



From worst to first

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Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle is also head of the county's Democratic Party.

Alderman to county boss to mayor?

Preckwinkle opposed machine, worked with it, became 'progressive'

BY HAL DARDICK
Chicago Tribune

When Cook County Democratic brass met 65 years ago to pick a new leader, a cadre of almost exclusively white, ethnic, suit-clad men assembled inside their old, smoke-filled hotel headquarters at Clark and Madison to crown then-County Clerk Richard J. Daley as chairman of an organization fueled by patronage.

The optics were quite different in April, as party officials again gathered to elect a leader. A diverse lot of men and women, some casually dressed, milled about an open, contemporary conference room in a high-rise at

Turn to **Power**, Page 6

Shutdown to stretch past Christmas

As Trump clings to wall demand, legislators leave DC., workers in limbo

BY LISA MASCARO, DARLENE SUPERVILLE AND KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The partial federal shutdown was expected to drag past Christmas as President Donald Trump and congressional leaders remained stuck in a standoff over his border wall with Mexico with no breakthrough Saturday.

Vice President Mike Pence arrived on Capitol Hill with a counteroffer to Democrats after the sides traded offers in recent days.

At the White House, Trump

Turn to **Shutdown**, Page 32

Chemical's public health impact just becoming clear

Insiders knew of ethylene oxide's ties to cancer. Waukegan and Willowbrook didn't.

BY MICHAEL HAWTHORNE
Chicago Tribune

When Julie Cannell was born in the 1980s, the Sterigenics plant in Willowbrook churned up to 169,000 pounds of cancer-causing ethylene oxide into the air every

year. Cannell grew up about a mile from the facility in a leafy suburban neighborhood of big homes and even bigger yards. She attended public schools close to Sterigenics. But like most residents of the DuPage County

village, she had no idea the company existed until this summer, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency singled out Willowbrook as one of a few dozen communities across the nation facing alarmingly high cancer risks from toxic air pollution.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014, shortly after her 30th birthday, Cannell endured a dou-

ble mastectomy and rounds of debilitating radiation and chemotherapy. Now she is among dozens of cancer survivors and families of victims wondering if daily exposure to an obscure industrial chemical contributed to the diseases.

"My parents moved to Willowbrook because my dad felt like we

Turn to **Chemical**, Page 12



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Officer Eduardo Marmolejo's daughter Madalyn holds a Chicago city flag after her mother, Maria, received it from the mayor Saturday.

A LEGACY: 'BE KIND'

Teenage daughter of fallen police officer brings mourners to their feet

BY JEREMY GORNER AND ANNA SPOERRE
Chicago Tribune

He was hailed as a hero and a light for the city of Chicago, but the most touching tribute during Saturday's funeral for fallen police Officer Eduardo Marmolejo came from his eldest daughter.

"Hi, Dad, I miss you so much," Rebeca Marmolejo said

through tears at St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel, where a day earlier services were held for Marmolejo's partner, Officer Conrad Gary. The two were struck and killed by a train as they pursued a suspect Monday in an area near 103rd Street and Dauphin Avenue on the Far South Side.

"I have so much to say and



Marmolejo

now there's no time," Rebeca, 15, said. "Not to hug or ever see you again breaks my heart into a million pieces. You always had faith in me, and that kept me going."

"Now that you've clocked out, it's my turn to cover the shift," she continued, struggling to keep from crying. "He taught me the smallest

actions make the biggest impact," Rebeca said, concluding her remarks in the packed church by urging everyone to "Be kind and live with no regrets."

The crowd answered with a standing ovation.

Earlier, Chicago police Superintendent Eddie Johnson remembered Marmolejo, also

Turn to **Tribute**, Page 9



Tom Skilling's forecast High 37 Low 26

Chicago Weather Center: Complete forecast in Nation & World, Page 41

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JOHN KASS

Don't let this political mystery be forgotten

The college kid vs. the Chicago political boss is looking mysterious. The FBI and Cook County prosecutors are looking into that mysterious and now national David vs. Goliath story in Chicago's 13th Ward — between 19-year-old college freshman David Krupa and powerful Boss Madigan.

But here's the thing about political mysteries in Chicago. Democratic ward bosses don't like mysteries, because people talk. So there is a rule about mysteries that goes like this: Shut up and forgetaboutit.

Like those thousands of mysterious 13th Ward affidavits, gathered by 13th Ward Regular Democratic Organization precinct captains, trying to knock Krupa off the ballot, quite possibly involving thousands of ward residents in felonies.

I'm hoping we don't forget about that one, because the affidavit overkill was likely all about voter intimidation and outright fraud, and perhaps the FBI and local prosecutors can tell us if crimes were involved.

Maybe they're investigating a criminal enterprise. Who knows?

Speaker Madigan's motto might very well be like the others: Shut up and forgetaboutit.

"I'm not going to shut up and forget about it," Krupa, the DePaul freshman majoring in political science and economics, told me the other day. "The FBI is on it, other investigative agencies, so I hope people don't forget about it."

But here's the weird thing, David. People forget things in Chicago, almost as if by accident.

Chicago forgot how then-Mayor Richard Daley hired a nobody, Angelo Torres, to run the multimillion-dollar mob-dominated Hired Truck program out of City Hall.

And Chicago also forgot Torres' predecessor, an Outfit bookie named Nick "the Stick" LoCoco. When the feds came knocking about Hired Truck, Nick the Stick decided to go on a horseback ride. How many bookies go on horseback rides during NFL games? But Nick the Stick went riding anyway, and fell and got his head kicked in, perhaps by a horse, and he died.

And was forgotten, like so many other things.

And what happened to all those women who accused Madigan's top political aides of improper sexual advances? The women seem to have faded from public view.

One of the Madigan lieutenants who was forced to step down was Kevin Quinn, fired just before Democratic political foot soldier Alaina Hampton was preparing to go public about her complaints of unwanted sexual advances, aggressive phone calls and aggressive texts from Quinn.

The departed Quinn is the brother of Boss Madigan's hand-picked 13th Ward alderman, Marty Quinn, running in the aldermanic campaign against David Krupa. The Madigan organization makes little mention of the Kevin Quinn episode.

And the Madigan men don't go around discussing Alaina Hampton. It's as if she never existed.

But the 13th Ward is all about



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

David Krupa, 19, foreground, is running for alderman in Chicago's 13th Ward, challenging Ald. Marty Quinn on House Speaker Michael Madigan's home turf.

Democratic ward bosses don't like mysteries, because people talk. So there is a rule about mysteries that goes like this: Shut up and forgetaboutit.

spreading information to journalists to smear Krupa, including an order of protection filed against him by a girlfriend when they were 16.

Krupa says the order of protection was vacated by a judge. But if you want to poke in some teenage romantic past, enjoy yourselves. Teenagers, boys and girls, do stupid things. If you're looking up a teenager's past, searching for dirt, then you might as well poke around Mike Madigan's organization too.

And you'll find Kevin Quinn, a grown man using his power as a lieutenant of Boss Madigan to hit on women who thought he was creepy.

"All that stuff is a distraction from the real issue, the main issue," Krupa said. "That there were little over 1,700 signatures on my nominating petitions, and some people, in an organized fashion, went out and got some 2,800 affidavits of residents who said they signed my petitions and wanted to revoke their signatures.

"How did that happen? They must have lied to people to get them to sign or they intimidated them," Krupa said. "Either way, it must be investigated. These power plays have got to stop."

The Madigan organization isn't saying much — just smearing the college kid through reporters who won't tell their viewers where the smears come from.

But the 13th Ward spin I heard the

other night at a Democratic holiday party was most impressive.

The party was held at one of my favorite places, JC's Pub in McCook.

It was a great party, with political pros talking and drinking, wondering who would win the race for mayor. They pour an honest highball at JC's Pub, and the pizza was good, and the shrimp was as big as your hand.

And there were two guys at the front bar from Chinatown, talking about how Sicilians, Greeks and Croatians roast their lamb.

And they, and everyone else wanted to know what was on Madigan's mind to draw attention to himself with all those sworn affidavits.

The spin was that it must have been rogue precinct captains working on their own.

That's nice, except for this: 13th Ward precinct captains never veer off impulsively, or they're gone. If they had one impulsive bone in their body, they'd have already been gone.

When I called the Cook County state's attorney's office, they were ostentatiously cryptic.

"We cannot confirm or deny whether there is an ongoing investigation. However, we have been in contact with the Chicago Board of Elections regarding this matter, thanks," said spokeswoman Tandra R. Simonton.

But later, the Board of Elections voted to refer the matter to federal and local prosecutors. Good move, election commissioners.

Will this mystery ever be really solved? Is what happened in the 13th Ward a crime or not? We could find out, but just don't tell me to shut up and forgetaboutit.

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KRISTAN LIEB/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Sarah and Justin Breen have their 51st date night of the year on Wednesday — and they have a reservation for Dec. 28.

Couple resolved to date regularly. One week to go.



MARY SCHMICH

On their most recent date night, Justin and Sarah Breen ordered filet mignon with peppercorn crust, preceded by a cheese plate and followed by chocolate cake with raspberry drizzle. He drank an Arnold Palmer. She ordered white wine. They finished with coffee from a French press. None of that matters.

What matters is that on Wednesday evening, in the penultimate week of 2018, they were on their 51st date night of the year, only a few days shy of fulfilling their New Year's resolution to go out to dinner once a week, just the two of them, without the kids. "It was Justin's idea," Sarah said. "One of the few good ideas I've had in my lifetime," Justin said.

They were sitting in the Barn Steakhouse, a warmly lit room in an old brick-walled horse barn in Evanston, as servers deftly whisked dishes off and on tables. "I don't think Sarah believed we could do this," he said. "Oh God no," she said.

Sarah Breen is a pediatrician. Justin runs BrEpic Communications, a PR firm he founded after leaving his post as a senior editor at DNAinfo. He proposed the weekly date-night idea to his wife nearly a year ago while she was on a lunch break from work. Their marriage felt strong, and they loved hanging out with their two boys, who are 4 and 6, but they missed having time alone together, not that they'd ever had much.

Sarah was 22 and Justin was 27 when they met on an internet dating site. For their first date, in 2004, he picked her up at her parents' house. They spent eight hours roaming Chinatown, Navy Pier and Lincoln Park Zoo. They ate a lot.

"Your weekly dinner dates with your beautiful wife inspired me to finally get a baby-sitter, so that my husband and I can enjoy kid-free nights again."

— In an email from a friend

"We never dated anyone after that," Sarah said.

They never dated each other much either. The day after their first date, Sarah entered medical school. Justin, meanwhile, was working late hours as assistant sports editor at the Post-Tribune of Northwest Indiana. When they found time together, it often consisted of him watching TV with the volume off while she studied. It wasn't fairy tale romance, but it was love.

"Sarah taught me how to love," Justin said. "It's a miracle she married me. I'm not kidding."

But she did, and soon they were raising two sons in Glenview. They loved family life and their jobs but knew they needed time with just each other.

"There's so much joy with children," Justin said, "but so much stress."

Their first date night of 2018 was at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Northbrook. The next week they went to The Noodle Cafe in Wilmette. In week three, it was on to Coast Sushi & Sashimi in Evanston, and that's when Justin began posting date-night photos of Sarah on social media.

As the weeks passed, their friends watched the weekly social media posts the way you might watch a tightrope walker or a thriller movie: Would they make it?

They ate at a different restaurant every week, which was fun, but not

essential.

"It was never about the food for us," said Sarah. "Even if the service was slow, great. We got more time to spend with each other."

"We never get bored of talking to each other," said Justin.

"He's my best friend," she said. Justin looked down at his plate then up at her. "Thanks."

Fifty-two straight weeks is a lot of weeks, weeks in which one of them might have gotten sick or gotten mad at the other, in which the baby sitter might have failed to show.

"There's been nights when I've said I'm not going out," Sarah said.

"You did?" he said. She laughed. "But going out made it better."

Almost as satisfying as the date nights themselves was the response from people they've inadvertently motivated to do the same. "Your weekly dinner dates with your beautiful wife inspired me to finally get a baby-sitter," a friend emailed, "so that my husband and I can enjoy kid-free nights again."

And now here they are, close to the finish line, with a reservation for Dec. 28, week 52, at Oriole in the West Loop.

It's like marriage itself, Justin says. Magic doesn't make the dream come true. Work and commitment do.

On Wednesday night, he posted a photo of Sarah at the Barn Steakhouse even before dinner was over, and about the time the check came, he displayed the post.

"I am SO IMPRESSED with the two of you!" a woman commented. "We have ZERO children and probably haven't been on a real date in...oh now I'm going to go cry."

"Don't screw it up this coming week," another friend commented. "You're almost there. 52 weeks."

"We won't screw it up," Justin said, and then they were off, in time to put the kids to bed.

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When we started the @VintageTribune Instagram account in 2014, we had no idea how big the response would be. Robin Daughtridge, former associate managing editor for photography, and myself would often share "found" photos while searching through the Tribune's archives looking for historic images. These "one-offs" — photographs that were intriguing, shocking or just plain fun — became a bit of an obsession, and the Instagram account was born as an outlet for us to share them with you. The response was overwhelming.

Since our first post July 1, 2014, we've shared more than 5,000 photos and grown to know many of you in our "Insta" community — more than 83,000 fans. You've found grandparents, parents and even yourselves in our photos. Now, we're bringing these images back to print, once again, with a collection of 300 of our — and your — favorites. "Vintage Chicago: The Best of @vintagetribe on Instagram" is a portrait of a city and its people, told through the lenses of countless photographers from the city's hometown paper. Each frame is a story, a trip back in time. We hope you enjoy the trip as much as we have.

— Marianne Mather, photo editor.

"Vintage Chicago: The Best of @vintagetribe on Instagram" is available now at chicagotribune.com/vintagetribe, and wherever books are sold.

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A year of unpredictable weather

2018 marked by severe cold, record rain and December tornadoes

By **TONY BRISCOE**
Chicago Tribune

Illinois residents are accustomed to hunkering down and expecting the worst from the weather in all four seasons, but 2018 delivered some brutal punches.

From the first day of the year, the state saw record-setting cold. That was followed by debilitating heat, flooding and a cluster of year-end tornadoes.

Here are some of the extreme weather highlights from 2018:

A new year and a record-setting cold snap: As Illinois bid farewell to 2017, a bitterly cold air mass that arrived the day after Christmas continued to linger over the northern part of the state, settling Chicago and Rockford into a deep freeze well into the new year.

Between Dec. 26 and Jan. 6, temperatures in Chicago remained below 20 degrees, a 12-day cold snap rivaled only twice, in the winters of 1936 and 1895, according to the National Weather Service. The freezing temperatures triggered delays on Metra, with rail breaks caused by contracting steel and trains slowing down to reduce stress on the tracks. Calls for roadside assistance climbed sharply as the cold deflated tires, froze gas lines and drained car batteries.

The most grueling stint of the prolonged cold snap took place from New Year's Eve to Jan. 2. On New Year's Day, the high temperature was 1 degree, the coldest daily high on record. The low was minus 9.

As awful as the temperatures appeared on daily weather forecasts, they felt even worse. With the wind, it seemed as cold as minus 25 degrees.

The temperatures were frosty enough to cancel the annual Polar Plunge in Lake Michigan at North Avenue Beach.

By the end of the month, at least nine people had died from cold exposure.

Coldest April in 111 years disrupts baseball season: Though the severe cold eventually let up, winterlike weather was hard to escape.

April ranked as the fourth-coldest on record in Chicago and second in Rockford. For both cities, it was the most bitter April since 1907.

A frigid air mass settled over much of the Midwest and Northeast, making for a bone-chilling start to the Major League Baseball season.

The cold and snow contributed to 28 games being postponed that month — an all-time



Joyce Morrissey sorts through the debris of her nephew's house in Taylorville, Ill., on Dec. 2, after a tornado tore through the town.



Kyla Samuels and Joseph Concepcion play in a pool while Jacob Concepcion rides his tricycle in front of their home on a hot July day.

high. There were 10 days on which temperatures were 40 degrees or lower, tied for the second-most on record. For MLB at large, there were 35 games played in April when temperatures at first pitch were 40 or lower, compared with only two for all of 2017, according to MLB.

On April 9, the date of the Chicago Cubs' home opener, the city received about 2 inches of snow. The game was postponed, so instead of baseball, a lighthearted snowball fight ensued between Cubs players at Wrigley Field.

While snow and icicles were a familiar sight, one of the most notable hallmarks of the month was missing: thunderstorms. This was the first "thunderless" April since 1952.

Wettest May thanks to Tropical Storm Alberto: Tropical Storm Alberto made landfall May 28, rocking the Florida Panhandle with strong winds and driving rains.

Within 48 hours, the spiraling remnants of the tropical storm moved into Illinois, bringing diminished yet still potent weather conditions. In DuPage and Cook counties, heavy rain of 2 to 5 inches inundated stormwater systems and roadways.

Flooding was the worst in Addison, Barrington, Hoffman Estates, Elmhurst and Villa Park, according to the weather service.

Though the weather service's station at O'Hare International Airport only saw nine-tenths of an inch, that contrib-

uted to what already was a monsoonlike month. The monthly precipitation of 8.21 inches recorded at the airport made it the wettest May on record.

Triple-digit heat indexes leading up to the Fourth: Heat blanketed Chicago over the weekend leading up to July Fourth. The city baked under three straight days of 90-degree temperatures and triple-digit heat indexes that peaked at 110, according to WGN meteorologist Tom Skilling.

The city's official 93-degree high at O'Hare International Airport on July 4 made it the hottest Fourth since 2012, when the temperature soared to 102.

By September, the heat was still hanging on. The city recorded the third-warmest period from May 1 through Sept. 20 and the warmest September in four decades, and the 93-degree high on Sept. 20 broke the record for that date, Skilling said.

High winds in October stir up 15-foot waves on Lake Michigan: In northern Illinois and northwest Indiana, a snow squall and driving winds created a fearsome spectacle along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Wind gusts Oct. 21 were recorded as high as 61 mph at O'Hare, and up to 65 mph at a coastal platform in Michigan City, Ind., where prolonged northwesterly winds agitated

waves up to 15 feet, according to the weather service.

The blustery conditions in tandem with a mix of snow and rain created near-whiteout conditions in some areas, according to the weather service. They also downed trees and power lines, causing widespread blackouts.

String of tornadoes in December: On Dec. 1, a band of strong storms unleashed 28 tornadoes across central and southern Illinois — the largest outbreak in December since 1957, according to the weather service.

The largest and most powerful of the bunch was a twister a half-mile wide and packing estimated peak winds at 155 mph that blazed a nearly 13-mile path through Christian County. The tornado plowed through the heart of Taylorville, a city of 11,000 residents.

At least 22 people were hurt in the storm, but no one was killed, according to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. More than 500 homes were affected, including about 100 that suffered major damage or were destroyed.

Gov. Bruce Rauner declared Christian County a disaster area. In conjunction with local governments, the state is assisting with disaster recovery, providing heavy equipment and personnel to clear debris.

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Significant on-screen kiss traced to Chicago

African-American embrace in film was radical at time

By **LOLLY BOWEAN**
Chicago Tribune

Barry Jenkins, an Oscar-winning director and producer, said the film left him speechless.

Award-winning actress Viola Davis shared it on her Instagram page with the comment: "love, love, love this!"

The grainy black-and-white clip is simple enough — two African-American actors playfully embracing and kissing for 29 seconds. But soon after it was posted, the clip went viral, sparking an online conversation about the way black love has been depicted on-screen.

In fact, the silent film "Something Good — Negro Kiss," was likely shot in 1898 here in Chicago, in the neighborhood now known as the South Loop, said Allyson Nadia Field, an associate professor of film and media studies at the University of Chicago, who helped bring the film to attention.

Earlier this month, the film was added to the Li-

brary of Congress' National Film Registry because it may be the first known on-screen kiss between African-Americans. It is significant, in part, because it was filmed during a time when the only on-screen depictions of black residents were racist caricatures, Field said.

Because of the time period when the film was made, it was most likely supposed to be a comedy — mocking African-Americans for white audiences. But the image the film shows of Saint Suttle and Gertie Brown affectionately holding hands and kissing pushes back at the dehumanizing stereotypes it was intended to portray, Field said.

"It asserts such a strong sense of humanity and love and joy," she said. "They are not the butt of a joke. They are just them, and that's really radical for the time."

The silent film was discovered by Dino Everett, a film archivist at the University of Southern California, at an estate sale in Louisiana three years ago. When he viewed it, he was curious about its content and reached out to Field for

help deciphering the back story.

"I knew right away the film was important," said Everett, who is the archivist of the USC Hugh M. Hefner Moving Image Archive. "It's hard not to love this film. Race (of the actors) makes it important, but it's joyful to begin with. It's important not because it's from a famous director, or because it features two stars; it's important because of what it shows us about life 120 years ago. There were so many negative stereotypes, this counters that with wonderful imagery."

Using clues like the type of material used for the film, the two were able to figure out where the film was shot, where it was sold and how it was likely used.

According to Field, the silent film was created by William Selig, a Chicago-based pioneer in the moving picture industry. Selig sold his motion films through the Sears catalog, which is the paper trail Field and Everett used to figure out the title of the film and when it was made.

Before he made films, Selig performed in minstrel shows, which is probably how he had connections to

black performers. At the time, Suttle was a well-known composer, songwriter and entertainer and Brown was also a vaudeville actress and Suttle's dance partner.

It appears that the film was impromptu and was most likely intended to parody "The Kiss," the first on-screen kiss, which starred Mae Irwin.

"They were able to get away with this passion on-screen because there was a presumption of comedy," Field said. "Because of the racism, this wouldn't have been seen as a radical presentation. There was a resistance to showing black love on-screen in this early period ... people worried about audience reactions, especially the Southern market."

So the film was likely shown with other live performances and movies that were steeped with racist tropes and overtones. Because films weren't really archived, it was lost to history until Everett's discovery.

Online, the short clip sparked a conversation about lost images of black joy and the lack of current films that show affection



"Something Good — Negro Kiss," likely filmed in 1898, is now part of the Library of Congress' National Film Registry.

between African-American characters.

For Karla Fuller, who teaches a course on Chicago film history at Columbia College, the film is a reminder that this city has a long history in the movie industry.

"A lot of people don't appreciate the fact that Chicago was a major film production center prior to Hollywood. My students are shocked to learn that," she said.

"The filmmakers here — like Selig — were the leaders of the industry."

Terri Francis, director of the Black Film Center/Archive at Indiana University, called the film the best movie of 2018, in part be-

cause of the public reaction. "The public response shows us that people are hungry to see playfulness, tenderness and love between black characters on the screen," she said.

When it was filmed, the movie may have had racist overtones, Francis said. But today it is being redefined and embraced with a new interpretation, she said.

"It brings with it a lot of very important questions on how we interpret the past in our present, who gets to tell the story and how many different stories are out there that we don't know about," she said.

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Alderman to county boss to mayor?

Power, from Page 1

LaSalle and Lake. Smoking, of course, was banned.

Yet some of the sights would have been familiar, perhaps comforting, to the Daley-era power brokers. There were close handshakes, back slapping and hushed conversations off to the side. And when they got down to business, it was a Daley — John, the son who looked the most like his father — who seconded the nomination. “The November election, we can’t take this for granted, and Toni never takes anything for granted,” said Daley, committeeman of the family’s ancestral 11th Ward, in the clipped, straightforward style his father favored.

Within 15 seconds, County Board President Toni Preckwinkle was elected by acclamation, the outcome decided beforehand, as it was when Richard J. Daley took the ring in 1953.

Preckwinkle was now running the political party that — if not the Chicago machine of yore — still controls the significant levers of government power in the city and county. Afterward, Preckwinkle rebuffed the suggestion that her decadeslong political career had taken her from machine critic to the boss of that very same operation.

“I’m a leader of the Democratic Party. I wouldn’t say that I’m a leader of the machine,” said Preckwinkle, the first African-American and first woman to lead the party. “With all due respect to the former mayor, I think we are quite different people. And that’s reflected both in the arc of our service, and in gender and race.”

Just as Daley did in the first city election after he became party chairman, Preckwinkle announced her candidacy for mayor in late September, declaring that she’s running “because I can.” If elected next year, she’ll be the first woman since Richard J. Daley to be both mayor and party chief.

So how did Preckwinkle rise from high school history teacher who got trounced for alderman to the cusp of Daley-like boss status?

Like the legendary Daley, Preckwinkle had a great deal of political fortune as opponents stumbled from self-inflicted mistakes, and she took advantage of those opportunities. She also paired her advocacy of progressive causes with alliances she built with old-school Democrats and organized labor. And along the way, she honed a sharp-elbowed political style that saw her dispatch County Board foes and part ways with key staff who became liabilities.

In the mayor’s race, though, Preckwinkle is campaigning as a progressive reformer. Opponents trying to run in that same lane are crying foul, quick to point out where Preckwinkle’s pragmatism and loyalty to the party have gotten in the way of her progressivism. They’re calling her the “boss of the party bosses” and “the establishment.”

Preckwinkle makes no apologies, noting she didn’t get into politics to tilt at windmills. “Your job always, if you’re in office, is to try to move your agenda forward and get things done,” she told the Tribune in a recent interview. “You know, I’m not into being Don Quixote.”

Slow rise

Raised in St. Paul, Minn., Preckwinkle got her introduction to politics in 1964, when a high school history teacher got her involved in a losing City Council campaign of local civil rights icon Katie McWatt. Preckwinkle stuffed envelopes and licked stamps as a 16-year-old volunteer.

She headed south to attend the University of Chicago and got involved in the progressive politics of Hyde Park, long known as a home base for the city’s independent, anti-machine Democrats.

It took three tries, but Preckwinkle eventually became 4th Ward alderman. In 1983, she was teaching high school history as she



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County board president and mayoral candidate, joins dozens of charter school teachers and supporters at a Chicago rally Dec. 4.



CHARLES CHERNEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Then-Ald. Preckwinkle speaks at a news conference in 1991. With her are Aldermen Bobby Rush, from left in foreground, Joe Moore, Allan Streeter, Dorothy Tillman and Robert Shaw.



OVIE CARTER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 1998

During about 20 years on City Council, Preckwinkle counted criminal justice reform and establishment of Chicago’s first affordable housing set-asides among her achievements.

forced veteran Ald. Timothy Evans into a runoff before losing by 12 percentage points.

Evans went on to become Mayor Harold Washington’s floor leader during Council Wars, while Preckwinkle worked on economic development in the Washington administration. She lost a 1987 rematch to Evans in a rout.

Two years later, though, Evans ran as an independent in a special election for mayor following Washington’s death. Many people in the black community felt Evans’ candidacy ate into the support for interim Mayor Eugene Sawyer, who was defeated by Richard M. Daley in the Democratic primary.

The resulting perception that Evans helped restore City Hall’s fifth-floor offices to the Daley clan weakened him — and provided Preckwinkle an opportunity to finally shift the power paradigm in the 4th Ward. She eked out a 109-vote victory in the runoff, ousting Evans, who eventually landed as the county’s chief judge.

During nearly two decades as alderman, she successfully pushed for Chicago’s first affordable housing set-asides, changes to a ward remap after judges determined the original version diluted black voting

rights and criminal justice reforms including the release of police misconduct records.

A sign of Preckwinkle’s melding of a progressive agenda with a pragmatic approach is seen in how she and 22nd Ward Ald. Ricardo Munoz won approval in 1998 for a living wage ordinance, which required that workers for city contractors get paid a higher wage. The proposal had languished for more than two years and was presumed dead after the powerful Finance Committee led by 14th Ward Ald. Edward Burke rejected it. But Preckwinkle and Munoz saw an opportunity to resurrect the idea when allies of then-Mayor Richard M. Daley were looking for cover as they prepared to give themselves and the mayor big pay boosts.

With protesters outside council chambers vowing “Payback Time in ’99” at the ballot box for aldermen who padded their own pockets but ignored the working poor, a deal was struck. First, the council approved the living wage. Then, aldermen passed their own pay hikes, which Munoz rejected but Preckwinkle voted for.

Reminded of that day, Preckwinkle chuckled and described her philosophy:

“Politics is always the art of the possible.”

Asked if she casts herself in the same mold as the late Mario Cuomo, a three-term New York governor who styled himself a “progressive pragmatist,” Preckwinkle drew a distinction. “I tried to put myself in a place where I could both serve and move an agenda forward,” said Preckwinkle, who noted she was one of three original council Progressive Caucus members, a co-chair of the Women’s Caucus and vice chair of the Black Caucus. “Cuomo may have described himself as a progressive pragmatist. I usually just describe myself as a progressive.”

There were times when Preckwinkle decided it best not to go along with the mayor. In 1999, she voted against Daley’s choice for fire chief. In 2006, she was the lone vote against his budget — a protest against what she called the city’s “pattern of insensitivity” to African-Americans, particularly in city contracting. And in 2008, she was one of five aldermen who bucked Daley and voted against the controversial 75-year lease of the city’s parking meters for \$1.15 billion.

The following year, however, Preckwinkle eyed a promotion to County Board president, and Daley’s op-

position could have diminished her chances. At first, she balked at his doomed bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics. Later, she voted for it after securing guarantees about how related development in her ward would be done.

Preckwinkle wasn’t the favorite in the 2010 Democratic primary. She wasn’t widely known and didn’t have a lot of campaign money. But then-Board Chairman Todd Stroger was unpopular because he’d raised the sales tax by 1 percentage point and had numerous patronage scandals.

She was the first to announce she would challenge Stroger, giving her a chance to line up early support. And Preckwinkle was fortunate as the other top Democratic candidate had her own controversies. Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown had taken thousands of dollars in campaign contributions and gifts from employees and required employees to pay for the privilege of wearing jeans on Friday.

The unions got behind Preckwinkle, who aired much-lauded TV ads featuring an actor portraying famous penny pincher Benjamin Franklin as she promised to eliminate what remained of Stroger’s partially repealed tax increase. Preckwinkle handily won.

Governing’s harder

It’s Preckwinkle’s eight years as County Board president that has provided the most fodder for her mayoral opponents. Leading as a chief executive is different from being one of 50 aldermen, and Preckwinkle raised the very same sales tax she had earlier cut and muscled through a politically disastrous pop tax. Mayoral foes say those tax increases were regressive, tending to hit low-income people harder than the wealthy.

Preckwinkle maintains the sales tax increase was the only option available to bail out the underfunded county worker pension system after the state failed to act on her plan to fix the system at a lower cost. “I did what I thought I had to do in order to ensure the financial stability of the county and to keep from burdening future generations with our unpaid bills,” she said.

She still defends the pop tax, even after a citizen backlash fueled by a multi-million-dollar campaign funded by the beverage industry led the County Board to quickly repeal it.

Preckwinkle had hoped the pop tax would allow the county to cover costs for years to come without other tax hikes and produce health benefits from reduced sugar consumption.

“I say sometimes good public policy is neither possible nor popular,” said Preckwinkle, who noted she balanced the budget for

now by laying off hundreds of employees.

Also coming under fire is Preckwinkle’s leadership style. Mayoral candidate Lori Lightfoot said Preckwinkle governs from the top down — a trait she said would be done. Lightfoot also said the way Preckwinkle handled the recent firing of her former chief of staff amid allegations of sexual misconduct and her security chief after a probe into use of a county vehicle for political purposes shows a lack of commitment to reform.

“There are shades of the way in which he operates and what we’ve seen in the way in which she operates, and people in this city have said loud and clear — which is why Rahm is not on the ballot — they want change,” Lightfoot said. “They don’t want four more years of somebody who is tone-deaf, who doesn’t listen, who doesn’t engage, who doesn’t feel like the people whose lives are most affected by government, that they don’t have a role to play. That’s not progressive.”

But the area where mayoral foes target Preckwinkle for the most criticism is her frequent backing of establishment and sometimes machine-schooled politicians over ideological progressives.

Preckwinkle backed Hillary Clinton over progressive darling Bernie Sanders in 2016, an endorsement that got her a nationally televised cameo appearance sitting next to former President Bill Clinton when then-first lady Michelle Obama delivered her speech at the Democratic National Convention.

Preckwinkle also did not back then-County Commissioner Jesus “Chuy” Garcia against Bill Clinton in 2015, even as he took the mayor to a runoff. And Preckwinkle chose J.B. Pritzker over progressive state Sen. Daniel Biss in the March Democratic governor primary.

Preckwinkle said she “couldn’t come to agreements” with Garcia, who at the time was her County Board floor leader. As for Biss, she “didn’t see that he had a path to victory” in a contest where Pritzker had so much money.

That didn’t stop Preckwinkle from praising Biss as she runs for mayor. Democratic midterm victories were “the direct result of years of organizing, of advocating for progressive ideals, and for standing up for working families. You led that charge. Bold candidates like Daniel did as well — even when analysts and pundits doubted him, he kept fighting for everyday people,” she said in a campaign email.

In addition, Preckwinkle has been ripped for her steadfast backing of former county Assessor Joseph Berrios, an unabashed defender of the old-school

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patronage politics that the Daleys perfected. That support continued even after "The Tax Divide," a series published by the Tribune and ProPublica Illinois that showed he ran a system that unfairly shifted the property tax burden from wealthier homeowners to the less-affluent.

Many other longtime progressives, including several Preckwinkle allies, lined up behind reformer Fritz Kaegi, who defeated Berrios. Lightfoot called Berrios "the poster child for anti-progressive, machine, establishment, maintaining-incumbency politics at its worst."

"It's hard for me to reconcile Toni Preckwinkle calling herself a progressive and consistently embracing a guy like Joe Berrios," Lightfoot said.

Preckwinkle credits Berrios, in his role as county Democratic chairman, for backing more minorities and women for office, restoring the party's finances and helping make it more relevant as the power of patronage waned under the so-called Shakman decree that dramatically reduced the power of politicians to hand out jobs to campaign workers.

Even so, it was Berrios' defeat for assessor that made possible Preckwinkle's ascension to county Democratic chair. Berrios agreed to step aside as chairman after his loss in the March primary to Kaegi. As the party's second in command who could do business with both establishment and progressive Democrats, Preckwinkle quickly secured the votes needed to claim the spot in April.

She sought to project an aura of party reform, first by installing Committeeman Michael Rodriguez as executive vice chairman. He's an ally of Garcia, who has become the city's best-known progressive standard bearer. Preckwinkle also set up a new campaign fund that successfully fought the retention of Circuit Court Judge Matthew Coughlan, who as a former



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

County Board President Toni Preckwinkle came under fire for supporting County Assessor Joseph Berrios, left.

prosecutor had been accused of being involved in a wrongful prosecution.

But even as Preckwinkle portrays herself as progressive, she's received help from some decidedly establishment quarters. Ald. Burke, who's been on the council for nearly 50 years, held a January fundraiser for Preckwinkle in his Gage Park home.

With Burke now under federal investigation, Preckwinkle said he should step down from his long-held post as chairman of the City Council Finance Committee. And she said she will take steps to remove Burke as the head of the powerful party judicial slating committee. On Tuesday, she said she was donating \$12,800 in campaign contributions from Burke to two Latino organizations.

Like Richard J. Daley, Preckwinkle is closely tied to organized labor, particularly the Service Employees International Union. SEIU played a key role in backing her first race for board president and recently contributed \$1 million to her mayoral campaign. It also backed Preckwinkle's tax

increases, which helped cover union raises and for a time avoided layoffs.

Some of those who've crossed Preckwinkle on issues of criminal justice reform and taxation lost re-election efforts. In 2016, Preckwinkle helped protégé Kim Foxx defeat Anita Alvarez for state's attorney. In March, Richard Boykin and John Fritchey, two of the most outspoken Democratic critics of her pop tax, were defeated in their County Board primaries by opponents backed by Preckwinkle and her union allies.

'Progressive' debate

As she campaigns for mayor, Preckwinkle's early platform has some progressive planks, including calls for an elected school board, criminal justice system reform and a remake of the city's tax increment finance district program. She also backs lifting the state ban on rent control and supports a higher transfer tax on sales of homes that sell for more than \$1 million.

Running as a progressive is a way to corral a large

block of votes, given the recent electoral trends here and across the nation, but other mayoral hopefuls say it's unfair for Preckwinkle to claim the tag.

"I think we can get caught up in the label, because everyone wants to bear the mantle, because it's just easy," said mayoral candidate Amara Enyia, a West Side activist. "Everyone wants to bear the mantle because it's popular. What we really should be looking at are what are the substantive things that people have done to ensure progress."

Preckwinkle has yet to convince progressive standard bearers like Garcia, a onetime ally who's on his way to Congress. He was asked on a recent TV appearance whether Preckwinkle is a progressive.

"The details will be in what vision she offers," Garcia said on WTTW's "Chicago Tonight." "She enjoys a reputation, but now seeking the most important office in Illinois, the mayorship of the city of Chicago, will give her an opportunity to show how she will be transformative and not simply status-quo politics in Chicago. The

city cannot afford it any longer."

Longtime Democratic U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Evanston endorsed Preckwinkle, citing progressive issues she has pushed at the county, including a successful early implementation of the Affordable Care Act that expanded health care coverage for the poor.

Preckwinkle is "the progressive in the race who has all the other advantages too — the kind of experience of being the head of a very large governmental body and has all the preparation and skills," she said.

Supporters note that Preckwinkle has led the way on criminal justice in recent years. She first backed decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana in 2011, before other politicians were making such proclamations; corralled other county officials to reduce the number of people held at the jail; and won changes in state laws to treat juvenile offenders less harshly.

Investigative journalist Jamie Kalven said Preckwinkle helped him learn

how many bullets hit Laquan McDonald, the teenager whose 2014 shooting by police brought U.S. Department of Justice scrutiny to the Chicago Police Department and the second-degree murder conviction of Officer Jason Van Dyke.

Kalven had sought Preckwinkle's help to find out more about what happened to McDonald because her authority extends to the Cook County medical examiner's office. That led to a chance encounter in Hyde Park. "Sixteen shots, front and back," Kalven said Preckwinkle told him.

"It's one of the reasons we titled the piece 'Sixteen Shots,'" said Kalven, who broke the story open. "That really reverberated with me, just the way she said it. ... Toni reporting the number shots was the moment at which I knew this was huge ... that it was a big story, an atrocity."

In addition, Preckwinkle was a leading voice on the City Council to push for hearings on notorious former police Commander Jon Burge. Last year, she fired the county homeland security chief after media reports noted his role as a commander of now-convicted Chicago cops who committed crimes while working in public housing.

And Preckwinkle recently said that if elected mayor, she would fire police Superintendent Eddie Johnson, who was in the room as a deputy chief when top brass watched a video and agreed the McDonald shooting was justified, a lieutenant who was there said in sworn testimony.

Munoz, the 22nd Ward alderman and a longtime ally, said Preckwinkle has done what it took to move forward her progressive agenda.

"You gotta get stuff done," said Munoz, an original Progressive Caucus member with Preckwinkle. "And to get stuff done in Chicago, sometimes you gotta make deals with the devil, whoever that devil is."

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Remembering ... Good

2018 has been, well, an interesting year. So many issues. Civil dialogue or discussion seems out of reach. Violence continues to claim innocent lives. And our city and state finances are in horrible shape.

And yet ... there is so much good. So many individuals and organizations helping people. Stories both large and small. It's important to remember the good—and build on it.

This time of year is the perfect time to acknowledge that good, and to say thank you for the good—to all the people who help. And to family, friends, colleagues, clients and neighbors: Thank you for always being there. You make life good.

We wish you and yours a warm, happy and healthy holiday season ... and know we will always be there for you. See you in the new year.

Philp D. Cacciatore
Chairman & CEO, Lakeside Bank



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It's about time.®

Fallen officer's legacy: 'Be kind'

Tribute, from Page 1

known as "Lalo" to his friends and family members, as a "humble man" who had put himself "in harm's way to protect all of us."

"Humble people are giants," he said, adding that, "Eduardo was an exemplary officer" whose "selflessness and sense of duty he displayed early this week."

Addressing Rebeca and Marmolejo's two other daughters, Johnson pledged, "We will begin healing with you. ... You are not alone."

"Your dad was a hero," Johnson said. "Know that he is looking down. ... You're going to have an entire department as your brothers and sisters."

Johnson also noted Marmolejo's experience as an emergency room technician at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn and how he received several Police Department awards, even though he had been a Chicago police officer for only 2½ years. Through the department, Marmolejo had already received four honorable mentions, a physical fitness award and a commendation.

The superintendent drew laughter from the crowd when he talked about Marmolejo's childlike sense of humor, describing videos that he would shoot of his dog — a pit bull mix named Champ — and send to his wife, siblings and other relatives.

"Lalo was so impressed with Champ that every single day," Johnson said, "this video, every single day, was a video of Champ pooping."

But Johnson's tone became more somber when he addressed Marmolejo's colleagues from the Calumet District, where the officer was assigned.

Marmolejo and Gary are among five officers who have died this year while at work in the district. Two other officers died by sui-

cide and one died after she collapsed at the district's police station.

"It's been an especially difficult year for you," Johnson said. "But just know this: Every time you pull out of that parking lot at 727 E. 111th St., Officer Marmolejo and Gary will be riding with you."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, following Johnson to the podium, said the memory of Marmolejo "has the power to light up the city. ... He became a hero to the city."

In high school, Marmolejo met his future wife, Maria, who on Saturday took her place at the front of the church as a widow.

"He was the type of husband who would send flowers, just because," Emanuel said, speaking as many did of the couple's lasting love for one another.

Marmolejo also learned how to do his daughters' hair so he could help them get ready for school on days his wife worked early shifts, said Emanuel, who didn't know Marmolejo personally.

Officer Andres Lizaraburo met Marmolejo while they were recruits at the police academy. It was there Marmolejo earned the nickname "Sarge" because he was always offering advice and trying to help his classmates do better, Lizaraburo said.

Marmolejo was humble with a sense of humor "like no other," and even after the academy, he remained Lizaraburo's role model.

"He was what we all aspire to be when we have a family and kids of our own," Lizaraburo said. "You were my boy, you were my big brother I never had. The brother I could look up to."

Buttons with a photo of Marmolejo shined like small beacons of light pinned to each officer's chest as the sun reflected down on the rows of men and women lined up to offer a final salute as the casket carrying Marmolejo's body



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Colleagues carry the casket of Officer Eduardo Marmolejo from St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel in Chicago.



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chicago police turn out in large numbers for Marmolejo's funeral Saturday — the second CPD funeral in two days.

was once more placed in the hearse and taken away.

Before the funeral, which drew more than 2,000 mourners, got underway, officers saluted and family members held onto one another, some silently weeping, as the hearse carrying Marmolejo's body arrived at the Southwest Side church around 11 a.m.

