seems clear that Laverne, in a way that the series never designed to make explicit, was, within unexpressed limits, sexually forward. ("A little boy crazy," Marshall called her.)

It's easy to dismiss "Laverne & Shirley," which debuted as the No. 1 series on television, as hectic fluff, a Lucy-and-Ethel knockoff, especially given its later, decadent seasons. But at its best, there is something surprisingly natural in its staging and performance, a blue-collar comedy whose characters seem, most of them, much of the time — I make exception, of course, for the farcical two stooges, Michael McKean's Lenny and David L. Lander's Squiggy — pretty real. That Bronx accent was all Marshall's.

Williams was, in conventional terms,



ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES

Penny Marshall, left, and Cindy Williams cap bottles in "Laverne & Shirley."

the cute one. Marshall often demeaned her own looks; early in her career, she played the nominally less attractive opposite to Farrah Fawcett's beauty in a Head & Shoulders shampoo commercial. But I found her the attractive one, even beautiful: lanky, with a striking profile and wide-set eyes, she was Italian on her father's side. Where Shirley is proper, Laverne is loose; where Williams was girlish, Marshall was womanly.

(I also constantly see something of Harpo Marx in her — the most physical and feminine Marx Brother. The thought doesn't seem out of place.)

Marshall's later television appearances, which included visits to "Entourage," "Bones," "Portlandia" and "Mulaney," could be self-referential; she would play herself, or something that played off her earlier roles, as when she reunited with Williams in a 2013 episode of Nickelodeon's teen sitcom "Sam & Cat." (In the physical spirit of "Laverne & Shirley," there was boxing.) Her 2016 "Odd Couple" appearance, again with Williams — as well as with "Happy Days" cast members Howard, Marion Ross, Anson Williams and Don Most — was in tribute to her late brother.

The dominant tone of her own accounts of her career is one of self-deprecation. Of her first directing experience, on "Laverne & Shirley": "By the sixth, seventh year, who wants to direct this week — the script girl, first AD, the camera coordinator, whoever. How many doors can you come through? There's one door." (This was a story she repeated nearly word for word.) On her TV guest shots: "I was in an episode of 'Mork and Mindy'; I was in an episode of 'Taxi'; I was in an episode of 'Bosom Buddies' — you name it, if it was on the lot, I ran from my stage to their stage. They said, 'You'll be yourself.' What else am I? This is what I am."

Perhaps there is something in that that speaks to what makes her work still a joy to watch, what gives it life, what makes it real: She was who she was.

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THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 20

		PM	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	MOVIES
BROADCAST	CBS	2	The Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon ©	The Big Bang Theory	Murphy Brown (Season Finale) (N) ©	S.W.A.T.: "Shaky Town." ©			News (N) ♦
	NBC	5	Timeless: "The Miracle of Christmas Part I/II." (Series Finale) (N) ©				Ellen's Game of Games ©			NBC 5 News (N) ♦
	ABC	7	A Charlie Brown Christmas		The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Edition: "Semi-Final and Final." (Season Finale) ©					News at 10pm (N) ♦
	WGN	9	blackish ©	blackish: "The Purge." ©	Last Man Standing ©	Last Man Standing ©	WGN News at Nine (N) ©			WGN News at Ten (N)
	Antenna	9.2	Alice ©	Alice ©	B. Miller	B. Miller	Coach ©	Coach ©		Murphy
	This TV	9.3	★ (6) Stanley & Iris ('90) ★★		Larger Than Life (PG,'96) ★★		Bill Murray. ©			Yes, Vrgna ♦
	PBS	11	Chicago Tonight (N)		Making a New American Nutcracker ©		Christmas Festival: Mesiah, Prince of Peace (N)			Christmas at St. Olaf ♦
	The U	26.1	7 Eyewitness News (N)		The Game	Engagement	Broke Girl	Broke Girl		Seinfeld ©
	MeTV	26.3	Andy Griffith Andy Griffith		Gomer Pyle	WKRP Cincinnati	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero		C. Burnett
	H&I	26.4	Star Trek: "Obsession."		Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9			Star Trek ♦
	Bounce	26.5	Scandal: "Any Questions?"		Family Time	Family Time	Christmas in Compton (PG-13,'12) ♦			
	FOX	32	A Christmas Story Live! ©				Fox 32 News at Nine (N)			Modern Family ©
	Ion	38	CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime Scene			CSI: Crime ♦
	Telem	44	(7:05) La sultana (N) ©		Falsa identidad (N) ©		Señora Acero (N) ©			Chicago (N)
CW	50	4th Annual Howie Mandel Stand-Up (N)				The Good Wife ©			Chicago ♦	
UniMas	60	Como dice el dicho ©		Rosario Tijeras: "Una hermosa hacienda."					Tiro de ♦	
WJYS	62	History	Skywatch	Joyce Meyer	Robison	Christian	Dn. Carson		Monument	
Univ	66	Jesús		Mi marido tiene familia		Amar a muerte			Noticias (N)	
CABLE	AE		PD Cam	PD Cam	PD Cam	PD Cam				Live PD Presents
	AMC		★ (6) The Santa Clause 2 (G,'02) ★★ ©			The Santa Clause 2 (G,'02) ★★ Tim Allen. ©				
	ANIM		Crikey! It's the Irwins ©		The Secret of		The Secret of			The Secret ♦
	BBCA		The Departed (R,'06) ★★	Leonardo DiCaprio. ★★	An undercover cop and a criminal lead					double lives.
	BET		blackish	blackish ©	Ray (PG-13,'04) ★★	Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington. ♦				
	BIGTEN		★ College Basketball (N)		The BIG	The BIG	The BIG			Purdue Football Classic
	BRAVO		Top Chef ©		Top Chef (N) ©		Top Chef ©			Watch (Sea-
	CLTV		News at 7	News (N)	News at 8	News (N)	SportsFeed ©			Politics
	CNBC		Shark Tank ©		Shark Tank ©		Shark Tank ©			Shark ♦
	CNN		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		CNN Tonight (N)			Tonight (N) ♦
	COM		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office		Daily (N) ♦
	DISC		Alaska: The Last Frontier: "Alaska: The Last Frontier Christmas." (N) ©							Alaska ♦
	DISN		Raven	Raven	Bizaardvark	Stuck	Bunk'd ©	Bunk'd ©		Raven
	E!		Botched ©		Botched (N) ©		Busy (N)	Botched ©		
	ESPN		College Football: Bad Boy Mowers Gasparilla Bowl -- South Florida vs Marshall. (N) (Live) ©							
	ESPN2		★ College Basketball (N)		Dominant (N)	Countdown (N)				SportsCenter (N) (Live) ©
	FNC		Tucker Carlson (N)		Hannity (N) ©		The Ingraham Angle (N)			Fox News
	FOOD		Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie		Holiday Baking			Cookie ♦
	FREE		★ (5:40) The Incredibles (PG,'04) ★★		(8:20) Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG,'12) ★★	(SAP)				
	FX		The Night Before (R,'15) ★★	Joseph Gordon-Levitt.			The Night Before (R,'15) ★★ ©			
	HALL		Once Upon a Holiday (NR,'15)	Briana Evigan. ©			A Gingerbread Romance (NR,'18) ♦			
	HGTV		Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Hunters	Hunt Intl (N)		Hunters
	HIST		American Pickers		American Pickers (N) ©		(9:03) American Pickers			Pickers ♦
	HLN		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic		Forensic
	IFC		★ (6) Rush Hour ('98) ★★	Baroness (N)	Baroness		Rush Hour (PG-13,'98) ★★ ©			
	LIFE		My Christmas Inn (NR,'18)	Tia Mowry-Hardict. ©			(9:03) Santa's Boots (NR,'18) ©			
	MSNBC		All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word (N)			11th Hour (N)
	MTV		Ex on the Beach (Season Premiere) (N) ©		Florabama Shore (N) ©		Jersey Shore--Vacation			Ex-Beach ♦
	NBCSCH		Pregame (N)	NHL Hockey: Chicago Blackhawks at Dallas Stars. (N) (Live) ©			Postgame			Chicago ♦
	NICK		SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water ★★		Friends ©			
	OVATION		★ (5:30) The Da Vinci Code (PG-13,'06) ★★ ©				The Wine Show (N)			Angels ♦
	OWN		20/20: Homicide		20/20: Homicide		20/20 on OWN ©			Homicide ♦
OXY		Chicago P.D. ©		Chicago P.D. ©		Chicago P.D. ©			Chicago ♦	
PARMT		Bad Santa (R,'03) ★★	Billy Bob Thornton. ©			A Merry Friggin' Christmas ('14) ©				
SYFY		★ (5:45) Limitless ('11) ★★	47 Ronin (PG-13,'13) ★★	Keanu Reeves, Hiroyuki Sanada. ©						
TBS		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang		Full ♦	
TCM		Christmas in July (NR,'40) ★★	©	You Never Can Tell (NR,'51) ★★		Singing ♦				
TLC		Dr. Pimple Popper ©		Dr. Pimple Popper ©		(8:59) Dr. Pimple Popper (N) ©				
TLN		IMPACT	Wretched	Hope for Christmas (N)		Life Today	Like You		Humanit ♦	
TNT		NBA Basketball: Rockets at Heat (N Subject to Blackout)				Basketball (N Subject to				
TOON		Gumball	Gumball	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Burgers	Burgers		Family Guy	
TRAV		The Dead Files ©		The Dead Files ©		The Dead Files (N) ©			Dead Files ♦	
TVL		Everybody Raymond		Raymond	Raymond	Two Men	Two Men		King	
USA		NCIS ©		WWE Monday Night RAW (N) ©					Miz & Mrs	
VH1		Pretty Woman (R,'90) ★★	Richard Gere, Julia Roberts. ©			Dirty Dancing ('87) ★★				
WE		Growing Up Hip Hop		Growing Up Hip Hop (Season Finale) (N)		Growing Up Hip Hop			Hip Hop ♦	
WGN America		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man		Last Man	
PREMIUM	HBO		Pacific Rim Uprising (PG-13,'18) ★★	John Boyega. ©		Room 104	Room 104		Momentum ♦	
	HBO2		Pete Holmes: Dirty Clean	VICE ©		(8:45) Icebox (NR,'18)			Rampage ♦	
	MAX		Legend (R,'15) ★★	Tom Hardy. ©			(9:15) Atomic Blonde (R,'17) ★★			
	SHO		The Foreigner (R,'17) ★★	Jackie Chan. ©			American Assassin (R,'17) ★★			
	STARZ		(7:14) The Tourist (PG-13,'10) ★★	Johnny Depp. ©			Counterpart: "Outside In." I Can Do ♦			
STZENC		Monsters University (G,'13) ★★	©			(8:46) Fever Pitch (PG-13,'05) ★★				