"Officers, attention," a commander shouted. Marmolejo, 36, and Gary,

31, are among four Chicago police officers killed in the line of duty this year. Samuel Jimenez, 28, was gunned down on Nov. 19 at Mercy Hospital & Medical Center on the Near South Side. Cmdr. Paul Bauer, 53, was fatally shot while chasing a suspect outside the Thompson Center in the Loop on Feb. 13.

Brandan Kiefer, a good friend of Marmolejo, also shared stories with mourn-

ers of their good times growing up, about how they worked together in their teens at a Brown's Chicken restaurant at 61st Street and Pulaski Road and how they were "young and extremely dumb," especially one time when they headed to a party in the suburbs.

Marmolejo got pulled over by police with "open containers," a term commonly used for alcohol, in his car, Kiefer said. All of his friends, Kiefer included, initially thought Marmolejo was going to jail and needed help getting released.

Instead, Marmolejo showed up to the party a little later, bringing relief to his friends.

When everyone asked how he managed to get out of trouble, according to Kiefer, Marmolejo's response drew intense laughter within the church: "I just made up this sad story and told them all I want to do is be a police officer."

Kiefer got more laughs when he recalled how Marmolejo "managed to win the

costume contest at his own Halloween party every single year."

The funeral ended with a bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace" outside the church as mourning officers lined up and saluted. A bugler sounded taps, which is also played at military funerals, and cars lined up for about a block along 77th Street in a procession for the hearse, en route to the cemetery.

"His life stands as a testament to the power of hard work in the pursuit of big dreams," Emanuel also said, referencing Marmolejo's journey from a small town in Mexico to Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood as a child.

"He wanted to bring honor to their family, he wanted to bring honor to their name, he wanted to bring honor to the sacrifice they made walking through a desert to a better life in America, in Chicago."

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Board: Cuts to Hinsdale school activities no bluff

Infrastructure updates given higher priority

BY KIMBERLY FORNEK
Pioneer Press

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board members say their vote Dec. 17 to cut the football, wrestling, swim and water polo teams and other activities at both Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South high schools shows they were not bluffing when they discussed the need to find money for pressing infrastructure improvements.

While difficult, the board members said the cuts are necessary.

"This is the board action going forward, not scare tactics for effect," board member Keith Chval said. "As disappointing as it is, this is reality." But some student athletes and residents are skeptical the district really would follow through on such drastic steps.

Citizens for Clarendon Hills, which its president Edward Corcoran describes as a taxpayers watchdog group, predicts the district will not cut football, swimming or any sport or club that would hurt students.

Board President Bill Carpenter would only say, "Those are the cuts that are on the table for the 2019/2020 school year."

Chval said for anyone paying attention, there should be no surprise as to the board actions.

"I believe the board has been very transparent and forthright for those in the community who chose to pay attention," Chval said. "Prior to the November referendum, we directed (superintendent Bruce) Law to begin collecting and presenting information on where we would look for monies to address infrastructure, etc. if the referendum were to fail."

That information was made available well before the Nov. 6 election, Chval said.



STEVE JOHNSTON/PIONEER PRESS

Hinsdale Central's Sean Kelly lifts the Doings Cup after the Red Devils defeated Hinsdale South in October. The traveling trophy has been given to the winner of the Central-South game since 1983.

"This is the board action going forward, not scare tactics for effect. As disappointing as it is, this is reality."

— Keith Chval, Hinsdale High School District 86 Board member

"With respect to some claiming that the board unnecessarily (or) purposefully targeted specific activities or sports, I would first remind them we put forth the \$166 referendum specifically to avoid being in this situation," Chval said.

He also said he reserves the right to change his mind as new facts and thoughts arise.

Of course, a lot depends on whether the school district can pass a \$130 million referendum the board plans to put on the April 2 ballot.

They cut about \$36 million in projects that were included in the \$166 million referendum that 54 percent of voters rejected in November.

The failure of the referendum left the district scrambling for ways to pay for the most urgent projects, such as new boilers, accessibility requirements and security upgrades, estimated to cost about \$46 million.

District administrators recommended a six-year plan that involves the district issuing about \$15 million in bonds, cutting bus routes and staff positions, increasing class sizes and freezing administrator salaries, in addition to the cuts to athletics and other extracurricular activities.

District 86's chief finan-

cial officer Josh Stephenson said district could allocate more money from its operating levy each year to a capital projects budget, but the money would have to come from another fund, most likely education.

"We are still capped on the total amount," Stephenson said. State law prohibits school districts from increasing their annual property tax levy by more than the consumer price index or 5 percent whichever is less, not including the value of new development added to the tax rolls.

In 2013, rather than levy the maximum amount allowed, the board majority, which included Corcoran, chose to keep the levy the same amount as the previous year.

Because each year's levy is based on the previous year's taxes, the district would have received cumulatively about \$5.68 million

more in tax revenue between 2013 and 2017, had the board levied the maximum amount in 2013, Stephenson said.

If the district does not have enough money to pay for operations and maintain its facilities, the district could ask voters to agree to pay more taxes via an operating rate referendum.

But unlike a bond referendum, a hike in taxes to pay for operations goes on indefinitely with the board deciding each year how to spend the money.

"It could go on forever," Stephenson said. "You don't know who will be on the school board in the future, and whether they will honor the commitments a prior board made."

If a bond referendum passes, property owners pay higher taxes only until the bonds are paid back, usually a 20-year period for major bond issues such as what

District 86 proposes.

The bond proceeds can only be spent for the purpose named on the ballot. Whether the school board could stand up to the public outcry that likely would result if an April referendum fails and the district moves to implement the cuts remain to be seen.

Chval said his response to those who oppose cutting extracurriculars is to ask where else can the district reasonably and responsibly find the money to provide a core education in a safe environment.

"To back away from these responsibilities and further kick the can down the road as others before us have done would be the height of irresponsibility and recklessness," Chval said.

Chval will still be on the school board after the April election. But at least three other board members will be gone. Carpenter, Jennifer Planson and Robert (Bo) Blackburn, who was appointed to fill a vacant seat in September, are not running for election or re-election.

Only incumbent Kathleen Hirsman is running in April, and Hirsman was the only board member who voted against the cuts to the football, swimming and other extra-curricular because she hoped the district could implement smaller reductions across a wider variety of programs.

So, theoretically, a newly reconstituted board after the April election could undo the board's action, regardless of whether the \$130 million referendum passes.

Kari Galassi is one of the residents who at recent board meetings has pledged to campaign hard for passage of the April referendum and is urging others to do the same.

"I think the cuts are real," Galassi said. "People who say these are scare tactics, that's 100 percent not the case. The money has to come from somewhere."

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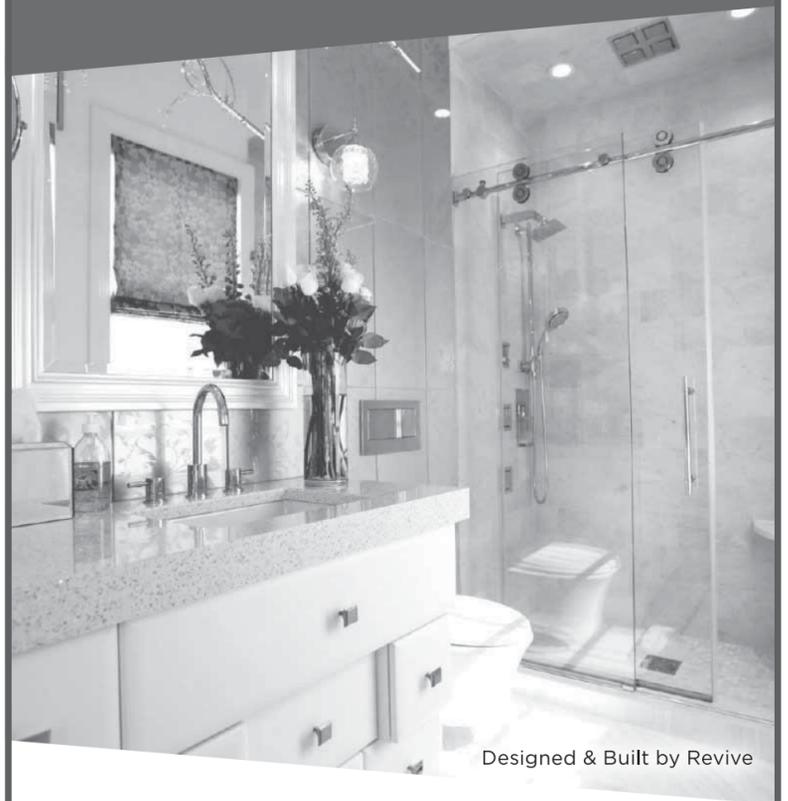
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Ethylene oxide still being emitted

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were living in the country, with fresh air and plenty of open spaces," Cannell said. "This wasn't supposed to happen."

While it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine why cancerous cells suddenly develop in people, scientists have been reporting for decades that toxic chemicals are among the triggers. "The true burden of environmentally induced cancer has been grossly underestimated," a presidential commission of experts concluded in 2010.

"The public remains unaware of many common environmental carcinogens," the President's Cancer Panel report said, listing ethylene oxide as one example. "Most also are unaware that children are far more vulnerable ... than adults."

Chemical companies and government health agencies have known since at least the late 1970s that ethylene oxide mutates genes and causes breast cancer, leukemia and lymphomas. After owners of the Willowbrook plant applied for a new permit in the mid-1980s, state regulators estimated that people living within a mile of the facility could end up breathing the highly toxic gas at concentrations 14 times higher than studies suggested was safe at the time.

Yet time and time again, a Chicago Tribune investigation found, the multibillion-dollar chemical industry and its political allies in Washington have thwarted, weakened or delayed efforts to limit exposure to ethylene oxide, relying on the tactics used to stall action on more well-known hazards like lead and asbestos.

Sterigenics, which uses ethylene oxide to sterilize medical equipment, pharmaceutical drugs and food in Willowbrook and eight other U.S. locations, has played a key role in the chemical industry's defense.

As a result, the public health impacts are only now becoming clear.

More than 600,000 Americans face what the EPA considers unacceptable long-term cancer risks from breathing toxic air pollution, according to a Tribune analysis of data quietly released in August by the agency. Ethylene oxide is the chief chemical responsible in nearly all of those communities, including neighborhoods near Sterigenics in Willowbrook and Medline Industries in north suburban Waukegan.

The chemical and sterilization industries, along with Medline and other manufacturers of medical products, contend ethylene oxide is essential to prevent potentially deadly infections during surgery and other procedures.

There is no doubt the chemical is effective at killing bacteria and pests. But safer sterilization methods are available, industry records show, raising questions about whether efforts to preserve the use of ethylene oxide are motivated by financial interests rather than a desire to protect public health.

Citing Tribune reporting about ethylene oxide, federal and state elected officials are calling for more aggressive measures to protect the public.

U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, and U.S. Reps. Bill Foster, Dan Lipinski and Brad Schneider have introduced legislation that would require the EPA to adopt tougher regulations for Sterigenics and other sterilization companies. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Robert Berlin, the DuPage County state's attorney, have sued to shut down the Willowbrook facility as a public nuisance. Two DuPage Republicans in the state legislature, Sen. John Curran and House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, have introduced bills that would force the industry to phase out the use of ethylene oxide in Illinois.

There even are signs President Donald Trump's administration might detour from its anti-regulatory agenda to address the cancer risks. William Wehrum, whom Trump appointed to head the federal EPA's air



Breast cancer survivor Julie Cannell, shown at home in Riverside on Wednesday, grew up near Sterigenics in Willowbrook.



GETTY

The U.S. Army used ethylene oxide (EtO) to fumigate troop rations during World War II.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

A blast at Accra Pac Group in Elkhart, Ind., in the 1990s occurred as containers were being filled with EtO.

The evolution of ethylene oxide

By MICHAEL HAWTHORNE
Chicago Tribune

1859: Ethylene oxide is discovered.

1928: Scientists report that ethylene oxide, also known as EtO, is a powerful insecticide. During the 1930s and '40s, it is used to fumigate hospital rooms.

1940: Two executives at Griffith Laboratories, a supplier to Chicago's meatpacking industry, patent a method that pumps ethylene oxide into a vacuum chamber to sterilize spices and other food preservatives. The U.S. Army later uses EtO to fumigate troop rations during World War II.

1948: Study finds EtO is a mutagen, meaning it alters genetic material in cells and potentially makes them cancerous.

1950s: EtO becomes a common sterilizer of medical instruments.

1981: A Shell Oil Co. executive returns from a conference on industrial carcinogens and writes a memo saying, "the biggest problem that we have right now is ethylene oxide."

1986: In the wake of a Union Carbide chemical disaster that killed thousands of people in Bhopal, India, the Democratic-controlled Congress approves the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The law requires the EPA to compile an annual Toxics Release Inventory, marking the first time pollution from individual factories and refineries is provided to the public.

1987: California declares ethylene oxide is a human carcinogen.

March 1989: Radiation is used to sterilize half of the medical products in the U.S., according to an EPA report. Other sterilizers safer than EtO also are developed, including

peracetic acid and hydrogen peroxide

June 1989: One of the first reports from the Toxics Release Inventory shows that Griffith Micro Science, a company spun off from Griffith Laboratories, released nearly 170,000 pounds of ethylene oxide from its Willowbrook sterilization facility in 1987.

1994: The EPA adopts regulations on EtO emissions from commercial sterilization facilities.

1999: Griffith Micro Science and a competitor, Sterigenics International, are acquired by Belgium-based Ion Beam Applications (IBA).

2001: In the wake of explosions at several sterilization plants, the EPA allows companies to disconnect exhaust vents from pollution-control equipment. Inspectors later determine the explosions were caused by operator errors.

2003-04: After studying more than 18,000 workers at 17 sterilization plants, researchers from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health report that EtO causes breast cancer and lymphomas.

2004: The former Griffith Micro Science and Sterigenics plants are acquired by a British private equity firm and rebranded as Sterigenics International.

April 2006: President George W. Bush's administration declines to update EtO regulations. The Bush EPA says it won't act until a new scientific review of the chemical is completed.

August 2006: The EPA releases a draft of its review of EtO dangers, concluding EtO is a human carcinogen. The report is criticized by the American Chemistry Council and Sterigenics, which contend it could

force sterilization facilities to stop using EtO.

2007: A panel of independent scientists agrees that EtO is a human carcinogen but advises the EPA to improve its risk assessment, which takes another nine years.

2011: GTCR, a Chicago private equity firm co-founded by Bruce Rauner, buys Sterigenics. A year later, Rauner quits the firm to begin his campaign to become Illinois governor but retains a financial interest in Sterigenics.

2016: After responding to critiques from a second panel of scientific reviewers, the EPA publishes its updated assessment of EtO cancer risks. The conclusions are largely the same as the 2006 draft.

August 2018: Relying on the agency's updated safety limit for EtO, the EPA releases its latest National Air Toxics Assessment, a report of health risks posed by air pollutants. The document is based on industry-supplied emissions data from 2014 and shows 109 of the nation's 73,057 census tracts face cancer risks exceeding EPA guidelines, including areas near Sterigenics in Willowbrook.

October 2018: Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Robert Berlin, the state's attorney of DuPage County, sue Sterigenics in state court.

November 2018: The Tribune reports that EtO from Medline Industries in Waukegan poses cancer risks to neighbors similar to those in Willowbrook. Another facility, Vantage Specialty Chemicals in Gurnee, could pose even greater risks.

December 2018: Air testing finds alarming levels of EtO in the air near Sterigenics, four months after the company installed new pollution controls.

David Bussard, director of the Washington office of the National Center for Environmental Assessment, an arm of the EPA that prepared the 2016 report. "We stand behind it."

The vast majority of ethylene oxide produced worldwide is used to manufacture other chemicals, in particular ethylene glycol, a key ingredient in antifreeze, polyester fabrics and plastics.

Industry scientists realized during the 1920s that the gas also kills insects and other pests. One of the first companies to take advantage of its potency was Griffith Laboratories, a supplier to Chicago meatpackers that patented methods using ethylene oxide to fumigate spices and other food preservatives.

Griffith's researchers discovered that ethylene oxide kills bacteria without altering metal, wood or plastic, drawing interest from hospitals, medical suppliers and the U.S. Army's biological weapons program. The company expanded its operations to include surgical devices and later spun off its sterilizers into another firm called Griffith Micro Science, which became Sterigenics after a corporate takeover during the late 1990s.

Competitors developed other methods that have reduced the reliance on ethylene oxide. Half of all medical instruments produced in the United States during the late 1980s were sterilized with gamma rays or electron beams without lingering dangers from the radiation, according to an EPA survey. Other companies determined that chemicals safer than ethylene oxide were effective germ-killers, including hydrogen peroxide and peracetic acid.

But every time federal or state regulators attempt to protect Americans from ethylene oxide, industry groups stoke the public's fear of hospital infections.

"Any disruption to the operations of the Sterigenics Willowbrook facility would seriously undermine the ability to proceed with scheduled surgeries and procedures and would put patients' lives at risk," the company said in an October statement, echoing what chemical industry executives have been saying for decades.

"There is no doubt that EO has prevented millions of deaths related to infection," Mark Biel, the industry's chief Illinois lobbyist, told state lawmakers at an October hearing, using an abbreviation of ethylene oxide. "If an EO sterilization facility shuts down, there is no place else to go."

More nuanced views are outlined in a 2017 report from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, a trade group that counts Sterigenics and Medline as members. It shows virtually every type of material in medical products can be sterilized without ethylene oxide. The report noted that companies might not switch to alternatives because they "have significant investment in one particular sterilization method."

The first study detailing how ethylene oxide causes genetic mutations was published in 1948. During the 1970s, animal studies confirmed that its powerful ability to scramble DNA could trigger cancers, prompting attention from the EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, federal agencies created to address industrial hazards.

"Every study we looked at showed this is a very dangerous chemical," said Peter Infante, an epidemiologist who then directed OSHA's Office of Carcinogen Identification. "The evidence was clear that we needed to act quickly to protect workers."

Industry insiders appeared to agree. In August 1981, a top executive at Shell returned from a scientific conference and reported the closing speaker had said "the biggest problem chemical that we have right now is ethylene oxide," according to a memo made public during lawsuits

office, recently told the crowd at a Willowbrook public forum that the agency is considering more stringent national limits on the chemical.

Chemical companies and sterilization firms are pushing back, citing industry-funded studies rejected by the EPA and two panels of independent scientists that reviewed the agency's updated assessment of ethylene oxide risks.

Conclusions in the agency's 2016 report remained largely unchanged from a 2006 draft based on decades of animal research and a large federal study of sterilization workers. But the American Chemistry Council, the industry's chief trade

group, is petitioning the Trump administration to take another look.

"The science hasn't changed," said Peter Thorne, a University of Iowa toxicologist who led one of the review panels. "What's changed is the agency and the political winds in Washington. This is another opportunity for (industry) to get its way."

At least one person at the highest levels of the Trump EPA is on the side of chemical manufacturers: Nancy Beck, who was an executive at the industry trade group before her 2017 appointment as a top deputy in the EPA's chemical safety unit.

Less than a month before Beck got her job in the new

Republican administration, she testified before a Senate committee in favor of GOP-sponsored proposals that would dramatically overhaul the way the EPA evaluates risks to public health and wildlife. The measures, which have been sought by industry for decades, would effectively make it more difficult to restrict hazardous chemicals.

By formally concluding that regular exposure to less than 1 part per trillion of ethylene oxide is dangerous, Beck told the committee, the EPA "will needlessly cause alarm and confusion, not only among workers, but also in the general population and in the public health and medical commu-

nities."

The EPA declined to answer detailed questions about Beck, including whether she should recuse herself from internal agency debates about chemicals she lobbied for on behalf of industry.

"Dr. Beck has not been involved" in the agency's current efforts regarding ethylene oxide, said John Konkus, an EPA spokesman.

Thorne and others who reviewed the science said industry has failed to provide new evidence that would undermine the agency's review.

"It's been through two rounds of public comment. It's been through two rounds of peer review," said

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against chemical makers. Days before the Shell executive alerted his peers, the nonprofit group Public Citizen and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union had petitioned OSHA for emergency standards that would dramatically lower workplace exposures to 1 part per million from 50 ppm averaged over eight hours, and limited short-term bursts to 5 ppm.

Instead of acknowledging the hazards, the chemical industry chose to fight, enlisting the influential American Hospital Association and the Veterans Administration in its lobbying campaign, according to minutes from a November 1981 meeting of the trade group's board of directors.

Chemical makers found a sympathetic audience in a new administration. Like Trump in 2016, Ronald Reagan had campaigned in 1980 "to get the government off people's backs." Reagan's staff dispatched Republican operatives to rein in regulatory agencies and directed the White House budget office to block or delay new environment and safety rules.

The Reagan-controlled OSHA denied the ethylene oxide petition, then spent the next seven years fighting it in the courts, backing down only after a federal appellate court sharply condemned the agency's "hesitation and lack of resolve."

"They were shilling for industry," said David Vladeck, a Georgetown University law professor who sued OSHA for tougher ethylene oxide standards while working for Public Citizen. "Imagine how many workers were harmed because these guys were just playing power games behind the scenes to delay the regulations."

It has taken even longer to address the health risks outside the workplace.

When Griffith applied for a permit in 1984 to build six sterilizers at its Willowbrook facility, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency urged the company



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

People protest Sterigenics in Oak Brook on Dec. 15. The group is concerned about emissions of ethylene oxide, a cancer-causing gas, from Sterigenics facilities.

to reduce the amount of ethylene oxide it released into surrounding communities. But the state agency noted it didn't have legal authority to order improvements.

The federal EPA didn't require the sterilization industry to install pollution-control equipment until the late 1990s, then relaxed the regulations a few years later in response to explosions at plants in Indiana, Massachusetts, Virginia and Wisconsin. Griffith helped persuade regulators the government-mandated pollution controls were responsible for the blasts, though investigators found operator errors were to blame in each case and could have been prevented with more rigorous training and safer handling of the highly volatile chemical.

In 2006, the EPA decided it would formally join other agencies that already had declared the chemical causes cancer in humans, including the World Health Organization, the National Toxicology Program and the state of California.

EPA scientists relied on animal research and a study of more than 18,000 workers at 17 sterilization plants conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. They adjusted their proposed safety limit to account for people in the general popu-

lation who are particularly sensitive to chemical exposures. For the first time, the EPA applied additional safety factors to protect children, who are more susceptible to cancer-causing chemicals.

Re-evaluating toxic substances often leads to conclusions that they are more hazardous than scientists once thought. The EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say there is no safe level of exposure to brain-damaging lead, for instance, though in 1990 the agencies still thought children weren't harmed until concentrations in their blood exceeded 30 parts per billion.

The EPA's draft report about ethylene oxide should have been the first step toward more stringent regulations. Instead, it prompted another decade of delay.

Industry agreed the study of sterilization workers was well-done. But chemical manufacturers and sterilization companies urged the EPA to merge the results with another worker study funded by Union Carbide — one of the corporations that makes ethylene oxide.

Muddying the science is a tactic that has worked wonders for industry, starting with corporations that denied people could be harmed by lead in gasoline, paint and water. Big Tobacco financed research to

disguise the risks of smoking, and some of its executives later helped pioneer the use of industry-funded studies to raise doubts about the dangers of pesticides, industrial chemicals and flame retardants.

Few of those studies held up to scrutiny. Neither did the Union Carbide study of ethylene oxide workers, according to the EPA and its scientific advisers.

"There were a whole host of reasons why that study was weak," said Thorne, who reviewed studies of ethylene oxide while leading the EPA's Science Advisory Board. "Too few cases, mixed exposure to carcinogens other than ethylene oxide, few or no women, very few actual measurements of exposure. As near as I can tell, the American Chemistry Council wanted us to use it because it would produce an ambiguous or negative outcome."

Industry has continued to cite the Union Carbide study.

Few people noticed outside the EPA and the executive suites of chemical companies when the agency released the final version of its risk assessment in late 2016, a few weeks before the Trump administration took office.

The main reason it's being debated again is the EPA relied on its latest evaluation of ethylene oxide while

compiling new estimates of cancer risks from toxic air pollution in every community in the United States.

Out of 73,057 census tracts in the nation, the EPA's National Air Toxics Assessment identified 109 where the risks exceed agency guidelines. Seven surround Sterigenics in Willowbrook; another four are near Medline in Waukegan. In response to Tribune reporting, the agency announced in November that it also is taking a closer look at Vantage Specialty Chemicals in Gurnee, which reported emitting more ethylene oxide than Sterigenics or Medline but because of a clerical error wasn't included in the EPA's initial analysis.

Medline responded by hiring Jane Teta, the former director of epidemiology at Union Carbide and an author of the industry studies rejected by the EPA. Teta, who has worked as a consultant for the American Chemistry Council, is now a scientist at Exponent, a California-based firm with a long history of questioning the health risks of widely used chemicals.

Teta told legislative committees in Springfield last month that if anything is flawed, it is the EPA's assessment of ethylene oxide. "It's an abuse of science," she testified, urging lawmakers to ignore the agency's estimates of cancer risks in Willowbrook and Waukegan.

Industry representatives contend the chemical is naturally produced in the body at levels 19,000 times greater than the EPA's new safety limit, citing a 2017 industry-funded study in a journal edited by a former consultant for Big Tobacco.

Richard Peltier, an environmental health researcher at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, reviewed the study for Lipinski's office. The methodology used by the industry-funded researchers appears to have been designed to produce the results they wanted, Peltier said, noting they ignored research on low-level exposures to animals and based their analy-

sis largely on industrial workers who generally are healthier than the general population.

"They just made stuff up," Peltier said in an interview. "It's another attempt to throw mud on the wall to see if it will stick."

Residents and elected officials in Willowbrook aren't buying the industry's arguments, either.

At her home less than 500 yards from Sterigenics, Sue Kamuda recalls shaking uncontrollably when she learned about the company's pollution in August. The fear, sadness and anger she felt when doctors told her she had breast cancer in 2007 came flooding back, tempered only by reminding herself she survived and lived long enough to retire comfortably and see her eight grandchildren grow up.

Kamuda got angry again when she heard Biel, the chemical industry lobbyist, tell state lawmakers that plastic water bottles wouldn't exist without ethylene oxide. And when she listened to a Sterigenics representative tell a community forum that some medical devices can't be sterilized without the chemical.

"They've been poisoning us for years and they knew it," said Kamuda, who moved to Willowbrook in 1985. "The only solution is for them to get out of town. Now."

Cannell, the breast cancer survivor, initially brushed off fears about the lump she felt in one of her breasts while getting dressed for her 30th birthday party. "It's still fairly rare for women my age to get breast cancer," she recalled thinking.

"A lot of things had been moving forward in my life at that point," said Cannell, who now lives in Riverside and is married with a young daughter. "It's taken a long time to get my life back on track, and I can't help but think that company is somehow responsible. We need to make sure this doesn't happen again somewhere else."

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Museum exhibit takes visitors back to founding of Park Forest

By **JESSI VIRTUSIO**
Daily Southtown

The 1950s Park Forest House Museum has long offered a trip back to the midcentury origins of its namesake village, but the displays took on additional meaning in late August when a celebration of the village's seven decades began.

The "70th Anniversary of Park Forest" exhibit, which will be expanded through spring, includes "Design through the Decade, 1948-1958," which volunteer Kerry Adams, of Flossmoor, mounted to show how everyday items changed in the postwar era.

"A lot of people don't realize how important Park Forest is in the history of city planning and the history of integration and suburbia," said Jane Nicoll, director of the 1950s Park Forest House Museum.

"Seventy years is quite a milestone, so we have quite a collection of things from then like the original plan of town. There's a photocopy of that. There's scrapbooks from American Community Builders, fascinating articles on the development and full-page ads they had in the newspapers in Chicago."

Nicoll said American Community Builders announced on Oct. 28, 1946, that Park Forest would be built and the original plan of town was submitted to the Federal Housing Authority on Nov. 26, 1946.

The Park Forest resident noted that construction of 3,010 rental townhomes in what was the first fully planned, post-World War II suburb began on Oct. 28, 1947, and was completed by late October 1949 with the first three families moving in on Aug. 30, 1948.

"The museum always tells the story of 70 years ago," Nicoll said. The facility is arranged as an original rental townhome furnished as it might have been from 1948-1953.

"A lot of these documents



PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Current and future Park Forest residents attend a tent meeting on Nov. 27, 1948, to vote to incorporate as a village.

70th anniversary of Park Forest

When: through spring (closed Jan. 6-Feb. 1); 1-3:30 p.m. Saturdays and Wednesdays; by appointment for small groups

Where: 1950s Park Forest House Museum, inside Church of St. Mary, 227 Monee Road, Park Forest

Admission/donation: \$5 adults; free ages younger than 12 with an adult; group rates negotiable

Information: 708-481-4252; www.parkforesthistory.org

Park Forest was incorporated as a village on Feb. 1, 1949. A fundraising luncheon to celebrate Park Forest's 70th birthday and the 34th anniversary of the Park Forest Historical Society is planned for Feb. 2. Invitations can be requested via the contact form at www.parkforesthistory.org/contact-us.html.

"I've been with the collection since 1981," Nicoll said.

The archive is in a separate room at Church of St. Mary and open from 10 a.m.-noon most Fridays or by appointment. A call is recommended before coming.

support what we tell the story of so it's fascinating to see the pictures of who were the planners and documents and articles from the time."

The facility also is home to the Local History Collection and Archive, which is half-owned by Park Forest Public Library and features more than 270 subject files on Park Forest and oral histories of early residents telling their stories.

Nicoll, who is also the Park Forest Historical Society archivist, detailed how tenants in residence and those who had signed leases attended a tent meeting on Nov. 27, 1948, to vote to incorporate as a village before the population was so large that they had to incorporate as a city.

The 1950s Park Forest House Museum will be closed from Jan. 6 to Feb. 1, so there are only a few more opportunities to peruse the seasonal "Step Back into a 1950s Christmas," which closes Jan. 5 and features Gurley Novelty Christmas candles, Rosbro plastic figurines, and vintage decorations, dolls, games and toys.

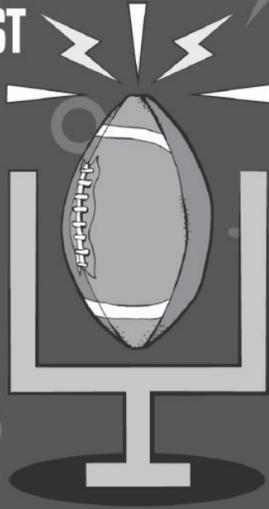
"It's very nostalgic, it's colorful and it's a great intergenerational thing to do," said Nicoll about the exhibit, which also includes Hanukkah items along with a Judaism display plus a musical rotating aluminum tree decorated with mid-century modern ornaments.

Jessi Virtusio is a freelancer for the Daily Southtown.

Chicago Tribune

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JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A "urine shield" on the ground level next to an elevator for the CTA Brown Line Harold Washington Library stop.

Yes, those are urine guards at the 'L' station

By MORGAN GREENE
Chicago Tribune

A steady rush of CTA passengers came and went Wednesday afternoon from the Roosevelt Road "L" stop as they boarded their trains.

Riders huddled under heat lamps on the platform paid no attention to the metal installations protruding from the corners of the shelter — or tried to urinate on them.

Last week, a photo with the caption "Pee shields

enabled on CTA platforms" surfaced on Reddit. "Please tell me that's not what this is," said one Reddit user.

That is what this is. The metal shields, installed years ago at seven CTA locations, are "designed as a deterrent to public urination, and to help limit the impacts and facilitate easier cleanup," said spokeswoman Irene Ferradaz in an email. Because it was a pilot program, CTA chose just a few stations for these installations in 2012,

the agency said.

The device depicted in the Reddit thread, which juts out from corners like a Christmas tree at angles that could cause urine to splash back at the offender, "was made by CTA in-house resources as part of a small pilot conducted back in 2012, and is similar to shields seen in Europe," said Ferradaz.

You can spot them on the Orange Line at Ashland, Halsted and Roosevelt and the Red Line at Addison,

35th and Howard. The CTA did not explain why they were installed at those locations.

There are no shields at the O'Hare stop on the Blue Line, voted the smelliest stop by Tribune readers in 2017.

One shield is tucked away by an elevator below the Loop "L" stop at the Harold Washington Library. On a recent afternoon, the corner with the shield smelled like disinfectant.

"It's pretty sad that we have to have these," said a Reddit user.

But, according to the CTA, if you're urinating on platforms, you're in the minority.

"Unfortunately, a very small group of people make the misguided, unfortunate and illegal decision to urinate in public spaces," said Ferradaz.

The CTA says instances of urination on the system are rare and they have a "thorough cleaning program for facilities and vehicles" that involves multiple daily cleanings and occasional deep cleanings.

Some CTA riders, who have long had to hold their bladders on public transit, wonder if public bathrooms would be a better solution.

"Why not, like, build bathrooms at the stations, or have them on the trains," said a Reddit user.

Facilities can be found at the end of CTA lines, like O'Hare and Midway. There are also restrooms at stations connected to publicly accessible buildings such as the Thompson Center and Merchandise Mart. But public restrooms haven't been offered by the CTA for more than 40 years.

"In fact, very few older U.S. transit systems offer

"We've seen a decline in public rider behavior manners and this is a sad reality."

— Joseph Schwieterman, DePaul University transportation expert

restrooms, and those that do have them at only a limited number of locations," said Ferradaz. "Rapid transit trips, by their nature, are shorter trips covering shorter distances. With very few exceptions, most CTA stations are located near commercial, retail and public buildings offering public restrooms."

DePaul University transportation expert Joseph Schwieterman said there has long been public debate over restrooms on the CTA system.

"We've seen a decline in public rider behavior manners and this is a sad reality," said Schwieterman. "I think the lack of restrooms on a system as vast as the CTA makes fixing this problem a real challenge. A real thorny issue."

But, said Schwieterman, the pee shields can send a signal that the CTA wants to curb the problem.

"That alone has some value," he said. "Now if it actually achieves that, I have no idea. You wonder if a sign would have as much value as an installation?"

Wednesday, riders at Roosevelt had no clue what the metal shields were for — and doubted their effectiveness.

"I mean, they could just pee right here," said Gabby Malone, 27, of Bridgeport, pointing a few inches to the right of the contraption.

Amber Lathan, 20, said she had never paid attention to the installation and did not know it was supposed to deter public uriners.

"I think people are still going to urinate, if they have to pee," she said.

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Stem Cell Therapy for Pain recently announced its latest state-of-the-art healing procedure; regenerative stem cell therapy. Stem Cell Therapy for Pain is now offering painless stem cell injections for pain and advanced procedures for arthritic and/ or degenerative conditions, especially those found in the knees, hips, should, neck and lower back.

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January 22 at 12:00

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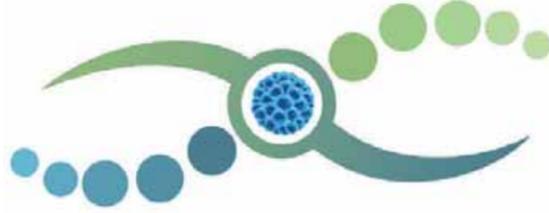
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Bears record: 15-1. Coach: Mike Ditka. On Jan. 26, 1986, in New Orleans, the Bears won Super Bowl XX, crushing the Patriots 46-10. This was the franchise's ninth title. "Sporting immortality is where the Chicago Bears are headed," Tribune reporter Phil Hersh wrote. "They found a way to get over the hump that had always overturned the civic bandwagon, littering the streets with broken dreams instead of confetti."



Bears bring it home



As he and head coach Mike Ditka are carried from the field, defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan confirms what the Patriots learned Sunday—the Bears are No. 1 in the NFL.

By Phil Hersh
Chicago Tribune

NEW ORLEANS—It is a good thing Chicago is the city of the big shoulders. How else could it Bear up to the task of carrying an entire football team in a victory parade from here to eternity?

Sporting immortality is where the Chicago Bears are headed. They proved you can get there from New Orleans in a day trip. With a 46-10 victory over the New England Patriots in Sunday's Super Bowl XX at the Louisiana Superdome, the Bears also took the entire city on a long-awaited joyride. They found the way to get over the hump that had always overturned the civic bandwagon, littering the streets with broken dreams instead of confetti.

Twenty-three years have passed since the 1963 Bears won Chicago's last title in a major professional sport. At last, the Second City can shout "We're No. 1" without fear of flying too high.

With only a few minutes—but no doubt—left in the game, the bitterly cold streets up north in Chicago began to fill with warm bodies and the sound of car horns. Fans across the city gravitated toward the Rush Street area, and once the game was over, auto traffic on the Near North Side was at a standstill. Pedestrian traffic was little better.

In the Loop, those who braved the frozen Daley Plaza danced in the cold as the "Super Bowl Shuffle" played larger than life on the giant screen behind them.

Bears' head coach Mike Ditka was speaking of them—and hundreds of thousands of other people like them, football players and fans alike—when he told his victory press conference that "A lot of dreams have been fulfilled, and a lot of frustrations have ended."

The Bears, once hoisted aloft, can simply put one foot on the Picasso, another on the Sears Tower and step right up to the Chicago cloud, where team founder George Halas will be waiting. Or they can go the route linebacker Mike Singletary has mapped out.

"I'm so happy," Singletary said, "I feel like I could jump on top of the Superdome."

Chicago can jump for joy, knowing the only thing that stands being overturned is the appcraat that said professional football was supposed to be a serious game. Even the Super Bowl became no more than a laugh and an "art" for the Grabowski of the Midway.

"I'm supposed to be on top of the world," said quarterback Jim McMahon, "but I just feel like it's another nightmare."

As thousands of Chicagoans among the

Continued on page 2

Fans' glory: Overdue to overdone

By Patrick Reardon and Andrew Bagnato

Chicago's Super Bowl victory was played out for the city Sunday on big screens and small sets, in taverns and receries, on Bourbon Street and Rush Street, along the lakefront and under the "L" tracks.

The City on the Make had made it in the Super Bowl, and when it was over Chicago area residents—whether in the Superdome or in their own homes—shifted from the nervous edge of their seats and unleashed a collective "well done."

"I didn't think it would be as easy as this... it's about time," said Roy Faulkner, a Chicago native with 91 years of historical perspective.

Faulkner had cheered Grange decades ago. On Sunday, he cheered Payton too, from a seat in the Oak Park Arms Hotel, 406 S. Oak Park Ave., in Oak Park, where he was six years younger than the oldest man present.

Archie Frey, 97, also savored it all like a cigar he had saved, forgotten, then found. "Everything about the game has been perfect," he purred like a happy cat.

Longtime fans and craned come-latelies uncorked their emotions as the last locker room scene faded from the televised battle that had emptied street corners and music theaters during the game.

Surely there were quiet toasts to George Halas. No doubt that somewhere fathers and

sons grinned at each other as they rolled the taste of "Chicago Bears, Super Bowl Champions" around on their tongues.

But Bourbon Street in New Orleans and Rush Street here bore the brunt of the charge. At Rush and Division streets, revelry spilled into agitations—cars were tipped over and battered and a man's leg was broken in the crush. Police reported about two dozen arrests, mostly for disorderly conduct.

Angelo Capua, 54, of 287 Elmwood Ave., Berwyn, a courier for WMAQ-TV (Channel 5) television news was reported in fair condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital with a fracture of his left leg. He was

Continued on page 2

Full coverage

- It was no contest Sunday—the Bears are the NFL's best.
- The tears can dry, says Bernie Lincrome. Chicago has a champ.
- No sweat, says Bob Verdi. The Bears are as good as their rep.
- The Bears' MVP Sunday? The players say it's Buddy Ryan.
- A phenomenal ending for Bear phenom William Perry.
- Steve Daley says the Bears' massacre hurt NBC too.
- For the Patriots, the game is an embarrassment, a nightmare.

In Sports

Good morning

Tar Heels trounce Irish

North Carolina coach Dean Smith didn't want to play the Irish, and the Tar Heels' 73-61 win doesn't change his mind. In Sports.

Heat still on Thatcher

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher explains her role in a political controversy to the House of Commons, but opposition political leaders remain unconvinced. Page 3.

Uranus moon steals show

Photos from Voyager 2 show that Miranda, a Uranus moon, is the most bizarre object so far found in the solar system. Page 3.

Weather

CHICAGO AND VICINITY: Monday: Partly cloudy, flurries likely; highs zero to 5; north winds 15 to 25 m.p.h. Monday night: Clear to partly cloudy, lows zero to -10. Tuesday: Partly cloudy, chance of snow; high 14.

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Repair racket preys on 'trusting souls'

By Howard Witt and Michael Arndt

Like a lot of homeowners, Charles and Rebecca Bingham decided one winter day they should have the furnace in their Northwest Side bungalow checked and cleaned. They ended up getting checked and cleaned themselves.

Over the last five years, seven of the Chicago area's most notorious and unscrupulous heating

Every year, fraudulent home repairmen bilk Chicago-area homeowners out of their savings in defiance of state laws that are too weak to stop them. This is the second of three articles on the problem.

repairmen showed up at the Bingham's front door, authorities say. Most left a few thousand dollars richer.

The Bingham, a retired couple in their 60s, were persuaded to buy two furnaces and three central air conditioners.

They had their house rewired. They had new pipes installed. They had their chimney fixed—three times.

They spent \$22,801.42. "It seemed like everytime we called, somebody different would come out and say he owned the

company," Mrs. Bingham said. "We were trusting souls."

What happened to the Bingham (not their real name) is not unusual, said Tom Warden, an investigator in the Illinois attorney general's office. State consumer protection laws failed to protect them from the convicted con artists who circled their house like vultures. Their nightmare is a lesson for any homeowner.

The Bingham's name and address likely ended up on a "moope list" of easily conned victims. Warden said. The list probably was passed around within the fraternity of con artists who operate in the Chicago area.

If the list wasn't passed around, it was likely stolen, Warden said. "These guys are always fighting over the people they've been bilking," Warden

Continued on page 6

Congress arming for deficit duel

By Dorothy Collin
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON—After only three days of his new session and even before the President has delivered his State of the Union address or submitted his fiscal 1987 budget, Congress appears headed for a standoff over the deficit goals set by the Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing act.

House Democrats have served gleeful notice that they will take every opportunity to deliver verbal trashing of President Reagan's budget, which is expected to call for huge cuts in domestic spending to meet the \$144 billion deficit target and which has been declared "dead before arrival" in Capitol Hill.