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Horoscopes



Today's birthday (Dec. 20): Collaboration and cooperation flower this year. Self-discipline makes things happen. Unexpected romance flowers. Personal breakthroughs this winter lead to a turning point in family finances. A special partnership sparks next summer, inspiring new personal directions.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 7. Focus on communications for a few days. Work out a disagreement about priorities. Find unorthodox solutions. An old trick works again. Patiently reconnect.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 9. There's extra cash to be made over the next two days. Focus on action more than words. Make your own luck through determination and persistence.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 9. An unexpected bonus benefits you personally. Keep your promises and bargains. Do what you said you would. Advance a cause close to your heart.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 6. Finish work in private through tomorrow. Tie up loose ends, and put things away. Slow down, and consider options as new opportunities arise.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 8. Community efforts can surge forward. Take actions planned earlier. Miscommunications or delays could frustrate. Focus on and keep your own part of the bargain.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 9. Professional opportunities are ripe for the picking. Traffic and communication snarls could slow the action. Stick to simple, practical career moves.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 8. You may want to spread your wings and fly. Check conditions. Avoid gossip or rumors. Monitor traffic. The news could affect your itinerary.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 8. Work out numbers with your partner over the next few days. Contribute to shared accounts. Avoid arguments about money; keep producing valuable input.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 8. Be receptive to a partner's view. Listen before advancing, to avoid a communications breakdown. Collaborate to get more done with less over the next few days.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 8. Get into physical action. A riddle can be solved. An amazing development impacts your work and health. Get your heart pumping. Pick up the pace.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 7. Include someone into your circle of close friends and family. Have patience with misunderstandings and delays. Take action for love.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 8. Things could get busy at home. Family and domestic matters capture your attention. Clean a mess. Stay out of someone else's argument.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater



Bliss



Bridge

North-South vulnerable, South deals

North
 ♠ Q 9 5 2
 ♥ 10 2
 ♦ A J 10 6 3
 ♣ A K

West
 ♠ 4
 ♥ Q J 8 7
 ♦ 9 7 2
 ♣ Q J 10 7 3

East
 ♠ 10 7 6 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K Q 8 5
 ♣ 9 6 5 2

South
 ♠ A K J 8
 ♥ A K 9 6 5 3
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 8 4

3-2 splits in both major suits would give South an easy 13 tricks. One 3-2 split would be the percentage favorite, but not two 3-2 splits. Just as well they stopped in a small slam as even 12 tricks required excellent technique and disdain for the overtrick. Duplicate players would be very likely

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	All pass

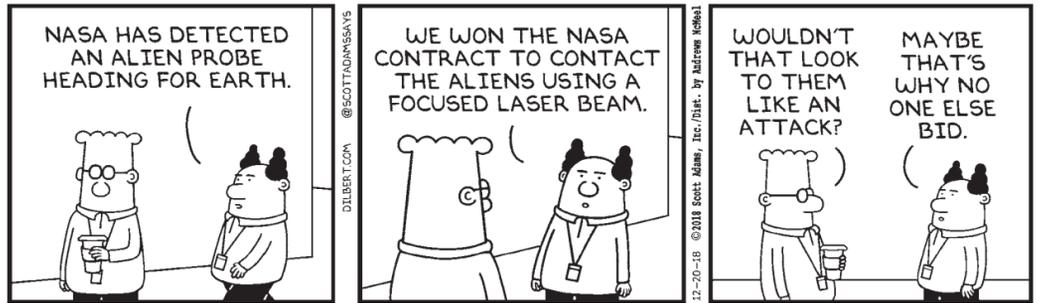
*Forcing to game
 Opening lead: Queen of ♣

to go down in this slam trying for an overtrick. South won the opening club lead with dummy's ace and led a low spade to his ace. He cashed the ace of hearts and then made a play that any rubber bridge player would be proud of. He led a low heart! West won with the queen and then shifted to a diamond in response to partner's signal.

Declarer rose with dummy's ace of diamonds and carefully led the nine of spades to his king. This proved to be a far-sighted play when West showed out. A heart was ruffed with the queen of spades and the carefully preserved five of spades was led for a finesse through East's 10 of spades. It was a simple matter, from here, for South to draw the last trump and claim his well-earned slam. Nicely played!

— Bob Jones
 tcaeditors@tribpub.com

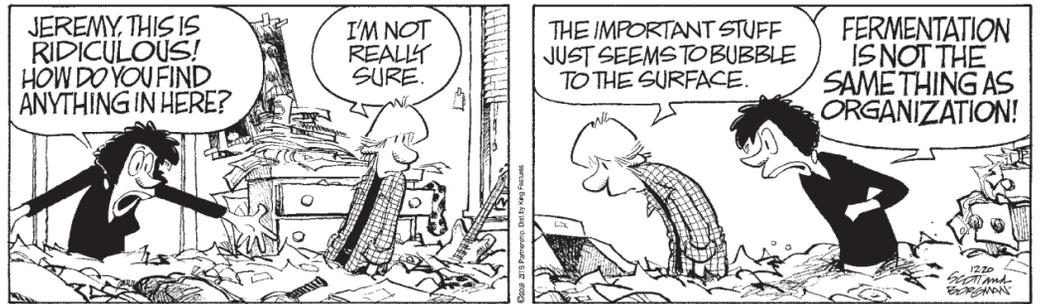
Dilbert



Baby Blues



Zits



Mr. Boffo



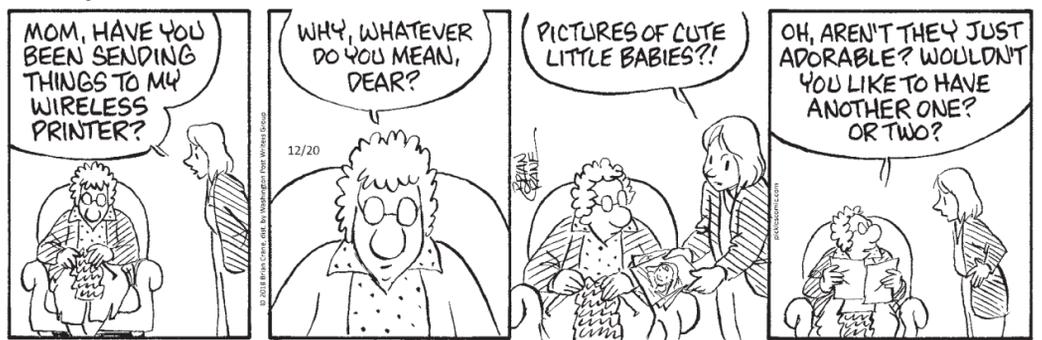
Frazz



Classic Peanuts



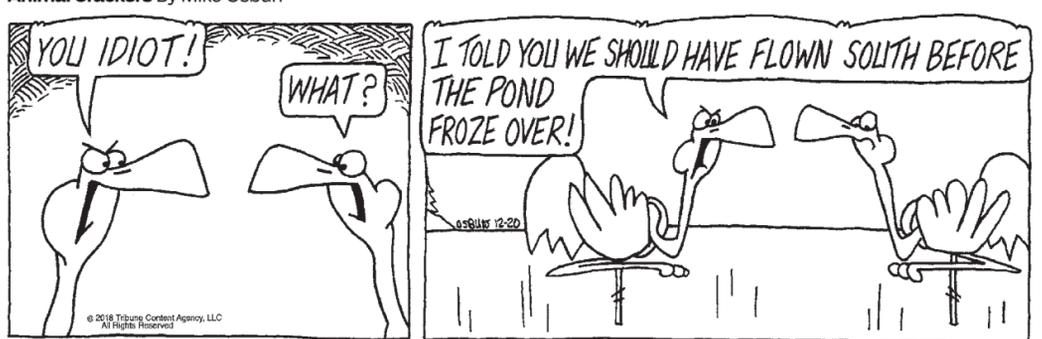
Pickles



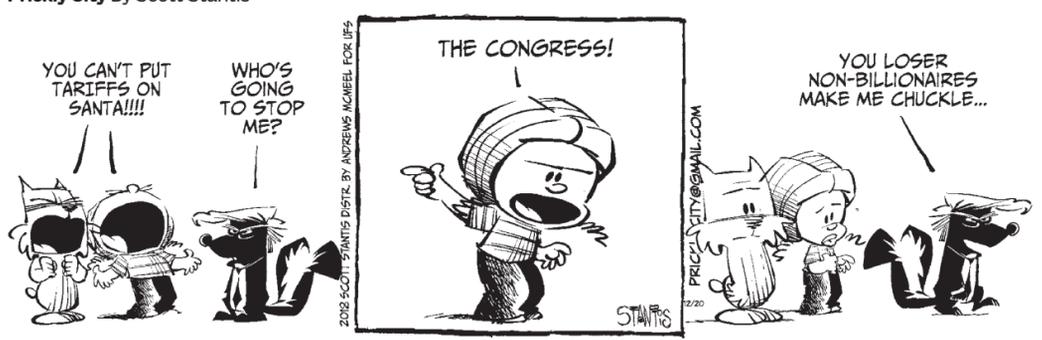
Dick Tracy



Animal Crackers



Prickly City



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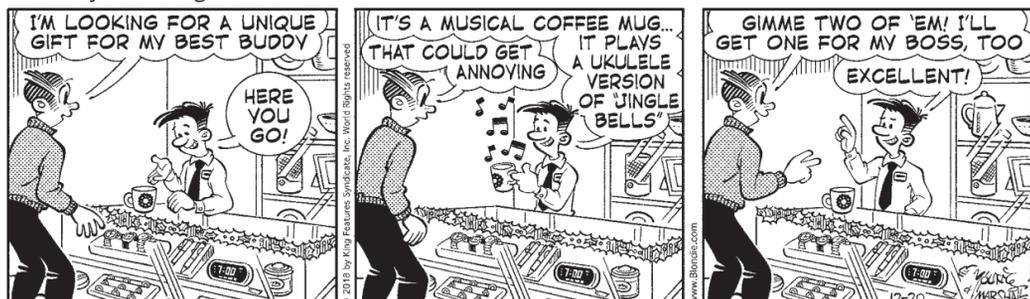
Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