Senate Republicans, still licking the wounds incurred in the fiscal 1986 budget battles when their initiatives were blocked by the White House and House Democrats, have indicated they may sit back and watch for a while.

And leaders of both parties have said they won't move toward increasing taxes to re-

Continued on page 14



Firefighter dies after heroics

Colleagues carry Fire Lt. Edmond P. Cogliarese, who later died, had just saved two elderly residents from the blaze at 111 W. Division. Story on Page 15.

residential hotel Sunday. Cogliarese, who later died, had just saved two elderly residents from the blaze at 111 W. Division. Story on Page 15.

Rebels hoist flag in Uganda

From Chicago Tribune wires

NAIROBI, Kenya—The National Resistance Army of rebel leader Yoweri Museveni declared itself the new government of Uganda Sunday after ousting the capital of Kampala in two days of fighting with government troops.

Reports from Kampala said the streets were littered with bodies of hundreds of rebels and troops killed in the two-day siege that capped five years of NRA guerrilla warfare. Most of the city was without electricity or water.

Thousands of jubilant Ugandans swarmed into the streets Sunday to welcome the rebels, who seized control of the capital and its sister city of Entebbe Saturday night. Western diplomats in Nairobi said.

"We regard ourselves as the government of Uganda," National Resistance Army official Erya Katigaya said in Nairobi Sunday. "We are in effective control. This is our formal victory announcement."

Museveni was in Kampala in

Continued on page 14

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1 Tsp. baking soda	2 Eggs
1 3/4 Cups Sugar, divided	2 Tsp. McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract
	1 Tbsp. McCormick® Ground Cinnamon

Directions:

- Mix flour, cream of tartar and baking soda in medium bowl. Set aside. Beat 1 1/2 cups of the sugar, butter and shortening in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Refrigerate 1 hour.
- Preheat oven to 400°F. Mix remaining 1/4 cup sugar and cinnamon. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in cinnamon sugar mixture to coat. Place 2 inches apart on baking sheets.
- Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheets 1 minute. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

Fudgy Peppermint Mug Brownie

Ingredients:

3 Tbsp. mini chocolate chips	1 Egg yolk
1 Tbsp. butter	1 Tsp. milk
2 Tbsp. packed brown sugar	1 Tsp. McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract
2 Tbsp. flour	1/4 Tsp. McCormick® Pure Peppermint Extract

Directions:

- Microwave chocolate chips and butter in microwave safe coffee mug on HIGH 30 seconds or until melted. Stir. Add remaining ingredients; mix well.
- Microwave on HIGH 45 seconds to 1 minutes or until center looks almost set. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.



French's Green Bean Casserole

Ingredients:

1 10.5oz. Can Campbell's® Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup	2 Cans Del Monte® Green Beans, drained
3/4 Cup Milk	1 1/3 Cups French's® Crispy Fried Onions Original, divided
1/8 Tsp. McCormick® Ground Black Pepper	

Directions:

- Mix soup, milk and pepper in a 1 1/2 quart baking dish. Stir in beans and 2/3 cup crispy fried onions.
- Bake at 350° for 30 minutes or until hot. Stir.
- Top with remaining 2/3 cup onions. Bake 5 minutes until onions are golden brown.

Open-Faced Hot Turkey Sandwich

Ingredients:

1 12oz. Container McCormick® Simply Better Turkey Gravy	1 Cup fresh spinach leaves
8 Slices cooked turkey	1 Cup prepared stuffing, warmed
1 Loaf baguette bread, 12 inches long	1/2 Cup cranberry sauce

Directions:

- Cook gravy and turkey slices in large skillet on medium-high heat until heated through.
- Cut baguette in half lengthwise, then cut each piece in half. Place bread, cut-side up onto four serving plates.
- Top bread evenly with spinach, turkey, stuffing, any remaining gravy and cranberry sauce.



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Printer names 2 behind 'Crooked Joe' flyers

Cites consultants, mentions McHenry Dem party chair

By AMANDA MARRAZZO
Chicago Tribune

Facing a choice between going to jail or revealing who was behind the "Crooked Joe" campaign flyers that his company printed, a Chicago businessman revealed in court Friday that two Democratic political consultants funded the mud-slinging mailers that targeted a Republican primary candidate in McHenry County.

Then the president of Breaker Press Co. mentioned a third name that he said he "had reason to believe" was involved with the smear campaign, eliciting gasps in the courtroom: Democratic County Board Chairman Jack Franks.

The two others identified as arranging for the flyers were political consultant Michael Noonan, a former aide for state House Speaker Michael Madigan and campaign manager for state Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and Sean Tenner, who has worked for Barack Obama and Lisa Madigan campaigns.

Franks, Noonan and Tenner could not immediately

be reached for comment.

The series of full-color flyers, sent by bulk mail in this year's Republican primary election for county clerk, portrayed candidate Joe Tiro as "Crooked Joe," saying he hired his cronies and operated a slush fund as county recorder and was part of a "fringe element of dangerous extremists" who weren't "Donald Trump Republicans" but "David Duke" Republicans.

One flyer accused Tiro of "destroying the GOP with Chicago style sleaze" — an interesting claim given that now it appears that the flyers were arranged by Chicago political operatives with deep ties to the Democratic Party.

The mailers were said to be paid for by the "Illinois Integrity Fund," but no other evidence of such an organization could be found.

Tiro went to court seeking to unmask the people behind the smear campaign, but lawyers for his primary opponent Janice Dalton and Breaker Press, which printed the flyers, fought in court against revealing the names. On the stand Friday, Dalton said she didn't know who was behind the flyers — though she used similar language in campaign robo-calls — and was dismissed from the suit.

But as for Breaker Press

President Richard Lewandowski, McHenry County Associate Judge Kevin Costello warned him Friday that he would be held in contempt of court and ordered to jail next week if he did not comply with the court order, which his lawyers at first defied.

They had argued in part that the speech was protected by the First Amendment and that the mailers didn't libel Tiro because their claims against him were too vague. They also asked for time to appeal the judge's order.

Lewandowski continued to resist providing the names, apologizing to the judge but saying that as a businessman, he felt conflicted. After much back-and-forth between lawyers and the judge, Lewandowski eventually said that Noonan and Tenner orchestrated the mailing.

Then, as Lewandowski stood before Costello, Tiro's attorney Phil Prossnitz asked him whether anyone else was involved in orchestrating the mailing. After some hesitation, Lewandowski said, "I have reason to believe Jack Franks was involved."

But Lewandowski acknowledged he never met with or spoke to Franks about the flyers.

Franks and Noonan are longtime associates, and

Noonan and The Roosevelt Group consulting firm, where he is partner, have helped run Franks' political campaigns.

Campaign spending records show that in April and May 2018, the Supporters of Jack D. Franks political organization paid KNI Communications, Tenner's consulting firm, \$19,500 for services described as data support, fundraising expenses and digital, social media and email advertising.

Tiro, who denied the claims made against him in the flyers, won the primary, and went on to win the general election in November.

Tiro sought the names of those behind the flyers as a possible precursor to filing a defamation lawsuit against them.

"Lawsuit's going forward," Prossnitz said, walking out of court to catch an airplane. "We got the two names."

Tiro said after Friday's hearing that he was "very relieved we have gotten through this hurdle and pleased it identified some parties, and my attorneys and I will be putting our heads together to figure out what the next steps should be."

Amanda Marrazzo is a freelance reporter.



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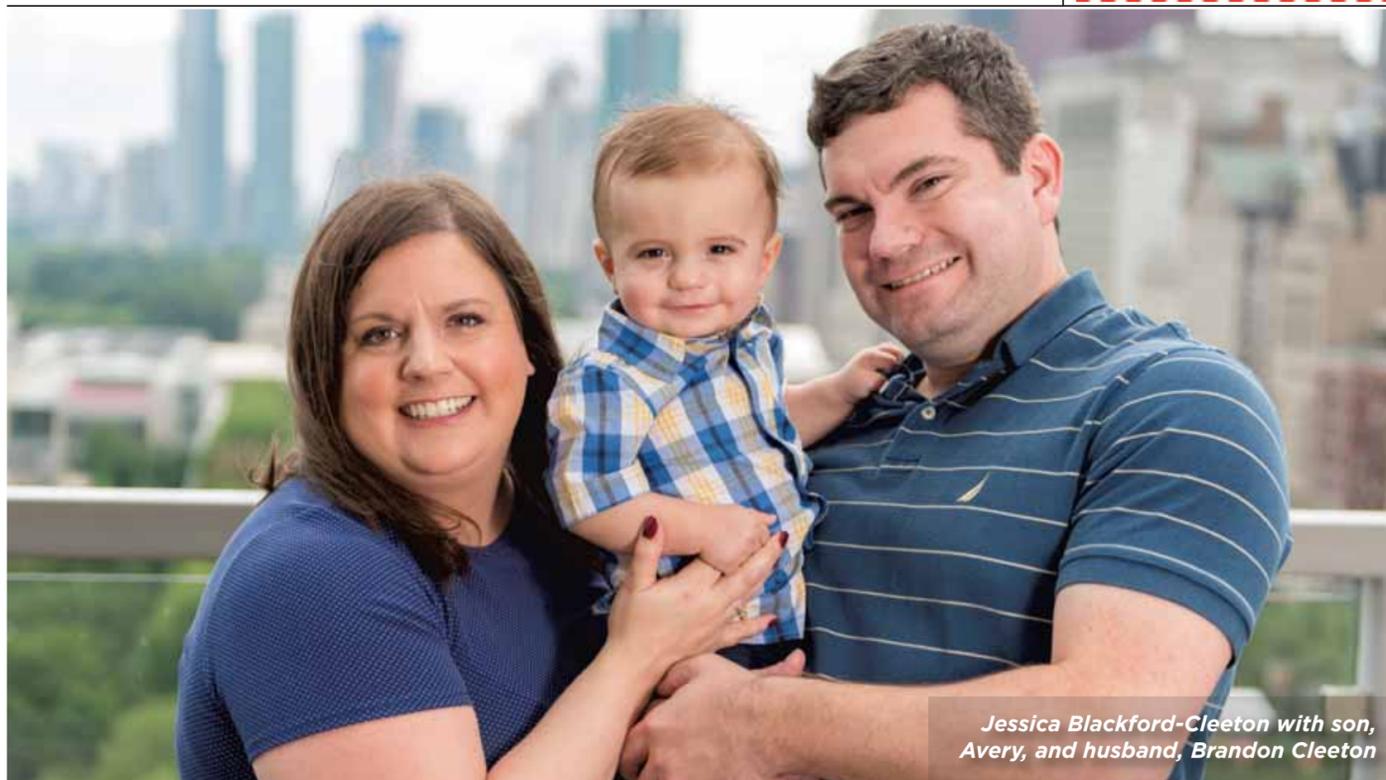
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Chicago Tribune

PERSPECTIVE



U.S. soldiers gather for a brief during a combined joint patrol rehearsal in Manbij, Syria.

SPC. ZOE GARBARINO/U.S. ARMY

LEAVING SYRIA BEATS THE ALTERNATIVE

(another long, drawn-out entanglement)



STEVE CHAPMAN

There are two established rules for withdrawing American troops from foreign conflicts. The first is: Don't do it now. The second is: Don't do it later.

President Donald Trump's reasoning and strategy in demanding a pull-out of our forces from Syria suffer from his usual decision-making flaw, lacking both reasoning and strategy. The timing is also questionable. He says now is the right time because the Islamic State has been defeated, a judgment that is premature at best. And he disregarded the advice of Defense Secretary James Mattis, who promptly resigned.

But if Trump is too eager to get out, his critics are too committed to staying. The direct U.S. intervention began in 2014, when Barack Obama ordered a campaign of airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria. Special operations forces were deployed to Syria in 2015. Trump expanded our ground troops to about 2,000.

Once we put boots on the ground, the default option is to keep them

there. If the fight is going badly, we need them to avert defeat. If the fight is going well, we need them to keep the enemy down. If there's a stalemate, we need them to preserve it. If the fight ends in victory ... well, we don't have a contingency for that, because no one imagines it happening.

The foreign policy hawks are unhappy because they treat intervention as a one-way tunnel with no exits. Earlier this month, Joint Chiefs Chairman Joseph Dunford said we've trained only 20 percent of the local forces that are needed. "We still have a long way to go, and so I'd be reluctant to give a fixed time," he said.

Brett McGurk, who was special presidential envoy for the global coalition to defeat ISIS until he resigned Saturday, seemed to think he had a lifetime job. "Defeating a physical caliphate is one phase of a much longer-term campaign," he said Dec. 11. "This will really take a period of years."

Where have we heard that before? Aside from a short break, we've been in Iraq since 2003. Before long, we'll have men and women serving in Afghanistan who weren't born when we invaded Afghanistan.

Until recently, Trump administration officials were trying to lock us into a commitment in Syria that went

beyond defeating the Islamic State. "We're not going to leave as long as Iranian troops are outside Iranian borders, and that includes Iranian proxies and militias," national security adviser John Bolton vowed, adding, "That means we are not in a hurry."

No kidding. To get an idea of how long he might have in mind, consider that Iran has been supporting its proxy organization Hezbollah, which operates mainly in Syria and Lebanon, for more than 30 years. Bolton's pledge was to make this another front in a modern Hundred Years' War.

Neither Obama nor Trump ever tried to mobilize public support for a venture that was unclear in purpose, open-ended and peripheral to our national security. If Syria were as vital as many people in Congress insist, they could have authorized the president to wage war there. Instead, members on both sides of the aisle did their best impersonation of potted plants.

Now that the president wants to take our troops out of harm's way, a chorus of critics want to direct U.S. policy. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said the pullout is "akin to surrendering." Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., called it "a terrible decision." Even some Democrats agree.

The problem is that every U.S. military intervention leads us into

another, with dismal results. The invasion of Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein was supposed to be a brief project, but the chaos we unleashed forced us to stay on. Our occupation generated an insurgency, and our effort to crush it helped spawn the Islamic State.

The group expanded into Syria, inducing us to fight there. If the hawks had their way, we would remain indefinitely. In the process, we would probably create new enemies who would also have to be fought.

Trump's impulsive nature suggests that this policy, like most of his, will be executed as poorly as humanly possible. It's always easier to get into a war than to get out. It's entirely possible that withdrawing will make things worse in the near term. But the idea that the old policy would yield a successful conclusion — or any conclusion — had no basis in reality.

If the choice were between leaving Syria right away and leaving in six months or a year, taking our time might be defensible. More likely, though, it's now or never.

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

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CHANGE OF SUBJECT

BY ERIC ZORN



Uh-oh! Chicago will have a huge field of good mayoral candidates. Choosing will be hard.

Chicagoans should brace themselves for a post-holiday onslaught of political substance. And I'm not using "substance" here as a family-newspaper metaphor for the unpleasant material that candidates fling at one another and voters (though that, too, I suppose). I mean substance as in substantial proposals from the candidates in the Feb. 26 mayoral election.

Substance as in serious, detailed prescriptions on city finances, public safety, education, infrastructure, transportation and the like.

The coming two months promise to offer what many of us say we want — a campaign on the issues. Whose ideas are robust and pragmatic enough to bring real positive change to the city? Who exhibits the knowledge and nimbleness to turn these ideas into action?

The election is nonpartisan and diverse in terms of ethnicity and gender, so the typical labels will be less influential.

This will present an unusual challenge to voters: Will they be able to tune out the noise of the commercials, serenely evaluate the puffery in the direct mail and think independently from those who presume to do the thinking for them?

Will they take the time to listen with an open mind and then make an informed choice among a raft of thoughtful, qualified candidates?

I'm still listening myself and am nowhere near ready to decide publicly, for whom I'm going to vote. But at first pass it seems to me that Gery Chico, Bill Daley, Lori Lightfoot, Susana Mendoza, Toni Preckwinkle and Paul Vallas have the breadth and depth to make a strong case that they deserve support.

That's a daunting list of heavy-weights.

And I'd also put public policy consultant Amara Enyia, state



Susana Mendoza, from left, Garry McCarthy, Toni Preckwinkle, Amara Enyia, LaShawn Ford, Lori Lightfoot, Gery Chico and Ja'Mal Green take part in a mayoral candidate forum at the Copernicus Center on Dec. 11.

Rep. LaShawn Ford, former Chicago police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, attorney Jerry Joyce and tech entrepreneur Neal Sales-Griffin on the list of plausible contenders from whom I'd like to hear more.

That's 11 prospects, and the list doesn't include Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown, former Ald. Bob Fioretti, businessman Willie Wilson and other also-rans who will be in the mix for some voters but are already off my list.

All told, about 14 candidates are likely to survive scrutiny of their nominating petitions, an abundance that, while a blessing in many ways, will put a special burden on all of us, most particularly those of us in the media.

Debates — televised and otherwise — may not prove helpful.

Daley, son of former Mayor Richard J. Daley and brother of former Mayor Richard M. Daley, sent a letter to local TV stations recently proposing that "all mayoral campaigns and Chicago media outlets come together to coordinate a series of prime-time television debates" so voters "can decide which candidate best represents their voices and can deliver on promises."

Can you imagine? Fourteen candidates trying to get words in edgewise in hourlong forums,

which is about all the time you can expect from TV stations or viewers? After opening and closing statements and the reading of the questions, each hopeful would get about three minutes of airtime.

Faced with a field of 17 presidential hopefuls early in the 2016 campaign season, the national Republican Party held main, prime-time debates for as many as 11 candidates who were performing well in opinion polls, and preceding undercard debates for as many as seven candidates who were lagging in the polls.

Even then the GOP skirmishes were a mess, light on substance and heavy on theatrics. But at least their voters had nearly six months to evaluate the candidates from the first debate until the first votes were cast in the Iowa caucuses.

In Chicago, voters will have just eight weeks from New Year's Day until Election Day. And early polls are likely to be fickle and heavily influenced early on by simple name recognition.

Idea: Randomly split the field into three groups for a first round of debates and limit those debates to just two topics, education and the budget.

Reshuffle the field for a second round of debates on two different topics, public safety and econo-

mic development. Keep the candidates focused on their ideas, and discourage attacks on opponents.

Then, using late polls, pit the top four against one another in a free-for-all forum.

Companion idea: Conscientious voters should be doing their own homework — reading, watching and listening to news reports and candidate profiles; looking out for facile promises that are mere notions; and asking the key question about each candidate, "Is he or she really ready to run the huge enterprise that is the city of Chicago?"

Good luck to all of us.

Is there a doctor in the house?

Only two candidates in the mayoral field claim the title of "doctor."

One is Enyia, who has a Ph.D. in educational policy studies (along with a law degree) from the University of Illinois. Her campaign website contains only a few, scattered references to "Dr. Enyia."

The other is Willie Wilson, who has only a seventh-grade education but has been awarded a series of honorary doctorate degrees, mostly from religious institutions.

His website logo touts "Dr. Willie Wilson for Mayor," and nearly every reference to him contains the title, which his supporters and even some overly cautious journalists use.

Wilson's misappropriation of academic accomplishment has a pathetic, striving quality to it reminiscent of White House adviser Stephen Miller's use of spray-on hair to mitigate his baldness during his appearance last Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation."

And in doctoring his resume, if you will, in this way, Wilson effectively diminishes how impressive it is that he's been such a huge success in business despite his lack of formal schooling.

Furthermore, journalistic convention, everyday usage and the demands of clarity discourage the use of "doctor" to refer to anyone who doesn't have a medical degree (there are plenty of lawyers in the field of candidates, all of whom hold J.D. — juris doctor — degrees).

Even in academia it's considered "utterly pretentious" for holders of Ph.D.s to refer to themselves as "doctor," as I was once told by the late Milt Rosenberg, Ph.D., a University of Chicago sociologist and WGN radio host.

Non-physicians, heal thyself.

Re:Tweets

The winner of this week's online reader poll for funniest tweet is "Opening gifts that say 'From Mom & Dad' and knowing that Dad is going to be just as surprised as you are," by @kellicopter.

To read a list of my choices for the top 10 winter-holiday tweets of all time, visit chicagotribune.com/zorn, where you will also find instructions on how to sign up to receive a weekly email alert after each poll is posted.

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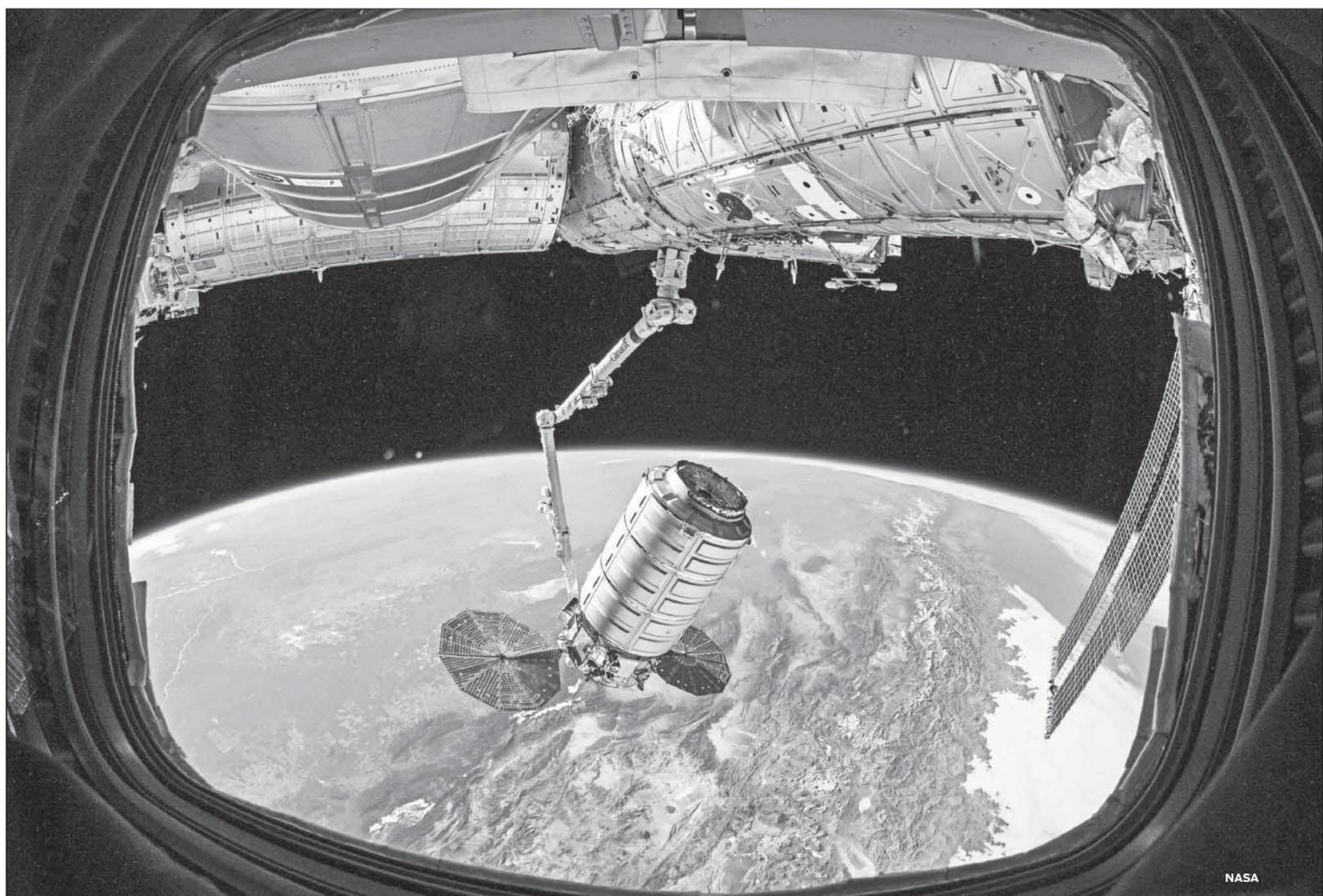
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PERSPECTIVE



5 MYTHS ABOUT SPACE

Space is literally all around us, and it's notoriously difficult to wrap our minds around it. Given the hundreds of billions of stars and planets that make up our galaxy alone, who can be blamed for a lack of cosmic perspective, even if NASA's InSight explorer just landed on Mars to send some back? As an astronomer at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, I spend a lot of time talking with our visitors about their space questions, as well as debunking some persistent misconceptions. These five crop up again and again.

Myth No. 1 There's no gravity in space.

Maybe you've seen those videos of weightless astronauts on the International Space Station, gracefully (or sometimes not so gracefully) flipping and floating around, hair aloft, like swimmers in a starry sea. This often leads people to conclude that there's no gravity up there. "Gravity is an important influence on root growth, but the scientists found that their space plants didn't need it to flourish," National Geographic wrote in 2012 of botanical research aboard the space station. A 2018 headline in *The Independent* similarly described a condition that affects astronauts during "zero-gravity missions."

In fact, if there were no gravity in space, it wouldn't be possible for astronauts (or anything) to orbit the Earth. As Newton explained it, gravity is the mutual attraction between any objects that have mass. Here on Earth, we experience gravity as our weight, which is to say the attraction between our own mass and the Earth. When a rocket is in space, the vehicle and the astronauts carried by it still feel the pull of the planet's gravity. No matter where they are, they have some gravitational relationship with objects — from distant planets to faraway stars — however faint it might be. You, too, experience the tug of the entire universe, even if the tug that you notice is from Earth.

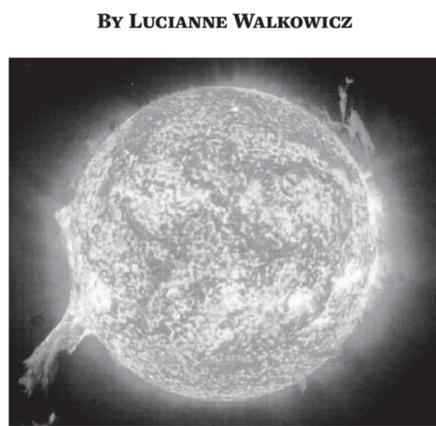
Back on the space station, astronauts (and the station itself) are slowly falling toward, or more technically around, the Earth. The astronauts look and feel weightless because they do not experience the Earth pushing back up on them as they would if they took a tumble on terra firma. If you've ever been in an elevator that descends quickly, dropping from under your feet, you've had a tiny taste of what they experience all the time.

Myth No. 2 Black holes suck.

News outlets tend to describe these gravity wells as if they were oversize cosmic vacuums. "Black Hole Sucks Down Star Stuff at 30 Percent Speed of Light," proclaimed a recent *Discover* magazine headline. The website *Futurism* offered a survival guide for those who somehow "get sucked into a black hole." And then there's Beavis and Butt-head, who warned us that a black hole "sucks up the whole universe, and then it's like, it grinds it up and sends it all to hell or something."

In truth, black holes are a bunch of mass crunched together into a tiny volume, creating a huge gravitational field. Where their gravitational field is strongest, not even light, the fastest thing in the universe, can escape. As a result, black holes have long been hard for astronomers to study, since most of our understanding of the universe relies on measuring light.

What we do know is that the huge masses of black holes (from tens to millions of times the mass of our sun) bend space-time in extreme ways, which is why illustrations often make them look like deep cosmic funnels. If you get close enough to one, you will certainly experience its



Stars like our sun generate energy through fusion, smashing together atoms deep in their cores.



People's ideas about asteroids — this one was snapped from Galileo — often come from movies.

powerful gravitational force, which is why astronomers see stars orbiting the supermassive black hole at the center of our Milky Way galaxy.

But the gravitational tug is just like that of any other object — dependent on mass, and distance — and it's not special just because it's caused by a black hole. If I could magically replace our sun with a black hole that had exactly the same mass as our sun, our Earth would keep orbiting exactly where it is now, and similarly, those stars at the center of our galaxy will spend their entire lifetimes happily orbiting, with no danger of getting sucked in. In that sense, black holes are more like sinkholes than vacuums: One sinkhole in Florida isn't going to destroy the whole Earth, but best not to get too close.

Myth No. 3 The sun is yellow.

Every child has reached for the yellow crayon or marker when it's time to draw the sun. This common perception leads to articles like one in *Sciworthy* that begins, "The yellow sun in our sky provides the light and energy needed to sustain our planet." Pretty forgivable, given that even astronomers refer to the sun as a "yellow dwarf." And Superman famously gets his powers from his proximity to "yellow stars."

Yet to understand the true color of the sun, you

have to know a little bit about light itself. Visible light, the kind that human eyes can see, is just a tiny fraction of the energies of light in the universe. Mixed together, all this light appears white — but the colors of the rainbow, from red to violet, are different energies of light that your eyes

can see (red is at the lower energy end of the visible spectrum, violet is towards the high energy end). By the time light from the sun hits your eyes (hopefully not directly: Please don't look straight at it!), it has traveled across the solar system and through Earth's atmosphere, which bends, filters and scatters solar radiation before it makes it to our eyes. Because the higher-energy, bluer light gets scattered more, the light from the sun that reaches our eyes on Earth appears more yellow. But in space, the sun would appear white to us.

Myth No. 4 The sun is on fire.

As it turns out, when you take the incredibly dynamic surface of the sun, and colorize it in yellows and oranges, it looks a whole lot like fire. Perhaps that's why we often embrace a fiery vocabulary to describe it, as the band *They Might Be Giants* did when they referred to the sun as a "nuclear furnace." Astronomers also speak of the sun "burning" hydrogen, and *Popular Science* writes that we're lucky "it didn't burn out before we showed up a few hundred thousand years ago."

In the case of our sun, however, "burning" is a total misnomer. There is no combustion, fed by oxygen, to release the energy stored in the fuel. Stars generate energy through fusion, smashing together atoms deep in their cores like gigantic particle colliders. These fusion reactions take lighter elements, such as hydrogen, and smash them together to build heavier elements (like helium). When hydrogen atoms fuse together, they release energy, which eventually makes it out of the heart of the star to shine into the universe.

Myth No. 5 It would be hard to fly through the asteroid belt.

To get past Mars, onward to Jupiter and beyond, one must pass through the asteroid belt, a region of space that harbors an especially large number of rocks. That sounds dangerous, at least to some science fans who write into sites like "Ask an Astronomer." Usually, people's ideas about the asteroid belt come from scenes in sci-fi movies like "The Empire Strikes Back," where Han Solo nimbly navigates the Millennium Falcon through a dangerous field strewn with jagged, flying boulders.

In reality, we've successfully sent numerous NASA missions to study the outer solar system, no bobbing or weaving required. At the extreme speeds they travel — tens of thousands of miles per hour — spacecraft don't need to hit a boulder to be annihilated. (Just over two years ago, a window on the International Space Station was seriously damaged by a mere paint chip.) Navigating the asteroid belt in our solar system, however, is a piece of cake: While it does have a lot of rocks flying around in it compared with other regions of space, those rocks are still incredibly far apart — hundreds of thousands of miles, on average. So, if you're ever on a road trip with C-3PO, and he claims that "the possibility of successfully navigating an asteroid field is approximately 3,720 to 1," you can tell him to chill out and enjoy the view.

Lucianne Walkowicz is an astronomer at the Adler Planetarium, and the fifth Blumberg Chair in Astrobiology at the Library of Congress.

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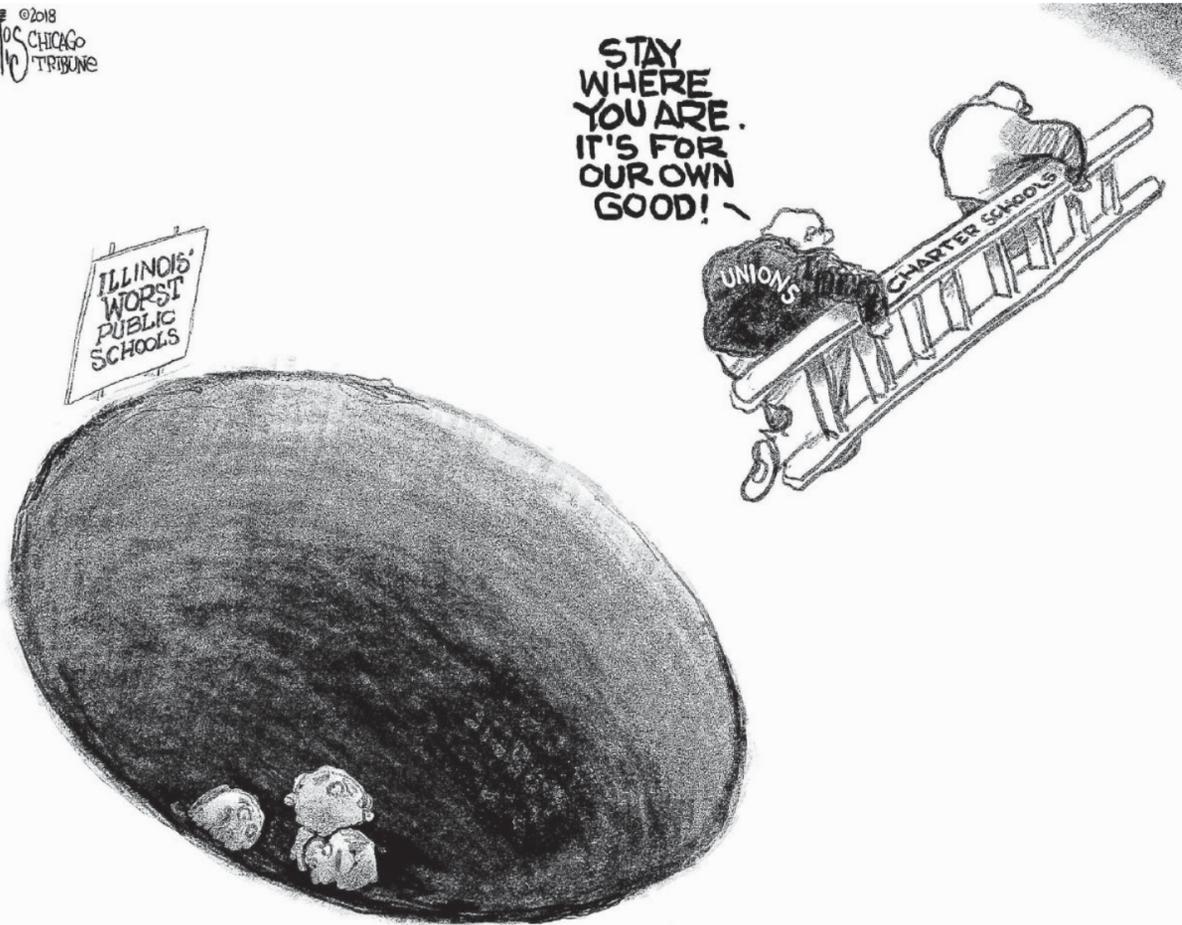
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EDITORIALS

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SCOTT STANTIS

Is the final bell ringing for charter schools in Illinois?

Teachers with one of Chicago's largest charter school operators celebrated a strike earlier this month, the first-in-the-nation walkout at a large charter network.

Teachers at Acero Schools, formerly UNO Charter School Network, walked off the job Dec. 4, shutting down 15 schools for four days in the mostly Latino neighborhoods where they're located. While unionizing efforts have been underway at charter schools locally for years, the decision to strike intensified that effort and thrust Chicago into a national spotlight.

Under their new four-year contract, Acero teachers — represented by the Chicago Teachers Union — will receive pay increases while working under a shorter school day and school year. The contract shaved off part of the extended day from kindergarten through high school, one feature that made Acero attractive to parents and families. With this contract and the previous one, Acero kids also will be in school nine fewer days of the year. That's a lot of lost instruction. Meanwhile, teachers will see pay hikes they say are needed to attract quality applicants.

If you heard a thud just now, it was the charter school movement hitting a new

bottom. The inspiration for charter schools in the mid-1990s was the ability of community-based schools to offer kids a unique experience outside the confines of traditional public schools — outside of state and local mandates, of curriculum demands and yes, of teacher union pressures and adult-driven schedules. Charter schools could offer more intense instruction time, such as at Southland College Prep in Matteson, where the school day is 8 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Guess what the outcomes are? A near-perfect college enrollment rate for graduating seniors.

But the spirit of the original charter law is fading. Where other states have welcomed innovation and experimentation in education, Illinois continues to back-step toward one-size-fits-all public schools. Remember: Charter schools are public schools funded with tax dollars. They're just supposed to have more freedom from the rules and restrictions and paperwork government routinely imposes on schools.

In 1996, then-Gov. Jim Edgar and the legislature first authorized charter schools. Mayor Richard M. Daley supported them for Chicago. The law allowed for 45 schools statewide. Chicago eventually took the

most advantage, expanding the concept to more than 120 campuses. According to the Illinois Network of Charter Schools, 1 in 4 CPS high school students attend a charter school, as do 1 in 10 elementary students. If the charter movement slides backward, which some Chicago mayoral candidates seem to advocate, more than 57,000 families could be affected.

Every year, lawmakers friendly to teachers unions push legislation that would make charters behave more like regular schools, capping the number of charters and tightening the application process to help local school boards block them.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. Former state Sen. Patrick O'Malley, the Senate sponsor of the original charter school bill and a 2002 candidate for governor, corralled his colleagues into allowing charters. He focused on them as a "reasonable alternative" to traditional public schools, which were not — still are not — meeting the needs of all students.

"They provide flexibility from a centralized bureaucracy, and a one-size-fits-all mentality that has existed all too long in public education," he said on the Senate floor in 1995. "They encourage creativity and greater local control and involvement

in the process."

Despite charter schools' struggles, part of their mission remains intact. Acero teachers, for example, still can pivot more quickly on curriculum or testing or individualized learning plans for students without waiting for government approval or filling out reams of paperwork. And Acero officials can avoid a maze of state and local mandates.

But introducing a unionized workforce creates a new potential roadblock to changes. And while unions for years bad-mouthed charter school teachers who must meet fewer certification requirements, all was forgiven when charter teachers joined unions. Now it's a question of when, not if, charter schools reflect more of the sameness of traditional public schools.

That's a loss for students who deserve more choices — today's 57,000 families plus those on waitlists. Maybe a traditional public school is the best fit for a child. Maybe a charter school is the best fit. Maybe private school is the best fit. The point is, government should be assisting, not limiting, parents' choices.

That was the original intent of the charter school law. Lawmakers, protect it.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

As the 2020 campaign beckons, the Democrats are facing the improbable probability that more than two dozen candidates will be pursuing the presidency. Imposing a rational structure for TV debates with such a large field will be not just improbable but impossible.

Well, with one exception: ... There's no reason to have any debates in 2019. We can start in 2020, right before the voting starts. Then, instead of a campaign dominated by a flawed format in which a single sound bite can grab the attention of the media and turn a third-tier candidate into a one-week wonder (think Carly Fiorina slapping down Donald Trump), let's see whether the candidates can impress voters over a sustained, months-long campaign.

Jeff Greenfield, Politico

Average life expectancy is a good proxy for how effective a health care system is. It is often noted that the United States spends far more, both as a percentage of GDP and in absolute dollars per capita, than any other nation, yet only ranks number 43 in terms of life expectancy. Given international norms, the U.S. should be able to improve its overall health and spend half as much per capita. Yet most of the proposals that the political class is discussing would likely increase health care spending as a percentage of GDP, with no reasonable assurance of improved outcomes. ...

For at least three decades, renowned scientists have been claiming that within five to 20 years the key to the aging process will be unlocked, and aging will not only be stopped, but reversed. It is frustrating for us, members of the Committee Against Death and Taxes, that our progress has been so slow on both fronts. It is getting to the point that if we don't "cure" death, the fight against taxes will be irrelevant for most of the Committee members.

Richard W. Rahn, The Washington Times

Genetic testing and Christmas surprises

All we want for Christmas is our two front teeth — and a couple of tablespoons of saliva. That's right. For a genetic testing kit. It's all the rage.

A record number of consumers are buying at-home DNA testing kits that require little more than drool and an envelope. No blood test required. Saliva contains cells from the lining of the mouth. So kit users can simply spit into a small tube and mail it to a lab for results. Bingo. Pinpoint your heritage — and much more. One of the leading testing companies, Ancestry, already has more than 7 million people in its database.

Because it's easy and humans are curious, the market for direct-to-consumer genetic testing is expected to more than triple during the next eight years, according to Credence Research and explained by the Tribune's Lisa Schencker in a recent story. Some tests reveal heritage by continent and country. Some tests help relatives find each other by identifying users with similar DNA. And some tests can reveal medical conditions, a propensity for disease or even traits and likely habits. Can the kits identify a predisposition for late-night wine-and-brownie

cravings? Asking for a friend.

This year, testing companies have been advertising the kits as holiday gifts. Time to prove to Grandma Anderson she's only 9 percent Swedish and no longer expected to slave over toscakaka every holiday. That's almond caramel vanilla cake, which you would know if you were Swedish, but you're not.

Or are you?

Spending maybe \$100 to trace one's ancestry is tempting. But there are downsides. As Schencker reported, the tests reveal private information that would be useful to market researchers, health insurers and pharmaceutical companies. The Federal Trade Commission issued a warning last year, reminding kit users to be careful. There's a lot of data at stake.

"That tiny sample can disclose the biological building blocks of what makes you you," FTC senior attorney Lesley Fair wrote in a public blog post. "The data can be very enlightening personally, but a major concern for consumers should be who else could have access to information about your heritage and your health."

The tests also can unlock family

secrets. Maybe a Christmas gathering isn't the ideal setting for a full reveal. Some consumers have reported feeling traumatized by the results.

Catherine St Clair, a woman from Texas, started a Facebook page for "NPE" test results — Not Parent Expected. The page is private, but apparently it's not uncommon for tests to reveal no link between children and their, um, parents. In St Clair's case, she learned she was raised by a dad who was not her biological father. Other users have shared similar stories of discovering long-lost relatives and half siblings. But marital infidelity isn't what most people go fishing for.

Genetic testing can be fun and informative. No wonder you love haggis, a savory pudding of sheep organs. You're 87 percent Scottish! Maybe you're the only member of your family who never gets a sunburn. Ah ha! You've got some Sicilian in your DNA.

But the kits also can revise history and set a new course for the future. They can force difficult conversations and confessions. If you're ready to test, be prepared — for just about anything.

PERSPECTIVE

The power of a family photo at Christmas

BY DAVID MCGRATH

The photograph is misleading: Eight children, freshly scrubbed, seated with my mother and her brother Kayo on a pink studio couch, the two of them smiling impishly at whoever is taking the picture.

It would not have been my father holding the camera, since he had just gotten back from having to drive all over town to find Kayo. It was Christmas Eve in 1958, and “Kayo,” the childhood nickname for our Uncle Ed, from when he resembled the cartoon character of the same name in the popular comic strip “Moon Mullins,” had been late returning from the annual office holiday party. A bad sign.

Nor could it have been Grandpa Ray, my Dad’s father, who took the picture, since there would have been tension in my mother’s eyes.

Ray and Grandma Mae were not Mother’s favorites. They lived in a small apartment in the city, instead of a house. Ray drove a truck for RV Cartage in the Loop, and Mae clerked at Blue Star Auto Parts in an age when mothers were supposed to stay home. And they gave envelopes with cash to my parents to buy us Christmas gifts, instead of shopping themselves.

My mother’s own parents, Rose and Joe Cichoszewski, were like Grandma and Grandpa Walton of the 1970s TV series. Living across the street, they were ever-present and never referred to as “company.”

Grandma Rose’s laugh was more like a roar. She let us eat whatever we wanted in her messy kitchen: popcorn, Pepsi, charka (Polish raisin bread). Grandpa Joe doled out nickels and sticks of Wrigley’s, usually with a funny story of his Army days. A machinist, he could fix Mom’s vacuum or Dad’s car.

The main thing is that they were Mother’s parents, and Ray and Mae were not.

But as I don’t remember ever seeing Grandpa Joe or Grandma Rose use a camera, it was most likely Uncle Donny, Kayo’s brother, for whom we posed. Younger but bigger, Don was a bear of a man who had gone with my father to find Kayo, peel him off a bar stool and fetch him home for Christmas.

Don was the only family member Kayo heeded, and you can see it in the photograph.

I am also in the picture, third from the right on the couch. My disconnected look was nothing unusual, I’ve been told. Probably because I was the middle child.

But that was also the Christmas Eve I had shattered the glass top of the pinball machine that Pat was given on his birthday the previous October. The three of us — Pat, on my right in the photo, me, and Kenneth on my left — were tasked with cleaning up the basement for the party. In between the sweeping, we staged a sword fight as the “Three Musketeers,” and the accident sur-



COURTESY OF DON CICHOSZEWSKI

Gertrude McGrath sits with her eight children and her brother Eddie “Kayo” Cichoszewski for a family photo on Christmas Eve 1958. David McGrath, this article’s author, is third from right.

That was the Christmas Eve I had shattered the glass top of the pinball machine that Pat was given on his birthday the previous October. The three of us — Pat, on my right in the photo, me, and Kenneth on my left — were tasked with cleaning up the basement for the party. In between the sweeping, we staged a sword fight as the “Three Musketeers,” and the accident surprised us, shards everywhere.

prised us, shards everywhere.

Mother said “Thank God!” I didn’t have to go to the emergency room. But Dad’s yelling was profane and prodigious, making everyone quiet, even Mother.

Dad had already been in a bad mood, poring over instructions for assembling a toy gas station for Kevin and a doll house for baby Nancy, while he chain-smoked Salems and hammered parts together, cursing and wheezing and set to explode. And then — boom! — my broom/sword and a hundred pieces of glass.

Our chastened silence lasted

into the afternoon.

Mom at the stove, a white apron over a red Christmas sweater, squirting the 30-pound turkey with a baster. Stirring steaming gravy and some kind of potato dish. A feast for everyone except Rae and Mae, for whom she baked a separate ham.

Before dark, we took quick baths and dressed up.

That’s when the wall phone in the kitchen rang, its volume turned to the highest level. The call that sent Dad and Don into the night and the cold to find Kayo.

It was confusing to us to hear our mother sob.

I recalled how the previous year Kayo hollered at Santa and threw fistfuls of money onto the floor. Patrick, Kenneth and I scooped up as much as we could, stuffing our pockets with dollars and dimes and quarters. Mother later confiscated all of it.

Tonight, the three musketeers waited in the living room for the men to return.

Time crawled, but it didn’t seem right to turn on the TV.

At 9:30 p.m., the front door opened with a blast of cold air. My father appeared first, wiping his shoes; Kayo in an overcoat and tie, behind him; Uncle Donny, ducking under the door

frame, slamming it shut.

Kayo, his eyes glazy, attempted a prideful smile.

“Did we miss Santa?” said Don.

What happened next is what I remember best during the picture taking, but before Santa rang the doorbell: Mother became Mom again. Her playful grin, her hugs, her solicitous voice. It’s all in the photo, her welcome transformation.

Her stuffy in-laws, her prodigal brother, her simmering husband, her unruly sons; the flaws, the misdeeds, the clashes, the chores unending, the stress of the holiday: All she abided was all erased with her family together, mixing and bumping and talking again in cheerful chaos. Gathered, in flesh and blood and love, for Christmas.

And that was all that mattered.

David McGrath is an emeritus English professor at the College of DuPage and author of “The Territory.”

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

District 86’s tussle over school cutbacks

The Hinsdale High School District 86 school board recently made the difficult decision to increase class size, eliminate a variety of athletics — including but not limited to football, swimming and wrestling — and make significant cuts in other activities. These cuts are a direct result of the failed November referendum in District 86. My husband and I no longer have children at Hinsdale South, but our sons benefited from programs that were cut. A school and all of its parts create a whole, a whole that gave our sons an exceptional education. Every individual living in District 86 will be impacted by these cuts through reduced opportunities for their children, likely teacher and staff cuts, and

rapidly decreasing property values. The students, parents and residents will pay the price of these cuts unless the April 2, 2019, referendum is passed.

I often reflect on my 92-year-old mother, who lives in another district in DuPage County and is a staunch fiscal conservative. She always votes in favor of her local district’s referendums. Her belief is that a community is only as strong as its schools. The tax increases were not always easy for her to manage financially, yet she never wavered in her belief that schools are the cornerstone of a community.

Please consider the students who are devastated because their opportunities are being purged. Set aside the divisions that have simmered, and come together to work to pass this referendum and keep our children, our parents, our teachers and our home val-

ues thriving. There will never be a perfect referendum that satisfies all stakeholders. However, the drastic cuts will certainly satisfy no one.

— Audrey Vaci, Darien

Remembering Penny Marshall

Though Penny Marshall, who recently passed away, was more well-known for her role of Laverne DeFazio in the classic hit comedy TV program “Laverne & Shirley,” she did her best work and had her greatest impact and influence as a movie director.

The movies she directed, including “Big,” “A League of Their Own” and “Awakenings,” were not only critical successes but financial successes as well. Her movies were nominated for multiple Academy Awards and Golden Globes, with “Big” winning a best actor award in the comedy and musical category at the Golden Globes.

Ms. Marshall was also the first female director to gross more than \$100 million at the box

office for a single movie (“Big”). Marshall helped pave the way for the success of other female directors, as she inspired countless women. The U.S. had its Marshall Plan for helping Europe after World War II, and Penny Marshall had her own Marshall plan for making movies a more enjoyable and entertaining experience. Her first name may have been Penny, but she was a million-dollar talent.

— Kenneth L. Zimmerman, Huntington Beach, Calif.

Solving climate change

Thanks for your article “Negotiators strike deal at global climate talks” (Dec. 16). It’s especially appreciated because there was precious little coverage of outcomes at the Katowice convention, probably owing to the fact little progress was made.

As an American, I’m used to our country historically taking a leadership role in advancing world progress. It was hard to watch the U.S. stand on the side-

lines, in the company of such “stalwarts of integrity” as Russia and Saudi Arabia, throwing up barriers to progress. As a nation, if nothing else, we are innovative problem solvers and have a lot to offer the world regarding practical climate change solutions.

As an example, bipartisan legislation was recently introduced in Congress that is very simple, innovative and would lead to massive reductions in climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act would put an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on carbon emissions. It would return that fee to households to protect them from rising prices. But the main benefit is that it would steer markets toward cleaner energy sources, which gets at the root cause of the climate change problem. America can and should play leadership role, even from the sidelines, by setting an example of what a sensible climate solution looks like.

— Andy Panelli, Homer Glen

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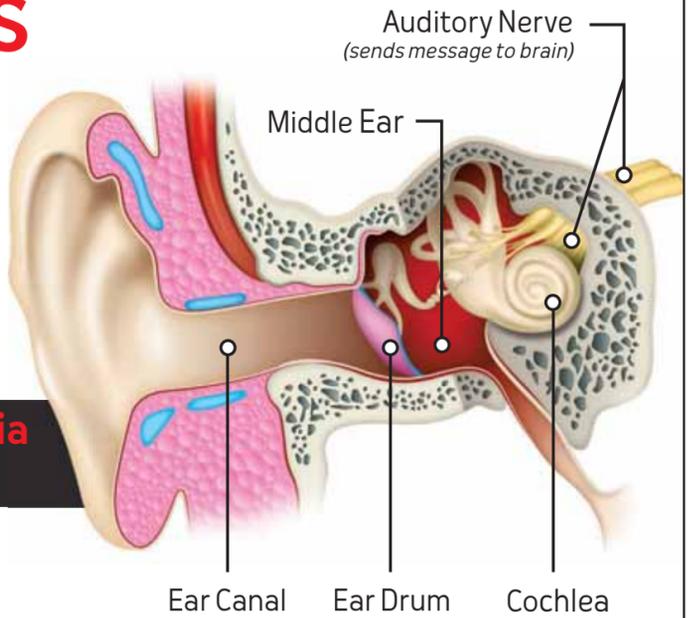
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NATION & WORLD

Santa rides a camel in Holy Land

Jerusalem has its own St. Nick — and this jolly man has diplomas as proof

BY RUTH EGLASH
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — It's a busy time of year for Santas worldwide. But for Jerusalem's Mr. Claus, it's been particularly hectic.

Recently, a restless crowd waited outside the shiny red door of his tinsel-lined home on Santa Claus Lane in Jerusalem's Old City.

It was a familiar scene, one played out in thousands of malls and stores across the globe — children and parents eagerly seeking a little face time with the kindly red-suited gentleman.

Yet in Jerusalem, the traditional trappings of Christmas are hard to find, despite the Old City's cobblestone streets being the backdrop to much of this holiday's story.

Even as thousands of Christian pilgrims make their way to the Holy Land this time of year, fairy lights, seasonal music, and an official Santa are all conspicuously absent.

But not this year. In July, Issa Kassissieh participated in the annual World Santa Claus Congress in Copenhagen and became a full-fledged certified Santa.

And with that, Jerusalem had its own St. Nick.

Kassissieh formally began his Santa duties Dec. 1, and he has already greeted about 3,000 visitors with sparkling Santa stardust, imported candy canes and



Issa Kassissieh, 40, greets children at Santa's House in Jerusalem. "I am the only official Santa of the Holy Land," he says.

fake snow. When he's not working from home, he's out visiting the sick and others who cannot make it to him.

"I am the only official Santa of the Holy Land," Kassissieh, 40, said.

He pointed proudly to the neatly framed diplomas hanging on the wall above his special Santa desk, on which stands the manual typewriter he uses to respond to letters and requests he receives from fans all year round.

Kassissieh, an Arab Christian and former professional basketball player, is a well-known figure in Jerusalem. For years he had

donned the red suit and white beard, finding fame as possibly the only Santa whose preferred mode of transport is a camel, as opposed to a reindeer.

But, taking his role seriously, Kassissieh decided to become formally certified, attending Santa schools in Colorado and in Michigan, as well as the Copenhagen congress.

"People think that anyone can just put on a red suit, but you also need to study the special spirit and the joy of Santa," he said.

You also need to know how to bake cookies and carve wooden toys, apparently — all skills Kassissieh

has mastered at special Santa workshops.

Everything in his "Santa's House" — a 700-year-old stone structure in a narrow alley that is decked with Christmas lights and a helpful sign directing visitors to "Jerusalem," "the North Pole," "Santa's House" and "Santa's workshop" — is handcrafted. He has even built a full-size Santa sleigh.

"They also teach you how to talk to children, how to dress properly, to be clean and smell good," he said. "You need to show happiness and welcome everyone — even those who are scared of you — with a smile."

But that is no easy feat in Jerusalem, where political and religious tensions can sour even the most genuine of gestures.

In the past, the appearance of Christmas trees and other holiday decorations in malls and hotels has drawn protests from ultra-Orthodox Jews. Last week, a shopping mall in the southern Israeli coastal city of Ashdod sparked an uproar by erecting a Christmas tree in its central plaza.

One city council member from the ultra-Orthodox Shas party said it was "intending to hurt anyone who identifies as Jewish."

"My aim as Jerusalem

Santa is to bring everyone together with peace and security," Kassissieh said. The recent tensions between Israelis and Palestinians would not deter him from spreading Santa's joy, he added.

"We are all human," said Kassissieh, who receives Jewish, Muslim and Christian visitors.

Sarah Tuttle-Singer, a Jerusalem-based writer who is Jewish, took her two children to visit Santa recently. She said it was important to her that her children learn about other religions and cultures.

"My kids love the lights and the tree and the candy and the holiday spirit even though they know it isn't our holiday," Tuttle-Singer said. "They especially love how jolly Santa is and how he laughs and makes them feel special."

Kassissieh's journey to Santa-hood started in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, where much of the city's Christian population lives and works.

He was born just a stone's throw from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site where Christians believe Jesus was crucified, buried and later resurrected.

"Even though I grew up here, the center of Christianity, we did not celebrate Christmas like they do in other countries," he said. "I really wanted to bring what I saw in Europe and in America to the children here, too."

Now, as Santa, Kassissieh does just that.

Opening the door to his lovingly crafted home on Santa Claus Lane and greeting his visitors every evening with a "Ho, ho, ho" from the Holy Land.

U.S. envoy quits over Trump's Syria decision

BY MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Brett McGurk, the U.S. envoy to the global coalition fighting the Islamic State group, has resigned in protest over President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, a U.S. official said, joining Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in an administration exodus of experienced national security figures.

Only 11 days ago, McGurk had said it would be "reckless" to consider the Islamic State, or ISIS, defeated and therefore would be unwise to bring American forces home. McGurk decided to speed up his original plan to leave his post in mid-February.

Appointed to the position by President Barack Obama in 2015 and retained by Trump, McGurk said in his resignation letter that the militants were on the run, but not yet defeated, and that the premature pullout of American forces from Syria would create the conditions that gave rise to ISIS. He also cited gains in accelerating the campaign against ISIS, but that the work was not yet done.

His letter, submitted Friday to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, was described Saturday by an official familiar with its contents. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

In a tweet shortly after news of McGurk's resignation broke, Trump again defended his decision to pull all of the roughly 2,000 U.S. forces from Syria in the coming weeks.

"We were originally going to be there for three months, and that was seven years ago — we never left," Trump tweeted. "When I became President, ISIS was going wild. Now ISIS is largely defeated and other local countries, including Turkey, should be able to easily take care of whatever remains. We're coming home!"

Although the civil war in Syria has gone on since 2011, the U.S. did not begin launching airstrikes against ISIS until September 2014, and American troops did not go into Syria until 2015.

McGurk, whose resignation is effective Dec. 31, was planning to leave the job in mid-February after a U.S.-hosted meeting of foreign ministers from the coalition countries, but he felt he

could no longer continue after Trump's decision to withdraw from Syria and Mattis' resignation, according to the official.

Trump declaration of a victory over ISIS has been contradicted by his own experts' assessments, and his decision to pull troops out was widely denounced by members of Congress, who called his action dangerous.

Mattis announced Thursday that he will leave by the end of February. He told Trump in a letter that he was departing because "you have a right to have a Secretary of Defense whose views are better aligned with yours."

The withdrawal decision will fulfill Trump's 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 civil war. U.S. policy has been to keep troops in place until the extremists are eradicated.

Among officials' key concerns is that a U.S. pullout will leave U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces vulnerable to attacks by Turkey, the Syrian government and remaining ISIS fighters.



Brett McGurk, left, said in his resignation letter that ISIS was not yet defeated in Syria.

The SDF, a Kurdish-led force, is America's only military partner in Syria.

A second official said McGurk on Friday was pushing for the U.S. to allow the SDF to reach out to troops allied with Syrian President Bashar Assad's government for protection. McGurk argued that America had a moral obligation to help prevent the allied fighters from being slaughtered by Turkey, which considers the SDF an enemy.

McGurk said at a State Department briefing Dec. 11 that "it would be reckless if we were just to say, 'Well, the physical caliphate is

defeated, so we can just leave now.' I think anyone who's looked at a conflict like this would agree with that."

McGurk, 45, previously served as a deputy assistant secretary of state for Iraq and Iran, and during the negotiations for the landmark Iran nuclear deal by the Obama administration, led secret side talks with Tehran on the release of Americans imprisoned there.

McGurk was briefly considered for the post of ambassador to Iraq after having served as a senior official covering Iraq and Af-

ghanistan during President George W. Bush's administration.

A former Supreme Court law clerk to the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist, McGurk worked as a lawyer for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion and joined Bush's National Security Council staff, where in 2007 and 2008, he was the lead U.S. negotiator on security agreements with Iraq.

Taking over for McGurk will be his deputy, retired Lt. Gen. Terry Wolff, who served three tours of active duty in Iraq.

Indonesian tsunami kills at least 62, injures hundreds more

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A tsunami apparently caused by the eruption of an island volcano killed at least 62 people after the waves hit the coast around Indonesia's Sunda Strait, sending a wall of water some 65 feet inland and damaging hundreds of houses, including hotels, the government and witnesses said.

Some 600 people were reported injured when the tsunami hit about 9:27 p.m. Saturday, the Disaster Man-

agement Agency said.

Scientists from Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics agency said it could have been caused by undersea landslides from the eruption of Anak Krakatau, a volcanic island formed over years from the nearby Krakatau volcano. They also cited tidal waves caused by the full moon.

"I had to run, as the wave passed the beach and landed 15-20m (meters) inland," Oystein Lund Andersen wrote on Facebook.

He said he was taking

photos of the volcano when he saw a big wave come toward him.

"Next wave entered the hotel area where I was staying and downed cars on the road behind it. Managed to evacuate with my family to higher ground through forest paths and villages, where we are taken care of (by) the locals."

The worst affected area was the Pandeglang region of Banten province in Java, which encompasses the Ujung Kulon National Park and popular beaches, the

Disaster Management Agency said. Of the deaths, 33 were in Pandeglang.

In the city of Bandar Lampung on southern Sumatra, hundreds of residents took refuge at the governor's office.

Alif, a resident in Pandeglang district who goes by one name, said the tsunami reached nearly 10 feet.

In September, more than 2,500 people were killed by a quake and tsunami that hit the city of Palu on the island of Sulawesi, just east of Borneo.



A video image shows street debris after a tsunami hit the coast in Serang city, in Banten province, Indonesia.

Pakistan wants chicks on every plot

Backyard poultry plan ridiculed, but poor see lifeline

BY PAMELA CONSTABLE
The Washington Post

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan — The high-pitched cheeping of a thousand newborn chicks fills the humid room. Technicians pluck them from incubation trays, inject them with a vaccine against Newcastle disease, discard those with deformities and pop the rest into plastic containers, where they will travel in heated trucks to government farms and be raised to adulthood.

This process, repeated twice a week at the Punjab Province poultry research center, is the first step in a national anti-poverty program announced Nov. 29 by Prime Minister Imran Khan. The premise is simple: to provide five hens and one rooster to several million poor families, especially rural women, so they can earn income at home by selling eggs.

But Pakistan is also facing dire macroeconomic and fiscal crises, with the rupee plummeting against the dollar and foreign debt burden soaring out of control. Khan, who swore as a candidate that he would never go begging abroad, has already been forced to borrow billions from Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, and to negotiate for debt relief from the International Monetary Fund.

With such weighty issues to tackle, the backyard poultry project, an idea Khan borrowed from Microsoft founder Bill Gates, has been met with widespread derision. Headlines and pun-filled tweets have mocked the premier as throwing “chicken feed” at serious problems.

One editorial cartoon showed a heavy cart, labeled “the economy,” being pulled by a struggling hen.

But at the Poultry Research Institute, which has spent years developing the perfect backyard chicken,



Ahsan Jadoon, 10, feeds chickens on the roof of his uncle's home in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, earlier this month.

director Abdul Rehman firmly believes that the project can make a critical difference in the health and livelihood of millions of poor Pakistanis.

“In Pakistan, 44 percent of children under age 5 have stunted growth due to nutritional deficiency,” Rehman said. “Our high infant mortality rate is associated with malnutrition in mothers. These eggs can add a healthy ingredient to their diets.”

The newborn death rate in Pakistan, about 40 per 1,000 births, is among the highest in the world, according to the World Bank.

The second goal is to provide extra household income for poor families, especially women, by selling eggs. Livestock officials estimate that five hens, laying several eggs each per week, can bring in at least \$75 a month — more than the salary of a security guard or construction worker.

By crossing hardy do-

mestic, hand-raised chickens — known as “desi,” or native, poultry — with breeds from Egypt and Australia as well as Rhode Island Reds, the center has developed birds with the necessary qualities for backyard life: tough, omnivorous, disease-resistant and agile.

“They can live in trees, in boxes, or under people’s stairs,” Rehman explained. “They can eat kitchen scraps instead of expensive feed, and they can outrun predators like cats and foxes.”

In contrast to the skeptics, many poor and working-class Pakistanis said they were excited to hear about the project and eager to sign up. Even more affluent families said they appreciate Khan’s continued focus on the plight of the poor, which he vowed to prioritize during his campaign.

“People may laugh at the prime minister over this, but I laugh at them,” said

Zahida Shad, a middle-class homemaker in Islamabad. She keeps a half-dozen chickens near the family’s garage, mostly to provide extra nutrition for her grandkids. “Here in the city people have money to spend, but they can’t find a single pure thing to eat.”

Raising chickens is a common practice in this largely rural, agricultural country of 208 million. Even in crowded cities like Rawalpindi, many families build chicken coops on rooftops or under stairs.

And almost any Pakistani will tell you that “desi” eggs, produced by desi chickens, are both better tasting and more fortifying than the factory-farm eggs that are now mass-produced in high-tech poultry facilities. Many have been built by wealthy industrialists who have now cornered the egg market.

Sardar Ali Abbas, 55, who owns a crockery shop in Rawalpindi and keeps a few

chickens on his roof, applied for the new program right away and is impatiently waiting for it to begin. He observed that factory-bred chickens are raised to lay more eggs, which are larger and whiter than desi eggs but lack their flavor and oomph.

“We want the same good food for our children that our parents and grandparents had for us,” Abbas said. “The problem is, desi eggs cost more, and they are hard to find. The others are everywhere.”

Therein lie the greatest obstacles to the success of the chicken-in-every-plot scheme: economies of scale, which keep factory eggs cheap, and reportedly widespread business practices — such as warehouse hoarding and price manipulation — that benefit large food processors and brokers at the expense of small farmers.

In a recent essay in *The News International* news-

paper, Zaigham Khan, a Pakistani development professional, wrote that persistent poverty in rural Pakistan is “more about the fox” than the chicken. With the political and business elite conspiring to maximize profits, he argued, only a radical reordering of the playing field can truly give family farmers a boost.

“The problem is that the whole market, at every stage, works against the poor,” he said in an interview. “It is fine for families to be eating better eggs, but even the small producers who raise 500 birds can’t compete with the crony capitalists who sell 30,000.”

It is far from clear whether Khan’s anti-poverty crusade will take wing, or whether selling a few eggs a week will bring in more than pocket change to struggling rural families. Many urban Pakistanis, though, are equally attracted to the project out of nostalgia for a traditional way of life.

Rajah Sohail, 42, an auto parts seller, and his wife Ghazala live in an old, three-story rowhouse overlooking a noisy market in Rawalpindi. The gritty, sprawling city of 2 million is crammed with people like them, who migrated from rural areas in search of steady work and better education for their children.

The Sohails have lived here for decades and their children are college graduates, but they still miss the village they left behind. Rajah recently signed up for the chicken distribution, and meanwhile bought a rooster and several hens. He built them a wire coop on the roof, with a heavy curtain to keep out the cold.

“I loved growing up with buffaloes and goats and chickens. This reminds me of my childhood,” said Ghazala, who feeds the chickens and keeps the roost clean. “Now we can eat better quality eggs,” she said. “If we can join the program and sell a few extra, that’s a good thing, too.”

AP-NORC Poll: Nearly 6 in 10 say Trump impeded Russia probe

BY ERIC TUCKER AND
EMILY SWANSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans say they believe President Donald Trump has tried to obstruct the investigation into his campaign’s ties to Russia, though the public is divided on whether he should be removed from office if he’s found to have stymied the probe, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The survey also shows Americans are less likely to say Congress should remove Trump if he directed his former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, to arrange hush money payments to cover up claims of extramarital relationships during the 2016 campaign.

Opinions on both matters reveal a stark partisan divide.

The poll of 1,067 adults was conducted Dec. 13-16, just after federal prosecutors in New York implicated Trump in illegal payments to a former Playboy model and an adult-film actress and after special counsel Robert Mueller revealed that discussions over a possible Trump building project in Moscow extended longer than had been previously known.

Overall, 42 percent of Americans approve of the job Trump is doing as president, while 56 percent disapprove.

About 8 in 10 Republicans approve of Trump’s job performance, while just 1 in 10 Democrats say the same.

A majority of Americans — 58 percent — think the president has tried to impede the Russia investigation, while 4 in 10 say he has not.

An overwhelming share of Democrats, 90 percent,

say the president has sought to obstruct the probe, compared with 22 percent of Republicans.

The survey also shows that if Mueller’s investigation finds that Trump did not personally have inappropriate contacts with the Kremlin but nonetheless tried to obstruct the FBI’s work, 51 percent of Americans think Congress should take steps to remove him from office, while 46 percent think it should not.

About 8 in 10 Democrats and 2 in 10 Republicans think Trump should be removed from office if he committed obstruction.

Nearly three-quarters of Democrats and only about 1 in 10 Republicans think Congress should take steps to impeach him if he directed illegal payments.

Overall, 45 percent said Congress should take steps to remove him from office if he orchestrated the hush

money payments. Slightly more, 53 percent, said Congress should not take steps to remove Trump for that.

About 4 in 10 think he broke the law when it comes to directing Cohen’s payments, and about as many say the same of his ties to Russia. About 2 in 10 think Trump has done nothing wrong, with the remainder saying his actions were unethical, but not illegal.

About 7 in 10 Democrats believe Trump has done something illegal involving Russia. Among Republicans, 55 percent say Trump has done nothing wrong when it comes to Russia, while 35 percent think he has done something unethical but not illegal.

Matthew Behrs, a maintenance coordinator from

Plymouth, Wis., is among those unconvinced by the allegations. He said he was skeptical of the impact Russia actually had on the election and wondered why Mueller hadn’t

provided direct evidence of collusion if the problem was so prevalent.

“If there was this collusion, why wasn’t this (over in) three months,” he said. “Here are the emails, here’s the contact, here’s the collusion. Here it is.”

Nearly 7 in 10 Democrats find illegality for Trump in Cohen’s payments, while just 7 percent of Republicans say the same. Among Republicans, 49 percent think Trump did something unethical, but not illegal, while 44 percent think he did nothing wrong.

The poll finds rising con-



Trump

fidence among Democrats of the fairness and impartiality of Mueller’s investigation. Overall, about a third of Americans say they’re extremely or very confident that the inquiry is fair and impartial; another quarter say they are moderately confident. Roughly 4 in 10 say they’re not confident.

Democrats are more likely to express confidence today compared with a year ago, 51 percent to 38 percent. Just 14 percent of Republicans say they are confident, which is unchanged from last year.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,067 adults was conducted Dec. 13-16 using a sample drawn from NORC’s probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population.

The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.



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NASA 1968

Bill Anders snapped the iconic "Earthrise" photo during the Apollo 8 crew's fourth orbit of the moon, switching from black-and-white to color film to capture the planet's beauty.

'Wow, is that pretty!'

NASA marks 50th anniversary of Apollo 8, the mission that captured the beauty of Earth from space

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Fifty years ago on Christmas Eve, a tumultuous year of assassinations, riots and war drew to a close in heroic and hopeful fashion with the three Apollo 8 astronauts reading from the Book of Genesis on live TV as they orbited the moon.

To this day, that 1968 mission is considered to be NASA's boldest and perhaps most dangerous undertaking. That first voyage by humans to another world set the stage for the still grander Apollo 11 moon landing seven months later.

There was unprecedented and unfathomable risk to putting three men atop a monstrous new rocket for the first time and sending them all the way to the moon. The mission was whipped together in just four months in order to reach the moon by year's end, before the Soviet Union.

There was the Old Testament reading by commander Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders.

Lastly, there was the photo named "Earthrise," showing our blue and white ball — humanity's home — rising above the bleak, gray lunar landscape and 240,000 miles in the distance.

Humans had never set eyes on the far side of the moon, or on our planet as a cosmic oasis, surrounded completely by the black void of space. A half-century later, only 24 U.S. astronauts who flew to the moon have witnessed these wondrous sights in person.

The Apollo 8 crew is still around: Borman and Lovell are 90; Anders is 85.

To Lovell, the journey had the thrill and romance of true exploration, and provided an uplifting cap for Americans to a painful, contentious year marked by the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, nationwide riots and protests of the Vietnam War.

The mission's impact was perhaps best summed up in a four-word telegram received by Borman. "Thanks, you saved 1968."

NASA Administrator Jim

Bridenstine — who at age 43 missed Apollo — marvels over the gutsy decision in August that year to launch astronauts to the moon in four months' time. He's pushing for a return to the moon, but with real sustainability this next go-around.

The space agency flipped missions and decided that instead of orbiting Earth, Borman and his crew would fly to the moon to beat the Soviets and pave the way for the lunar landings to come. And that was despite on its previous test flight, the Saturn V rocket lost parts and engines failed.

"Even more worrisome than all of this," Bridenstine noted earlier this month, Apollo 8 would be in orbit around the moon on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. "In other words, if there was a failure here, it would wreck Christmas not only for everybody in the United States, but for everybody in the world."

As that first moon shot neared, Borman's wife, Susan, demanded to know the crew's chances. A NASA director answered: 50-50.

Borman wanted to get to the moon and get back fast. In his mind, a single lap around the moon would suffice. His bosses insisted on more.

"My main concern in this whole flight was to get there ahead of the Russians and get home. That was a significant achievement in my eyes," Borman explained at the Chicago launch of the book "Rocket Men" last spring.

Everyone eventually agreed: Ten orbits it would be.

Liftoff of the Saturn V occurred on the morning of Dec. 21, 1968.

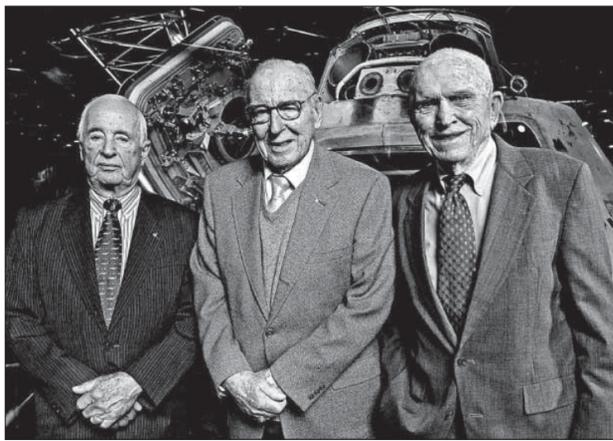
On Christmas Eve, the spaceship successfully slipped into orbit around the moon. Before bedtime, the first envoys to another world took turns reading the first 10 verses from Genesis. It had been left to Borman, before the flight, to find "something appropriate" to say for what was expected to be the biggest broadcast audience to date.

"We all tried for quite a while to figure out something, and it all



NASA

Apollo 8 astronauts Bill Anders, from left, James Lovell and Frank Borman shown above in 1968 before launch, and below in April 2018.



J.B. SPECTOR/MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

came up trite or foolish," Borman recalled. Finally, the wife of a friend came up with the idea of Genesis.

"In the beginning," Anders read, "God created the heaven and the Earth."

Borman ended the broadcast with, "And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you — all of you on the good Earth."

On Christmas morning, their spacecraft went around the moon for the final time. The engine firing needed to shoot them back to Earth occurred while the capsule was out of communication with Mission Control in Houston. Lovell broke the nervous silence as the ship reappeared: "Please be informed there is a Santa Claus."

Back in Houston, meanwhile, a limousine driver knocked on Marilyn Lovell's door and handed her a gift-wrapped mink stole with a card that read: "To Marilyn, Merry Christmas from the man in the moon." Lovell bought the coat for his wife and arranged its fancy delivery before liftoff.

Splashdown occurred in the pre-dawn darkness on Dec. 27, bringing the incredible six-day journey to a close. Time magazine named the three astronauts "Men of the Year."

It wasn't until after the astronauts were back that the significance of their Earth pictures sank in.

Anders snapped the iconic Earthrise photo during the crew's fourth orbit of the moon, frantically switching from black-and-

white to color film to capture the planet's exquisite, fragile beauty.

"Oh my God, look at that picture over there!" Anders said. "There's the Earth coming up. Wow, is that pretty!"

Before the flight, no one had thought about photographing Earth, according to Anders. The astronauts were under orders to get pictures for potential lunar landing sites while orbiting 70 miles above the moon.

"We came to explore the moon and what we discovered was the Earth," Anders is fond of saying.

His Earthrise photo is a pillar of today's environmental movement. It remains a legacy of Apollo and humanity's achievement, said professor emeritus John Logsdon of George Washington University's Space Policy Institute, forever underscoring the absence of political borders as seen from space.

Anders wondered then — and now — "This is not a very big place, why can't we get along?"

Lovell remains awestruck by the fact he could hide all of Earth behind his thumb.

"Over 3 billion people, mountains, oceans, deserts, everything I ever knew was behind my thumb," he recalled at a recent anniversary celebration at Washington's National Cathedral.

Astronaut-artist Nicole Stott said the golden anniversary provides an opportunity to reintroduce the world to "Earthrise." She and three other former space travelers held a celebration at NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Friday, 50 years to the day Apollo 8 launched.

"That one image, I think, it just gives us the who and where we are in the universe so beautifully," she said.

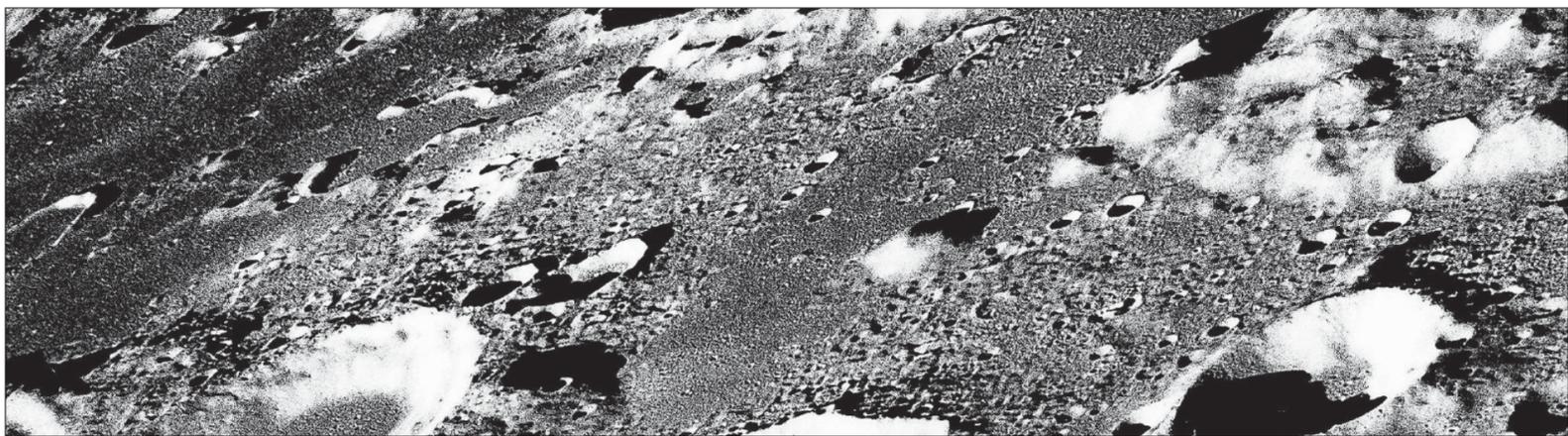
By July 1969, Apollo 8 was overshadowed by Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin moon landing. But without Apollo 8, noted George Washington's Logsdon, NASA likely would not have met President John F. Kennedy's deadline of putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

Borman and Anders never flew in space again, and Soviet cosmonauts never made it to the moon.

Lovell went on to command the ill-fated Apollo 13. That flight was the most demanding, he said, "But Apollo 8 was the one of exploration, the one of repeating the Lewis and Clark expedition finding the new Earth."

"Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you — all of you on the good Earth."

— Apollo 8 astronaut Frank Borman, 1968



NASA

The Apollo 8 astronauts were under orders to get photos for potential lunar landing sites. Before that flight, no one had thought about photographing Earth, said Bill Anders.

Hemp cultivation's legal. Now what?

You can't get high from this cannabis, but you can wear it

BY KURTIS LEE
Los Angeles Times

Hemp, a close relative of marijuana that can be used to make textiles and other products, has long been classified as a Schedule I drug by the federal government. That's now changed.

President Donald Trump signed a farm measure Thursday that includes a section that legalizes the commercial cultivation of hemp nationwide.

The bill, years in the making, comes as public support for cannabis legalization has increased over the years, offering a cover of sorts to politicians who see the potential for boosting state tax revenue.

Here's a look at the movement to legalize hemp and whether it could open the way to lifting the federal prohibition on marijuana.

First, what is hemp exactly?

Hemp, like marijuana, is a form of cannabis.

The plants look similar, with an important difference. Marijuana produces a flower — the sticky buds filled with THC, the chemical compound that creates a high when smoked or ingested. Hemp does not produce high levels of THC.

Instead, it is prized for its stalks, which contain fiber that can be used to make rope and fabric for clothing.

Its cultivation dates back to 8000 B.C. — and ancient Mesopotamia — and is believed to be among the oldest examples of human industry.

But hemp has been illegal in the United States?

Yes.

Since 1970, when President Richard Nixon launched the so-called war on drugs by signing the Controlled Substances Act, drug laws have made no distinction between hemp and marijuana when it



A farmer harvests hemp at Murray State University in Kentucky. The law does not allow people to grow their own plants.

comes to cultivation.

Both are classified as Schedule I drugs on the Drug Enforcement Administration's list of controlled substances, alongside heroin and LSD.

Over the years, this has led to misinformation about hemp. Earlier this year, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., summed up the bad news for anybody who tries to get high on hemp.

"Federal law treats hemp like it's a dangerous drug, but the only thing you're going to accomplish by smoking hemp is wasting breath, time and lighter fluid," he tweeted.

But haven't hemp products been sold in U.S. stores for years?

Yes.

Hemp-derived products — T-shirts and soaps — have been legal for decades and are part of a growing market that the Hemp Business Journal estimated hit \$820 million in sales last year.

Those products, or at least the hemp in them, have come from abroad. China and Canada are two of the largest growers and

exporters.

U.S. restrictions on growing hemp began to loosen in 2014, when President Barack Obama signed a farm bill that allowed universities and state departments of agriculture to begin cultivating it for limited purposes, such as research exploring the best uses for the plant.

Since then, nearly 40 states have passed laws that allow for hemp cultivation and production programs.

This year, five states — Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma — passed hemp research legislation, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

In contrast to its opposition to marijuana legalization and its threats to shut down state-approved pot businesses, the federal government has not challenged state efforts on hemp.

Hemp companies and farmers alike have been lobbying to end the federal prohibition.

So now it's legal under federal law too?

Yes, now that Trump has

signed the farm bill.

Passed by Congress this month with bipartisan support, the bill defines hemp as an agricultural commodity and removes its status as an illegal drug.

The bill also eliminates "hemp" from the definition of marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act and creates an exemption for the small amount of THC found in hemp.

In addition, the legislation authorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create quality control standards for commercial hemp production and gives states, U.S. territories and tribes the ability to adopt their own plans.

"This is a pivotal moment for hemp in America and it is long overdue," said Shawn Hauser, a Denver-based attorney who helps marijuana and hemp businesses navigate state and federal laws. "Following decades of prohibition under outdated drug laws, hemp will finally be treated like other crops and legal for U.S. farmers to grow."

The new law does not allow people to grow their

own hemp plants.

Why did Congress decide to act now?

It's simple: pressure from constituents.

Legalizing hemp had bipartisan support in Congress, especially among lawmakers from areas where agriculture is an economic engine.

For years, Republican Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, had faced pressure from farmers in his home state of Kentucky to legalize hemp production to help counter declining demand for tobacco and other crops.

The state's research program, passed by the Legislature in 2016, has studied the environmental benefit of hemp and the potential use of the plant as an energy source or biofuel.

McConnell said the passage of the farm bill is a "bright spot" because hemp will be legal.

"At a time when farm income is down and growers are struggling, industrial hemp is a bright spot of agriculture's future," McConnell tweeted recently. "My provision in the Farm

Bill will not only legalize domestic hemp, but it will also allow state departments of agriculture to be responsible for its oversight."

Is everyone happy about the hemp provision in the farm bill?

No.

Language in the farm bill prohibits felons from working in the hemp industry until 10 years after their conviction. That doesn't sit well with advocates pushing to make criminal justice reform a centerpiece of cannabis legalization.

"A 10-year wait will effectively bar many people from contributing to this new industry," said Grant Smith, deputy director of national affairs with the Drug Policy Alliance. "This is a setback for efforts to help formerly incarcerated people get back on their feet, and the ban only reinforces the false notion that hemp needs to be treated differently than any other agricultural commodity, a belief that McConnell and hemp advocates have worked so hard to dispel."

Does this mean there's any hope for marijuana legalization?

Not necessarily.

Though members of Congress, mostly Democrats, have floated the idea of legalization at the federal level, and Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., even introduced legislation to lift the prohibition, it hasn't gained traction.

The legalization movement, however, remains active at the state level.

Since 2012, when Colorado and Washington became the first states to legalize marijuana for recreational use, 10 others have followed suit. California did it in 2016. The most recent, Michigan, legalized recreational pot in November.

With the exception of Vermont, which legalized with a vote in the state Legislature, all enacted their laws through ballot measures.

Open and shut: Shutdown hitting some historic sites

BY MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The huddled masses are still able to visit the Statue of Liberty. The Grand Canyon is open for business. The government says other national parks "will remain as accessible as possible."

But, while the star-spangled banner yet waves at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, the gates at the War of 1812 landmark are locked.

Tourists trekking to parks and historic sites across the U.S. on Saturday are seeing a mix of impacts from the federal government's second shutdown in less than a year.

Some attractions are staying open thanks to funding from states and charitable groups.