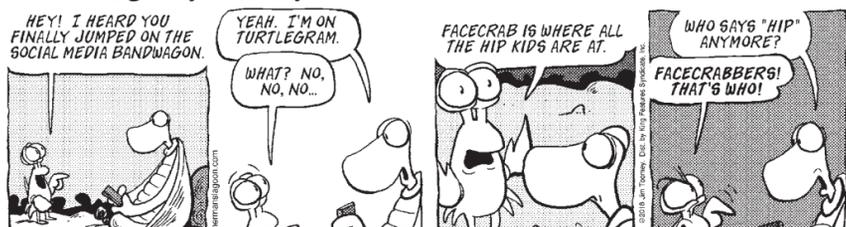
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



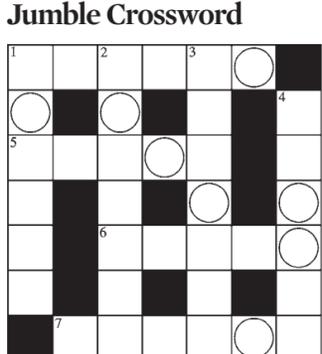
Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers



Trivia Bits

Patricia Reichardt, better known as **Pep-permint Patty**, is a character in what long-running comic strip?
 A) "Bloom County"
 B) "Brenda Starr"
 C) "Dick Tracy"
 D) "Peanuts"
 Wednesday's answer: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest, with nearly 104 million passengers passing through in 2017.
 © 2018 Leslie Elman. Dist. by Creators.com

Jumble Crossword



- CLUE ACROSS**
- Universe
 - Ice
 - Habit, custom
 - ___ salt
- CLUE DOWN**
- Type of nut
 - Rule
 - Run
 - Cake seller

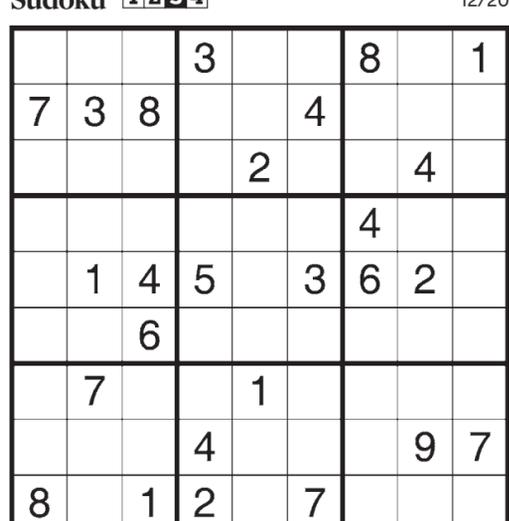
How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS ○○○○○ ○○○○○

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 ANSWERS: 1A-Cosmos 2A-Skate 3D-Operate 4P-Baker's 5B-Star Trek
 By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1 2 3 4

12/20



1	5	7	9	3	6	8	2	4
9	8	3	4	1	2	6	5	7
2	4	6	8	7	5	9	1	3
6	7	1	3	9	8	2	4	5
8	3	5	7	2	4	1	6	9
4	9	2	6	5	1	3	7	8
5	6	8	2	4	3	7	9	1
3	1	9	5	6	7	4	8	2
7	2	4	1	8	9	5	3	6

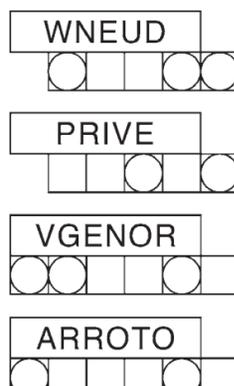
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Wednesday's solutions

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Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.



Answer here



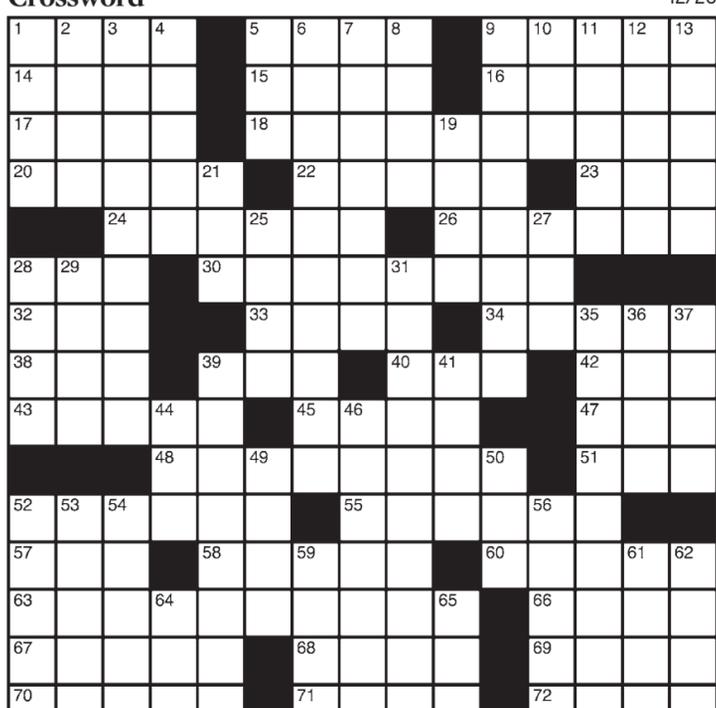
Wednesday's answers

Jumbles: SALSA CHAOS FEDORA BURLAP
 Answer: The grand opening of the rec center's new pool — CAUSED A SPLASH

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Crossword

12/20



- Across**
- 1 Goes out
 - 5 Car ad fig.
 - 9 Poppy extract
 - 14 Stretched to the max
 - 15 Cambodian cash
 - 16 Italian grandma
 - 17 West Coast gas acronym
 - 18 Violation of trust
 - 20 Kipling's Rikki-___Tavi
 - 22 ___ Dane
 - 23 Familia member
 - 24 Really get to
 - 26 Beeps and peeps
 - 28 Fluffy neckwear
 - 30 Acts charitably
 - 32 Ararat lander
 - 33 "___ be married, / My grave is like to be my wedding bed": Juliet
 - 34 Potentially offensive, briefly
 - 38 Bumbling one
 - 39 MDX ÷ X
 - 40 Unlock, in verse

- 42 Bit of soccer support
- 43 Feature of some Gene Autry songs
- 45 Pasternak heroine
- 47 "An everyday spud is a commentator," e.g.
- 48 Super Soaker, e.g.
- 51 It starts in Mar.
- 52 Distressed damsel's cry
- 55 Do business with
- 57 Takeout menu general
- 58 Moisten
- 60 Tops off
- 63 Too high for people to catch?
- 66 Meh
- 67 Jacobi of "Murder on the Orient Express" (2017)
- 68 UNC Chapel ___
- 69 Shakespearean schemer
- 70 Nobel, for one
- 71 Rights org.
- 72 1990s-2010s slugging nickname

- 12 Loosen, as laces
- 13 Uxmal inhabitants
- 19 Five-O nickname
- 21 "___ be an honor!"
- 25 Work up a sweat
- 27 Altar words
- 28 Treat with supreme care
- 29 McFlurry flavor
- 31 Political commentator who wrote "Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball"
- 35 Highest price, and what five Down answers have
- 36 +
- 37 Lowest price
- 39 Beach cookout
- 41 Songwriter with John
- 44 Girl in a pasture
- 46 Poison in some whodunits
- 49 Tight ends?
- 50 Viet Cong org.
- 52 Small earrings
- 53 Heaps
- 54 "___ santé!"
- 56 Calf neighbor
- 59 Persian Gulf capital
- 61 Mar-a-___: Florida estate
- 62 Flip-flopped?
- 64 Rosy
- 65 Gulager of "The Virginian"

Wednesday's solution



- Down**
- 1 Californie or Floride
 - 2 Italian port
 - 3 Uncovered, in a way
 - 4 Stir up
 - 5 Grade-school
 - 6 Grad- school formation
 - 7 Browser button with a curved arrow icon
 - 8 Move in a tutu
 - 9 Personal, as a talk
 - 10 Party pro
 - 11 Monogram ltrs.

Want more PUZZLES?
 Go to chicagotribune.com/games

CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

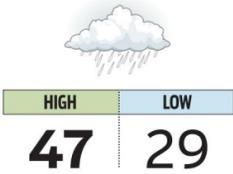
chicagoweathercenter.com | BY TOM SKILLING AND WGN9



THURSDAY, DEC. 20 NORMAL HIGH: 33° NORMAL LOW: 19° RECORD HIGH: 67° (1877) RECORD LOW: -9° (1963)

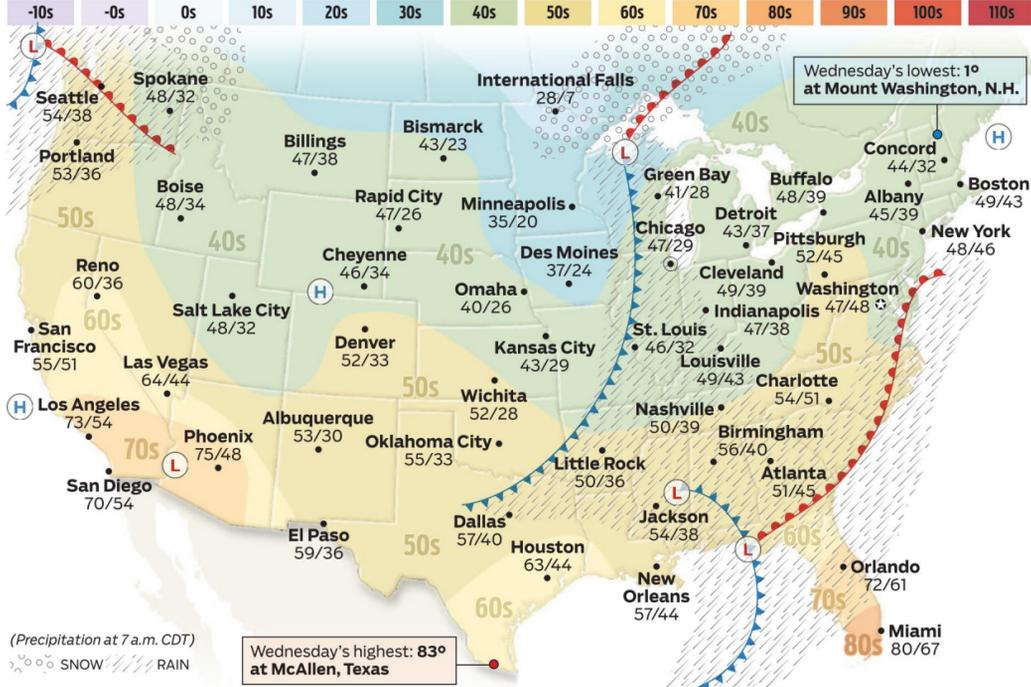
Clouds set to roll in, but temperatures stay mild

LOCAL FORECAST



■ A cold front moves through the Chicago area during the day with winds shifting to the northwest and falling temperatures after frontal passage.
 ■ Cloudy with periods of rain.
 ■ Temperatures peak in the middle 40s before noon with falling temps in the afternoon/evening.
 ■ Thursday night a wintry rain/wet snow mix changing over to all snow before gradually ending from the west.

NATIONAL FORECAST



After abundant sunshine early this week, clouds will thicken Thursday with occasional light rain as a cold front moves from west to east through the area. Temperatures will peak in the mid- to upper 40s Thursday morning before dropping off in the afternoon. Chicago's veteran weather observer Frank Wachowski recorded 100 percent sunshine Monday and Tuesday, and 58 percent Wednesday — making the average sunshine so far this month 58 percent (normal is 41 percent).
 Colder air will arrive as the leading edge of Canadian high pressure noses into our area. The rain may become mixed with or change over into a wet snow before ending from the west later Thursday night. While temperatures will most likely not make it out of the 30s the next few days, they still will be above normal for this time of year.

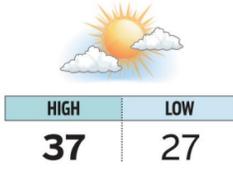
FRIDAY, DEC. 21



Cloudy, windy, colder with a slight chance of a rain/snow mix or wet snow early, mainly SE of Chicago. Highs in the mid 30s. N/NW wind 10-15 mph gusting to 25 mph. Mostly cloudy and cold overnight.



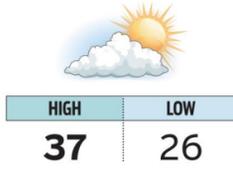
SATURDAY, DEC. 22



Partly cloudy with high temperatures in mid to upper 30s. Mostly cloudy overnight. Southwest winds shift to the northwest 8-15 mph.



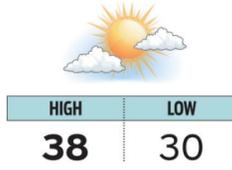
SUNDAY, DEC. 23



Partly sunny with highs in the upper 30s. Partly cloudy overnight. Northwest winds 8-15 mph, diminishing at night.



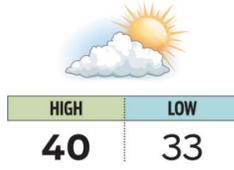
MONDAY, DEC. 24



Christmas Eve. Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Increasing and lowering clouds overnight. Southerly winds.



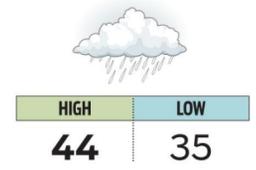
TUESDAY, DEC. 25



Christmas Day. Mostly cloudy. Light south wind turns east. Chance of rain developing overnight.



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26



Cloudy with periods of rain likely. High temperatures in the low to mid 40s. Some 10 degrees above the normal for this date. Rain overnight. Southerly winds.



ASK TOM

Dear Tom,
 What is the difference in sunrise, sunset times at the two solstices at Chicago and Green Bay?
 — John Mckevitt, Riverside

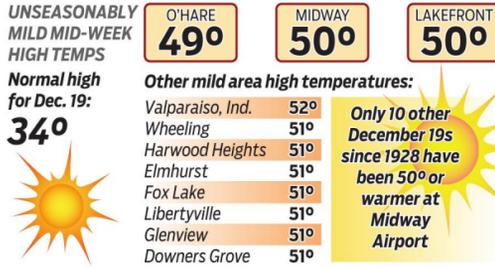
Dear John,
 Due to the 23.5-degree tilt of the Earth's axis from its orbital plane, the amount of daylight in the Northern Hemisphere increases when traveling north at the summer solstice and decreases at the winter solstice. Chicago records 15 hours and 13 minutes of daylight on the summer solstice with a 5:16 a.m. sunrise and 8:29 p.m. sunset. To the north, daylight at Green Bay increases to 15 hours and 34 minutes with a sunrise at 5:07 a.m. and a sunset at 8:41 p.m. On the winter solstice, Green Bay's daylight totals just 8 hours and 50 minutes with a 7:25 a.m. sunrise and 4:15 p.m. sunset, while in Chicago daylight increases to 9 hours and 8 minutes with a 7:15 a.m. sunrise and a sunset at 4:23 p.m.

Write to: ASK TOM
 2501 W. Bradley Place
 Chicago, IL 60618
 asktomwhy@wgn9.com

WGN-TV meteorologists Steve Kahn, Richard Koehneman, Paul Merzlock and Paul Dailey, plus Bill Snyder, contribute to this page.
 Hear Tom Skilling's weather updates weekdays 3 to 6 p.m. on WGN-AM 720 Chicago.

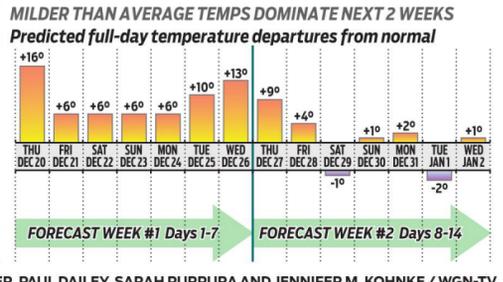


Modest temp downturn; white Christmas still possible here



The slow-moving "meridional" (north-south) flow Thursday-Friday will give way to a more "zonal" (west-east) flow this weekend. The Chicago area will experience somewhat cooler, but still above-normal temps during this period.
 THURSDAY-FRIDAY "Meridional" (north-south) flow patter
 SATURDAY-SUNDAY "Zonal" (west-east) flow patter

DECEMBER 25: WHITE CHRISTMAS FOR CHICAGO? MAYBE...
 While most weather models have weakly formed low pressure to our west, the European Model has a more developed low pressure with a warm front over central Illinois and snow across northern Illinois... stay tuned!