At some parks, you're welcome to take a hike — but you're largely on your own. At others, like the closed Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, you're out of luck.

Utah's state government is paying to staff the visitor centers at Arches, Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks. Arizona is ponying up to keep trails, shuttles and restrooms open at the Grand Canyon. New York is footing the bill for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island for the third time in five years.

"Many travelers have planned their visit for months in advance and have traveled from all over the world to be here," said Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican. "We want them to return home with memories of magnificent vistas and welcoming people, not locked doors."

The shutdown is affecting nine of the 15 Cabinet-level departments, including Interior, which runs national parks, and Agriculture, which runs national forests. About 16,000 National Park Service em-



A sign is displayed Saturday at the National Archives, which is closed because of a government shutdown.

ployees — 80 percent of the agency's workforce — are being furloughed.

It's also closing some of the nation's presidential libraries.

The George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas, is closed, but the family gravesite — where the 41st president was recently buried — will stay open. George W. Bush's presidential library in Dallas is open, but archive services won't be available.

Temporary and permanent exhibits at the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, a top tourist attraction in Little Rock, Arkansas, are closed, but the restaurant is open and offering "Shutdown Specials."

At Acadia National Park in Maine, austerity measures include closing some bathrooms, curbing trash collection and cutting back on snowplowing. A lack of plowing could also hinder access to Crater Lake in Oregon, Mount Rainier in Washington and other parks normally inundated with snow this time of year.

Hotels, restaurants, stores and gas stations at Yosemite National Park in California remain open and seem unaffected by the shutdown, which has canceled some programs, closed visitor centers and

left campgrounds unstaffed.

Superintendent Cassius Cash of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee said visitors should practice "leave no trace" principles to avoid fouling up the park when no visitor services are available. The holiday period is typically one of the park's busiest weeks, he said.

At the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, it was business as usual after New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said the state would fund operations, as it did when the federal government shut down in 2013 and 2018. It'll cost the state about \$65,000 per day, Cuomo said.

In Arizona, Gov. Doug Ducey activated the state's Grand Canyon Protection Plan, which calls for the state to underwrite the cost of public safety and basic services at the desert treasure. Arizona developed the plan after it stepped in to fund operations during the last shutdown, 11 months ago.

"Regardless of what happens in Washington, the Grand Canyon will not close on our watch," said Ducey, a Republican. "If you have plans to visit the Grand Canyon over the weekend, keep 'em. The Grand Canyon will remain open."

Shutdown to stretch past Christmas

Shutdown, from Page 1

heard mixed messages during a lunch with conservative lawmakers; some wanted him to fight for the wall, others preferred to get the government re-opened.

The Senate, which had gavelled in with the House for a rare weekend session, adjourned until Christmas Eve, but won't return for a full session until Thursday.

Even a temporary measure to keep government running for a few days while negotiations continued seemed out of reach.

"Listen, anything can happen," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters after he closed the session.

But the situation seemed less hopeful for a resolution. The Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, said a quick end to the shutdown was "not probable."

"I don't think it's imminent we're going to reach a deal," Shelby told reporters after he ushered Pence through the halls for meetings.

Trump was demanding \$5 billion for a wall, but congressional Democrats were refusing to accede in a stalemate that provided a chaotic coda for Republicans in the waning days of their two-year reign controlling government.

The president jettisoned his Florida holiday getaway to his club Mar-a-Lago, tweeting, "I am in the White House, working hard."

First lady Melania Trump was flying back to Washington to be with her husband.

Trump hosted a lunch with conservative lawmakers, including House Freedom Caucus chiefs Mark Meadows of North Carolina and Jim Jordan of Ohio, and several senators, among them Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. Absent were GOP leaders or any Democrats.

For the second day in a row, Pence shuttled over to

the Capitol to work on a deal. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York met with Pence at the request of the White House, according to Schumer's office.

Schumer said the "Trump shutdown" could end immediately if Trump simply dropped his demand for money that was the centerpiece of his presidential campaign. Trump had pledged that Mexico would pay for the wall; Mexico has refused.

"If you want to open the government, you must abandon the wall," Schumer said.

Democrats said they were open to other proposals that don't include the wall, which Schumer said was too costly and unpopular. They have offered to keep spending at existing levels of \$1.3 billion for border fencing and other security.

But Trump, digging in, tweeted that "the crisis of illegal activity" at America's southern border is "real and will not stop until we build a great Steel Barrier or Wall."

Republican leaders largely stayed in the background of the negotiations, and McConnell opened the Senate saying any deal to reopen government would require Democratic support for passage and the president's signature.

The impasse blocked money for nine of 15 Cabinet-level departments and dozens of agencies, including the departments of Homeland Security, Transportation, Interior, Agriculture, State and Justice.

The disruption affected many government operations and the routines of 800,000 federal employees. Roughly 420,000 workers were deemed essential and will work unpaid just days before Christmas. An additional 380,000 will be furloughed.

Federal employees already were granted an extra day of vacation on Monday, Christmas Eve, thanks to an executive order that Trump

signed this past week. The Senate passed legislation ensuring that workers will receive back pay.

Those being furloughed included nearly everyone at NASA and 52,000 workers at the Internal Revenue Service. About 8 in 10 employees of the National Park Service were to stay home; many parks were expected to close.

Some agencies, including the Pentagon and the departments of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services, were already funded and will operate as usual.

The U.S. Postal Service, busy delivering packages for the holiday season, was not affected because it's an independent agency. Social Security checks were mailed, troops remained on duty and food inspections continued.

Also still functioning were the FBI, the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard. Transportation Security Administration officers continued to staff airport checkpoints and air traffic controllers were on the job.

Trump has savored the prospect of a shutdown over the wall for months.

Last week he said he would be "proud" to close down the government. Many of Congress' most conservative Republicans welcomed such a confrontation, but most GOP lawmakers wanted to avoid one because polling showed the public opposed the wall and a shutdown over it.

Senators approved a bipartisan deal earlier in the week to keep the government open into February and provide \$1.3 billion for border security projects, but not the wall. But the House rebelled and approved a package temporarily financing the government but also setting aside \$5.7 billion for the border wall.

A test vote in the Senate on Friday showed that Republicans lacked the 60 votes needed to advance the House plan.

New York's latest tourist attraction

Tourists, fans flock to courtroom to get close-up view of drug trafficker El Chapo

BY CLAUDIA TORRENS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — There was a time, after a spectacular prison escape, when Joaquin Guzman was the most wanted man in the world.

The thrill of being able to see the man known as El Chapo up close — and live to tell the tale — has been drawing curious New Yorkers, fans of TV crime shows and even tourists to the Brooklyn courtroom where the infamous Mexican drug trafficker is being tried on charges that could put him in a U.S. prison for life.

Some days, they are just two people among all the prosecutors, reporters, security officials and team of lawyers who fill up the courtroom. Other days you may see five. They sit up straight in the spectator area and look up so they can see Guzman's face. They also look with curiosity at his wife, Emma Coronel, who sits in the courtroom's public gallery nearly every day.

"It was surreal. It was like I was seeing the (Netflix) TV show 'El Chapo,'" said spectator Peter Stolt, 23, who attended three days of the trial in November and

hopes to show up for at least one more.

Stolt, who recently graduated from Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania and is interviewing for jobs in New York, said he has stood in line outside the building at around 6:30 a.m. to make sure he gets a seat. What impressed him most, he said, was when Miguel Angel Martinez, a former assistant to Guzman who is now a prosecution witness, testified in dramatic detail how he survived several attempts on his life that he claimed were ordered by Guzman, one after an ominous serenade by a Mexican brass band.

"The grenade, the song. It's crazy. That was scary. It's crazy that we are hearing this firsthand," he said.

Guzman, whose nickname means "Shorty" in Spanish, was extradited to the United States last year to face charges accusing him of running the Sinaloa cartel, which smuggled tons of cocaine into the U.S.

The six weeks of testimony from law enforcement officials, an imprisoned cocaine kingpin from Colombia and flashy Mexican drug smugglers have contained enough material to fill several seasons of



Australians Wayne Burg and daughter Lydia stand in front of the courthouse where El Chapo is on trial. "We had a great holiday, but the case was one of the highlights!" he says.

"Miami Vice" or "Narcos."

There has been testimony about secret smuggling tunnels built beneath the border, assassination attempts, bribery of high level police officials, private jets filled with millions of dollars in cash, and factories churning out cocaine-filled cans disguised as hot pepper containers.

Guzman's lawyers say the lowlife cooperators are lying in an attempt to frame him and get an easier sentence in their own drug-

trafficking cases.

Joaquin Martinez, a 55-year-old Mexican who has lived in New York for more than a decade, said seeing El Chapo in person was worth the trip from Manhattan to Brooklyn. However, he expected him with a mustache, like in many of the photos people have seen of him over the years.

"It took me a couple of seconds to realize it was him. To be honest, he looked like a regular person," he said.

He was more impressed by Coronel, Guzman's wife. She sat in a bench in front of him.

"I could smell her perfume," said Martinez, who owns and manages several restaurants in New York. Hearing phone recordings of drug dealings in the courtroom impressed him, he said, but also when prosecutors showed as evidence a photograph of Amado Carrillo, a Mexican drug lord who is famous in his home country and who

died in 1997 in a plastic surgery operation to change his face.

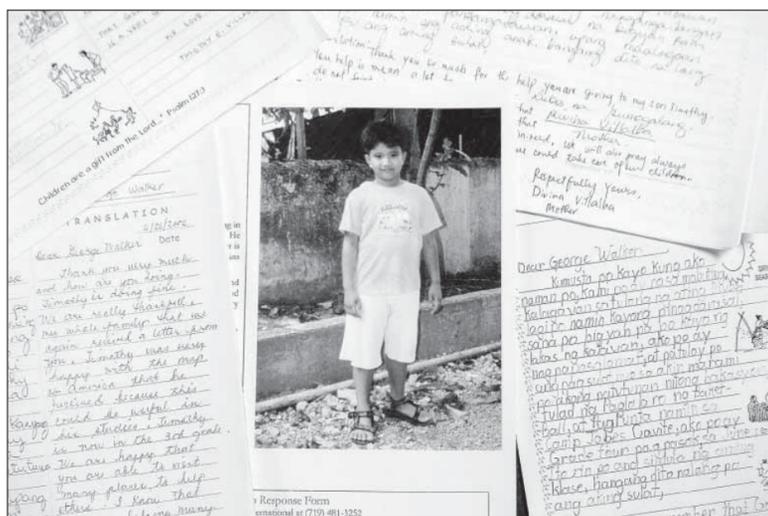
Spectators go through security in the lobby of the building and need to remove their shoes to go through a second metal detector and X-ray bag scanner on the eighth floor. Then they sign up on a sheet.

Wayne Burg, a 49-year-old Australian criminal lawyer, went to see the trial with his daughter, Lydia, 21, during their December vacation in New York. Going to federal court to see El Chapo was a must-do before a Knicks game.

"The amount of drugs, the amount of money, these are extraordinary levels," said Burg, who ended up with his daughter in the overflow room, watching on a video feed, because there was no space in the courtroom. "We had a great holiday, but the case was one of the highlights!"

Not all days are exciting. Some members of the jury have dozed off when technical aspects of law enforcement drug searches have been explained. But Guzman always seems to pay attention, looking at witnesses when they speak and whispering to his lawyers.

For those interested in going, the trial may last two more months.



Former President George H.W. Bush sponsored Timothy, then 7, for 10 years. Above, a photo of Timothy with a letter he sent to his pen pal. The 41st president died last month.

Bush had secret pen pal: A boy in the Philippines

BY RICK NOACK
The Washington Post

When 77-year old "G. Walker" reached out to Filipino boy Timothy for the first time in January 2002, his message was simple: "I want to be your new pen pal," the man who identified himself as a Texas resident wrote.

"I am an old man, 77 years old, but I love kids; and though we have not met I love you already. I live in Texas — I will write you from time to time — Good Luck. G. Walker," the man ended his first of many letters, according to copies nonprofit organization Compassion International shared with CNN.

For the next decade, the man calling himself Walker sponsored some of the boy's education and meals, without ever revealing his true identity.

In some of the letters, he dropped subtle references that may have hinted at his true identity, for instance writing that "I got to go to the White House at Christmas time."

But when Timothy was

told after graduating who G. Walker really was — former U.S. President George Herbert Walker Bush — he was stunned, according to the charity.

Jim McGrath, the White House spokesman under Bush, confirmed the letters' authenticity to CNN.

"Not the least bit surprised," McGrath wrote on Twitter, even though he said that he had not previously been aware of the sponsorship.

The revelation matches the dedication of a former president whose "values and ethics seem centuries removed from today's acrid political culture," as The Washington Post's Karen Tumulty wrote in an obituary after Bush's death in November.

Less noticed, 2018's political culture has led to a revival of programs like the one Bush supported after 2001. Pen pals are once again on the rise, as many Americans and citizens of other wealthy countries resort to them as a way to protest some of the negative sentiments toward outsiders that have made their

way into the mainstream.

When family separations stunned Americans earlier this year, pen pal programs across the country noticed a surge in new participants.

Variations have also appeared in European countries, including in France where an NGO collected 400 letters from refugees describing their lives that were collected in an "Encyclopedia of migration" and made accessible to readers.

Not all letters sent to the United States or Europe were meant to only be read by their addressees, however.

One Syrian refugee child, Bana Alabed, gained a broad audience two years ago when she tweeted from the war-ravaged city of Aleppo, before escaping to Turkey with her family.

Addressing President Donald Trump in a letter last year, she wrote that "I couldn't play in Aleppo, it was the city of death."

"If you promise me you will do something for the children of Syria, I am already your new friend," the then-7 year-old wrote.

Right to bear nunchucks? A federal judge thinks so.

New York ban against karate weapon tossed

BY MEAGAN FLYNN
The Washington Post

Just blame Bruce Lee. Back in 1974, New York state decided to ban the possession of nunchucks as lawmakers feared they were becoming enticing tools of violence among hooligan children and street criminals who were exposed to the weapons on TV. They were so dangerous, lawmakers believed, that not even karate teachers could keep them in a locker at home.

But while being dangerous might have been a good enough reason then, it doesn't cut it anymore, as a federal judge ruled Dec. 14.

In a 32-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Pamela Chen struck down New York's nunchuck ban as unconstitutional, finding that nunchucks are protected under the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

Chen concluded that nunchucks are commonly used by law-abiding citizens — for example, by karate enthusiasts, or for self-defense — so therefore banning them outright runs afoul of the Second Amendment. The judge also applied a 2010 landmark Supreme Court ruling that extended the Second Amendment to state laws.

But while the nunchucks ruling may be an important affirmation of those principles for gun rights advocates, after nearly 15 years of litigation, the ruling also represents a long-sought victory for one New York amateur martial artist.

James Maloney, who is also a lawyer, had been arrested for possessing nunchucks at home in 2000. Since 2003, while representing himself, he



Federal Judge Pamela Chen earlier this month struck down New York's nunchuck ban as unconstitutional.

has argued that the law prevented him from teaching his children specialized karate moves that he invented, involving use of the nunchucks. He called his style "Shafan Ha Lavan."

Maloney's children are now grown. But his goal in the case extended well beyond passing down a martial arts style to his sons. He believed that the government's total ban on nunchucks in the home stripped him of the right to defend himself, which the Supreme Court has said is a central principle of the Second Amendment.

Even though he only asked that Chen recognize his right to at least keep nunchucks at home, the judge went a step further, finding the entire law targeting nunchucks to be unconstitutional.

"The Court granted relief somewhat beyond what I had asked for, but I am not about to complain," Maloney wrote on his blog, where he has been chronicling his one-man nunchuck battle. "Thanks to the many who have helped in many ways along the way. It has been a path with heart."

The ruling, if left in place, would make Massachusetts the only state to still ban the karate weapon outright, according to the ruling, though other states restrict the use of nunchucks in varying ways. Kung fu was all the rage

in 1974, when New York state lawmakers debated adding nunchucks to its list of banned weapons, joining machine guns and brass knuckles.

Bruce Lee's death in 1973 was still fresh and so was his last film, "Enter the Dragon," which was released a month after he died and immortalized as one of the best kung fu films of all time.

The TV series "Kung Fu" was in full swing too.

And "The Street Fighter," premiering in 1974, surely horrified lawmakers concerned about nunchucks, as it was the first American film to earn an X-rating purely for violence.

Until now, nearly all the state needed to do to uphold its nunchuck ban was prove that it was rationally related to a government interest, such as keeping citizens free from nunchuck attacks.

Attorneys for the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, the jurisdiction where Maloney was arrested, attempted to argue that "the dangerous potential of nunchucks is almost universally recognized."

But Chen didn't buy it.

Chen wrote: "The centuries-old history of nunchaku being used as defensive weapons strongly suggests their possession, like the possession of firearms, is at the core of the Second Amendment."



A report shows that in the last decade the average weight of U.S. men rose to 198 pounds. For women, it's nearly 171.

U.S. adults not getting taller, just heavier

BY MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — You don't need to hang the mistletoe higher, but you might want to skip the holiday cookies.

A new report shows U.S. adults aren't getting any taller but they are still getting fatter.

The average U.S. adult is overweight and just a few pounds from obese, thanks to average weight increases in all groups — but particularly whites and Hispanics. Overall, the average

height for men fell slightly over the past decade. There was no change for women.

The findings come from a 2015-16 health survey that measures height and weight. More than 5,000 U.S. adults took part.

CDC records date back to the early 1960s, when the average man was a little over 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed 166 pounds. Now, men are almost 1 inch taller and more than 30 pounds heavier. But today's average height of 5 feet, 9 inches is about a tenth of an inch

shorter than about a decade ago.

The average woman in the early 1960s was 5 feet, 3 inches and 140 pounds. Now, women are a half-inch taller and about 30 pounds heavier, on average. The average height is about the same as it was a decade earlier: 5 feet, 4 inches.

Other findings:

- In the last decade, the average weight of men rose about 2 pounds, to 198. For women, it rose 6 pounds, to nearly 171.
- Men have 40-inch waist-

lines, on average. Women's waistlines are a little under 39 inches.

■ The average height of black men and white men has been holding at a little under 5-10.

■ Mexican-American and Asian-American men are roughly 3 inches shorter than whites and blacks, on average. There was a similar height gap in women.

In 2016, 18 percent of the nation's population was Hispanic, up from about 13 percent in 2000, according to U.S. Census figures.

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Taking a trip for the holidays?
For automakers, it's a data gift

SAN FRANCISCO — That holiday trip over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house could turn into nice little gift for automakers as they increasingly collect data about the driver.

Automakers are collecting information thanks to internet connections, cameras and sensors built into most vehicles in recent years. The online access makes it possible for cars to be unlocked remotely if the keys are

lost. It's how safety features can be upgraded wirelessly and maintenance schedules adjusted based on performance.

But these digital peepholes are offering a view of people's lives. That's creating the potential for marketing pitches and government surveillance. No serious incidents have occurred in the U.S., but in China, automakers share location details of connected cars with the government.

Somalia blast kills at least 16
near the presidential palace

NAIROBI, Kenya — An explosives-packed vehicle detonated at a military checkpoint near Somalia's presidential palace, killing at least 16 people and wounding more than 20 others, police said. The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Those killed include three staffers from the London-based Universal TV station, including

prominent journalist Awil Dahir Salad, said police Capt. Mohamed Hussein, who gave the toll of dead and wounded.

The bomber targeted the checkpoint near the rear entrance of the heavily fortified palace, Hussein said. A lawmaker and a deputy mayor of Mogadishu were among those wounded, he said.

Soldiers also were among the dead, Col. Ahmed Mohamad said.

Palestinian Authority's Abbas
pushes to annul Hamas' reach

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas pledged Saturday to implement a court ruling and dissolve the parliament controlled by his rival Hamas movement.

Abbas' announcement is the latest in a series of bitter splits and rivalries between his Fatah party and Hamas, which began in 2007 when Hamas routed his forces and took

over Gaza, limiting his rule to parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Since then, the Palestinian Legislative Council, where Hamas holds a majority after a 2006 landslide victory against Fatah, has been largely disabled.

Abbas accused Hamas of blocking Egyptian efforts to restore Palestinian unity, a charge Hamas denies. Egypt has brokered numerous deals to end the Palestinian split.

Christmas
lottery puts
Spain in joyous
mood — again

BARCELONA, Spain — Those holding ticket number 03347 struck it rich Saturday when they won the top prize in Spain's famous Christmas lottery.

The lottery, known as El Gordo, or "The Fat One," dished out \$2.7 billion in prize money this year. The top prize for a winning ticket was \$455,000, but there were many smaller prizes.

Other lotteries have bigger individual top prizes but El Gordo, held each Dec. 22, is ranked as the world's biggest in terms of total prize money. Multiple people picked the top number across Spain, spreading \$773 million distributed for it to 46 of the country's 50 provinces. Individuals or groups buy the El Gordo tickets, which cost \$23 each, months in advance.

Spain established its national lottery as a charity in 1763 during the reign of King Carlos III.

In Spain: The Foreign Ministry gave permission Saturday to an aid boat carrying 311 migrants to set course for Spain after France, Italy, Libya and Tunisia did not answer its request to dock. The boat belonging to a Spanish aid group saved 313 migrants Friday in waters near Libya. Malta denied the boat permission to dock.

In France: Yellow vest protesters, who have brought chaos to Paris for weeks with their economic demands, turned out in reduced numbers Saturday at the start of the holidays. Paris police said 2,000 protesters took to the streets, compared to 4,000 a week before and 10,000 the prior week. Police arrested 142 people.

OBITUARIES

ELSIE BARKS 1923-2018

Journalism pioneer, publisher of
Electrical Apparatus magazineBy GRAYDON MEGAN
Chicago Tribune

Elsie Barks was a pioneer in journalism and in publishing, from reporting in the mid-1940s for United Press International to succeeding her late husband as publisher of Electrical Apparatus, the magazine she helped him launch more than 50 years ago.

The glossy monthly, now with more than 18,000 subscribers, counts many members of the trade group Electrical Apparatus Service Association among its readers.

Linda Raynes, the association's president and CEO, said she appreciated Barks' "deep fondness and respect for her readers."

"Elsie Dickson Barks was an extraordinary person and a consummate professional," Raynes said in an email. "She was a degreed journalist decades before it was common to see women in the industry. For decades, she was associate publisher and then publisher of a magazine serving male-dominated industries including electromechanical service and repair."

Barks and her husband, Horace Barks, who died in 2012, worked together to produce the magazine, according to senior editor Kevin Jones. The magazine provides information and resources on electro-mechanical and electronic application and maintenance.

Barks, 95, died of natural causes Dec. 8 in her North Side home, according to her daughter Elizabeth Van Ness.

Van Ness succeeded her mother as publisher of the magazine in 2015.

"It's a niche publication," Van Ness said. "We have a 90 percent advertiser retention rate. She deserves a lot of credit for that."

"She was great with advertisers," said Bill O'Leary, the magazine's managing editor. "She had a great ability to connect with people on a level that wasn't just professional."

She was born Elsie Dickson in Masterton, Ohio, the daughter of a doctor. As valedictorian of Matamoros High School in 1941, she received a four-year



FAMILY PHOTO

Elsie Barks reported for United Press International in the mid-1940s.

scholarship to Marietta College, her daughter said.

She took pre-med courses for two years before deciding medicine wasn't for her. She transferred to the University of Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia and received her degree in 1945.

"I think she's always been a curious person and had an interest in travel," her daughter said of the switch.

Jones said his hiring came only after he "passed muster with her" in 1985.

"She was very much an old-school kind of journalist," Jones said. "She was meticulous in her use of the language, she was a very careful writer and all of this came through not only in her writing but in the way she presented herself."

In her senior year, Barks was recruited by United Press International to be statehouse correspondent in Charleston, W.Va., her daughter said. In early 1946, she was asked to return to the University of Missouri as an instructor in journalism and to work on the school's daily newspaper, the Columbia Missourian.

Around that time she met Horace Barks. They married in 1947 and started Barks Publications in St. Louis four years later.

In 1966, they moved the business to Chicago, where the glossy monthly continues to be published. Barks Publications also produces books and directories for the industry.

Richard Nailen, engineering editor for the magazine, said the publication is aimed at people who design, specify, use, operate, maintain or repair

electrical equipment. Elsie Barks had a strong hand in the operation, he said.

"She proofread all the articles, she had questions sometimes, sometimes helpful suggestions and had suggestions for article topics," Nailen said. "She knew what she wanted done and made sure it got done that way — but was never overbearing about it. She was easy to get along with, but she ran things."

Jones said that as an editor and writer, Barks was a mentor to many people.

"She was very influential with young writers, particularly women," Jones said. "After news of her death spread, many mentioned her kindness and generosity, but also the significant influence she had on their careers."

The magazine's managing editor, Bill O'Leary, said Barks hired him as an intern in 2008, when the financial recession didn't favor expanding staff. "She took a chance on me."

O'Leary said he was one of those whom Barks mentored. "I attribute a lot of what I've been able to accomplish in my career to that (chance) and the fact that she mentored me."

Outside of business, Barks loved Chicago. She was a gifted musician who played piano to help pay her way in school and had performed at Chicago Headline Club events. Her love of music made her a regular at both Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chicago Symphony Orchestra performances.

Raynes said that throughout her career, Barks was a role model for many.

"I greatly admired her and how she helmed the Barks organization before and after her husband's passing," Raynes said.

Barks is also survived by her other daughters, Kate Freed and Barbara Barks Wachter; sons Joseph and William; 12 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Jan. 5, in St. James Cathedral, 65 E. Huron St.

Graydon Megan is a freelance reporter.



MOSA'AB ELSHAMY/AP

A girl carries photos of Louisa Vesterager Jespersen, 24, and Maren Ueland, 28, during a candlelight vigil Saturday outside the Danish Embassy in Rabat, Morocco, for the Scandinavian students who were killed by four men in a terrorist attack in the Atlas Mountains.

Gatwick Airport up and flying
after pair held in drone case

LONDON — London's Gatwick Airport was plagued by long lines and flight delays Saturday but no new drone sightings, allowing British officials to hope the worse was over after two people were arrested in connection with the drone invasion that had shut down the country's second-busiest airport.

Check-in lines at Gatwick stretched the length of the departures hall as travelers tried to make good on Christmas plans upended by three days of extended shut-downs caused by drones being spotted over the air-

field. The drone crisis at Gatwick, 30 miles south of London, has had a ripple effect throughout the international air travel system since Wednesday night, when the first drone was spotted.

A Gatwick spokesman said Saturday that "things are going in the right direction" and should be back to normal by the end of the weekend after a horrendous few days that saw tens of thousands of travelers stranded or delayed.

Sussex police released few details about the two suspects arrested late Fri-

day in the worst drone-inflicted travel chaos to hit Britain. Police say the investigation is ongoing and the military was still deployed to prevent further drone incursions from shutting Gatwick's airspace.

Police said Saturday the drone suspects are a 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman from Crawley, a town 5 miles from the airport. They were arrested on suspicion of disrupting civil aviation.

The suspects, who have not been named or charged, were being questioned in custody.

Hidden cash, gems found in home of 'John of God'

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's state police say they have found a suitcase full of cash and emeralds hidden in the home of a faith healer accused of sexual abuse by hundreds of women.

The suitcase was discovered at the home of Joao Teixeira de Faria on Friday in a basement accessed by a

trap door in a closet. Police in the central state of Goias said they also found about \$300,000 worth of Brazilian reals. They had yet to appraise the emeralds.

De Faria, who calls himself John of God, worked for several decades in the Brazilian village of Abadiania as a

healer who claimed he could cure diseases.

TV channel Globo aired several alleged victims who said they had been sexually abused for years.

More than 300 women from around the world have contacted prosecutors to accuse him of abuse.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON DECEMBER 23 ...

Sentinel.

In 1783 George Washington resigned as commander-in-chief of the Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Va.

In 1928 the National Broadcasting Co. set up a permanent, coast-to-coast network.

In 1788 Maryland voted to cede a 100-square-mile area for the seat of the national government; about two-thirds of the area became the District of Columbia.

In 1941 during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1805 Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was born in Sharon, Vt.

In 1968 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.

In 1823 the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Moore was published in the Troy (N.Y.)

In 1989 ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were captured while trying to flee the country.

In 1994 Bosnian Serbs and

the Muslim-led government agreed to a weeklong truce beginning the next day as they worked on details of a 4-month cease-fire.

In 1995 a fire in Dabwali, India, killed 540 people, including 170 children, during a year-end party being held near the children's school.

In 1997 a jury in Denver convicted Terry Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, declining to find him guilty of murder.

In 2001 Israel barred Yasser Arafat from making his annual Christmas Eve visit to Bethlehem, declining to find his birthplace of Jesus.

In 2003 the government announced the first suspected (later confirmed) case of mad cow disease in United States. **Also in 2003** a jury in Chesapeake, Va., sentenced teen sniper Lee Boyd Malvo to life in prison, sparing him the death penalty.

In 2013 an amnesty law allowed two members of the Russian rock group Pussy Riot to leave prison, two months before the end of their two-year sentences for a performance against President Vladimir Putin.

In 2014 Sony Pictures reversed its decision to pull the film "The Interview" after coming under criticism from President Barack Obama and others for caving into pressure from North Korea.

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS

Dec. 22

Powerball 21 28 30 40 59 / 26
Powerball jackpot: \$281M
Lotto 28 31 35 41 45 47 / 05
Lotto jackpot: \$4M
Pick 3 midday 664 / 5
Pick 4 midday 6385 / 6
Lucky Day Lotto midday 02 19 30 40 43

Pick 3 evening 714 / 0
Pick 4 evening 7288 / 5
Lucky Day Lotto evening 10 11 15 29 36

Dec. 21

Mega Millions 10 13 61 62 70 / 05
Mega Millions jackpot: \$305M
Pick 3 midday 038 / 5
Pick 4 midday 1996 / 0
Lucky Day Lotto midday 02 06 23 29 36

Pick 3 evening 335 / 4
Pick 4 evening 1211 / 0
Lucky Day Lotto evening 05 09 28 36 42

Dec. 25 Mega Millions: \$321M

INDIANA

Dec. 22

Lotto 05 14 15 26 30 38
Daily 3 midday 112 / 5
Daily 4 midday 2603 / 5
Daily 3 evening 866 / 1
Daily 4 evening 6359 / 1
Cash 5 27 30 33 37 43

MICHIGAN

Dec. 22

Lotto 03 12 18 26 27 28
Daily 3 midday 921
Daily 4 midday 0975
Daily 3 evening 630
Daily 4 evening 2332
Fantasy 5 15 18 25 29 33
Keno 02 08 11 13 15 17
19 22 24 32 33 39 40 42
44 52 60 63 64 70 76 77

WISCONSIN

Dec. 22

Megabucks 06 08 11 34 46 49
Pick 3 038
Pick 4 6790
Badger 5 04 10 11 13 26
SuperCash 17 19 22 28 30 36

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

In Memoriam



Janice Aubin

It has been two long years now, and in life you were a gift. You bring us peace and comfort. We miss you and will love you forever. Pat, Ashley, family, and friends.

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Death Notices

Anderson, Donald Alan

Don passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on Tuesday, December 18.

Don was born in 1929 in Uniontown, PA to Eugene and Mary Alice Anderson. He lived most of his years in the Chicago area and worked for Zenith Corporation as an electrical engineer.

Don is survived by his children, Lee, Jill (Dan Anzia), Marilaine (Steve Kioski) and Barrie (Robert Gwinn). He also leaves behind three grandchildren, Nicholas Hamilton (Erin), Kelli Taran (Huseyin), and Brian Coy II, and great granddaughters, Marlie and Kai.

Don had a passion for jazz music and could name the song and artist of a piece in just a few notes. He was a skilled wood worker, lovingly named Grandpa Tools by his grandchildren. Don was an avid crossword puzzle fan who was hard to beat at any trivia game. He rarely missed an episode of Jeopardy and usually knew most of the answers. There will be no services, per his request.

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Belskis, Deloris Majewski

Deloris Majewski Belskis, age 93, died peacefully at her home in Chicago, Illinois, Sunday December 16, 2018. She was born July 28, 1925 in Chicago, the daughter of the late Anna and Joseph Majewski. Deloris was kind and friendly to all. An avid reader, as well as a news and politics junkie, she amazed everyone who knew her with her knowledge and wit, which remained with her until she died. Her intellect and attention to detail made her an excellent administrative assistant at The Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago, American Airlines, and Wienecke's Hardware in Glencoe. Her commitment to supporting her husband's professional career and raising her children was admired by all who knew her. Deloris was the devoted wife of the late Alidor Belskis, loving mother of Ona Belskis Kozar and Martha Belskis McBride; dear mother-in-law of Nancy Thornton, Michael Hill and James K. (Barbara) McDonald; beloved Nana of Christina (Keith) Lamoreaux, Erin (Alan) Clemons, and Danielle McDonald; and fond Great Grandma to Ian Clemons. Deloris was the dear sister of Marilyn Lewis, and was predeceased by her dear siblings Elaine Jimenez, Laverne Holley, and Kenneth Majewski. Deloris was the beloved aunt of many nieces and nephews and a treasured friend to all who knew her. A celebration of Deloris' life will take place Sunday, March 3 at 1:00 at Christ Church of Chicago, 6047 N. Rockwell, Chicago, Illinois 60659. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a contribution in Deloris' memory to Deloris' Gift at gofundme.com.

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Bentley, Mildred R.

Mildred R. Bentley, age 97, of Oak Park; loving mother of Sheryl (Dean) Oeder; cherished grandmother of Elizabeth and Michael Oeder; dear sister of the late Edmund (Mary Ann) Robinson. Visitation 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday December 26 at Drechsler, Brown & Williams Funeral Home, 203 S. Marion St., Oak Park where services will be held on Thursday at 11 a.m. Interment Resthaven Cemetery, Louisville, KY. Funeral info: 708-383-3191 or drechslerbrown-williams.com

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Bianucci, Beatrice 'Bea'

Beatrice Bianucci (nee Tintori), of Brookfield. Beloved wife of the late Enzo Bianucci. Loving mother of Barbara (Robert) Meyer, David (Deborah) and William. Devoted grandmother of Carolyn, Diane, and Tom Meyer, Matthew and Robert Bianucci, and Robert and Caroline Colletti. Fond sister of Eva. Dear aunt and friend of many. Bea enjoyed working for many years as the secretary in the dean's office at Lyons Township High School North Campus. She was a selfless friend, wife, sister and mother who always prioritized the happiness of those around her. Bea especially enjoyed being a loving Nonny to her adoring grandchildren, spoiling them with ice cream and treats at every opportunity. Visitation 10:30am until time of Funeral Mass 11:30am at St. Barbara Church, 4008 Prairie Ave., Brookfield. Entombment to follow at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Greater Chicago Food Depository or to your own favorite charity appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**: 708-352-6500/hjfunerals.com

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BLACK, WILLIAM E.

WILLIAM E. BLACK age 85 of Downers Grove. Beloved husband of Charlene A. nee Bell for 63 years. Loving father of Terri (Keith) Nystrom and Melissa (Brian) Ford; Cherished grandfather of Blake Nystrom, Ashley Nystrom (Jimmy) Randall, Max Ford, Elise Ford and Neill Nystrom. William was a Circuit Court Judge in DuPage County for 35 years. He enjoyed water sports, bridge and gadgets. Visitation will be held Friday December 28, 2018 from 9 A.M. until Services 12 P.M. at First United Methodist Church 1032 Maple Avenue Downers Grove, IL. Interment, Bronswood Cemetery, Oak Brook, IL. Memorials to the Kenneth Moy DuPage County Care Center 400 N. County Farm Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187 would be appreciated. For additional information www.toon-funeralhome.com OR 630-968-0408

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Bloom, Sheldon

Sheldon Bloom, age 87. Beloved husband of Sylvia. Loving father of Stephanie (Harold) Sudakoff, Michael and Larry Bloom. Cherished grandfather of Nicole (Mark) Ninyo and Erica (Ian) Nilaussen; Dear brother of the late Evelyn (the late Leonard) Rodnick; fond uncle of Janice, Marla and the late Sharon. Service Monday, Dec 24, 2018 12noon at The Chapel, 195 N. Buffalo Grove Rd. (1 blk. N. of Lake Cook Rd), Buffalo Grove. Interment Westlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to GVS (Great Vest Side Club), 2222 Chestnut Ave, #101, Glenview, IL 60026 (www.great-vestside.org) or to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org. Info: The Goldman Funeral Group, www.goldmanfuneralgroup.com (847)478-1600.



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Brian Owley, Dr. Thomas

Dr. Thomas Brian Owley, age 53, died on December 19, 2018, at Loyola University Medical Center. He fought valiantly for his life, but was unable to overcome medical challenges associated with IPF.

Dr. Owley attended the University of Illinois at Champaign and Chicago, where he earned degrees in medicine and psychiatry. He specialized in the study and treatment of childhood autism. In recent years, he treated and helped adolescents and American veterans with psychological issues. Dr. Owley was a distinguished physician with a myriad of accomplishments in medicine and publishing. His fellow colleagues were among his dearest friends.

In addition to his medical career, Tom enjoyed traveling the world and experiencing different cultures. He was an accomplished guitarist, recording and touring with a local Chicago band. Because of these and other pastimes, he made many additional close friendships.

Tom will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. In a selfless act of kindness, as an organ donor, Tom continues to help others.

Thomas "Tommy" Owley was preceded in death by his father, John Owley and a cousin, Rick Butler. He is survived by his mother, Carol, nee Nelson, (Walt) Thying, a brother Steven (Judith) Owley, a sister Katherine (James) Hepp, fond nephews, Peter, Jackson and a niece Amanda; an aunt Jane, nee Nelson, Butler and a cousin Patti (Scott) Haiduck. In addition, he is survived by many friends he considered family, especially Chance Ramirez and Sonya Owley, and one uncle, several aunts and cousins living in Wisconsin.

Please visit and contribute to Tom's memorial page at www.legacy.com as well as Conley Funeral Home's Facebook page and website, www.conley-care.com.

A celebration and remembrance of Tom will take place at a later date.

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Buettner, Walter G.

Walter G. Buettner, 62, of Aurora IL, passed away December 20, 2018. Beloved husband of Mary Buettner (nee Burkard), father of Eleanor and Grant, son of Maria Buettner and the late Walter H Buettner, brother to Maria (Martin) Jarvi and Erika (Richard) Frohmader, and uncle, cousin, nephew and friend to many. A memorial visitation will be held Saturday, December 29, 2018 from 9 until 11 am at Faith Lutheran Church, 3000 Liberty St., Aurora, IL, with a service at 11:00 am.



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Byrne, Dorothy

Dorothy Byrne, 94, formerly of Morton Grove, beloved wife of the late John J. Sr.; loving mother of John Jr. (the late Teresa), Gary (Cindy), Michael, and Patrick (Theresa); dear grandmother of 7; cherished great grandmother of 9. Funeral from Simkins Funeral Home 6251 Dempster St. Morton Grove, IL 60053 Saturday 9:30 a.m. to St. Martha Church. Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment Maryhill Cemetery. Visitation Friday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in lieu of flowers, donations to JourneyCare Hospice 405 Lake Zurich Rd. Barrington, IL 60010 appreciated. Sign online guest book at www.simkinsfh.com. (847) 965-2500



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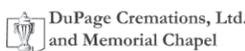
Castronova, Nicholas P.

Nicholas P. Castronova, 86 was born June 29, 1932 in Allentown, PA and passed away December 14, 2018. Nicholas was the beloved husband of the late Joan Castronova nee Mollback; loving father of Linda Castronova, Lana (Gary) Latkow, Leanne (William) Moylan, Nicholas (Brigitte Baur) Castronova; cherished grandfather of Dana (Joseph) Edwards, Nicholas Moylan, Erick Latkow, Marc Moylan, Brooke Moylan, Annabel Castronova, and Linnea Castronova. Nicholas was a Navy veteran who served in the Korean War, and an employee of Tempel Steel for 37 years before retiring. He was reunited on Wednesday December 19, 2018 with the love of his life, his late wife Joan on their 65th wedding anniversary. All services are private.

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Cavanaugh, Virginia M. "Ginny"

Virginia "Ginny" M. Cavanaugh, age 87 of Wheaton. Beloved wife of the late Edward. Loving mother of William (Pam), Kathleen, Michael (Ruth) and James (Liz) Cavanaugh. Proud grandmother of Edward, Susan, Megan, Paul, Mark, Matt, Kevin, Katie and Philip. Great grandmother of 8. Dear sister of Florence and the late Thomas and Phyllis. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Please Omit Flowers. Family and friends to gather Sat. Dec. 29th for 10AM Memorial Mass at St. Daniel the Prophet Church 101 W Loop Rd, Wheaton. Arrangements by **DuPage Cremations, Ltd. and Memorial Chapel** 630-293-5200.



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Cokkinias, Lillian

Lillian Cokkinias, 88, nee Behl, of Schaumburg since 1964, wife of the late Metro; mother of Nicholas (Barbara), Christopher (Arlene) and Philip (Michelle); grandmother of Lindsey (Jon) Henkels, Christopher, Adriana, Jason and Mary; great grand mother of Luke; daughter of the late James and Mary(nee:Browne) Behl; sister of Annamae (late Tony) Cynova and Patricia Wasson. Lillian enjoyed playing bingo and playing her slots at the boats. Most of all she cherished her time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Services will be private. Donations to the American Heart Association would be appreciated. www.countrysidefuneralhomes.com or 630-289-8054.

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Condon Jr., Edward John

Edward John Condon, Jr., husband of Catherine Ryan Condon, passed peacefully into the Lord's hands on December 12, 2018 in Naples, FL, surrounded by family. Ed will be remembered dearly as a devout Catholic, a devoted and loving husband, and a kind-hearted and caring father and grandfather. Well respected by his peers, Ed is known for his friendly and generous spirit.

Ed was born to Edward John, Sr. and Mary Bertaux Condon in Oak Park, Illinois on July 13, 1940. He joined his older sisters, Mary Lou and Elizabeth, in a loving and supportive family. Ed attended St. Giles Elementary School and Fenwick High School in Oak Park, and graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1963. He met the love of his life, Catherine Ryan, during the fall of 1962, and they were married on October 3, 1964.

Stationed in California, Ed served in the United States Air Force in the mid-60's. Upon release as a First Lieutenant in 1966, he began his career with Sears, Roebuck and Co. in earnest, after working in the retail department as a student. Ed advanced within the company through the finance department, serving in various capacities that culminated in his election to the position of Vice President and Treasurer. In these positions, he oversaw banking activities for all Sears entities including Allstate Insurance, Dean Witter Reynolds and Coldwell Banker and was instrumental in development of the Discover Card. Ed retired from Sears in 1993 after 27 years with the company.