MIDWEST CITIES				OTHER U.S. CITIES				WORLD CITIES												
THURS./FRI.	FC	HI	LO	THURS./FRI.	FC	HI	LO	THURS./FRI.	FC	HI	LO	THURSDAY	FC	HI	LO					
Illinois	sh	49	34	sh	38	25	Albany	pc	45	39	sh	61	42	27	18					
Carbondale	sh	49	34	sh	38	25	Albuquerque	pc	59	34	sh	64	47	32	17					
Champaign	sh	48	31	sh	36	25	Albany	pc	45	39	sh	61	42	27	18					
Decatur	sh	46	31	sh	35	24	Amarillo	pc	54	27	sh	68	34	20	12					
Moline	sh	40	29	sh	36	24	Anchorage	pc	14	9	ss	18	16	Fort Smith	pc	51	34	sh	53	32
Peoria	sh	43	30	sh	36	24	Ashville	rn	48	45	sh	47	31	Fresno	pc	61	46	sh	60	45
Quincy	sh	42	29	sh	36	26	Aspen	pc	38	18	sh	39	21	Grand Junc.	pc	54	25	sh	46	27
Rockford	sh	41	29	sh	34	23	Atlanta	rn	51	45	sh	48	34	Great Falls	pc	51	37	sh	60	43
Springfield	sh	44	30	sh	36	24	Atlanta City	rn	53	41	sh	57	43	Harrisburg	rn	43	42	sh	61	40
Sterling	sh	40	28	sh	35	23	Austin	pc	62	41	sh	65	46	Hartford	pc	48	41	sh	60	48
Indiana	sh	47	38	sh	41	27	Baltimore	rn	46	46	sh	62	43	Helena	pc	45	34	sh	60	41
Bloomington	sh	47	38	sh	41	27	Billings	pc	47	38	sh	62	43	Honolulu	pc	79	70	sh	81	71
Evansville	sh	49	37	sh	40	27	Birmingham	rn	56	40	sh	44	25	Houston	pc	63	44	sh	64	47
Fort Wayne	sh	46	39	sh	41	31	Bismarck	su	43	23	sh	40	25	Int'l Falls	sh	28	7	sh	18	10
Indianapolis	sh	47	38	sh	41	28	Boise	pc	48	34	sh	41	24	Jackson	sh	54	38	sh	49	33
Lafayette	sh	48	35	sh	38	25	Boston	pc	49	43	sh	62	53	Jacksonville	sh	69	58	sh	60	41
South Bend	sh	46	34	sh	36	29	Brownsville	pc	74	45	sh	72	50	Jameau	sn	33	27	sh	32	27
Wisconsin	sh	41	28	sh	33	22	Buffalo	sh	48	39	sh	45	30	Kansas City	pc	43	29	sh	48	33
Green Bay	sh	41	28	sh	33	22	Burlington	pc	41	36	sh	52	43	Las Vegas	pc	64	44	sh	64	44
Kenosha	sh	43	30	sh	34	24	Charlotte	rn	54	51	sh	56	37	Lexington	pc	46	41	sh	44	31
La Crosse	sh	37	25	sh	31	22	Charltn SC	rn	67	59	sh	62	42	Lincoln	pc	46	25	sh	47	32
Madison	sh	47	38	sh	41	28	Charltn WV	rn	54	43	sh	46	33	Little Rock	sh	50	36	sh	52	31
Milwaukee	sh	48	35	sh	38	25	Chattanooga	rn	50	42	sh	45	32	Los Angeles	pc	73	54	sh	70	52
Wausau	rs	36	23	sh	28	18	Cheyanne	pc	54	34	sh	54	25	Louisville	rn	59	43	sh	45	31
Michigan	sh	43	37	sh	40	28	Cincinnati	sh	48	40	sh	44	31	Macon	rn	59	48	sh	51	36
Detroit	sh	43	37	sh	40	28	Cleveland	sh	49	39	sh	41	32	Memphis	pc	52	37	sh	46	33
Grand Rapids	sh	44	35	sh	37	28	Colo. Spgs	su	48	28	sh	61	27	Miami	ts	80	67	sh	72	54
Marquette	rs	38	26	sh	29	22	Columbia MO	sh	42	28	sh	41	24	Minneapolis	ss	35	20	sh	30	23
St. Ste. Marie	sh	38	31	sh	34	17	Columbia SC	pc	60	54	sh	59	38	Mobile	rn	63	45	sh	50	39
Traverse City	sh	43	34	sh	35	26	Columbus	pc	46	39	sh	42	32	Montgomery	rn	60	43	sh	46	33
Iowa	pc	36	23	sh	37	25	Concord	rs	44	32	sh	54	46	New Orleans	pc	57	44	sh	55	42
Ames	pc	36	23	sh	37	25	Corps Christi	pc	71	45	sh	50	32	New York	sh	48	46	sh	60	47
Cedar Rapids	pc	37	24	sh	38	28	Dallas	pc	57	40	sh	60	44	Norfolk	rn	61	59	sh	64	45
Des Moines	pc	37	24	sh	38	28	Daytona Bch.	ts	73	60	sh	64	42	Norfolk	pc	55	33	sh	57	35
Dubuque	sh	39	27	sh	34	23	Denver	su	52	33	sh	64	29	Oklahoma City	pc	50	36	sh	53	32
Illinois	sh	49	34	sh	38	25	El Paso	su	59	36	sh	64	29	Omaha	ts	40	26	sh	32	22
Florida	sh	59	36	sh	64	29	El Paso	su	59	36	sh	64	29	Orlando	ts	72	61	sh	63	44

CHICAGO DIGEST

WEDNESDAY TEMPERATURES					
LOCATION	HI	LO	LOCATION	HI	LO
Aurora	49	28	Midway	50	34
Gary	50	35	O'Hare	49	33
Kankakee	49	30	Romeoville	50	29
Lakefront	50	35	Valparaiso	52	31
Lansing	48	29	Waukegan	53	32

CHICAGO PRECIPITATION			
PERIOD	2018	NORMAL	
Wed. (through 6 p.m.)	0.00"	0.07"	
Season to date	1.52"	1.52"	
Year to date	47.43"	36.16"	

CHICAGO SNOWFALL			
PERIOD	O'HARE	MIDWAY	
Wed. (through 6 p.m.)	0.0"	0.0"	
Season to date	13.0"	9.4"	
Normal to date	6.0"	6.1"	

LAKE MICHIGAN CONDITIONS			
	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Wind S/NW	11-23 kts.	NW 15-30 kts.	
Waves	1-3 feet	5-8 feet	
Wed. shore/creeper water temps	37°/35°		

U.S. SNOW COVER			
DEC. 19	2018	2017	
Area covered by snow	20.2%	25.6%	
Average snow depth	1.6"	1.6"	

TRACKING THE COLD			
SINCE OCT. 15	O'HARE	MIDWAY	
Sub-32° highs	4 days	5 days	
Subzero lows	0 days	0 days	

CHICAGO AIR QUALITY			
Wednesday's reading	Moderate	Thursday's forecast	Moderate
Critical pollutant	Particles		

SUNRISE RISE/SET TIMES			
SUN	7:14 a.m.	4:22 p.m.	
Moon	3:01 p.m.	4:37 a.m.	

THURSDAY PLANET WATCH			
PLANET	RISE	SET	
Mercury	5:33 a.m.	3:08 p.m.	
Venus	3:23 a.m.	1:56 p.m.	
Mars	11:36 p.m.	11:17 p.m.	
Jupiter	5:43 a.m.	3:06 p.m.	
Saturn	8:01 a.m.	5:12 p.m.	

BEST VIEWING TIME			
MERCURY	6:00 a.m.	4° ESE	
Venus	5:45 a.m.	22.5° SE	
Mars	5:30 p.m.	44.5° S	
Jupiter	Not visible		
Saturn	Not visible		

SHOWSTOPPING NEWS

From one of the most influential theater critics in America.

Chicago Tribune
HOMES

Early detection of leaks could help avoid large repair costs **PAGE 2**

What you should know about thank-yous and recycling this season **PAGE 5**

Selling house "as is" likely to result in lower returns **PAGE 8**

Make yourself comfortable

Cozy spaces, patterned fabrics and warm neutrals seen as trends for 2019

PAGE 4



Avoid holiday plumbing disasters

HomeAdvisor

Murphy's law dictates that all plumbing disasters occur when you're entertaining, cooking a large meal or hosting guests for the weekend. Naturally, of course, they also generally occur on Saturday night or Sunday. Here's what you should do when they happen.

Clogged toilet: The only thing worse than dealing with a clogged toilet is clogging a toilet in someone else's home. Talk about embarrassing. That being said, toilets get clogged, even if you make it a point to have your main sewer line scoped once or twice a year.

Thankfully, it's one of the easier plumbing problems to fix — usually a plunger will get things flowing again (so be sure to keep one in every bathroom). But sometimes you have to deal with the mother of all clogs, and that calls for more drastic measures.

There are a number of different tactics for deal-



DREAMSTIME

A clogged toilet is one of the easier plumbing problems to fix.

ing with a clogged toilet. You can use chemical drain cleaners, a coat hanger (be sure to wrap the end with toilet paper), a wet/dry vac or a drain snake, to name a few. Regardless of what

method you choose, just remember to turn off the water to the toilet (you don't want to compound the problem). If none of these options clear the clog, you're going to need to call a plumber.

Clogged drain: Dealing with a clogged drain is a lot like dealing with a clogged toilet. But it could be an easier fix if the clog is located in the j-trap (the j-shaped pipe under your sink). Before you go taking

apart pipes, try using a chemical drain cleaner. If that doesn't work, try snaking the pipe. If the clog still doesn't dislodge, take apart the j-trap to see if the obstruction is there. If it isn't, the clog is farther down the line, and you'll need to call a plumber.

Fixing a broken garbage disposal:

If you have a garbage disposal, you've probably dealt with clogs at one point or another. Aside from being a major (and sometimes smelly) annoyance, a clogged disposal is a problem that can often be prevented so long as you're mindful of what you put down it (no eggshells, potato peels, grease or coffee grounds).

That being said, a disposal is a machine, and machines do break. If you notice that it's taking longer than usual for your disposal to do its thing, there's a good chance its blades need sharpening. A quick and easy way to give the blades a new edge is to run a few ice cubes through the disposal.

If the disposal isn't run-

ning at all, locate the reset button on the bottom of the unit and press it. If it's still not working, it's unfortunately time to call a plumber.

Water heater woes:

There's usually little mystery when your water heater breaks: There's no hot water or the unit is leaking at the base. If you're dealing with a broken water heater, you'll need to call a professional. But in the case your water heater is working and you're running out of hot water sooner than you're used to (not good when you've got a house full of guests), it could be caused by sediment in the water tank — and you'll want to flush the unit to clear the debris.

Of course, it could be that your water heater is just old and needs to be replaced. If you want to make sure you never run out of hot water again, take a look at installing a tankless water heater. Since costs can vary, you'll want to get estimates from at least three pros.

FINDS

Home alerts are made easy with leak, motion sensors

BY GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

When you're on vacation, I'd guess a notification of a water leak in your house isn't something you'd cherish. But in the long run, getting the early detection will hopefully avoid costly damage, making the annoying notice worth while.