Following his retirement from Sears, Ed founded The Paradigm Group, Ltd., in Chicago in July of 1993. Ed was Chairman and CEO of the firm, which specializes in financial advisory, refinancing and venture investments, with a focus on Chicago-based technology and healthcare companies. Outside of work and community involvement, Ed was an avid Chicago sports fan, developed an interest in fine wines and once his children were grown, Ed enjoyed traveling the world with his wife. In more recent years, Ed and his wife Cathy relocated to Naples, Florida to enjoy retirement and the warmer weather.

Throughout his life, Ed was an active and generous supporter of many professional and civic organizations. These included roles as a Member of the Board of Trustees of Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois; Founding Board Member of the Illinois Venture Capital Association; Member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Audit Committees of Northern Trust Company's family of mutual funds in Chicago; Member of the Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Research and Resource Foundation in Washington DC; Member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Children's Museum; Member of the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Club; Member of the National Advisory Board of the National Domestic Violence Hotline; and Member of the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of Chicago.

Ed is survived by his wife; his four adult children (Mary Anne Condon Yackel, Catherine Condon Temple, Edward John Condon, III and David Michael Condon); and thirteen grandchildren (Edward, Robert, Kayla, Garrett, Adam, Cassidy, Emily, Alexia, Victoria, Kelsey, Dylan, Ryan, Blaize).

Arrangements to be held in Naples are pending. The family is grateful for donations in his memory to the Lou and Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute at Northwestern Medicine.

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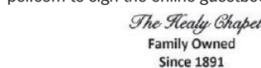
Coutre, William R.

William R. Coutre, age 89, beloved husband of the late Mary Joan Coutre "Jo Ann" nee Hood; loving father of James, David (Patricia), Kathleen (Clifton) Spencer, Patricia (Henry Estrada), Michael (Rebecca) and Daniel (Lisa Aznarani); dear grandfather of Kyle, Kevin, Shannon, Noah, Jonathan (Angela), Jessica, Michael, Brian (Michelle), Matthew, Maggie, Emmett, Will, Bridget and Katelyn; great-grandfather of Annabelle, Madeline and Jackson; cherished brother of the late Marie (Jack) Gilchrist, Joan Mahoney and Walter Coutre. Also many nieces and nephews. Memorial Visitation Saturday, December 29th from 9:00 A.M. until time of prayers at 10:15 A.M. at **Modell Funeral Home**, 7710 S. Cass Ave, Darien to Our Lady of Peace Church. Mass 11:00 A.M. Int. Clarendon Hills Cem. In lieu of flowers, donations to Salvation Army are appreciated. For funeral info: 630-852-3595 or www.modelldarien.com.

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DuSell, Forester J.

Forester J. DuSell, 97, of Geneva, passed away Saturday December 22, 2018. Services are pending at The Healy Chapel, 332 W. Downer Pl., Aurora, IL 60506. For further information please call (630) 897-9291 or visit our website at www.healychapel.com to sign the online guestbook.com



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Engel, Milton O.

Milton O. Engel age 89, formerly of Cary, IL. Retired Lt. Colonel U.S. Army Reserve. Member American Legion Post 134. Beloved husband of the late Elinore Engel; Loving father of Carol-Lynn (Scott) Bernholdt; dear brother of the late Harold Engel (the late Alice Fay) Engel, the late Russell (Kathleen) Engel, the late Donald Engel; fond uncle of Karen Balbier and many other nieces and nephews. Visitation Wednesday December 26, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at **Friedrichs Funeral Home**, 320 W. Central Rd., (at Northwest Highway) Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Funeral Mass Thursday December 27, 10:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia Church Golf Rd., (Rt. 83) and Meier Rd., Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Interment All Saints Cemetery in lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Alzheimers Association, Illinois Chapter, 8430 W. Bryn Mawr, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60631. Funeral information (847) 255-7800 or www.friedrichsfh.com.

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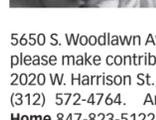
Eubanks, David Charles

Age 82. Beloved husband of Mageline (nee Montgomery) Eubanks; loving father of David M. Eubanks and Elizabeth Wagner; loving stepfather to Raymond Boozer, Don Boozer, Rita Twardy, and Sharon Supinski; and cherished grandfather to many. He is survived by his brothers Paul Eubanks and Tom Eubanks, and his sister Margaret Schaaf. David Charles Eubanks was born in Chicago on April 28, 1935 -- the youngest of seven children -- and was a long-time resident of Plainfield, Illinois. Throughout his four-decade career as a tanker truck driver, he was a proud teamster with many safety awards for hauling petrochemicals. In his retirement he helped his ecologist son David restore prairies, wetlands and woodlands. He never turned away from a good card game or a get together with his extended family. Services are private.

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Fourcher, Ph.D., Louis Arthur

Louis Arthur Fourcher, Ph.D., Psychologist, 75. Doting father of Michael (Teresa) Fourcher, grandfather of Nicolas Fourcher. Devoted son of Pauline and Charles Fourcher; dear brother of Charlene Fourcher Carle. Thinker, photographer, activist and student of humanity. Open memorial service and repast on January 27 at 2:30 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave. in Chicago. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to The CORE Foundation, 2020 W. Harrison St., Suite 2-200, Chicago, IL 60612, (312) 572-4764. Arrangement by **Nelson Funeral Home** 847-823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com



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Fraser, Martha Jo 'Marty'

70, died unexpectedly on December 13, 2018. She was born in Monmouth, IL. Daughter of Raymond K. Fraser and Martha Tresham Fraser, both deceased. She worked for Helix Camera in Chicago for years. She also worked in the film industry on movies and commercials. She was credited in "The Blues Brothers" and worked on commercials starring Michael Jordan. Marty enjoyed reading, genealogy, and, recently, she was knitting sweaters for adopted greyhounds including her nephew's dog. She also enjoyed traveling in France with her sister, Anne, and house-sitting and cat-sitting for her sister, Fran. She was a wonderful aunt to her many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews. She is survived by her sisters Anne (Gene) Koepke, Fran (Mark) Weisman, and her brother Robert John Fraser (Sylene). A memorial service and interment of her ashes will be held in Monmouth in April. For information please call 847-685-1002 or visit www.cooneyfuneralhome.com

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Friedlich, June

June Niedner Friedlich died peacefully on December 20th at the age of 93.

June was an avid traveler; she loved Africa. She loved going to theater, playing cards and spending time with her friends and family. She will be missed by all.

June is preceded in death by her husband John. She is survived by her daughter Wendy (Shea); son William Friedlich (Wendy); five grandchildren Thomas Shea, Bethany Shea Doukus (Pete), Molly Friedlich Linder (Matt), Haley, and Hannah; and five great-grandchildren Maddie, Lexi, Nick Doukas and Emma and Chase Linder.

A memorial service will be held in the Spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hands of Hope (c/o Lance Rodgers - 206 Hillside Road, Barrington, IL 60010; handsofhopeconline.org)

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Gilbert, Renee

Renee Gilbert, 91, daughter of the late Nathan and Frances Goldblatt; beloved wife of the late Aurel; loving mother of Norden (Ben Thomas) Gilbert and Rory (Lynette Swanson) Gilbert; devoted grandmother of Aidan and Corey Gilbert; dear sister of Lionel Goldblatt, the late Mavis Harris and the late Cherie Solomon. Funeral service Wednesday 1:30 PM at **Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home**, 111 Skokie Blvd, Wilmette. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Tails Humane Society, www.tailshumanesociety.org. Info: 847-256-5700.



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Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Goldman, Paul H.

Paul H. Goldman, 82. Loving husband of the late Barbara Goldman. Devoted father of Larry (Deena) Goldman, Shanna (Jon) Brooks and Alan (Stacy) Goldman. Proud grandfather of Benjamin, Cobi (Nomi), Jordana, Brian, Lindsey, Chelsea and Harper. Dear brother of Doreen (the late Don) Purney. Service Sunday 11AM at Shalom Memorial Park, 1700 West Rand, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Memorials in his memory to the The Michael J. Fox Foundation, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014, www.michaelfox.org would be appreciated. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals** - Skokie Chapel 847.229.8822, www.cjfinfo.com

CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS

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Harrer, James "Jim" E.

James was born May 22, 1928 in Morton Grove and lived in Morton Grove, Barrington and Fox River Grove. He passed away peacefully December 12, 2018 in Barrington. James is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mari (Cysewski) Harrer; daughters, Aimee (Paul) Berner, and Judith (Frank Warmock) Harrer; grandson, Andrew Berner; and sisters, Midge Williams and Joan (late Jerry) Gercken. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Karen Harrer; parents, Raymond and Margaret Harrer; and brother, Jack Harrer. Jim retired as a Field Engineer from Magnaflux Corporation (an ITW company). Memorial visitation will be 9am until the funeral mass at 11am, Thursday December 27, at St. Anne Catholic Church, 120 N. Ela Street, Barrington. Interment will be held at Memorial Park in Skokie at a later date. Memorial donations in Jim's name may be made to JourneyCare Foundation, 2050 Claire Ct., Glenview, IL 60025, journeycare.org/donate or to his alma mater, Bradley University, ATTN: Gift Records, 1501 W. Bradley Ave., Peoria, IL 61625, bradley.edu/giving

Davenport

FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

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Ishizu, Shigeko 'Ishi'

Born in Hilo, Hawaii on 09/09/1933 passed away on 12/14/2018 in Chicago. She is survived by her siblings Masayuki Ishizu, Akiko Miyashita, Hachiro Ishizu and an extended family in Hawaii. She spent 66 years of her life in Chicago, 34 of those working as a RN at the VA Hospital. She made a lot of friends along the way, especially the Moriaki family, the Medesan family, Donna Anderson and the Wedgeworth family. We will say our heartbroken last goodbye on 12/28/2018 at 12:30 pm at Rosehill cemetery in Chicago. Rest in peace you beautiful soul!

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Jedrychowski, Dorothy

Dorothy Jedrychowski, nee Przybylski, of North Riverside, age 98. Beloved wife of 70 years to the late Joseph F.; loving mother of Joseph R. (Phyllis Beemsterboer), Connie (Joseph) Massie, Joyce Jedrychowski and Robert (Sallie); proud grandmother of Christine (Jeff) Steffgen, Carrie (Tim) Saner, Jaime (Brian) Melton and Jenny (Matt) Lyons; great-grandmother of Katie, Hannah, Alec, Conrad, Peter, Emma and Jack; dear sister of Robert (Charlene) and the late Rev. Francis, Theodore (Betty), Margaret (Joseph) Meske and Theresa (Edward) Tomkowiak. Longtime Parishioner of Mater Christi Church and a member of their Women's Guild. Family and friends will be received at the **Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home**, 10501 W. Cermak Rd., Westchester (2 blks West of Mannheim Rd.) on Wednesday, December 26, 2018 from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. Funeral Thursday 9:45 a.m. from the funeral home to Mater Christi Church for 10:30 a.m. Mass. Interment Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at a later date. For further info 708-F-U-N-E-R-A-L.

Conboy - Westchester
Funeral Home

www.ConboyWestchesterfh.com

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Kampsen, Patricia

Patricia J. Kampsen, 66, passed away peacefully with her beloved dog Henry by her side, December 7, 2018. Born in Dublin, Ireland and raised in Shawnee Mission, Kansas by her parents Urban J. & Alice J. Kampsen of Ottertail, Minn. B.A., St. Mary's College/Notre Dame; M.S.W., Washington University, St. Louis; J.D. St. Louis University School of Law. She practiced law in St. Louis, Mo for many years before moving to Chicago in 1997. After retiring from her Chicago practice, Patti became involved in canine rescue when she met and adopted Henry. She loved her Chicago neighborhood of Andersonville, her many friends and dog walkers. She is survived by many cousins throughout the U.S. A memorial gathering will be mid-January in Andersonville. Donations: www.felinescanines.org. Contact brookeb@cremation-society.com for more information. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058.

Cremation Society of Illinois

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Kass, Harold

Harold Kass, 90, beloved husband for 65 years of Sonia nee Gamburg, adoring and loving father of Leni Kass (fiancé Brian Ivey) and Allan Kass; proud Papa of Jorie (Steve) Denton, Brandon (Alex) and Ryan Kass; dear brother of the late Paul (Barbara) Kass; treasured uncle of Steve and Debbie Kass; truly loved by everyone who knew him. Chapel service Wednesday, 12:15 pm at Shalom Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to AFMDA.org (American Friends of Magen David Adom) or The Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago. For information and condolences: 847-255-3520 or www.shalom2.com.

Shalom
Memorial Funeral Home

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Kiely, Carolyn

Carolyn Kiely, nee Ozima, 70, of Lincolnwood, IL passed away on December 17, 2018. Born on December 8, 1948 in Chicago, IL to the late Shigenobu and Kazue Ozima. Beloved wife of Thomas Kiely for 33 years; loving mother of Glenn (Lidia) Kaihara, Mark (Jane) Lucido, and Michael (Kim Carson) Kiely; grandmother of Brandon, Karly, and Faith; sister of Janice (Richard Kimoto) Ozima, Phyllis (Alan) Arima, and Susan (Kevin) Babcock; aunt of Eric, Lauren, Connor, and Chloe; sister-in-law of Kathy and Elizabeth Kiely; great-aunt of Cody and Joshua. Carolyn was a histology technician at Northwestern Memorial Hospital for 28 years. Visitation Friday, December 28, 2018, 4:00 pm-9:00 pm with memorial service at 7:00 pm at **Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home** 6150 N. Cicero, Chicago, IL. Info 773-736-3833 or smithcorcoran.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation online at bcrf.org.



Smith-Corcoran
Funeral Homes

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Klausner, Adria L.

Adria L. Klausner nee Bedarida, 84. Beloved wife for 58 years to the late Sherm Klausner. Loving mother of Dr. James Klausner, Daniel (Nancy) Klausner and Dr. Victor Klausner. Cherished grandmother of Alexander, Gina, Louis, Nathaniel, Ari and Noa Klausner. Graveside service Monday, 11:00 am at Waldheim Jewish Cemetery, (Gate 36) 1700 S. Des Plaines Ave., Forest Park. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the University of Florida Shands Memorial Arts in Medicine (AIM) Program, www.ufl.edu/give-now or to organizations supporting mental health would be appreciated. Arrangements by Chicago Jewish Funerals - Skokie Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjfinfo.com



CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS

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Klein, Philip L.

Philip L. Klein, beloved husband of the late Eunice nee Harman for 57 wonderful years; cherished father of Marc (Peggy) Klein, Pam (Dale) Kaufman, Howard Klein (Shari Jacobs) Lori Clark and the late Gary Klein; proud and loving grandfather of Molly, Louis and Joseph (Kimi) Klein; Danny, Carrie and Bobby Kaufman; Bradley and William (Lauron) Clark; dear brother of Patsy Rosenthal; special Uncle, Cousin and Friend to many. Philip served on Battleship USSB41 in the US Navy in the Pacific Theater during WW II and was recognized for distinguished service. Chapel service, Monday, 10 AM at **Shalom Memorial Funeral Home**, 1700 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights. Interment Shalom Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society. For information or to leave condolences, (847) 255-3520 or www.shalom2.com.



Shalom
Memorial Funeral Home

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Largo, Marc D

Marc D. Largo, 55, of Green Oaks, formally of Gurnee and Highland Park, IL, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec 20 surrounded by his immediate family after a long battle with cancer. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Anabela and son, Isaac. He was the loving son of James and Paula Largo and sister to Robin (Richard Taubman).

Marc was a graduate of Deerfield High School and Texas Tech University. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering and was a senior engineer at Paslode, a division of ITW, for over 20 years.

Born in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Feb 9, 1963, he spent the majority of his life in Lake County, Illinois. Marc was a muscle car enthusiast and still has the 1969 Chevelle SS he drove in high school. An avid scuba diver, he spent a lot of his time in the Florida Keys and designed, manufactured and patented an underwater diving light. He was a Junior Achievement counselor, held a pilot's license and was a member of the EAA. Marc was an expert marksman who enjoyed target shooting.

Visitation will be from 3PM to 8PM on Wednesday, Dec 26 at **Burnett-Dane Funeral Home**, 120 W Park Ave, Libertyville. Funeral service will be held at the funeral home at 11AM Thursday, Dec 27 with interment following at Lakeside Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made directly to the family for his son, Isaac's college fund.

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Lassner, Gladys

Gladys Lassner, Age 89, beloved wife of the late Dr. Joseph Lassner for 67 years. Loving mother of Michael Walter Lassner (Stacey Rulian Roberts) and David Kalman Lassner. Graveside services, Sunday 12 Noon at Beverly Cemetery, 12300 S. Kedzie, Blue Island. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Shir Tikvah, 1424 W. 183rd St., Homewood, IL 60430 www.shir-tikvah-homewood.org. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals** - Buffalo Grove Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjfinfo.com.



CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS

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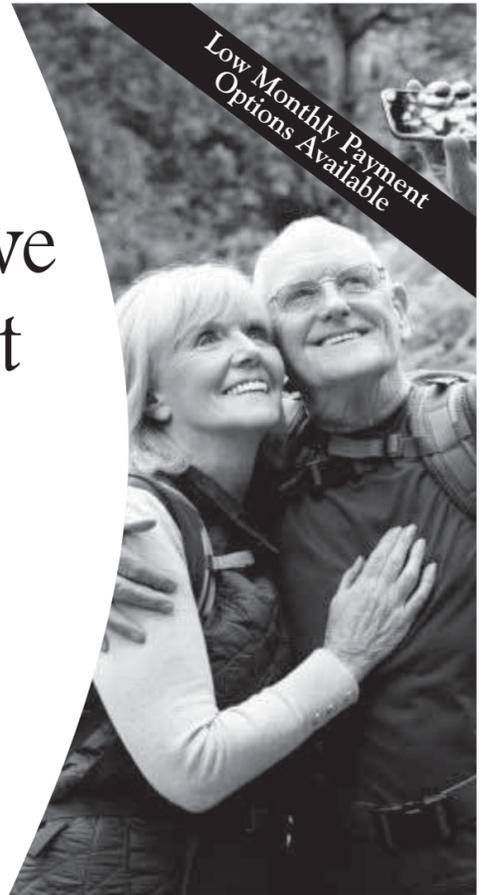
Liston, Maureen

Maureen Liston, Native of Co. Laois, Ireland; long-time resident of Elmhurst, formerly of Berkeley; beloved wife of the late Patrick J.; loving mother of Patrick, Brian (Molly), Barbara (Larry) Chizewski, Maureen (J.J.) Dwyer and Noel (Maureen); proud grandmother of Brigid (Barry) Walsh, Shannon (Eric) Bidlo, Maura (Ryan) Bindon, Patrick Liston, Kathleen Chizewski, Clare (Michael) Lemar, Patricia Liston, AnnMarie Chizewski, Joe Dwyer, Caitlin Liston, Danny Dwyer, Mary Grace Chizewski, Paddy Dwyer, Sean, Charlie, Grace and Cormac Liston; fond sister of Breda, Clare, Theresa, Josie, Finnulla, Jimmy, Patrick, Nancy, Del and the late Kathleen. Visitation Sunday, December 23, 2018, 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Monday, December 24, 2018, 8:00 a.m. until time of funeral 8:45 a.m. at **Gibbons Funeral Home**, 134 South York Road, (1/2 mile North of Saint Charles Road), Elmhurst. Mass of Christian Burial 9:15 a.m. at Visitation Catholic Church. Entombment Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Hillside. For funeral information please call 630-832-0018 or www.gibbonsfuneralhome.com

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Majercik, Thomas W.

Thomas W. Majercik, age 70, of Wonder Lake. Retired McHenry County Sheriff Deputy of 30 years. Retired Fire Officer of Wonder Lake Fire Dept. of 33 years. Beloved husband of Catherine "Cathy" Majercik, nee McMahon. Loving father of Margaret (Brian) Drawert, Kathryn (David) Schwartz, and Laura Majercik. Dear grandfather of Gloria, Daisy, and Lorenzo. Fond brother of Chuck (Nancy) Majercik. Resting at The Church of Holy Apostles, 5211 W. Bull Valley Road, McHenry, IL 60050 from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 29, 2018. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Inurnment in Christ the King Cemetery, Wonder Lake. Please send memorial gifts to Rush University Medical Center c/o Without Warning Support Group, 1201 West Harrison St., Ste. 300, Chicago, IL 60607 or visit <http://rush.convio.net/tmajercik>. Arrangements were entrusted to **Justen's Wonder Lake Funeral Home**, Wonder Lake, IL. INFO: 815-728-0233 or visit www.justenfhn.com.

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Majewski, Lynne

Lynne Majewski (née Ditzler), succumbed to stage 4 cancer on December 20th 2018. Lynne was a beloved friend, companion, mother and grandmother. Stylish, smart, self-taught and self-made, Lynne was a groundbreaking businessperson and trail blazer for women in the import/export business in a market dominated by men and big business in the

1970s. Ever creative and entrepreneurial, she founded her own company while simultaneously raising her two sons.

The daughter of a grocer and an executive secretary, Lynne was born in Chicago and lived in Barrington, Illinois and Greensboro, Georgia.

She is survived by her longtime companion Gerald Morris, her two sons Scott Landis and Dallas Majewski, grandchildren Brittany Majewski, Ella Landis and Nathaniel Landis, great grandson Dominick Majewski and her sister Judy James.

Donations can be made in her name to St. Jude Children's Hospital and there will be a celebration of her life in the spring with details forthcoming. **McCommons Funeral Home**, 109 W. Broad St., Greensboro, GA, (706) 453-2626, is in charge of arrangements. Visit us at www.mccommonsfuneralhome.com to sign the online guest register.

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Manzke, Judith A.

(nee McVady) Beloved wife of 50 years to Dennis M. Manzke. Loving daughter of the late John and Rita McVady. Cherished sister of Rita (late Thaddeus) Cagney and Mary Beth (Patrick) Welsh. Adored sister-in-law of Edward (Mary Jane) Manzke, Michael (Nancy) Manzke, Christine (John) Schmitz, and Robert (Joan) Manzke. Proud aunt of Anne, Ted, Dan, Ed, Marty, Myles, Maggie, Jack, Matt, Maureen, Kara, Mark, and Lauren. Dear great-aunt of many nieces and nephews. Proud educator for 41 years at St. Gall Catholic School. Visitation Wednesday 3-9 p.m. at the Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home, 9000 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL. Family and friends to gather Thursday, St. Linus Church, 10300 Lawler Ave., Oak Lawn, IL, for Mass of the Resurrection, 11:00 a.m. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Haymarket Center/McDermott Center, 932 W. Washington, Chicago, IL 60607 or Maryville Academy, 1150 N. River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016 would be appreciated. www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878

Robert J.

Sheehy & Sons

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McDermott, Rita M.

Rita M. McDermott (nee Schneider) age 92. Beloved wife of the late John-retired CPD Captain. Devoted mother of Rita (Robert) Lerch, Maureen (the late Joseph) Alioto, John-retired CPD (Janice), Michael-retired CPD (Lynn), Thomas-retired CPD (Ann) and Joanne (Robert) Aleksick. Loving grandmother of 14 and great grandmother of 3. Dear sister of Mary Ann Betz. Visitation Thursday, Dec. 27th, 9 AM until time of Mass 10 AM at Sacred Heart Church, 8245 W. 111th St., Palos Hills. The family requests that memorial donations be made to JourneyCare Foundation to help those in need receive the same compassionate end of life care. journeycare.org donate, 2050 Claire Ct, Glenview, IL 60025. Express your thoughts and memories in the online Guest Book at www.palosgaidasfh.com (708) 974 4410

Palos-Gaidas
FUNERAL HOME

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Meyers, Don L.

Don L. Meyers. Loving father of John Meyers, Tom (Ann) Meyers and Christine (Stephen) O'Reilly. Proud grandfather of Bailey, Brock, Joseph and Eric. Devoted son of the late Harold and Julia Meyers. Dear brother of the late Barry Meyers. Don graduated Loyola Academy in 1955 and worked over 20 years at the Cook County Sheriff's Department. Family and friends will meet Saturday, Dec 29th at Olson Burke Sullivan Funeral & Cremation Center, 6471 N. Northwest Hwy. Chicago for visitation from 12 Noon - 4:00 PM with a Funeral Service at 2: 00 PM. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Catholic Charities 721 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60654 would be appreciated. For Add'l info: 773-774-3333

OLSON BURKE/SULLIVAN
FUNERAL & CREMATION CENTER

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Miller, Alan H.

Alan H. Miller, born in Chicago on August 29, 1945 and passed away on Friday, December 21, 2018. Beloved father of the late Eli, dear son of the late Gilbert and Rose Miller; loving brother of Bruce (Nancy) and the late Marian Holtzman; fond uncle of Jonathan Miller, Libby DeBont, Melissa Inman, and Michael Samuel Miller; fond cousin of Allan (Beth) Hirsch,

Barbara (Thomas) Venn, Marilyn (Mike) Tarasievich; Marshall (Carole), Michael (Nicole), and Keith Auerbach, and Susan and Mara Ingerham. Alan was a commodities broker for over forty years and a Blues musician who recorded, produced, and performed in two CD's and live venues throughout Chicago and Sarasota. His true love was the Blues and had a vast knowledge of the Blues going back to the 1930's. Service Wednesday 11 am in the chapel of Westlawn Cemetery and Mausoleum, 7801 W. Montrose Avenue, Norridge, where interment will follow. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, donate3.cancer.org/donate. Arrangements entrusted to Lakeshore Jewish Funerals, 773-625-8621

Lakeshore
Jewish Funerals

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Minelli, Leonard "Lenny"

Leonard "Lenny" Minelli, age 85; beloved husband the late Jean nee Danca; loving father of Phil (Jami), Joann (Ozzie) Caccavella, and Lenny Jr. (Jennifer); cherished grandfather of Lauren (Dave) Fazio, Taryn (Mike) Raiman, Zac (fiance Paige Pfeifer) Minelli, Victor (Kelly) Caccavella, Toni Caccavella, Jenna Caccavella (fiance Drew Stahl), Barbara Minelli, Nicholas Minelli, Vinny Minelli, Joey Minelli; dearest great grandfather of Lilianna, Emery, Dominic and Mila; dear brother of Fred (Jackie) Minelli, and the late John (the late Madeline) Minelli; fond uncle and friend to many. Visitation Wednesday from 3 PM until 9 PM at the **SKAJA Terrace Funeral Home**, 7812 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Funeral Service Thursday 9 AM to St. Isaac Jogues Church for 10 AM Mass. Interment Maryhill cemetery. Funeral info: 847-966-7302 or www.skajafuneralhomes.com

SKAJA Terrace

Funeral Home & Cremation Services

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Miniat, Ronald Michael

Ronald Michael Miniat, age 89, of Chicago, Illinois passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 20, 2018, surrounded by his beloved family. Ron was married to the late Pauline nee Foerner. Together, they built a partnership that lasted 62 years, a family of 5 children, 18 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. Ron was the proud father of Susan

(Jerome) Kolavo, Michael Miniat, David (Lisa) Miniat, Amy (Charles) Nalon & Sara (Stacey) Huels; legendary Papa to Peter (Samantha), Daniel, John, Caroline (Colin) and Paulina Kolavo; Taylor (Coy) Hildreth & Jessica (Kevin) Miniat; Matthew (Katherine), Mark (Emily), Charles & Megan Miniat; Thomas, Joseph, Jack & Katherine Nalon, and Madeline, Henry & Michael Huels; adoring great grandfather of Jett Colton, James Ronald, Blaise Marie, Haven Pauline, and Luke Ronald; loving uncle to Renee (Michael) Botelho; cherished brother-in-law of Mary "Swiss" Foerner; dear nephew of LaVern Carter; and friend to many. Ron was a graduate of St. Joseph's College, served in the U.S. Army, and went on to expand his family's business, now over 100 years old, well in to its fifth generation. Ron was a recognized innovator and leader in the meat industry. He was equally known for his advocacy on behalf of others and his passion for organizations that help children, especially JDRC and Misericordia Heart of Mercy. Ron will be remembered for his leadership, friendship, generous spirit, commitment to his family and the broader Miniat "family" he created throughout his remarkable life.

A viewing will be held on Friday, December 28, 2018 at Old St. Patrick's Church, 700 W. Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois. The viewing will start at 9:00 am and be followed by a funeral Mass at 10:00am. A private family interment will immediately follow. All family and friends are invited to a "Celebration of Life" at Olympia Fields Country Club, 2800 Country Club Drive, Olympia Fields, IL, which will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to benefit an organization long revered by the Miniat Family: Misericordia Heart of Mercy, Attn: Sister Rosemary Connelly, 6300 North Ridge Ave., Chicago, IL 60660. Funeral arrangements handled by the **Leonard Memorial Home**, Glen Ellyn. Funeral Info: (630) 469-0032

Leonard
Memorial Home

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Morphew, Mary C.

Mary C. Morphew, nee Strich, age 87, beloved wife of the late James R. Morphew (2005). Loving mother of James M. (Suzanne) Morphew, Glenn Morphew and Nancy Munoz. Cherished grandmother of Patrick, Kevin (Evan), Moria (Duyhuu), Maggie (Andrew), Alex and Gabe. Dearest great-grandmother of Jameson. Dear sister of the late John Stercic. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sunday 2-6 PM. Funeral Monday 9:15 a.m. from **Colonial Chapel** 15525 S. 73rd Ave., (155th/Wheeler Dr. & Harlem) Orland Park, IL to St. George Church, 6707 175th St, Tinley Park, IL 60477. Mass 10:00 a.m. Interment St. Mary Cemetery, Evergreen Park, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital preferred. Express your thoughts and condolences at colonialchapel.com 708-532-5400

COLONIAL CHAPEL
FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL HOME
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Mozdzierz, Gerald J.

Gerald J. Mozdzierz, age 78, of Western Springs. Beloved husband of Charlene (nee Greco) for a wonderful 55 years. Loving father of Kimberly (Douglas Frank) Mozdzierz Frank, Krista (Joseph Skach) Mozdzierz-Skach, Pamela (David Filer IV) Mozdzierz, and Andrea Mozdzierz. Devoted grandfather of Victoria and Cameran Frank, Jordan and Justyn Skach, and David Filer V. Cherished friend and counselor of many. Gerald was preceded in death by his parents Felix and Genevieve Mozdzierz. Meet at St. John of the Cross Church, 5005 Wolf. Rd., Western Springs at 9:45 am on Saturday, December 29, 2018 for a Memorial Mass. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the "American Heart Association" and to "this ABLE VETERAN." Arrangements entrusted to **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, Countryside: (708) 352-6500 or hjfunerals.com.

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Nelson, Frank Earl

On Friday, December 14, 2018, Frank Nelson, loving father of 3 children, passed away at the age of 88. Frank was born on January 14, 1930, in Andersonville, Tennessee, to Louie and Ruby (Fritz) Nelson. He was one of seven brothers raised on a working farm. He received his BS Degree in Art and Education from Tennessee State and after a short time teaching art and history in Knoxville, Tennessee, Frank moved to Chicago to begin his career in architecture. He began by studying commercial and fine arts at the American Academy of Art. On October 14, 1961, he married Joan Mari Brandt. They raised one son, Avery, and two daughters, Arden and Ariane. Frank worked for several large architectural firms, including A. Epstein and Sons and Holabird and Root. He later joined the City of Chicago's Department of Public Works, Bureau of Architecture, where he worked until his retirement in 1992. Frank had a great passion for the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan. He loved his adopted city of Chicago, and the Rogers Park neighborhood in particular, and would talk at length about all their amazing beauty and opportunity. He was known for his kindness and compassion for others, and his infectious smile. He was dearly loved by all those he came in contact with, whether at work, on his condo association's board where he served as President, or in the many city parks where he would enjoy himself. Frank was preceded in death by his father and mother, his former wife Joan, his son Avery, and his brothers Paul, Carl, Ralph, Robert, Merle and Sheryl. He is survived by his daughters Arden and Ariane, his sons-in-law Archer and Christopher, his grandchildren Avery and Isaak, his brother Kenneth and numerous nieces and nephews. After a private family interment, a memorial service will be held in Frank's honor, in the Spring of 2019.

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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

Orlik, Ronald G.

Ronald G. Orlik, 89, passed away on December 20, 2018. Loving husband of 64 years to Dolores. Devoted father of Chris (Helene "Lynne"), David, and the late Mark. Proud grandfather of Amy (Alex) Moore, Patrick, Daniel. Uncle of Dolores Lynn, Technical Sergeant for the United States Air Force. Service will be private.



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Paluch, Miriam

1959-2018. We celebrate Miriam, (Bateman, Roosevelt & UIUC) on Wed., 8/26/18 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at Sunset Pho Caffe, 5726 N. Western Chicago. Contact: Christopher Paluch bennett-paluch@sbc-global.net

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Pardo, Dr. Yrech

Dr. Yrech Pardo died peacefully on December 12, after a short illness. He was 95.

The eldest of nine siblings, Dr. Pardo was born in 1923 in Marmelade, Haiti. After graduating from medical school at the University of Haiti, Dr. Pardo came to Chicago in 1949 for medical residencies at Provident and Cook County Hospitals. In 1953, Dr. Pardo met Karin Zacharias, a German Jewish Holocaust survivor, who had spent the war years as a refugee in Shanghai, China. They soon become a couple, and married in 1958 – nine years before interracial marriage was fully legal throughout the country.

In 1955, Dr. Pardo was drafted into the United States Navy, where he served as a pathologist.

In 1959, the couple returned to Chicago, ultimately settling in Hyde Park. Dr. Pardo began a private medical practice, treating patients throughout the South Side. There wasn't a type of medical problem Dr. Pardo didn't tend to and he took pride in never turning down a patient, regardless of ability to pay. He retired in 1987.

Dr. Pardo lived for his family. His daughters and grandsons were his pride and joy. In addition to a large extended family whom Dr. Pardo loved, supported, and guided through life, he is survived by his daughters, Jacqueline (Mark Hornung) and Linda (Joel Dando), and his grandsons, Daniel and Max Hornung. His wife, Karin, predeceased him in 2008.

A memorial service will be held at Montgomery Place in Hyde Park on Saturday, February 9 at 2 pm.

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Petersen, Shirley

Shirley C. Petersen, 76, passed away December 21, 2018. Beloved wife of the late Raymond A. Petersen. Loving mother of Amanda, Marsha (Daniel Hernandez), Genevieve (Lawrence Vengrin), Cecilia (Fred Diorio), Raymond. Fond grandmother of 11. Great grandmother of 1. Dear sister of James, Edward, Franklin, Elizabeth, Dennis, George Burns. Fond aunt of Jane Clandorff. Visitation will be Friday, December 28, from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels**, 8300 W Lawrence Ave, Norridge. Funeral will begin on Saturday, at 9:00 a.m. at the funeral home, then proceed to Immaculate Conception Church, 7211 W Talcott, Chicago, for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. Interment Calvary Cemetery. Info: 708-456-8300.



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Roberts, Richard J.

just shy of 92. Proud U.S. Army Veteran, member of the 7th Infantry Division Association & American Legion Post 854, Evergreen Park and retired from the Chicago Police Dept. Loving husband of 68 years to the late Patricia J. Roberts (nee Casey). Dear father of Richard D. (Sophie) & John J. Roberts. Cherished grandfather of Rick (Jessica) Roberts & Kate (Brad) Hartman. Adoring great grandfather of Sean & Ryan and Josh & Jacob. Fond brother of the late Robert Roberts Jr. Kind uncle of many nieces & nephews. Visitation Wednesday, December 26th from 4 until 8 p.m. Chapel prayers Thursday, December 27th, 11:00 a.m. at the **Kerry Funeral Home & Cremation Care Center**, 7020 W. 127th Street, Palos Heights proceeding to Saint Alexander Church, Mass 11:30 a.m. Entombment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. www.kerryfh.com - (708) 361.4235 - www.facebook.com/kerryfuneral



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Chicago Tribune

Rosenburg, Lillian

Lillian Rosenberg nee Lensky, beloved wife of the late Earl and loving mother of Michael. She will be missed by many cherished Mahjong friends. Private services have been held. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice. Arrangements by **Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home**, 847-256-5700.

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Ryan, John "Jack"

Obituary



John "Jack" Ryan Passed in peace Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at the age of 80. Loving husband of his late beloved wife Beverly (m. 1960). Loving brother of Margaret Born and Maureen (Rick) Kress. Son of John and Johanna Ryan. Beloved and devoted father of Daniel (Jolene) Ryan, the late Timothy Ryan, Kathleen (Dan) Duffy, and Mary Ryan. Adored grandfather of 10 and great grandfather, Uncle Jack to many and friend Jack to many more. St. Leo High School and DePaul University graduate. Respected charismatic real estate appraisal industry leader who was Chief Appraiser for First Chicago Bank, Chapter President of the Appraisal Institute and appraisal instructor. Experienced world traveler, history & movie buff. Jack's focus was on doing the right thing for his family and in life, combining powerful mental toughness with fairness, integrity and quick witted humor. Per Jack's wishes, a private burial service took place on Friday, December 21st. Arrangements by Yurs Funeral Home St. Charles 630-584-0060

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Schilder, Meyer 'Mike'

Meyer "Mike" Schilder age 90, passed away Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at Hinsdale Hospital. Beloved husband of Rosalind nee Leibowitz Schilder. Devoted father of Dr. Lawrence Elliot (Kathy) Schilder and the late Lori-Ellen Schilder. Loved grandfather of Benjamin Walter, Brian Joseph and Sarah Noelle Schilder. Fond brother of Maurice (Myrna) Schilder and uncle to Deborah Schilder (Fritz Burke), Elaine Luisi (fiancée Chuck Sansbury) and Lawrence David Schilder; many great nieces and nephews. Funeral services Monday, 12:00 noon at the **Beideman-Kunsch Funeral Homes & Crematory**, 516 S. Washington St. Naperville. 630 355 0264, www.beidelmankunsch.com. Interment Naperville Cemetery. A gathering of friends and family will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service. Memorials in Mike's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital. www.stjude.org/thanksandgiving.



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Schwake, Charles F. 'Butch'

Charles Frederick Schwake, "Butch", 80, passed away December 20, 2018. After graduating from Francis Parker School, Butch entered the U.S. Air Force before earning his B.S. in Marketing and Business from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Beloved spouse of 61 years to Marion E. Schwake (nee Leeke), devoted father of Barbara Walker and the late Linda Schwake Serb. Proud grandfather of Thomas Joseph Serb III and Charles Anthony Serb. Dear brother of Gail (the late Robert) Denk, James (Patricia) Schwake, Donald (Terry) Schwake. Preceded in death by parents John and Jenny Schwake and siblings Doris "Dolly" Gawlick and William Schwake. Services are private. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com.

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Sehnoutka Jr., Norman R.

Norman R. Sehnoutka, Jr. age 63 of St. Charles. Beloved husband of Patti nee Kowski. Loving father of Norman (Siobhan), Christine (Derek) Baston, and Jon. Devoted grandfather of Nicola, Olivia, and Lucia. Dear son of Norman and Elizabeth. Fond brother of Russell (Linda) and Tracey (Tim) Edwards. Cherished uncle of Erin and Alex. Visitation Wed,

Dec 26, 4 pm until funeral service at 7:30 pm at **Malone Funeral Home**, 324 E. State St (Rt 38), Geneva with Rev. Allen Eaton, officiating. Private interment. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Living Well Cancer Center, 442 Williamsburg Ave, Geneva, IL 60134. info 630-232-8233 or www.malonefh.com.



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Shavitz, Ernest

Ernest Shavitz, 97. Beloved husband for 72 years of Evelyn Shavitz nee Lazar. Loving father of Donna Solon, Mark (Debra) Shavitz, Russell (Cyndy) Shavitz and Kiangtong (Mui Heng) Lay. Proud grandfather of Barbara (Brock) Craft, Matthew Solon, Bronson (Andrea) Shavitz, Diana (Jaron) Baker, Sou (Mike) Cha, Li Lay and Ti Lay. Cherished great grandfather of Madeline, Eleanore, Hayden and Sienna. Service Monday 11AM at **Chicago Jewish Funerals**, 8851 Skokie Blvd. (at Niles Center Road) Skokie. Interment Zion Gardens. Memorial contributions to Honor Flight Chicago, 9701 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 310, Rosemont, IL 60018-4703, www.honorflight-chicago.org would be appreciated. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals-Skokie Chapel**, 847.229.8822, www.cjinfo.com



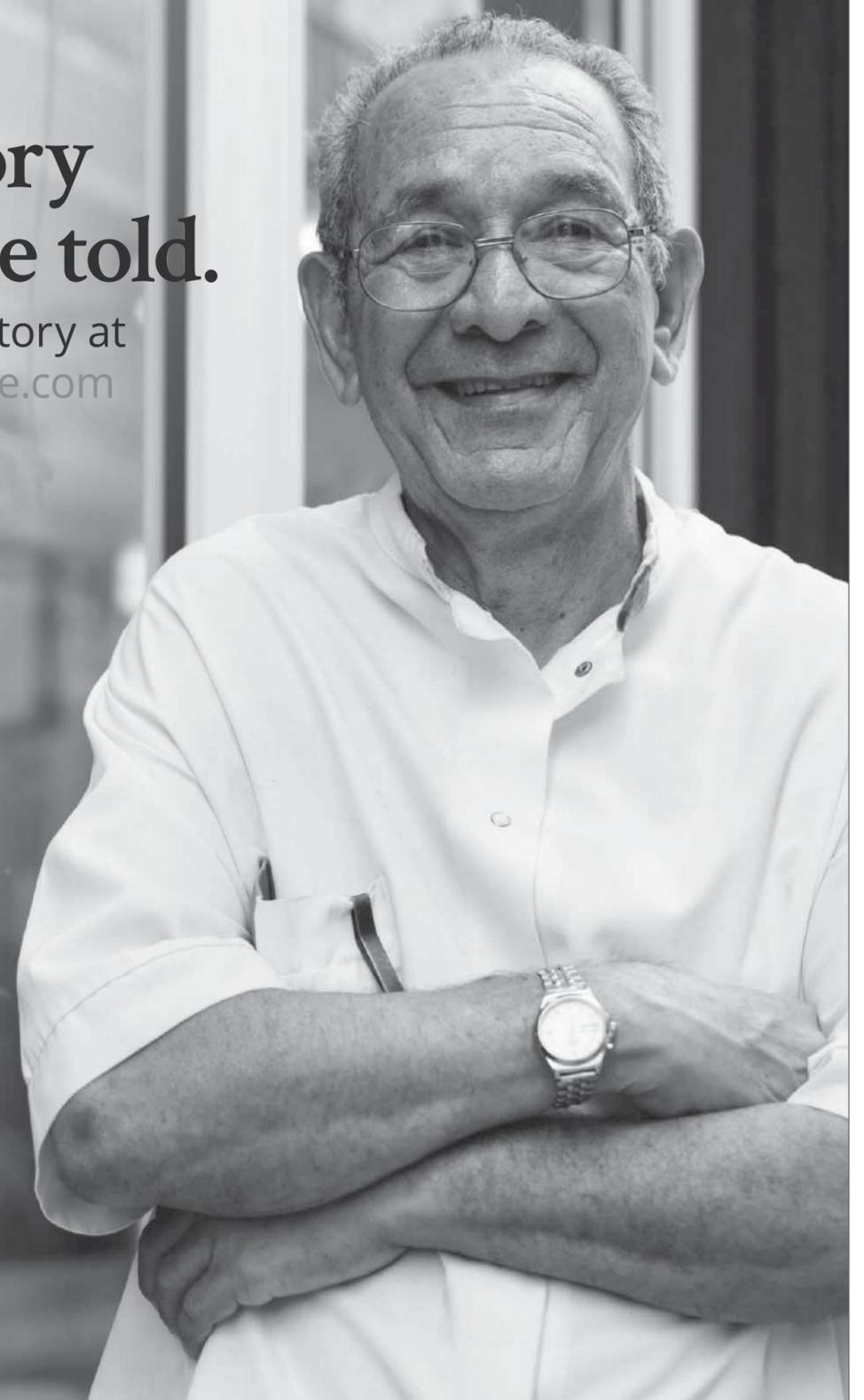
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Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Sowa, David

David M. Sowa, 66, died rapidly after contracting a virus. Son of the late Frank C. and Elaine M. Sowa. Brother of Paul and the late Frank C. Sowa Jr. Longtime resident of Sauganash, graduate of Loyola Academy in Wilmette, IL, and Northwestern University. Dave spent most of his professional life trading commodities and futures in the markets. He will be greatly missed. Funeral services 9 AM, Thursday December 27th from Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home, 6150 N Cicero Avenue, Chicago, to Queen of All Saints Basilica for Mass at 10 AM. Interment All Saints Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday 4 PM to 9 PM at the funeral home. Info 773-736-3833 or visit David's memorial at www.smithcorcoran.com

Smith-Corcoran Funeral Homes

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Spale, Valerie M.

Valerie M. Spale of Westchester; beloved wife of Kenneth for a wonderful 61 years; loving mother of Keith; fond sister-in-law of Rosemarie Skisak and Frank (Carol) Spale; aunt of many. Executive director of Save the Prairie, volunteer president for protected spaces for the IDNR, director of Westchester Historical Society, director of the Illinois National Areas Commission and the Fullersburg Historic Foundation. Visitation Wednesday 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. at **HURSEN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY**, SW corner of Mannheim & Roosevelt Roads, Hillside/Westchester. Funeral service Thursday 10:00 a.m. at funeral home. Interment Bohemian National Cemetery. Funeral info: 800-562-0082 or www.hursen.com.



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Spina, Sam

Sam Spina, Loving Partner of Barbara Garda Bucaro. An extended obituary can be viewed at www.cremation-society.com. A Celebration of Sam's Life will be held on Friday, Dec. 28 from 4 pm to time of service at 7 pm at Olson Burke/Sullivan Funeral and Cremation Center, 6471 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago, info 773-774-3333



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Storto, Donald L.

Donald L. Storto Sr., 86, of Forest Park formerly of River Forest. Beloved husband of the late Claire A. nee Sansone. Loving father of Donald Jr, Ronald, Dee Dee and the late Cara Mae. Dear brother of Josephine Mago, Louis Storto and the late Marie Griffin and Joseph Storto. Fond uncle to many nieces and nephews. Family and friends to meet Thursday 10:15am at the office of Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 1400 S. Wolf Road Hillside, IL where a Chapel Service will be held at 10:30am. Memorials to Misericordia, appreciated. Info. 708-366-2200 or www.ZimmermanHarnett.com.

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Sturmer, Allan James

Passed on NOV 23, 2018 at 87yrs old. Survived by Allison Cox, Jeanne (Jamey) Crider, David and Shane Sturmer. See memorial at www.friedrichjones.com

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Thomas, Mark O.

Mark O. Thomas 95, of Arlington Heights, beloved husband of the late Helen Thomas (nee Beart); loving father of Dave (Joanne) Thomas, Suzan (Dennis) Paulson, Carolyn Bannister; dear grandpa Greg (Rhonda) Thomas, Steve (Nancy) Paulson, Cindy (Bill) Hutchison, Andrew (Alicia) Paulson, Sally (Michael) Morton and Jen Clare Paulson; and great-grandpa of Hollie, Samantha, Max, Brooke, Amelia "Mimi", Libby, Hope, Jack, Trey, Susan, Jacqueline, Lindsay and Miller; fond brother of the late John Thomas. Visitation Thur., Dec. 27, 2018 from 1pm until time of Funeral Service at 2pm in St. John the Beloved Chapel at the Lutheran Home, 800 W. Oakton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, Arlington Heights. Private interment at Little Sister Cemetery in Town of Liberty Grove, WI. In lieu of flowers contributions to Lutheran Home & Services 800 W. Oakton, Arlington Heights, IL, 60004 appreciated. Funeral Information and condolences www.GluckertFuneralHome.com or (847) 253-0168.



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Thuma, Michael C.

Michael C. Thuma, age 54, of LaGrange, IL. Beloved Husband of Mary (nee Jung); loving father of Emily, Dan, and Will; dear brother of Debbie (Steve) Rowe; devoted son of Mary and William Thuma; uncle and friend of many. Visitation will be held Thursday, Dec. 27 from 3pm until 9pm with a Memorial Service to begin at 6pm at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 1025 W. 55th Street, Countryside. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations given to the American Cancer Society or St. Thomas Hospice are appreciated. The family invites those attending the visitation to bring a Christmas ornament to be placed on a tree in honor of Mike. Please see the full obituary at www.hjfunerals.com - additional information (708) 352-6500

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Tsakalakis, Georgia

Georgia (Hambilotatis) Tsakalakis, of Palos Park, IL, passed away on December 19, 2018. Georgia was born in Tripoli (Thana), Greece on December 14, 1945. She emigrated to the U.S. in 1964 and married her late husband Demetrios "Jimmy" Tsakalakis, in 1965. Georgia is survived by her daughters Elaine Mercouris and Pam (Dean) Gialamas, and her 4 grandsons, George and James Mercouris, and Alexander and Andrew Gialamas. She has two surviving sisters in Greece, Eleni and Athanasia. She was also a loving aunt, cousin, sister-in-law, & godmother to many. Georgia was a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She was also a successful entrepreneur who started and then ran Pamy's Hot Dogs restaurant in Darien for over 30 years. Georgia radiated warmth and kindness. Her smile and laughter were infectious and she had a true love of life. She was a beautiful soul with an enormous heart, and she left a trail of beautiful memories. Funeral Service 10 AM on Thursday, 12/27, at SS Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 11025 S. Roberts Rd, Palos Hills, IL 60465. Interment Evergreen Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday, 12/26, from 4-9 PM at **Blake-Lamb Funeral Home**, 4727 W 103rd St, Oak Lawn, IL 60453. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the ALS Association Greater Chicago Chapter - 220 W Huron, Suite 4003, Chicago, IL 60654 - www.alschicago.org



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Wallace, Gene

Gene Wallace age 93 died on Dec. 15 2018, Mass will be celebrated at 12:30 on 1/19/19 at St. Cletus Church, Interment will be private Mrs. Wallace was a RN at Adventist LM Hospital before retiring. After retirement she volunteered at LMH. Survived by husband Harry Ross, Mother of Stephen (Debra), Michael (Marcia), Kathryn (Peter) Patrick (Susan), preceded in death Daughter Mary Susan, 10 Grandchildren, 8 Great Grandchildren

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Winter, Colleen

Colleen Winter, nee Solon, of Sugar Grove, formerly of Oak Park, age 76. Beloved wife of the late Michael E. Winter; loving mother of Michael J. Winter, Morna M. (Timothy) Flanagan; Megan J. (Derek) Davis and Michael J. Flynn our dear family friend; proud grandmother of Clayton J. Davis, Margaret C. Flanagan and Isabella J. Davis; dear sister-in-law of Kathleen M. (the late Gary) Pedersen; cherished cousin of Marilyn (the late Bob) McNulty, John (Mary) Farris and the late Suzanne Farris; fond aunt and great-aunt of many. Colleen will forever be remembered for her kind heart and beautiful smile. A Memorial Visitation will be held on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave., Oak Park from 9:45 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass 10:30 a.m. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) appreciated. For further info 708-F-U-N-E-R-A-L.

Conboy - Westchester Funeral Home

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Wozny, Theresa F.

Theresa F. Wozny; beloved wife of the late Edward; loving mother of Gary; cherished grandmother of Nicole; fond sister of the late Rose, late Virginia and the late Margaret.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to **Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Home**. Info 773-774-3066



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Zabel, Karen Louise

Karen Louise Zabel (nee Prinzhorn), 59 of Carol Stream was born January 29, 1959 and passed away December 19, 2018. Karen was the beloved wife of James Zabel; loving daughter of the late Fred and Diane Prinzhorn of North Riverside Illinois; beloved sister of David S. and Michael D. Prinzhorn. Karen had her Master's degree in nursing and was known for her outstanding nursing skills, having worked at Loyola Medical Center for 36 years. She will be missed by many, memorial contributions can be made in Karen's name to the American Cancer Society at <https://www.cancer.org/involved/donate.html>. All services are private. Arrangements made through **Woodlawn Funeral Home** Forest Park, IL.

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Zeisler, Joan C

Joan C. Zeisler (nee Crane) age 84, passed away peacefully with her husband Karl and daughter Karen by her side, on Friday, December 14, 2018, following a devastating battle with severe dementia. Born June 2, 1934 to Loren L. Crane and Gladys (nee Otto) in Urbana, IL, Joan grew up in Milwaukee, WI. A 1952 graduate of New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL, she finished college at National Louis University in 1970, the same year her only daughter Karen, finished elementary school. Joan and Karl were married in 1954 in Wilmette, IL and lived in Chicago and suburbs, Cincinnati, OH, Portland, OR, LaJolla, CA and Aspen, CO. Joan served her family business, Garrett Popcorn Shops, from a little girl behind the counter to President until the business was sold upon her retirement. A memorial service will be held on January 19, 2019 from 11am to 3pm at The Drake Hotel, Chicago, IL. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in memory of Joan Zeisler to support the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, 225 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611

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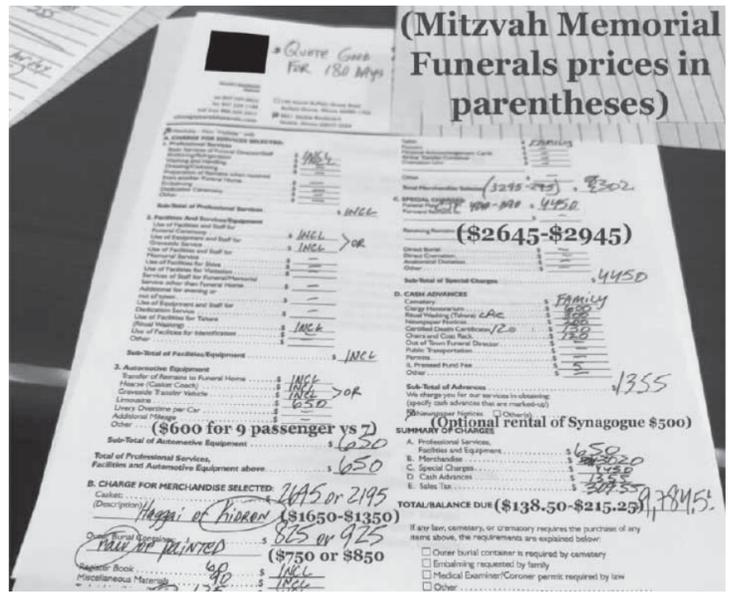
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Our professional writers will assist you to showcase and celebrate the life of your loved ones with a beautifully written tribute prominently placed within the Chicago Tribune.

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Mitzvah Memorial Funerals doesn't have chapels, nor do we have their overhead. We do have a professional experienced staff that is dedicated to treating every client as family while providing significant savings.

Above is a recent quote from one of our competitors. Their price is very similar to what other funeral homes with chapels charge. As this was a quote before the person passed, they discounted their \$4840 service charge down \$390 to \$4450.

Mitzvah charges \$2645 for graveside and cemetery chapel services* (\$1805 savings) or \$2945 if the service is from your Synagogue (\$1505 savings). We can also rent at several magnificent Synagogues (Skokie, Wilmette, Northbrook, Wheeling and Highland Park) for \$500, still making Mitzvah over \$1000 less on the service. There are additional savings on the casket and vault.

The quote to the left shows their Haggai casket at \$2695 and their Kidron, which they sell unfinished, for \$2195.

Mitzvah charges \$1650 for the Haggai (\$1045 less), or \$1350 for a finished Kidron (\$845 less)**. Mitzvah is also \$75 less on either outer burial container and \$50 less for a 9 passenger limo, versus their 7 passenger limo. There is also sales tax savings of \$94.30 to \$171.05 with Mitzvah depending on merchandise selected and where arrangements are made.

Total savings with Mitzvah on this quote is therefore **\$2069.30-\$3146.05** depending on where service will be held, where arrangements are made and merchandise selected. We're an additional \$390 less when they don't discount.

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500 Lake Cook Rd., Deerfield & 8850 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
630-MITZVAH (630-648-9824)
www.mitzvahfunerals.com
Funeral Directors-Lloyd Mandel, Seymour Mandel, William "Bill" Goodman,
I. Ian "Izzy" Dick, Olivia Hurtgen and Cheri Mandel

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*Cemetery chapels we can use include Memorial Park, Ridgewood, Sunset, New Light, Westlawn, Rosehill and Oakwoods.

**Casket and vault can be purchased from Mitzvah and delivered to any funeral home without any extra fee from Mitzvah or funeral home.

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CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

chicagoweathercenter.com | BY TOM SKILLING AND WGN9



SUNDAY, DEC. 23

NORMAL HIGH: 33°

NORMAL LOW: 19°

RECORD HIGH: 62° (1982)

RECORD LOW: -21° (1983)

White Christmas just a dream for most of U.S.

LOCAL FORECAST

HIGH 37 **LOW** 26

■ Weak low pressure centered over the upper Great Lakes brings periods of cloudiness.

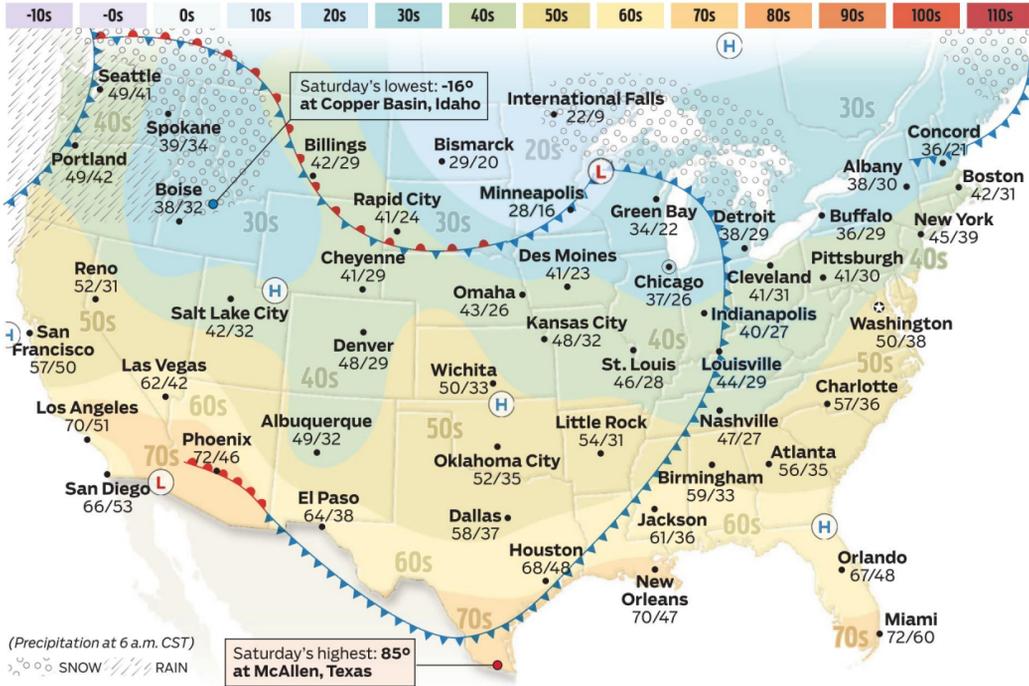
■ Cloudy skies dominate much of the morning, into midday. Flurries possible. Accumulating snow stays well to our north.

■ Daybreak temps range from mid 20s suburbs, to low 30s city. Readings slowly rise to the mid-upper 30s for daytime highs.

■ Brisk W-NW winds of 15-20 mph lower wind chill readings to the low 20s.

■ Party cloudy with light winds overnight. Temps again dip to the 20s most areas.

NATIONAL FORECAST



With relatively mild weather in place from coast to coast, the nation's snow cover continues to shrink at a time of the year when it should be rapidly expanding. As of Saturday, less than 20 percent of the nation observed a snow depth of an inch or more. With no significant storm systems affecting the country through Christmas, accumulating snow will remain very limited.

A weak weather disturbance is forecast to move across the Midwest on Christmas, but precipitation, if any, will be light and brief. Nationwide, areas of significant precipitation will be limited to the Southwest early in the week, where a 120-mph jet stream is forecast to generate a major storm system that will affect the central U.S. mid- to late week. Chicago will lie on the warm side of this storm; wind-driven rain is expected.

MONDAY, DEC. 24

HIGH 37 **LOW** 29

High pressure brings tranquil conditions. Sunshine dominates through midday, then clouds begin to increase. Temps reach the mid-upper 30s. Clouds thicken and lower overnight. Light W winds become SW.

TUESDAY, DEC. 25

HIGH 38 **LOW** 30

Weak disturbance brings clouds and a period of snow or flurries morning into midday. Minor slushy accumulation possible. Turning partly cloudy. Temps peak in the mid-upper 30s. S winds around 10 mph.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26

HIGH 37 **LOW** Steady or rising at night

Peeks of sun early, then clouds thicken. Patchy rain/snow/sleet late, changes to intermittent light rain/drizzle at night. Temps climb to the mid-upper 30s, then slowly rise overnight. E-SE winds 10-20 mph.

THURSDAY, DEC. 27

HIGH 50 **LOW** 44

Major storm system brings wind-driven rain and possible thunder. Rain may be heavy at times. Very mild. Temps rise to around 50 degrees. Cooler, drier arrives during the evening. SE-S winds 25-35 mph.

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

HIGH 44 **LOW** 26

Blustery and raw. Intermittent light rain/drizzle mixes with snow as temps slowly fall from morning highs in the 40s, to the mid 30s by evening. Gusty winds 20-30 mph and gusty turn NW late.

SATURDAY, DEC. 29

HIGH 31 **LOW** 25

Mostly cloudy skies linger as colder air settles into the region. Seasonable for late December, with afternoon temps holding near freezing. N winds diminish to 10-15 mph and become NE.

ASK TOM

Dear Tom,
Is there any truth to the old sailor's saying "Red sky in morning, sailors' warning. Red sky at night, sailors' delight"?

Mark Lowell, Indiana

Dear Mark,
There absolutely is. Variations of this adage can be traced back to biblical times and are based on the experiences of mariners who sailed the Earth's middle latitudes, where storms generally travel from west to east. The sky appears red when the setting or rising sun illuminates the underside of clouds. A red sunset often means that there are clouds in the east and clear skies to the west, an indication of approaching high pressure and good weather.

Red skies in the morning can mean clouds invading from the west, often the forerunner of approaching storms.

Write to: ASK TOM
2501 W. Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60618
asktomwhy@wgn9.com

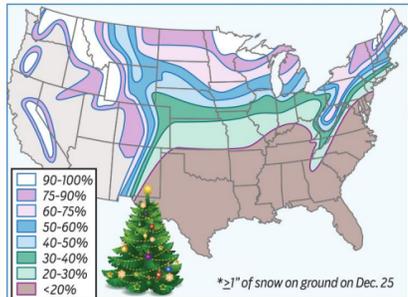
WGN-TV meteorologists Steve Kahn, Richard Koehnman, Paul Merzlock and Paul Dailey, plus Bill Snyder, contribute to this page.

Hear Tom Skilling's weather updates weekdays 3 to 6 p.m. on WGN-AM 720 Chicago.



Travel weather good through Christmas, but not for sleighs

LONG-TERM PROBABILITY OF A WHITE* CHRISTMAS
Best chances occur across upper Midwest, northern New England and mountainous areas of the West



OTHER CHRISTMAS STATS

- Average high: 32°
- Average low: 18°
- Warmest: 64° in 1982
- Coldest: -17° in 1983
- Highest minimum: 46° in 1936
- Lowest maximum: -5° in 1983
- Precipitation has occurred 62% of years since 1871.
- Snow has fallen 54% of all Christmases since 1985.

SOURCES: Frank Wachowski, NWS archives

U.S. OBSERVED SNOW COVER
Only 19.7% of Continental U.S. has snow cover
Areas with 1" or more snow on the ground as of Saturday, Dec. 22



FORECAST SNOWFALL OF 1" OR MORE
Valid Sunday, December 23 to Tuesday, December 25



LIKELIHOOD OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR
Based on observed and forecast snowfall, it looks like tough sledding in Chicago



PAUL MERZLOCK AND JENNIFER M. KOHNKE/WGN-TV

MIDWEST CITIES

SUN./MON.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Illinois	pc	45	28	pc	50	36
Carbondale	pc	40	25	pc	50	36
Champaign	pc	40	25	pc	41	31
Decatur	pc	41	25	pc	43	34
Moline	pc	39	23	pc	40	31
Peoria	pc	40	24	pc	40	33
Quincy	su	44	26	pc	47	36
Rockford	pc	42	24	pc	44	34
Springfield	pc	42	24	pc	44	34
Sterling	pc	37	23	pc	36	28
Indiana	cl	41	27	pc	44	32
Bloomington	pc	44	27	pc	48	35
Evansville	pc	44	27	pc	48	35
Fort Wayne	sh	39	27	pc	40	29
Indianapolis	sh	40	27	pc	40	29
Lafayette	pc	40	25	pc	37	29
South Bend	pc	38	25	pc	32	24
Wisconsin	pc	34	22	pc	32	22
Green Bay	pc	37	22	pc	33	25
Kaunoy	pc	37	22	pc	33	25
Madison	cl	33	20	pc	32	23
Milwaukee	cl	35	21	pc	32	23
Wausau	sh	27	16	pc	26	18
Michigan	sh	38	29	pc	35	25
Detroit	sh	38	29	pc	35	25
Grand Rapids	sh	37	28	pc	34	24
Marquette	ss	30	24	sh	30	19
St. Ste. Marie	ss	26	20	sh	28	20
Traverse City	ss	34	29	sh	34	25
Iowa	pc	38	21	pc	40	30
Ames	pc	37	19	pc	37	28
Cedar Rapids	pc	37	19	pc	37	28
Des Moines	su	41	23	cl	43	31
Dubuque	pc	36	20	pc	36	20

OTHER U.S. CITIES

SUN./MON.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Albany	pc	38	30	ss	37	24
Albuquerque	su	54	36	ss	63	42
Albany	pc	38	30	ss	37	24
Albuquerque	su	49	32	ss	54	34
Amarillo	pc	50	34	pc	63	31
Anchorage	pc	22	16	pc	18	14
Asheville	pc	52	29	pc	44	27
Aspen	pc	32	19	ss	30	13
Atlanta	sh	56	35	ss	52	32
Atlanta City	pc	47	36	pc	45	29
Austin	su	62	39	pc	63	55
Baltimore	sh	47	38	pc	44	31
Billings	pc	42	29	pc	42	21
Birmingham	sh	59	33	pc	53	33
Bismarck	pc	29	20	pc	35	17
Boise	rs	38	32	cl	42	31
Boston	su	42	31	ss	38	25
Brownsville	pc	79	59	pc	75	64
Buffalo	sh	36	29	sh	33	26
Burlington	pc	27	20	pc	27	13
Charlotte	pc	57	36	pc	53	29
Charlston SC	su	59	47	pc	60	42
Charlston WV	sh	47	30	pc	42	27
Chattanooga	sh	53	29	pc	49	29
Cheyenne	pc	41	29	pc	39	21
Cincinnati	sh	42	28	pc	43	28
Cleveland	sh	41	31	sh	34	28
Colo. Spgs	pc	43	27	pc	48	23
Columbia MO	pc	46	29	pc	50	36
Columbia SC	su	63	41	ss	58	33
Columbus	cl	41	28	pc	36	27
Concord	su	36	21	sh	34	16
Corps Christi	pc	70	55	pc	72	63
Crisfield	su	58	37	pc	61	52
Dallas	su	57	37	pc	61	52
Daytona Bch.	su	66	46	pc	67	51
Denver	pc	48	29	pc	49	26
Des Moines	su	41	23	cl	43	31
El Paso	su	64	38	pc	67	42
Fairbanks	su	-9	-16	su	-12	-16
Fargo	pc	20	9	sh	23	13
Flagstaff	pc	51	23	pc	52	24
Fort Myers	su	70	49	pc	74	54
Fort Smith	su	55	30	pc	56	42
Fresno	pc	57	44	pc	57	46
Grand Junc.	pc	40	25	pc	41	26
Great Falls	pc	43	31	pc	40	19
Harrisburg	pc	45	35	cl	42	27
Hartford	pc	42	32	rs	40	26
Helena	pc	39	27	pc	37	18
Honolulu	pc	81	70	pc	81	71
Houston	su	68	46	cl	66	60
Int'l Falls	ss	22	9	sh	17	6
Jackson	pc	61	36	su	58	43
Jacksonville	su	65	49	pc	65	49
Janeau	cl	29	25	su	30	29
Kansas City	su	48	32	cl	51	35
Las Vegas	pc	62	42	pc	62	42
Lexington	rs	41	28	pc	45	32
Lincoln	su	48	26	cl	49	26
Little Rock	su	54	31	pc	54	41
Los Angeles	pc	70	51	su	71	51
Louisville	sh	44	29	pc	48	34
Macon	sh	59	39	pc	58	33
Memphis	pc	50	31	pc	54	39
Miami	pc	72	60	sh	75	65
Minneapolis	pc	28	16	pc	29	22
Mobile	cl	69	45	pc	61	47
Montgomery	sh	66	38	su	57	34
Nashville	rs	47	27	pc	50	33
New Orleans	pc	70	47	pc	69	54
New York	pc	45	39	pc	46	32
Norfolk	su	53	40	pc	53	40
Ola, Okla.	pc	52	35	pc	55	35
Omaha	su	43	26	pc	42	29
Orlando	su	67	48	pc	67	42
Palm Beach	pc	72	56	pc	75	63
Palm Springs	pc	76	52	pc	75	63
Philadelphia	pc	46	37	pc	44	28
Phoenix	pc	72	46	pc	71	47
Pittsburgh	sh	41	30	cl	34	24
Portland, ME	su	36	20	cl	32	17
Portland, OR	rs	49	42	sh	46	37
Providence	su	42	30	rs	39	24
Raleigh	su	57	39	pc	51	29
Rapid City	pc	41	24	cl	45	22
Reno	pc	52	31	sh	51	32
Richmond	su	53	37	pc	48	27
Rochester	cl	36	30	ss	34	26
Sacramento	sh	57	42	rs	55	45
Salem, Ore.	sh	51	43	cl	47	36
Salt Lake City	pc	42	32	pc	42	32
San Antonio	su	67	45	pc	66	57
San Diego	pc	66	53	pc	66	57
San Francisco	cl	57	50	sh	57	49
San Juan	pc	83	73	pc	84	73
Santa Fe	pc	43	28	su	48	29
Savannah	pc	62	45	pc	62	42
Seattle	sh	49	41	sh	48	37
Shreveport	su	60	37	su	61	50
Sioux Falls	pc	35	20	pc	38	23
Spokane	rs	39	30	sh	38	27
St. Louis	pc	46	28	pc	50	36
Tucson	su	74	44	pc	72	45
Tulsa	su	53	31	pc	57	39
Washington	pc	50	38	pc	45	31
Wichita	su	50	33	pc	51	29
Wilkes Barre	pc	38	31	pc	34	23
Yuma	pc	73	48	su	73	49

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Acapulco	pc	85	73	pc	85	73
Algiers	su	70	45	su	70	45
Amsterdam	rs	47	40	rs	47	40
Ankara	cl	45	33	cl	45	33
Athens	su	64	47	su	64	47
Auckland	rs	70	66	rs	70	66
Baghdad	su	62	43	su	62	43
Bangkok	pc	92	74	pc	92	74
Barbados	sh	83	76	sh	83	76
Barcelona	pc	64	46	pc	64	46
Beijing	pc	52	31	pc	51	32
Beirut	pc	65	57	pc	65	57
Berlin	sh	45	34	sh	45</	



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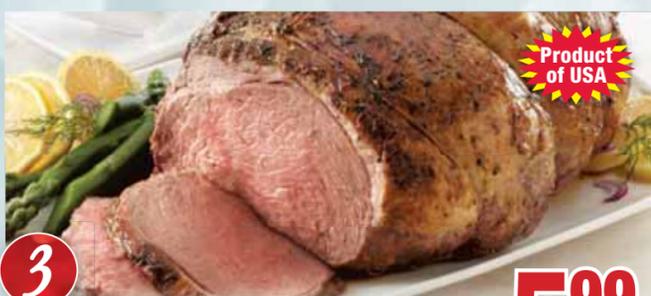
LIMIT 1



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USDA CHOICE

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Hormel Always Tender Fresh Cut in Store

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6 USDA CHOICE Boneless Beef Eye of Round Roast

USDA CHOICE Fresh Cut in Store

4⁹⁹ lb.



7 USDA CHOICE Boneless Beef Top Round Roast

USDA CHOICE Fresh Cut in Store

4⁹⁹ lb.



8 USDA CHOICE Boneless Beef Bottom Round Roast

USDA CHOICE Fresh Cut in Store

4⁹⁹ lb.



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Hormel Always Tender Fresh Cut in Store

2⁹⁹ lb.



10 Fresh Boneless Pork Roast

Hormel Always Tender Fresh Cut in Store

3⁴⁹ lb.



11 USDA CHOICE Boneless Beef Ribeye Roast

Hormel Always Tender Fresh Cut in Store

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12 USDA CHOICE Boneless Beef New York Strip Roast

USDA CHOICE Fresh Cut in Store

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Chicago gentrification fears on the rise

East Garfield Park, Austin and South Lawndale among areas seeing housing prices increase after years of disinvestment

BY CORILYN SHROPSHIRE
Chicago Tribune

Some parts of Chicago that historically have seen a pattern of disinvestment are experiencing a significant uptick in housing prices, as a strong economy attracts investors to more areas.

"The market is moving in those neighborhoods," said Geoff Smith, executive director of the Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University. "There hasn't been a great set of solutions to prevent displacement and dislocation ... to slow down change and encourage

neighborhoods to be inclusive."

The new investment results in improved housing stock, along with excitement that a neighborhood could be on the upswing, luring higher-income residents and new businesses. But it also means increased risk that long-term residents are pushed out, particularly in areas on the West Side near public transportation and North Side neighborhoods where gentrification has long been a worry.

Austin, South Lawndale, and East Garfield Park are among the moderately priced neighborhoods

that saw prices of one-to-four-unit buildings rise significantly between 2012 and 2017, increasing more than 21.6 percent, according to a new analysis prepared by the institute. Moderately priced buildings are those that sold for between \$96,738 and \$285,200.

Other, lower-cost neighborhoods, such as West Garfield Park, Central Park and Greater Grand Crossing, also saw significant rises in home prices during the five years analyzed. Those neighborhoods are considered emerging areas

Turn to *Gentrify*, Page 2



KRISTEN NORMAN/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A home owned by Moises Pacheco in the East Garfield Park neighborhood undergoes renovation Wednesday.



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Lesley Brown, center, samples an appetizer alongside Marissa Eurek at Botanic Alternatives CBD in Chicago on Tuesday.

A cure-all in cannabidiol

Cannabis products — caramels, bath bombs, oils — are filling store shelves, but what is CBD, does it work and why is it suddenly trendy?

BY ALLY MAROTTI
Chicago Tribune

People used to wander into the CBD Kratom store in Bucktown thinking it was a pot shop. It's not, of course. Recreational weed is still illegal in Illinois. The store sells CBD products — caramels, oils, bath bombs, dog treats — that customers use to alleviate conditions like anxiety or chronic pain. CBD, short for cannabidiol, is a cannabis compound that does not get users high. It isn't quite mainstream yet, but it's getting there.

"More people are coming in here with a basic knowledge of CBD," senior store clerk Fred Keen said.

The U.S. market for CBD products — most often derived from hemp, another plant in the cannabis family — grew by more than 80 percent in 2018, to about



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Stella Chalik started a wholesale baking company two years ago that sells, among other things, CBD-infused cookies.

\$591 million, according to Chicago-based Brightfield Group, which does market research in cannabis-related industries.

The products gained momentum with anxiety-ridden millennials in search of a solution more natural than the Xanax of previous generations. But now the products are becoming popular with older age groups as users look to address the illnesses, aches and pains associated with aging without pharmaceuticals.

As a result, CBD products are appearing on shelves at natural food stores, boutiques and clothing shops throughout the Chicago area. New CBD shops are opening in the suburbs, and CBD stores in the city are expanding or working to accommodate more customers.

Of course, not everyone is sold. With scant research on effectiveness or side effects, some doctors remain skeptical, and there are users who say they don't feel

Turn to *CBD*, Page 2



RYAN ORI
On Real Estate

Sale of former Hancock offices off

Sterling Bay's deal for the former John Hancock Center has fallen apart, putting a big chunk of the 100-story skyscraper — and its naming rights — back in the hands of longtime owner Hearn Co.

The sale contract for just over \$300 million has been terminated by mutual agreement of the buyer and seller, the Chicago-based commercial real estate firms said Friday.

The deal was for the office and parking portions of Chicago's fourth-tallest building, and it did not include separately owned residential condominiums, retail and observatory space, and broadcast antennas atop the 1,128-foot-tall skyscraper.

Neither Hearn nor Sterling Bay said what caused the Michigan Avenue deal, which has been in the works since around midyear, to fall apart.

"Big, complicated deals frequently fall apart," said Steve Hearn, president and CEO of his namesake firm. "This one did by mutual agreement. We're still friends. It just didn't work out."

Real estate sales are sometimes called off when a buyer takes a closer look at a property during a due diligence period, but it's unclear what factors may have led Sterling Bay to step away.

Crain's Chicago Business first confirmed the collapse of the deal.

Hearn told the Tribune that his firm is close to refinancing the property and that it will no longer be marketed for sale.

Hearn owns 717 parking spaces on floors 4 to 12 and about 908,000 square feet of offices on floors 13 to 41. Hearn and its investment partners, an affiliate of New York-based Fortress Investment Group and San Antonio-based Lynd Co., bought the property for \$140 million in 2013 and invested almost \$70 million in building upgrades and filling most of the office space with new leases.

The Hearn venture also controls naming rights to the building.

The Tribune in February reported that John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance, which developed the skyscraper that opened in 1970, would no longer have its name on the building. It is now known as 875 North Michigan Avenue after John Hancock's parent, Toronto-based insurer Manulife Financial — which no longer pays for naming rights — asked that the Hancock name no longer be associated with the tower.

Hearn said his firm will restart talks in early 2019 with prominent corporations to potentially pay to put one of their names on the skyscraper.

"I continue to believe that this iconic property needs to have a naming-rights partner, and deserves to be known as more than 875 North Michigan Avenue," Hearn said.

Why are Christmas cards still a thing?

Can be customized, convey 'special' feeling, offer tactile connection

BY LAUREN ZUMBACH
Chicago Tribune

Party invitations that once came to mailboxes now arrive via email or Facebook, and calendar apps are stiff competition for physical datebooks. Smartphones give us more ways to keep in touch than ever.

But old-fashioned paper greeting cards, delivered via snail mail, remain a holiday staple.

Some consumers are opting out of an annual ritual they say is time-consuming and redundant when we share photos and status updates daily on social media. But for others, the idea of taking the time to exchange tangible tokens of holiday cheer is more appealing than ever at a time when buzzing and pinging digital devices never seem to cease demanding our attention. That's



true even if finding the perfect card now involves sitting at a laptop, editing digital photos and clicking through dozens of template designs.

Sales of greeting cards have

been fairly stable in the U.S. over the past five or six years, with consumers buying around 6.5 billion greeting cards and 1.6

Turn to *Cards*, Page 4

Judy Scharff shops for holiday cards at Paper Source in Chicago on Tuesday.

KRISTAN LIEB/PHOTO FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cannabis products filling store shelves

CBD, from Page 1

a thing when using CBD products. The products also aren't regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

Regardless, business is booming at CBD Kratom, said Kris Jackson, general manager of the company's local stores. The St. Louis-based company, which has three stores in Chicago and is eyeing the suburbs, has hired 10 new salespeople in the city since October.

About an hour after the Damen Avenue store opened on a recent Friday morning, a steady stream of customers trickled in. The clerks worked their way around the store with each one, showing them the new products, like bergamot orange-flavored saltwater taffy, or the best-sellers, like tinctures that are dropped under the tongue.

There were CBD-infused rubs, pain creams and lip salves. There were caramels, chocolates and lollipops. There were candles with CBD-infused wax that, once melted, could be used for massaging and CBD-infused tea bags, honey and olive oil.

Melody Kratz, 48, was new to the store that morning, but not to CBD.

The Oak Park resident said she started taking it to treat anxiety, but after a few weeks noticed it was helping with her frequent migraines more than prescription medicine. She started selling CBD products at the vintage boutique she owns. "I'm a big believer in it," she said, smelling different jars of CBD bud, a dried hemp flower that users can smoke. "I'm ready to dive all in."

The CBD industry's growth has largely been a grassroots movement, with people most likely to learn about the compound through friends or family,

according to Brightfield Group's data.

"It sort of grew out of nowhere," said Bethany Gomez, director of research at Brightfield Group.

The early adopters were people familiar with cannabis, she said, but that has broadened, as has the age of users. More than one-third of CBD users are older than 40.

President Donald Trump signed a bill Thursday legalizing industrial hemp farming, which could propel the industry to reach \$22 billion by 2022, Brightfield estimates. Gov. Bruce Rauner signed a bill earlier this year allowing industrial hemp cultivation in Illinois, though the state's farmers are not yet growing the crop.

Large-scale consumer packaged goods or pharmaceutical companies could start rolling out CBD products to national retail chains, altering the industry currently dominated by smaller, independent brands, Gomez said. It would be astounding growth from an industry that just 18 months ago saw most of its sales online and at vape and smoke shops.

Botanic Alternatives put its first CBD products on the shelf of its Logan Square shop in mid-2017, back when it was called Cloud Vapor Lounge. Now 85 percent of the business is CBD products, owner and founder Tom Fisher said.

He's planning to remodel the Milwaukee Avenue space, shrinking the vape lounge and product area and adding stations with information on CBD products where customers can learn. Fisher also plans to take down one of the handmade, cotton-wrapped vape cloud models that hang in the front window and keep the store open an extra day each week.



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

People browse products while attending a ticketed event at Botanic Alternatives CBD in Chicago on Tuesday.



Store owner Tom Fisher speaks with customers at the Chicago business.

"We probably could have done (that) a time ago," Fisher said, standing in front of a display case teeming with CBD joints, creams and more.

The store has partnered with shops throughout the city that want to stock CBD products, and it worked with a company to host a ticketed dinner Tuesday where attendees dined on CBD-infused s'mores bars,

devised eggs and crudites.

Despite the trendiness, not everyone has succumbed to CBD mania. Daniel Paul, 56, tried putting CBD drops under his tongue before bed to help him stay asleep. But come 4:30 a.m., he was wide awake, just like every night before he started using the tincture.

"It didn't help me stay asleep," the Lakeview resident said. "I can't say it's not effective — just for my type of sleep issues, it's just not great."

Employees at Chicago CBD shops are quick to tell customers that everyone is different, and some items may be more effective for one person than they are for another. They're also careful not to prescribe. In the retail world, CBD products are treated similarly to dietary supplements, so the medical claims are kept in check.

Still, pamphlets in Chicago CBD shops and on

their websites give information on the cannabinoid receptors humans have throughout their bodies.

The receptors are part of the body's endocannabinoid system and are found throughout the digestive tract, central nervous, cardiovascular, immune and other systems, according to an article from Dr. J. Michael Bostwick, a psychiatrist at the Mayo Clinic. When marijuana, CBD or another cannabinoid is ingested, it interacts with the body's endocannabinoid system. For example, weed smokers likely get the munchies because THC — the psychoactive compound that gets users high — is interacting with cannabinoid receptors that govern food intake, according to Bostwick's research.

But user beware: Cannabinoid receptors are so widely distributed throughout the body that activating one for a certain purpose, say to treat arthritis pain,

may activate others and cause unwanted effects. That has caused challenges for pharmaceutical development, according to the research.

More valid scientific experiments must be conducted to determine whether and how CBD — and marijuana, for that matter — is effective, said Dr. Stephen Hanauer, medical director of the Digestive Health Center at Northwestern Medicine.

"Aspirin can be very helpful for a headache or a joint ache, but if you've got a bleeding ulcer, it's got harmful effects," Hanauer said. "We need to know both the good and the bad."

Until then, consumers should be aware that most of the benefits they're hearing about surrounding CBD products have not been proved by valid clinical studies, he said.

That didn't stop Stella Chalik, who quit her job at a medical records company a year and a half ago to start a wholesale bakery called Mishka Oil.

Getting her CBD-infused baked goods onto store shelves was hard at first, Chalik said. Most business owners she called didn't know what CBD was or thought it was illegal. But that has changed. Now her products are sold in stores in more than a dozen states, including at wellness centers, yoga studios and grocery chain Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market.

"There are still a lot of challenges," Chalik said. "But now people are reaching out to me."