With iHome's Wi-Fi dual leak sensor (iSB02) any level of handyman can have it installed in minutes to

detect a leak right when it starts and send an alert of the problem.

Setup is simple and you won't need a hub, just the iHome control app (iOS and Android) and your existing Wi-Fi. A pair of AA batteries (included) power the sensor. During the setup you'll see green and red lights alerting you to the status of the sensor.

You can place the small sensor behind commodes, under sinks or washers, in

basements or wherever you feel a potential leak could happen. The probes of the sensor have to be placed faced down and the sensor should not be submerged in water.

Along with notifications, the sensor has a buzzer when liquid is detected. You can also purchase an iHome SmartPlug and combine the devices to have lights or other devices turn on when a leak is sensed.

There are other iHome control products to shore up and secure other aspects of your home and get alerts if something isn't right.

The Wi-Fi motion sensor does exactly what its name states, it detects motion. With a single button setup and your Wi-Fi, you'll have remote monitoring with a text that alerts you when motion is detected.

The motion sensor can be connected to SmartPlug and have it work as a night

light or just have the plugs turn on a light when you walk in the front door or any room. When motion is detected, the lights will turn on, it's that easy.

The Wi-Fi door/window sensor has the same features, except it reacts to door or window movement and then sends you the alert.

www.ihomeaudio.com,
\$29.99 each



TNS

The iHome WiFi motion sensor is easy to set up and can be monitored remotely with alerts being sent when motion is detected.

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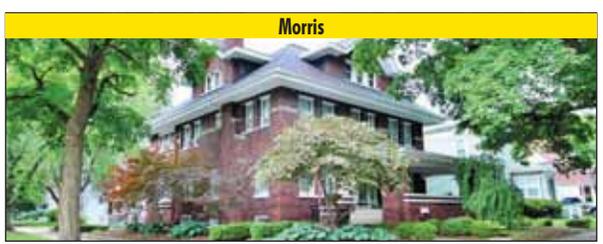
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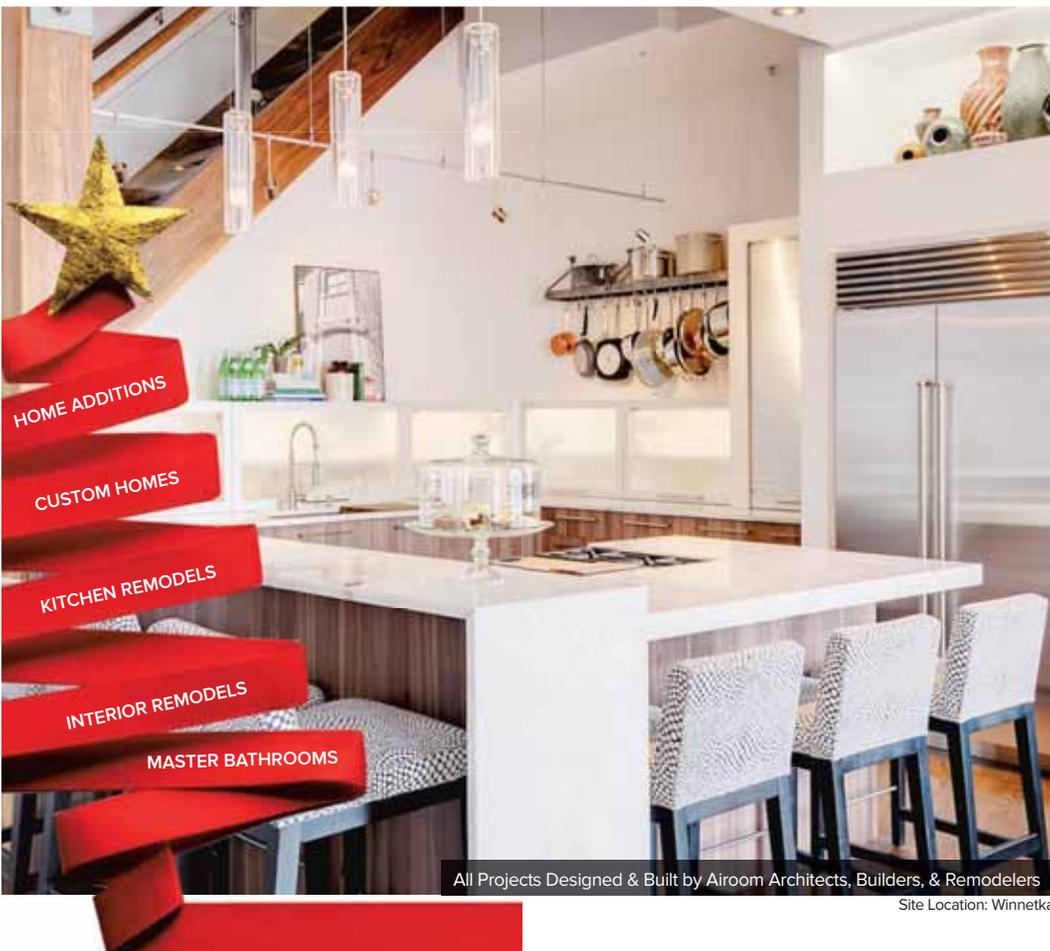


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Comfort at home is on trend for decor

BY MELISSA RAYWORTH
Associated Press

What trends will dominate home decorating in 2019?

When we asked interior designers about the colors, fabrics and styles likely to be popular this year, one message came through loud and clear: People are seeking comfort at home.

But rather than casual, farmhouse-style comfort, these designers are seeing a trend toward a sophisticated, elegant comfort achieved through things like warm wall colors, antique wooden items with a patina of age and rounded corners on furniture.

Along with the physical coziness these items bring, many folks seem to be seeking a degree of emotional comfort in their home decor.

"Someone just asked us if we would do an ombre carpet up their stairs, working with the ombre wallpaper up the wall," says New York-based furniture and wallcovering designer Brett Beldock. "They want this cocoon feeling. Our surroundings have to be really warm and comforting now (that) everything is crazy and we're all up in the air."

We've asked designers — Washington, D.C.-based Marika Meyer and New Yorker Dan Mazzarini — for details on what we'll see in home design in the coming year.

Cozy spaces

For years, Americans were in love with open floor plans and large furniture. Now, "people want more intimately scaled spaces," Mazzarini says. "Not Victorian-small, but not this kind of 'everything open' living."

In response, we're seeing "a temporary pause on oversized things," he says, as people feel like nesting.

Along the way, the color palette is becoming equally cozy. Popular neutral colors have "been so cool for a number of years," Meyer says. As 2019 approaches, "we're coming back into more warm neutrals."

And Beldock sees furniture shapes changing: We're seeing a return to rounded edges and pieces of furniture with big, soft, rounded arms.



ANGIE SECKINGER/MARIKA MEYER INTERIORS PHOTOS

As 2019 approaches, interior designer Marika Meyer sees a trend toward warm neutral colors and antique furniture in warm wood tones.



Shades of blue were popular in 2018, Meyer says, but she sees a growing trend toward decorating with shades of green.

Patterns and papers

Expect to see lots of paper and fabric coverings on walls and ceilings in 2019. Beldock says murals are popular, as are patterns that can be mixed to create a vibrant space and give walls an appearance of depth.

Meyer agrees that patterns are increasingly important. As part of a "return to traditionalism" in home design, she sees many peo-

ple opting for "heavy layering of very traditional patterns."

Although many patterns incorporate a mix of colors, expect to see plenty of rich shades of green in fabric and wallpaper patterns. While blues and indigos have been huge in recent years, Meyer says that in 2019, "green is the new blue."

It's likely to be used in everything from upholstery patterns to kitchen furnishings.



Among the trends emerging for 2019 are patterned fabrics that can be paired together.

Warm woods and traditional styles

Antiques and secondhand items are also having a moment.

"There have always been the antique lovers that we've worked with," Mazzarini says. But now, a growing number of people "are responding more positively to things that have an actual sense of history."

Meyer agrees: "More and more

clients say to me they're interested in a beautiful wood antique chest," she says.

This trend is quite practical in the smaller-scale homes and condos favored these days, Meyer says, because people have a real need for storage space. If a client chooses an antique wooden chest instead of a Parsons table, "it's concealed storage."

Traditional skirted tables are becoming popular again for the same reason: Under the soft folds of a fabric tablecloth that reaches to the floor, you can store items out of sight.

Even for homeowners who prefer a more modern style, warm wood tones are increasingly popular, Beldock says.

"Everyone's using warm woods and walnuts," she says, or "actually doing a fireplace, and around the fireplace having your extra wood in a niche on each side that's the height of the whole wall."

Some clients continue asking for lighter wood tones, Mazzarini says. But even when paired with white items for a very clean look, the wood grain brings a degree of warmth to a room.

Prune overgrown shrubs in winter for rejuvenation

BY TIM JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

I have some large, overgrown shrubs that have overtaken my garden. They seem to be nice shrubs, and I would like to try to save them. Can I prune them to reduce their size? If so, what is the best approach?

— Jerry Appleton,
Woodstock



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

I prefer to aggressively prune (rejuvenate) shrubs that have become overgrown, and generally get good results with many different types of shrubs. The overgrown shrubs are a liability in your landscape in their current condition. Rejuvenation pruning is best done when the plants are dormant during the winter to get the most regrowth in spring. It is best to finish the pruning before plants begin growing in the spring.

You likely have one or more of the following shrubs in your garden: lilac, viburnum, forsythia or red twig dogwood, all of which typically respond well to aggressive pruning, providing that they are in decent health. Plants under a lot of stress or in decline may not respond as vigorously as those in good condition but overgrown.

Garden beds that have had a large increase in shade over time can impede the response of sun-loving shrubs. I have not had good results in aggressively pruning large, overgrown panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*) cultivars with thick stems. It will be best to slowly reduce the size of these plants over a period of years or replace the plant for quicker results.

The first step is to try to remove all the large stems, especially if they have formed mature bark. A small folding hand saw will

Rejuvenation pruning is best done when plants are dormant in winter to get the most regrowth in spring.

work well for this and minimize damage to any remaining young stems. It is best to saw them at ground level to avoid leaving stubs.

The remaining young stems will likely need to be cut back in height. It is difficult to give exact height recommendations without seeing a picture of your shrubs, but likely you will end up cutting the remaining younger stems to a height of 2 to 3 feet.

You want to encourage strong growth from the base of the plant, so err on the side of cutting the shrubs back lower than you think they should be. If you do not cut them back hard enough, you can end up with spindly growth from the tops of the stems and not from the base. This type of pruning is dramatic and leaves your plants rather ugly.

If your shrubs do not have young stems emerging from the base of the plant, then you need to cut back the old thick stems to about 2 feet or just above the point where there is a young stem. Generally the shrubs will respond with new growth from the old stems and base of the shrub.

Since the goal is to remove the most of the old stems, you will need to prune back the thick remaining stems to new

stems that develop lower on the stem over the next couple of years. Cut back any young stems that remain to encourage branches. Once you get these old, thick stems to a couple of inches from the ground, you should be able to stop cutting them back, providing you have developed a good-looking shrub.

Monitor these shrubs in spring, and cut out any dead portions of the stems. It is likely that you will have some follow-up pruning to do. Cut back new growth that is shooting above the other stems to encourage the shrub to develop a denser habit.

Some shrubs such as lilacs, viburnums and forsythia form their flower buds in the previous year (flower on old wood), so the heavy pruning that you will be doing in winter will remove all the spring flowers. The shrubs will then flower the following year, providing that you avoid pruning them after their flower buds form in late summer/early fall this year.

It may also be beneficial to fertilize your shrubs in spring and provide extra water during any dry spells during the growing season.

Tim Johnson is director of horticulture for the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

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HOME REMEDIES

Ways to tip, thank and recycle for the holidays

BY PAUL F. P. POGUE
Angie's List

In the hubbub of the holidays, small points of etiquette and responsibility can easily be overlooked. Tipping, thank-you notes and recycling top the list of things you might not think about that can still add a bit of cheer to your holiday season.

Should I tip my service professional? If there's a regular plumber, house-cleaner or landscaper you rely on, you might wonder whether you should tip them during the holidays. Generally, tipping isn't expected in the home service trades like it is in the restaurant and personal grooming industries.

Contractors tell us they don't expect or count on tips because they already charge what they feel is a fair price for the work. That said, they do appreciate them. Tips are a great way to show your appreciation for work well done throughout the year.

If you're tipping an employee rather than a business owner, make sure the company policy doesn't forbid them from accepting tips. If you want to offer a different gift to your professional, consider writing a letter to the company owner praising the employee's work. Or, write a positive online review.

What about thank-you notes? In an age of email and smartphones, thank-you notes may seem like a thing of the past. But this means that a thoughtful, handwritten note carries more meaning now than ever. If you have kids, it's good to get them started on a good habit early as well.

If you send notes, do so promptly, preferably within a week. Write short



DREAMSTIME

A holiday tree doesn't reach the end of its life after Dec. 25. Consider recycling or reusing your tree.

and to the point, but try not to be generic.

Be sure to mention the specific gift or action. A quick line about how you plan to use the gift would be appropriate: "The serving tray was very thoughtful, and I'm sure it will get plenty of use at our dinner parties!"

Proofread carefully. You don't want to ruin an otherwise perfect note with a spelling or grammatical error.

How should I recycle during the holidays?

The holidays tend to generate a lot of waste, and if you're not careful, they can blossom into a full-on celebration of conspicuous consumption. Consider these tips to lower your environmental footprint and be a more considerate steward this season.

■ Use recycled wrapping paper, and prepare for next year by saving bows and ribbons for reuse. If you buy new paper, choose wrapping paper and holiday cards made from plain paper. You can't recycle metallic paper or glitter.

■ When you recycle boxes, break them down flat and remove large amounts of heavy-duty tape.

■ If you get a new computer, phone or tablet, consider recycling the old one at a registered e-waste collection site. Or, gift it to someone else who can use it — and take care to securely delete all personal information first.

■ If you have a live tree for the holidays, recycle it at season's end. Most municipalities collect trees in the two weeks following Christmas, so contact your local recycling center. If they don't, there are many nonprofit organizations that will pick up your tree in exchange for a small donation. Before recycling it, make sure to remove all non-organic decor, such as lights and ornaments.

■ You can also reuse your tree. It can be chipped for use as ground cover or mulch. Or place the trunk strategically in your garden as a small habitat for birds and squirrels. If you have a pond, you can even submerge a tree to create a habitat for small fish.

Radon gas a construction concern

BY TIM CARTER
Tribune Content Agency

Q: I'm building a new home, and someone at a Christmas party asked me what my builder was going to do about radon. I've never heard of radon and thought it was a joke. Is radon an issue I should worry about? And what can be done about it in new construction? The foundation is going to be poured in a few weeks, and I'm hoping it's not too late to do something.

A: You're not the first to attend a Christmas party or some other gathering like it and go home more upset than when you arrived. It can happen to anyone who shares new home construction news! Everyone seems to have an opinion, and you may get both good and bad advice from people who think they know a good deal about any given topic.

In this case, you got some good advice. Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that can cause health issues. The gas is generated by the decomposition of uranium, a natural element. Some types of bedrock contain more uranium than others. The radon gas works its way out of the rock, up into the soil and into groundwater. It's constantly clawing its way to the atmosphere.

There's some debate as to the amount of exposure that's required to cause health issues, but I'll leave that up to the medical



TIM CARTER PHOTO

Piping around the entire inner perimeter of the foundation is usually sufficient to capture the radon gas, which is then transported to the roof via a vertical pipe.

experts to hash over. The good news is that it's very, very inexpensive and easy to ensure radon doesn't cause you any problems if you're building a new home. In most cases, it takes just three hours or less and some simple pipe to eliminate worry.

I went online and looked at several maps that indicate radon risk potential for the contiguous 48 states here in the USA. Just doing a simple estimation, it appears to me that just about 65 percent of the lower 48 U.S. states have a moderate or high potential for radon infiltration.

You can talk with different radon experts, and my guess is you'll get multiple methods to capture and redirect the radon that's underneath your home.

Here's how I've always dealt with this small challenge.

Most new homes that have full basements have a poured concrete slab in the basement. It's a good idea to put in a slab in a crawlspace, too. These slabs, in almost all cases, are poured over some type of washed gravel. The gravel layer can be from 8 to 10 inches thick, and often the stones can range in size from green peas to grapes or walnuts. Water and gas travel fast through this type of material.

It's important to realize this gravel shouldn't have any sand in it. Sand slows down the movement of water and gas to an extent. The thick gravel allows an inexpensive worker to install a perimeter pipe on

the inside of the footing with minimal effort. For sake of discussion, let's say the gravel layer is 8 inches thick and you're going to install common 4-inch perforated drain tile pipe.

You'd put in about 2 inches of gravel over the soil, then you'd put in the perforated pipe. I prefer to use solid, straight pipe that has two rows of 1/2-inch diameter holes drilled into it about every 6 to 8 inches. I always place the holes aiming down, not up.

You can install extra pipe that crosses over the center of the basement floor much like a large sheet of graph paper, but I don't feel it's necessary. The pipe around the entire inner perimeter of the foundation is sufficient to capture the radon gas because it can work its

way through the open gravel.

At one spot in the horizontal pipe, you need to install a tee fitting aiming to the sky. A solid 4-inch pipe is glued into the tee. Once the house is built, this solid pipe, with no holes in it, will continue up through the house and out the roof. This pipe acts like a chimney and radon floats out of it. Any time the wind blows over the top of the pipe, it creates a vacuum and radon is actively pulled out of the soil under your home.

Once the rest of the gravel is installed to cover the pipes and before the concrete slab is poured, it's critical to install a giant sheet of cross-laminated vapor retarder over the gravel. This plastic should

meet the ASTM E1745 standard. Do not skip this step. If you can't get one giant sheet and there have to be seams, be sure you get the approved tape made by the plastic vapor retarder company and tape all the overlap seams of the plastic.

Be sure the plastic extends to the side walls of the foundation. This vapor retarder prevents radon from getting into your home through shrinkage cracks that will open up in your slab within a month or two after it's poured. A year after the slab is poured you'll notice a small gap between the slab and the foundation wall and in other locations. These gaps need to be filled with a very high-quality caulk.

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GETTY

One expert says that sellers of an “as is” house should remove furniture and belongings.

3 tips for selling a house ‘as is’

BY ELLEN JAMES MARTIN
Andrews McMeel Syndication

A divorced man in his 60s was struggling with medical issues when he was also diagnosed with bladder cancer. He was compelled to put his 1960s-era bungalow up for sale. He needed the money to buy a condo in an assisted-living community near relatives.

The owner had let up-keep on his house slide for years. His living quarters were crammed with unsorted possessions, and the whole place cried out for a paint job. But he lacked the funds and energy to undertake the necessary improvements before selling.

Unfortunately, this true tale didn't end happily. Though the man's bungalow was in a solid suburban neighborhood, the property languished unsold for nearly a year. He accepted his only bid — a lowball from a couple who hauled in a dumpster for the man's castaways and tackled the renovations themselves.

John Rygiol, a veteran real estate broker, says selling a house “as is” nearly always results in sacrificial returns.

“These days, buyers' eyes are accustomed to seeing model-homelike interiors. So, any place that goes on the market in a shabby condition is usually passed over,” says Rygiol.

Housing economists say that “as is” sellers must

moderate their expectations.

Here are a few pointers for sellers:

Concentrate on low-cost changes with impact.

Owners with few resources can still increase their odds of getting more for their “as is” property with little or no cash expended. Even those who must rely on volunteers to make their homes presentable are better off than sellers who do nothing.

“It's unbelievable the bad reaction buyers have to a house that's messy,” says Rygiol, who's affiliated with the National Association of Exclusive Buyer Agents

Claire Jean Prager, a veteran real estate broker, says financially challenged sellers should consider searching for volunteers by looking for a support group, such as a cancer survivor network or a nearby faith organization.

She recommends you first focus on removing excess furniture and personal items that make it hard for those viewing your place to picture themselves living there.

“I'm talking about all those photos and notes attached to your refrigerator with magnets and all those many family mementos,” Prager says.

Try to find a listing agent trained to redo your interior.

The current real estate

climate has spawned the new industry of professional home stagers. These are people hired to rearrange and supplement furnishings to make properties more appealing.

Mark Nash, a real estate broker and the author of “1001 Tips for Buying and Selling a Home,” says stagers typically charge \$300 or more for a minor redo. But if you lack the funds to pay a stager, he suggests you look for a listing agent who will provide such services without charging an extra fee.

Start with the right list price.

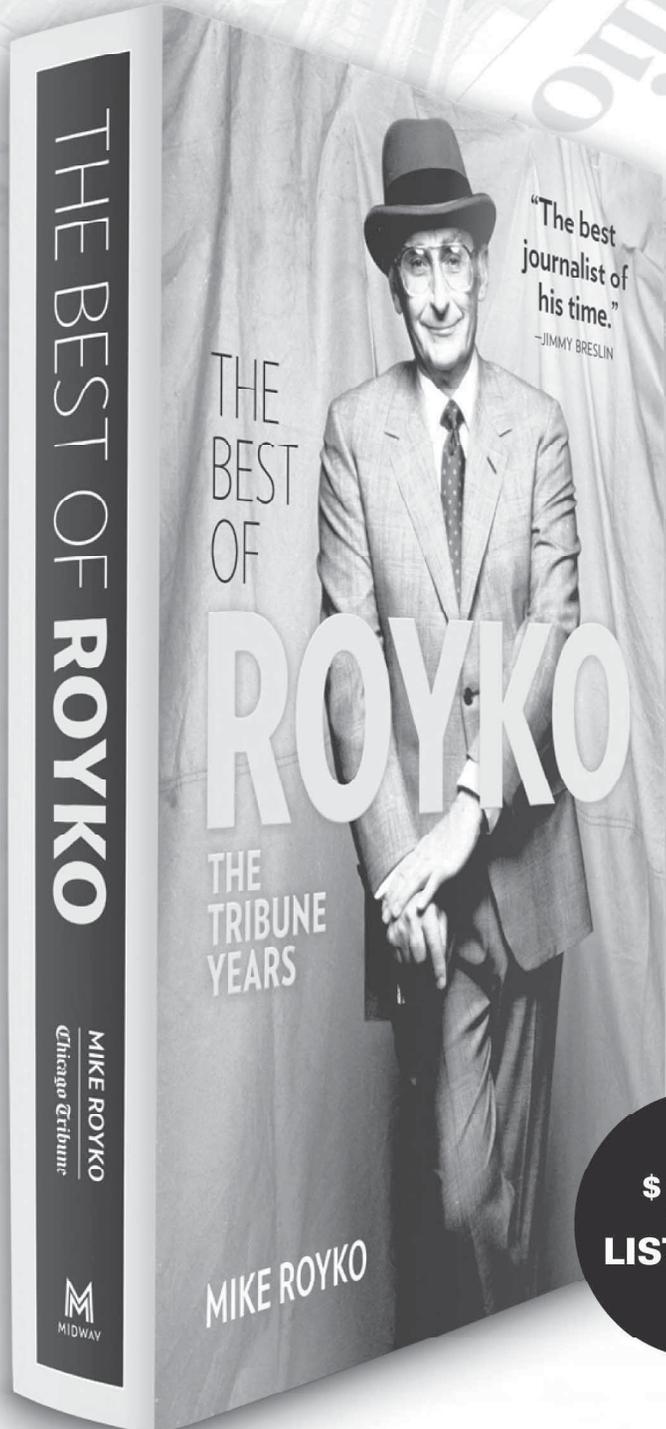
Rygiol says some owners are tempted to “test the market” with a list price at the high end of the neighborhood range.

But he says those in this predicament are better off pricing from the outset at the precise current market value of their property.

“Go around your neighborhood and look at For Sale signs as indications of the strongest and most successful agents in your area. Then call three of these top agents, asking them to come over and recommend a totally realistic selling price,” Rygiol says.

He says you shouldn't necessarily select the agent who suggests the highest list price. Rather, listen to their advice on how your “as is” property should go on the market.

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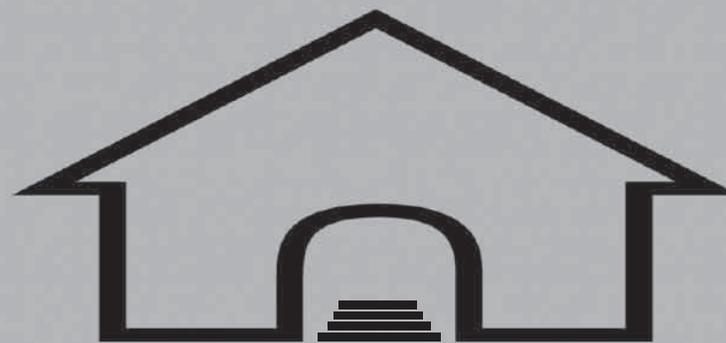


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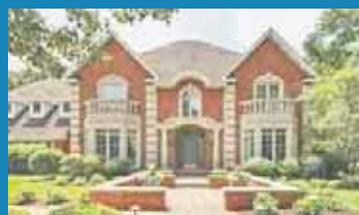
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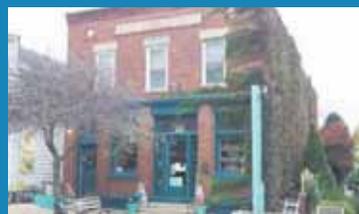
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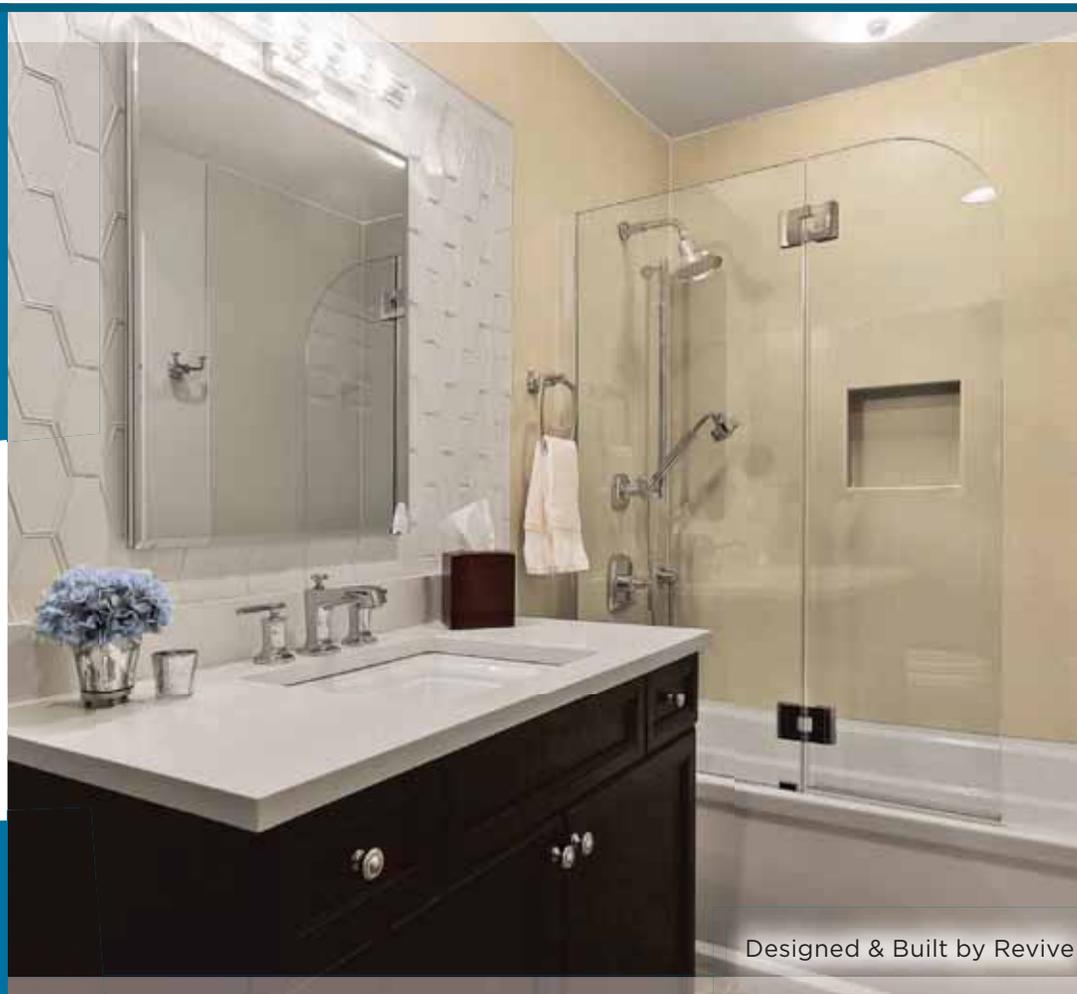
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