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Chicago gentrification fears rising

Gentrify, from Page 1

where prices are predicted to climb higher because they are near public transit, have large projects underway or are attracting more speculative investment.

Of the 270 census tracts in the city with moderately priced homes, 57 of them saw housing prices climb more than 26.1 percent in the period studied. An additional 151 saw housing prices climb 9.5 to 21.6 percent.

"We know from our research, there are certain characteristics that might indicate vulnerability: Low-income households, renters, seniors, vulnerable populations might be more at risk," said Geoff Smith, executive director of the institute. "The goal of this project is to help create affordable strategies in these kinds of neighborhoods."

Pacheco is trying to carve out such a path.

He recently made a profit of about \$50,000 flipping a bungalow in East Garfield Park that he purchased, rehabbed and sold for \$335,000.

Pacheco, 35, has lived in the neighborhood since 2005 with his family, after they were displaced from Humboldt Park when it became too expensive.

Now, he said, he's dedicated to turning around houses in East Garfield Park and bringing in young people to live in the rehabbed homes. The area is ripe for redevelopment, given its sturdy housing stock and

proximity to downtown, with easy access to the CTA's Green and Blue lines and Interstate 290.

"You still have shootings happening pretty regularly," Pacheco said. "But it's starting to shift now because you have a lot of new people. The thought process is that in a couple years, the crime won't be here."

Indeed, crime is down 20 percent in East Garfield Park since 2013. Still, nearly 5,000 crimes of all types have been committed in East Garfield Park since Dec. 1, 2017, according to city of Chicago crime data.

Developer Jovita Baber, 50, isn't worried about crime rates. "Crime is happening all over the city," she said. "They focus on neighborhoods and say crime there is bad, but crime in Chicago is bad. I wouldn't say East Garfield Park overall is bad."

For more than a year, Baber has worked on what she calls mission-based development, buying and restoring old homes with period-appropriate materials she's acquired and then finding renters for the properties. Baber, who lives in Logan Square, said she's transforming transitional neighborhoods, one home at a time.

Her target market is renters who have been priced out of gentrifying neighborhoods, people like single mothers and service professionals, she said. Her business model allows her to rehab homes and make them "reasonably priced"

for working people, and East Garfield Park is particularly attractive because it's filled with families who have lived there for generations, families that she's convinced would stay if they could find affordable, nice places to live.

"There are so many amazing things going on in (East) Garfield Park that people don't talk about," Pacheco said. "I'm not into flipping. It's not good for communities."

Pacheco is interested in marketing to longtime East Garfield Park residents too, but has found many aren't interested. "The mindset is: Get my education and get as far away as possible," Pacheco said. "I'm fighting with the residents to keep them here."

As a developer who is interested in improving the neighborhood while keeping it affordable for current residents, Pacheco said he's also up against deeper-pocketed developers who are rehabbing homes and bumping up the prices. Two new single-family homes on the block where he recently sold a house are for sale, priced more than \$60,000 higher than the selling price of his property.

"You have some houses in the neighborhood that have sold for \$500,000," Pacheco said. "It keeps pushing the price point upward where people can't afford it anymore. That's where the tension is."

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Layoffs, uncertainty loom large at Sears

Banks continue to weigh funding deal to save retailer

BY ELIZA RONALDS-HANNON, LAUREN COLEMAN-LOCHNER AND KATHERINE DOHERTY
Bloomberg News

Bankers meeting to discuss financing for Sears Holdings Corp.'s impending bankruptcy erupted in disbelief when a headline crossed their smartphone screens. Its subject: them.

A breaking news report said the bankers, gathered Oct. 11 at the Manhattan offices of law firm Weil Gotshal & Manges, were pushing to liquidate the American retail icon instead of saving it with a new loan. The implications were clear, according to people familiar with the meeting: Keep Sears alive, or you'll be publicly blamed for the 50,000 job losses that would come with its de-

mise. As far as the bankers knew, the report wasn't true, said the people, who asked not to be named discussing private negotiations. But even today, as they face a deadline in two weeks to extend more loans, the bankers can't escape factoring in the social cost of their decision.

In private meetings, representatives for Sears and related businesses have repeated the message, the people said. It's also come up in Sears public comments and former Chief Executive Officer Edward Lampert's Dec. 6 bid to buy the company. Robert Riecker, the retail chain's chief financial officer, made the same point on the day of the company's October bankruptcy filing.

"Will Sears be relegated to the dustbin of history, and will 68,000 Americans lose their jobs?" Riecker asked in a court affidavit. The answer "lies in the level of

support and cooperation that the debtors receive" from creditors and business partners. Many Sears workers have already been let go.

The messaging comes as Lampert's hedge fund, ESL Investments, seeks about \$1 billion in funding for its proposed purchase of what's left of Sears, according to the preliminary details outlined in court documents Dec. 6. The bankers' decision whether to chip in will come in a national political climate prickly with populist rhetoric.

They know that creditors who opted to liquidate Toys R Us became the target of protests by fired workers, faced increased investor scrutiny and weathered criticism from presumed presidential hopefuls Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker. They also know that President Donald Trump blasted General Motors Co. for announcing worker cuts. The last thing the Sears bankers want is a

blow to their reputations.

"No one likes bad press, and 'headline risk' is absolutely taken into consideration in situations like these," said Steve Wilamowski, a bankruptcy and restructuring partner at Chapman and Cutler who was not at the Sears lender meeting. "Who wants to provide material for an ambitious politician or regulator to caricature you as a cartoon villain, handlebar mustache and all?"

In October, Sears' banks, led by Wells Fargo and Bank of America, agreed to extend the retailer \$300 million to fund itself during bankruptcy. Bank representatives declined to comment.

"We are working around the clock to try to keep Sears in business with a going-concern proposal that would save tens of thousands of jobs and provide severance protections for eligible workers," ESL said in an email statement

to Bloomberg. "ESL is hopeful that the lessons learned in the Toys 'R' Us bankruptcy will aid Sears's constituents in achieving a successful and expeditious resolution to the Chapter 11 process."

Fired Toys R Us workers attracted enough support to land them a payoff. KKR & Co. and Bain Capital, the two buyout firms that controlled the toy retailer, created a \$20 million fund to partly compensate employees who lost their jobs.

Bankruptcies are rarely smooth, with sharp elbows and aggressive jockeying commonplace even when politics has a muted role. But lately, politics rarely has a muted role.

"It's more pronounced now," said Josh Sussberg, a partner in the restructuring group of Kirkland & Ellis. "We live in an internet world, so people can get in touch very quickly and organize."

Last week, Sears won

court approval to give top executives \$25.3 million in bonuses to keep them from leaving, even as the company lost \$1.9 billion in the first nine months of 2018 and Lampert's estimated worth hovers around \$2.5 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The deadline for ESL to firm up its purchase bid is Dec. 28. The auction would take place in the middle of January.

"When you deal with large swaths of employees, you're naturally going to see a higher level of publicity that's politically driven," said Steven Zelin, head of the North American restructuring and special situations Group at PJT Partners. "The retailers are large and well-known to the day-to-day consumer, and by definition, high-profile closings create public pressure."

Bloomberg's Katherine Burton contributed.



QILAI SHEN/BLOOMBERG NEWS

"We are different than the rest of the Toys R Us world," said Andre Javes, chief executive officer of the Asian business.

A FALLEN GIANT THRIVES IN ASIA

Plans call for 50 new stores next year in China

BY BRUCE EINHORN AND DANIELA WEI
Bloomberg News

Toys R Us outlets are closed in the U.S., but the brand's stores are still a popular destination for Shanghai resident Pan Wei. A 35-year-old manager for an entertainment company, Pan does most of his shopping online but prefers physical shops when buying toys for his daughter.

"When it comes to products for kids, we want to make sure it's safe, so we prefer going to toy stores," he said.

More than a year after the New Jersey-based chain filed for bankruptcy, forcing the closure of hundreds of stores and layoffs of 33,000 workers in the U.S., Toys R Us Asia is very much alive.

Last month, a group of Toys R Us creditors reached a deal with the retailer's Asian partner, Hong Kong-based Fung Retailing Ltd., to share control of the company's stores in China, Japan and Southeast Asia.

Other international brands are also betting that Chinese consumers are willing to go to physical stores with their children or grandchildren. Favorites like Lego Group and FAO Schwarz are among those targeting the Chinese toy-and-game market, which will be the world's largest by 2022, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

The toy sellers are counting on changes in Chinese politics and society to help them gain a foothold in the world's most populous country. President Xi Jinping's government ended the one-child policy in 2016 and is taking steps to encourage women to have more chil-

dren. Also, China's product-safety scandals and notoriety for counterfeit goods have made parents more willing to spend on Western brands they perceive as safer.

Toys "R" Us Asia plans to add as many as 50 new stores next year in China. It's a big vote of confidence in brick-and-mortar retailing at a time when the growing popularity of e-commerce competitors contributed to the parent's failure in the U.S.

"We are different than the rest of the Toys 'R' Us world," said Andre Javes, president and chief executive officer of the Asian business, in an interview.

Net sales for China and Southeast Asia were \$375 million for the year ended Jan. 28, 2017, up about 3 percent from a year earlier, based on the company's last available regulatory filing. Sales fell 3 percent in the U.S. over that period.

Many Chinese families in big cities, who often live in relatively small apartments, still look forward to going on trips to shopping malls.

FAO Schwarz, the New York toy store where Tom Hanks danced on a floor piano keyboard in the 1988 Penny Marshall movie "Big," plans its Chinese debut in the new year.

After shutting its Fifth Avenue flagship in 2015, FAO Schwarz returned to New York in November with a shop in Rockefeller Center.

Early next year, owner ThreeSixty Group Ltd. plans on opening a Beijing store near the capital's third ring road that will be larger than the Manhattan location.

ThreeSixty is partners with Hong Kong-listed Kidsland International Holdings Ltd. on the Beijing store, targeting China as part of a strategy to leverage FAO Schwarz's rep as an interactive desti-

nation for tourists and shoppers alike.

"Chinese consumers and especially millennials are looking for more than just buying an item off the shelf," ThreeSixty Chief Operating Officer Jan-Eric Kloth said in a statement. "They want to be engaged and entertained."

Danish toymaker Lego is taking a similar approach with outlets where Chinese children can play with the plastic bricks rather than just look at them in the box. The company has 55 stores in China, including a flagship that opened in September in central Shanghai.

Lego plans on adding 80 more next year, according to spokesman George Yang.

Lego's revenue fell in its established markets in North America and Europe in 2017, but rose high double digits in China.

Still, a famous Western name isn't a guarantee of fast growth in the Chinese toy market.

C.banner International Holdings Ltd., a shoe company based in the central Chinese city of Nanjing, agreed to pay \$126 million in 2015 for Hamleys, the British toy retailer.

Three years later, the company operates more than 120 stores worldwide but only three stores in China.

A high-profile flop for the industry came in 2011, when Mattel Inc. closed a 37,700 square-foot Barbie store in Shanghai, just two years after the six-story shop opened.

The company's international net sales fell 18 percent in the third quarter, driven largely by weakness in China. Chief Financial Officer Joseph Euteneuer said in an October call with analysts that Mattel had a "self-inflicted" inventory surplus resulting from a misreading of Chinese demand.

"Mattel's experience in China illustrates the diffi-

culty Western-branded toy companies have still had in attempting to penetrate the world's second-largest toy market," BMO Capital Markets researchers led by analyst Gerrick Johnson wrote in an Oct. 29 report.

Toys "R" Us Asia is hopeful about the Chinese market, where its stores are typically smaller than the ones that were operated by its parent in the U.S.

Instead of big-box stores of about 45,000 square feet, the chain's Chinese locations average 10,000 square feet and are in shopping malls, according to Javes.

In China and other parts of Asia, "people go to malls for entertainment, food, socializing," he said. "That makes us convenient for people because we are where they're going."

Mich. company to pay \$4M in holiday bonuses

BY JENA MCGREGOR
The Washington Post

The average holiday bonus in 2017 — among workers who actually get them — was about \$1,800, according to one survey of accountants. But a floral foam maker based in Ludington, Mich., is making that number look almost Grinch-y, announcing a bonus that is likely to average more than \$14,000 per worker.

FloraCraft, which manufactures, fabricates and markets foam products — those green or white blocks used in floral and craft projects — has told employees it would be paying out \$4 million in bonuses. The move comes after a strong year for the business and a tax reform law that slashed corporate taxes. Also, said Lee Schoenherr, the company's owner, it was inspired by his concerns about political changes in Washington.

FloraCraft's bonus, which will be paid out 25 percent in cash and 75 percent through a 401(k) contribution over two years, comes at the end of a year that began with many businesses responding to the Trump tax bill with highly publicized announcements about one-time \$1,000 bonuses.

Schoenherr, 83, who has led the company since 1973 and serves as chairman, said he wanted to do something more "meaningful."

He had typically given an extra week's pay as a holiday bonus to his workers. But Schoenherr had been thinking for years of making a substantial gift to workers as a way of saying thanks.

"I wanted to show some appreciation for the people who have worked for me and been responsible, to a great length, for the success of the company," he said.

He decided the timing was right in 2018. The tax cut provided a cushion. The

business was reaping the benefits of years of investing in research and development that allowed it to manufacture its own foam, rather than buy it externally, CEO Eric Erwin said. (The private, family-run business does not release financial numbers, but has annual revenue of \$70 million.)

Meanwhile, a Pinterest-fueled DIY decor and crafting craze has boosted what Erwin calls the "creative products industry" in recent years. "We've been very happy with the way digital content has helped us," inspiring consumers to be more creative with crafts and projects.

Schoenherr said he also began feeling a sense of "urgency" to make the bonus, concerned the environment for business might shift with Democrats taking the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. He said his company has benefited from President Trump's policies, including the tax cut and the elimination of some regulations, though he was not able to name any specific regulatory changes during Trump's term that have benefited his business.

"Things are good now. Who knows what the future is going to bring," he said. Schoenherr recognized, too, that he wasn't getting any younger. While he says he has no plans at all to retire, he thought "I better do this while I'm still alive," he said.

Workers are only eligible for the bonus if they're below top management, Erwin said — higher-level managers take part in an annual incentive program — and the only factor considered in paying out the bonus is tenure. Workers will receive the equivalent of about \$120 a month of service; because the average tenure at the company is 10 years, that would result in an average payment of \$14,400, Erwin said.

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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.

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Why are Christmas cards still a thing?

Cards, from Page 1

billion holiday cards per year, said Peter Doherty, executive director of the Greeting Card Association. Those figures don't include custom photo cards, the kind many families order from places like Shutterfly or Walgreens.

But that stability is an improvement after several years of declining sales, Doherty said.

"People were starting to use email as a replacement, but over time they found they weren't making the same meaningful connection," he said.

Not everyone has returned to paper. Susan Wojcik, 43, of Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, estimates she only receives about a 10th of the cards she used to, though she doesn't particularly miss them and stopped sending them herself about five years ago.

"I keep in touch so many other ways," Wojcik said.

But those who continue to send holiday greetings on paper tend to be particularly drawn to the idea of a physical object with a personal sentiment, according to makers and sellers of greeting cards.

Carolina Ojeda, 27, of Little Village, who was shopping for cards for close family and friends Tuesday at Paper Source in the Lincoln Park area, said she enjoys picking out cards and wouldn't want to break the tradition by going digital.

"I'm very old-school," said Ojeda, who looks forward to receiving holiday cards in the mail too.

"That's the cheer of Christmas," she said.

Even a wave of enthusiasm for e-cards a few years ago subsided as consumers found them "too fleeting," said Patrick Priore, chief merchant at Chicago-based Paper Source.

The biggest fans of e-cards tend to be people who also send lots of paper cards and want one more way to keep in touch, said Lindsey

Roy, chief marketing officer at Hallmark Greetings. The company still offers them but doesn't see them driving growth, she said.

Lydia Fields, 31, of Lincoln Park, said she's starting to receive more holiday cards as her friends have started having kids but few, if any, arrive by email.

"I think we all like a good old-fashioned card," Fields said.

That doesn't mean consumers are buying the same cards they always have. Greeting card publishers are trying to innovate with cards consumers can customize or fancier cards that don't feel generic, said Marisa Lifschutz, an analyst at industry research firm IBISWorld. Those items tend to be more profitable for card-makers, though they don't appear to be leading to growth in the overall industry, which also includes makers of products like calendars and postcards that are facing similar digital competition, she said.

Fields, for instance, used online design service Minted to create a card featuring her 13-month-old daughter, Lottie. The photo and handwritten notes she added felt personal, but pre-printing envelopes saved time, she said.

Custom photo cards appear to be gaining popularity, said Doherty, of the Greeting Card Association, though his organization doesn't track those sales. Shutterfly, which sells custom cards through its namesake and Tinyprints brands, doesn't disclose figures for individual business segments like custom cards. But the company said half the revenue from its consumer businesses comes in the fourth quarter.

The personalized cards have been "a consistent business," said Mickey Mericle, chief marketing officer at Shutterfly, who declined to comment further on sales. During the busiest days between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the com-



KRISTAN LIEB/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Erin Delaney shops at Paper Source in Chicago. Many people still enjoy the tradition of giving (and getting) physical cards.

pany prints more than 8 million cards per day.

Designing a card can be more time-consuming than picking a box off a shelf. Shutterfly tries to balance giving customers creative control with features that save time, like using artificial intelligence to recommend promising photos or automatically crop them, Mericle said. Online design service Minted, meanwhile, has stylists who can send users five suggested card designs if they text a photo and answer a couple of questions about their preferred greeting and aesthetic.

Deerfield-based Walgreens, meanwhile, added new design options over the past two years. It used to print only on photo paper but now offers cardstock and some designs embossed with foil and a choice of square or rounded edges.

Even when people start with a digital photo and design their cards online, they're still choosing to create something that will end up on paper, Paper Source's Priore said.

"There's something very tactile and emotionally connective," Priore said. "People save cards. It's a keepsake, but it's also an expression of whatever sentiment you're trying to convey."

Custom printed cards are the fastest-growing slice of the holiday cards business at Paper Source, though sales of individual and box-set holiday cards also have been growing, he said.

Millennials now account for the largest share of greeting card buyers, and they prefer cards that make a personal statement, Doherty said.

They seem particularly drawn to the idea of customizing a card, Shutterfly's Mericle said. They "don't want a canned saying from a box of cards" to represent them, she said. "Millennials want to make it their own."

Mericle said millennials are comfortable with more informal designs and photos and don't feel obligated to wait for traditional milestones like starting a family to send holiday cards. Pet-focused cards have been popular, she said.

But a desire for cards that feel personal doesn't always mean designing something from scratch.

Consumers who take the trouble to pick out a card at a store still want it to feel like it was chosen specifically for the recipient, said Shayna Norwood, owner of Steel Petal Press.

Norwood designs and sells greeting cards at her store in Logan Square and

through other retailers, including Paper Source.

"It's a reaction to the digital world we live in," she said. "People take it really far the other way and want a card that says exactly what they think."

Norwood thinks that trend could benefit smaller publishers that aren't necessarily trying to design cards for the broadest possible audience. Steel Petal Press' designs tend to be snarky and sassy, and many top-sellers feature curse words, Norwood said.

She knows that's not for everyone and stocks some cards by other designers, but they still have to fit her audience. A line of particularly sentimental cards didn't do well, said Norwood, who said she aims to offer items that are "funny or beautiful or both."

But even the biggest name in the greeting card business says it's working on designing cards that don't feel generic.

Hallmark sees growth coming from higher-end cards like its Signature line, designed to feel like keepsakes, with embellishments like beads, ribbons or charm necklaces, and a new line of "mantle-worthy" pop-up cards introduced this holiday season, Roy said.

The pop-up cards, called

Paper Wonder, are exceeding expectations, and Hallmark plans to release them for other holidays, including Valentine's Day, she said.

In addition to focusing on specialty cards, Hallmark also has updated some messages for younger buyers, Roy said. There are cards that don't assume everyone has a traditional family structure and some with messages alluding to spending the holidays apart, since more young adults live far from family.

The goal, she said, is a card that "feels like it was written totally for me and my relationship" — even if it was plucked from a chain store's shelf.

Roy thinks the lasting appeal of paper cards comes from being "an antidote to too much digital."

When a card arrives in the mail, it shows someone put time and effort into choosing the design and sending it, said Cindy Magder, 46, of Lincoln Park, who sends friends and relatives custom-printed cards with a family photo each year.

"It's not a gift, but it feels like it is," Magder said. "I feel like I'm special if someone thought to send it."

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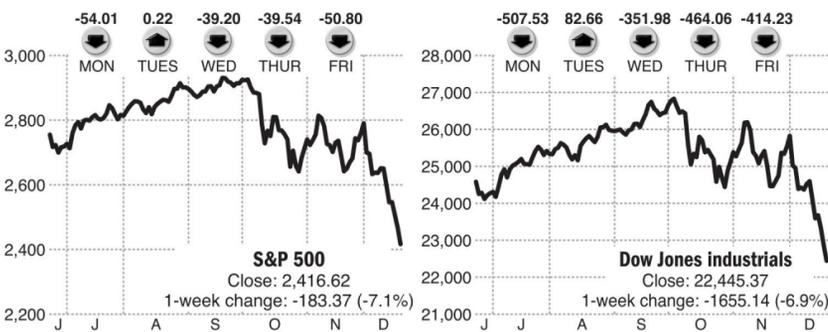


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WEEKLY PERFORMANCE			WEEKLY PERFORMANCE			WEEKLY PERFORMANCE			
52-WEEK HIGH	LOW	INDEX	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	YTD %CHG	1YR %CHG
26951.81	22396.34	Dow Jones industrials	24088.08	22396.34	22445.37	-1655.14	-6.9	-9.2	-9.3
11623.58	8859.11	Dow Jones trans.	9557.00	8859.11	8874.79	-639.32	-6.7	-16.4	-16.9
762.26	647.81	Dow Jones utilities	759.22	719.22	722.38	-35.47	-4.7	-0.1	+0.2
13637.02	11013.42	NYSE Comp.	11752.74	11013.42	11036.84	-718.54	-6.1	-13.8	-13.8
6222.14	4771.33	NYSE International	5019.90	4771.33	4778.44	-227.21	-4.5	-17.5	-17.2
7700.56	6013.98	Nasdaq 100	6621.63	6013.98	6046.56	-548.41	-8.3	-5.5	-6.5
8133.30	6304.63	Nasdaq Comp.	6931.81	6304.63	6332.99	-577.67	-8.4	-8.3	-9.0
2940.91	2408.55	S&P 500	2601.13	2408.55	2416.58	-183.37	-7.1	-9.6	-9.9
2053.00	1607.63	S&P MidCap	1735.72	1607.63	1611.35	-121.46	-7.0	-15.2	-15.4
30560.54	24715.44	Wilshire 5000	26754.42	24715.44	24792.95	-1956.39	-7.3	-10.8	-11.0
1742.09	1289.49	Russell 2000	1417.10	1289.49	1292.09	-118.73	-8.4	-15.9	-16.3
403.72	333.15	Dow Jones Stoxx 600	346.74	333.15	336.67	-10.54	-3.0	-13.5	-13.7
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Bank of America	23.37	-1.11
AT&T Inc	28.31	-1.91
Chesapeake Energy	1.90	-0.43
Ford Motor	8.05	-0.47
Kinross Gold	3.12	+0.24
Weatherford Intl Ltd	2.77	-1.16
Pfizer Inc	41.93	-1.87
Oracle Corp	44.00	-2.60
Wells Fargo & Co	45.12	-1.42
Citigroup	50.24	-4.78
Twitter Inc	27.31	-8.56
JPMorgan Chase & Co	94.17	-6.12

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
Adv Micro Dev	16.93	-2.97
Microsoft Corp	98.23	-7.80
Apple Inc	150.73	-14.75
Micron Tech	30.32	-3.88
Cisco Syst	41.85	-3.97
Facebook Inc	124.95	-19.11
Intel Corp	44.84	-3.02
Helios and Matheson	.02	...
Caesars Entertain	6.03	-1.42
Sirius XM Hldgs Inc	5.59	-0.58
Comcast Corp A	33.75	-2.59
Synergy Pharma	.08	-0.00
Huntjng Bancshs	11.59	-0.44

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
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iShs Emerg Mkts	38.52	-1.31
iShares EAFE ETF	57.56	-2.90
iShares Rus 2000	128.37	-12.24
Invesco QQQ Trust	147.57	-13.51
iShs Core MSCI EmMkt	46.39	-1.76
ProShs UltiPro SHTQQQ	19.90	+4.45
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	240.70	-19.77
SPDR Financial	22.79	-1.45
US Oil Fund LP	9.57	-1.25
VanE Vect Gld Miners	20.44	+3.32
Vanguard FTSE DevMkt	36.62	-1.57

Largest Companies

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
AT&T Inc	28.31	-1.91
AbbVie Inc	84.92	-0.69
Alibaba Group Hldg	132.00	-17.00
Alphabet Inc C	979.54	-62.56
Alphabet Inc A	991.25	-60.46
Amazon.com Inc	1377.45	-214.46
Anheuser-Busch InBev	66.39	-3.31
Apple Inc	150.73	-14.75
Bank of America	23.37	-1.11
Berkshire Hath A	288000.06	-12319.94
Berkshire Hath B	192.10	-7.90
Boeing Co	304.55	-14.20
Chevron Corp	104.21	-9.62
China Mobile Ltd	47.46	-1.11
Cisco Syst	41.85	-3.97
CocaCola Co	47.57	-1.77
Comcast Corp A	33.75	-2.59
Disney	104.22	-7.98
Exxon Mobil Corp	68.12	-7.46
Facebook Inc	124.95	-19.11
FEMSA	83.52	-1.13
HSBC Holdings PLC	40.56	-0.34
Home Depot	160.48	-11.81
Intel Corp	44.84	-3.02
JPMorgan Chase & Co	94.17	-6.12
Johnson & Johnson	128.09	-4.91
MasterCard Inc	175.19	-20.14
McDonalds Corp	174.15	-9.14
Merck & Co	72.90	-3.58
Microsoft Corp	98.23	-7.80
Novartis AG	83.35	-4.04
Oracle Corp	44.00	-2.60
PepsiCo	109.42	-4.53
Pfizer Inc	41.93	-1.87
Procter & Gamble	90.97	-5.67
Royal Dutch Shell B	57.80	-1.71
Royal Dutch Shell A	56.68	-1.55
Taiwan Semicon	35.71	-0.82
Total SA	51.78	-2.58
Toyota Mot	113.96	-6.14
Unilever NV	53.64	-2.00
Unilever PLC	52.26	-1.74
UnitedHealth Group	238.34	-26.68
Verizon Comm	54.92	-2.16
Visa Inc	124.26	-10.83
WallMart Strs	87.13	-4.72
Wells Fargo & Co	45.12	-1.42

How the region's Top 100 companies fared

Ranks based on market capitalization of public companies headquartered in Illinois and north-west Indiana as of Friday, December 21, 2018

RANK/COMPANY	CAP	CLOSE	WEEK	1-YR
1 Boeing Co	172,949	304.55	▼	-14.20
2 McDonalds Corp	134,253	174.15	▼	-9.14
3 AbbVie Inc	127,738	84.92	▼	-6.69
4 Abbott Labs	118,148	67.27	▼	-3.49
5 Caterpillar Inc	70,854	120.07	▼	-6.70
6 Walgreen Boots Alli	63,613	67.26	▼	-11.48
7 CME Group	62,252	182.65	▼	-4.99
8 Mondelez Intl	59,142	40.68	▼	-2.87
9 Kraft Heinz Co	53,716	44.05	▼	-3.41
10 Deere Co	45,552	142.99	▼	-6.02
11 Exelon Corp	44,376	45.89	▼	-1.17
12 ITW	41,156	124.04	▼	-7.00
13 Baxter Intl	33,471	62.90	▼	-2.80
14 Allstate Corp	27,503	79.85	▲	+5.55
15 Equity Residential	24,773	67.24	▼	-2.70
16 Arch Dan Midl	22,874	40.80	▼	-3.81
17 United Contl Hldgs	22,197	81.47	▼	-6.27
18 Ventas Inc	21,484	60.27	▼	-2.29
19 Discover Fin Svcs	18,948	56.40	▼	-5.42
20 Motorola Solutions	18,270	111.73	▼	-14.92
21 Nthn Trust Cp	17,576	79.39	▼	-6.98
22 Grainger WW	15,330	272.21	▼	-12.20
23 Ulta Salon Cosmetics	13,670	230.49	▼	-16.36
24 Gallagher AJ	13,050	71.06	▼	-3.12
25 CNA Financial	11,719	43.18	▼	-7.1
26 CDW Corp	11,599	77.31	▼	-10.40
27 CBOE Global Markets	10,780	96.08	▼	-4.81
28 Dover Corp	10,095	68.99	▼	-7.33
29 TransUnion	9,913	53.50	▼	-5.45
30 NiSource Inc	9,631	26.05	▼	-1.44
31 IDEX Corp	9,489	123.71	▼	-8.85
32 CF Industries	9,469	41.03	▼	-1.03
33 Equity Lifestry Prop	8,789	97.94	▼	-3.05
34 ConAgra Brands Inc	8,679	22.15	▼	-7.74
35 Zebra Tech	7,868	146.25	▼	-25.64
36 Packaging Corp Am	7,629	80.47	▼	-12.70
37 LKQ Corporation	7,500	23.57	▼	-1.03
38 US Foods Holding	6,595	30.35	▼	-1.46
39 Ingredion Inc	6,435	91.02	▼	-4.66
40 GrubHub Inc	6,238	68.78	▼	-10.42
41 Old Republic	6,234	20.60	▼	-8.1
42 USG Corp	5,987	42.84	▼	-1.19
43 Aptargroup Inc	5,876	93.55	▼	-6.79
44 CDK Global Inc	5,868	45.57	▼	-2.13
45 Hill-Rom Hldgs	5,703	84.77	▼	-7.82
46 Middleby Corp	5,699	102.05	▼	-7.30
47 Jones Lang LaSalle	5,694	124.98	▼	-8.27
48 Fortune Brds Hm&Sec	5,290	37.13	▼	-3.29
49 Morningstar Inc	4,553	106.73	▼	-7.69
50 Kemper Corp	4,155	64.18	▼	-1.93
51 Littelfuse Inc	4,027	160.10	▼	-9.04
52 Tribune Media Co A	3,944	45.00	▼	-3.6
53 Brunswick Corp	3,745	43.18	▼	-3.40
54 First Indl RT	3,681	29.15	▼	-2.32
55 Wintrust Financial	3,646	66.66	▼	-2.79
56 Equity Commonwllth	3,567	29.37	▼	-1.85
57 Teleph Data	3,342	31.64	▼	-2.68
58 Stericycle Inc	3,333	36.80	▼	-3.60
59 MB Financial	3,199	37.98	▼	-1.44
60 RLI Corp	2,959	66.53	▼	-5.08
61 Paylocity Hldg	2,877	54.50	▼	-8.99
62 TreeHouse Foods	2,794	49.91	▼	-4.10
63 Hyatt Hotels Corp	2,779	65.00	▼	-2.62
64 Adtalem Global Educ	2,674	45.53	▼	-5.60
65 US Cellular	2,616	49.52	▼	-4.40
66 GATX	2,605	69.11	▼	-4.57
67 Navistar Intl	2,472	25.00	▼	-7.7
68 Retail Prop Amer	2,387	11.08	▼	-1.46
69 John Bean Technol	2,189	69.27	▼	-1.46
70 Cabot Microelect	2,183	85.60	▼	-8.32
71 Envestnet Inc	2,166	47.38	▼	-4.19
72 Fst Midw Bcp	1,951	18.34	▼	-2.18
73 Anixter Intl	1,754	52.40	▼	-4.68
74 Groupon Inc	1,655	2.90	▼	-2.4
75 Stepan Co	1,618	71.89	▼	-5.36
76 Allscripts Hlthcare	1,588	9.09	▼	-1.30
77 Tenneco Inc	1,527	26.76	▼	-1.06
78 Horace Mann	1,523	37.22	▼	-4.6
79 Tootsie Roll	1,314	34.03	▲	+2.4
80 AAR Corp	1,268	36.15	▼	-4.54
81 Federal Signal	1,179	19.58	▼	-9.9
82 Hub Group Inc	1,177	35.02	▼	-1.63
83 Knowles Corp	1,169	12.96	▼	-8.1
84 First Bussey Corp	1,168	23.91	▼	-1.32
85 Huron Consulting Gp	1,101	48.85	▼	-2.36
86 Navigant Consult	930	21.85	▼	-1.37
87 Coeur Mining	910	4.57	▲	+7.5
88 Addus HomeCare	834	63.71	▼	-9.23
89 Career Education	820	11.76	▼	-8.8
90 Methode Electronics	812	21.98	▼	-4.70
91 Consolidated Commu	673	9.45	▼	-1.78
92 Acco Brands Corp	662	6.45	▼	-3.1
93 SP Intl Corp	625	27.52	▼	-7.2
94 Enova Plus Inc	621	18.13	▼	-1.39
95 Century Aluminum	605	6.91	▼	-1.24
96 Heidrick & Struggles	574	30.32	▼	-3.21
97 Echo Global Logis	564	19.76	▼	-1.27
98 Global Brass Copper	550	24.78	▼	-2.89
99 SunCoke Energy Inc	530	8.19	▼	-3.6
100 Sanfilippo John	506	57.91	▼	-4.30



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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. **Y18000099** on the Date: **December 12, 2018**

Under the Assumed Name of: **Monse's Hair Design**

with the business located at: **5647 N Ashland Ave Chicago, Illinois, 60640**

The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **Maricela Vega 5647 N Ashland Ave Chicago, Illinois, 60660**

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals

Location: 69 W. Washington, 22nd Floor, Chicago, IL

Date & Time: 1/9/2018 at 1:00PM

Reference: V 18-67

Subject Property: 11711 S. Springfield, Alsip, IL

Variance Request: increase height of fence

Reference: V 19-01

Subject Property: 11440 Woodlawn Ave, Lemont, IL

Variance Request: reduce lot area, reduce lot width & reduce the distance btwn principle & accessory structures

Reference: SU 18-06 & V 18-26 (Continued Case)

Subject Property: 36 E. Dundee Rd, Barrington, IL

Special Use Request: to operate a Fire/EMS substation with companion Variance to: reduce lot area & reduce left side yard setback

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Holidays are about time with friends/family, but working with them?

Working side-by-side with a close friend certainly may seem like holiday, but in reality, it can present a number of challenges. Whether you start a friendship with someone on the job or end up working with someone you've been friends with for years, it's best to keep a few things in mind when associating with friends at work.

Professional approach

According to career expert Reesa Staten, employees shouldn't let their friendships influence their workplace behavior.

"It's important not to show unfair preference because you and a co-worker are friends," says Staten. "This is particularly true in manager-employee relationships where perceived favoritism is a significant issue for workers who feel they are not being treated equally."

Who you know

There are a number of different scenarios of working with friends, including those times when you tell a friend about an open position within your company and he or she comes on board. Another scenario is when you know someone in the company already and he or she gets promoted or transferred to your division. These are both areas that career expert Peg Hendershot, says can get sticky if not properly monitored.

"For example, Tim and Tom have known each other for years," she says. "Tom gets Tim a job with his company and slowly begins to ask Tim for help with some of his work. Tim is doing his job now and part of Tom's. In this case, taking advantage of each other can cause problems."

Set rules

Hendershot says those friends who end up working together should be sure to set some ground rules and boundaries by having an open conversation about their new situation.

"Discuss personal accountability, communication and expectations," she says. "Also, make sure you maintain activities outside of work where your work is not the main topic of conversation."

Also, employees should understand that the relationship may change due to role responsibilities, performance and competing demands.

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Questions to ask yourself before starting a job search

Ask yourself questions that will help you get a clearer picture of what you're looking for, what skills you can contribute to a company and what kind of job can help you achieve your career goals. Here are three questions to consider:

Why am I starting a job search? This should be the first question you ask yourself. While you may think it's an easy one, getting to the root of why you're looking for a job can help you determine whether you're job searching for the right reasons. "If you are fresh out of school or unemployed, it's not an issue. But what if you are employed and just unhappy with what you are doing?" says staffing expert Bruce A. Hurwitz. "I have had a number of career counseling clients come to me thinking they wanted a new job but left realizing all they wanted were new responsibilities. They all stayed on the job, got new responsibilities, and they, and their bosses, were quite happy."

What value do I bring to potential employers? Kimberly Robb Baker, job-search strategist, says that if you stick to only showing how you meet the basic requirements of a job, you'll be treated like a commodity. Instead, you need to think about what it is that makes you unique and attractive to prospective employers. "Whether your background in physical education informs your HR candidacy with a unique perspective on employee wellness programs or your coding knowledge makes you an IT manager who can speak engineers' language, you have something to offer beyond the basics."

What type of culture do I want to work within? "Corporate culture is an important factor one must take into consideration," says Jesse Siegal, recruiting expert. "Therefore, before applying to jobs, you need to take some time to reflect on what you are looking for in a workplace. Questions to ask yourself include: 'Do I need an employer who will permit me to work a flexible schedule? Am I okay with having to work long hours in a competitive environment? Do I prefer to work on more collaborative teams or do I prefer working independently?'"

9 to 5



"Anything worth doing is worth doing well. But I haven't found anything worth doing."

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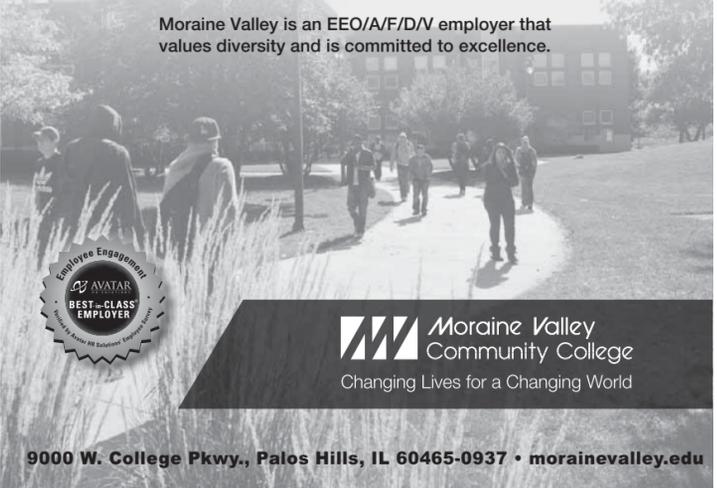
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Imagine that: Workplace can benefit from face-to-face communication

Communicating with coworkers is usually done via email, texts or in-house project management programs. Gone are the days when people would communicate one-on-one through brief meetings or face-to-face conversations. While electronic communication may be more efficient in the short-term, it can hurt the long-term effectiveness of a company.

"It's no secret that the person-to-person conversations we have with our coworkers has declined as technology has increased," says Ellen O'Bannon, a former HR specialist. "There was a time when we'd walk across the office to ask someone if they remembered why something was done a certain way or to ask for some assistance with a project."

While O'Bannon acknowledges those things can be accomplished through email, she says what gets lost are those brief conversation that often led to other topics, both professional and personal. "Today, we type out a sentence or two in an email and in a few minutes, we get a response," she says. "We'll never really know what we may have left on the table because we sent these messages in a vacuum, essentially sitting alone at our desks."

While some companies have tried to increase personal connections between their employees by suggesting ways to interact with their peers, those contrived situations often backfire, says Dan Squire, who worked for a marketing firm where the HR department tried to get employees to engage on a personal level through games and promotions. "One of their ideas was like a scavenger hunt," Squire says. "You had to get people to sign a little notepad to prove you spoke with them face-to-face. I felt ridiculous."

O'Bannon says it's very difficult to break people out of habits that they formed 20 years ago. "It's not like we just started using email or communicating with each other online. We've been doing it for years. If you want people to change their habits, you have to give them alternatives and make them see the value of personal communication."

On your feet

To facilitate communication between coworkers, here are five suggestions:

1. Get your hands off the keyboard. If you're looking for a simple yes or no answer to a question, email seems like the logical choice but you'll get nothing more than a yes or no answer. Instead, walk the question over to your coworker and you'll have an immediate answer and more importantly, immediate context, which should address some potential question that may arise in the future.

2. Use email to set up a quick meeting by the water cooler. You'll find that most people appreciate the face-to-face instead of hashing issues out over an extended email thread because they know they'll be able to come to a quicker resolution and take it off their "to-do" list. You're not wasting time going back and forth reading between the lines of an email. You and your coworker are saying what you want to say and then moving on.

3. Pay compliments and accolades during in-person visits. While emails that point out your good work are always appreciated, especially when your boss is cc'd, the simple act of walking up to someone and patting him or her on the back and saying thank you speaks volumes about you and the value you place on interaction with your office mates.

4. Ask what others do. Emailing a question like "so, what do you do over here?" can come across as odd in an email — and OK, a little awkward in person — but engaging someone in their job can lead to a better understanding of your company as well as your role — and potential future role — in it.

5. Use your non-email time to make new contacts (and — dare we suggest — friends). One of the best ways to maintain a good relationship with others at work is to get to know them. People are so accustomed to social interactions on social media that they've placed a low value on real-life relationships. By making personal connections with coworkers while trying to find out more information about a certain product can lead to a more open, productive workplace.

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DULY NOTED ...

YOUR CAREER IS MORE THAN ITS HIGHS AND LOWS — FOCUSING ON THE DETAILS IN BETWEEN IS KEY

At some point in your career, you'll go through the highest of highs and lowest of lows. You'll get the job you've dreamed about for years only to be let go after six months after a few fudged expense reports for lunches with friends. You'll land a huge client and later find out that they had never intended to purchase your goods or services in the first place.

While it's tempting to base your definition of career success on hitting the peaks and avoiding the valleys, some career experts caution against taking an all-or-nothing approach to assessing your job. Instead, they suggest that you focus on the ordinary days so you can truly determine whether or not you enjoy — and are good at — what you do.

"I think that we spend far too much time celebrating our victories and just as much time mourning our losses," says Sharon Fannon, a career consultant in New York. "It's important to have benchmark moments throughout a career and you certainly will be judged on the things you do well, but it isn't the only way to determine whether or not your job has value."

Surviving the fall

Fannon, who worked in the HR departments of Rutgers University and the University of Wisconsin, says she had a recent client who was on track to hit new sales highs for the third and fourth quarters of 2017, only to learn that the product she had been selling was sold off to another company. Instead of transferring her to the new owner, she was simply laid off.

"It was a huge crash for her. She had made the product so viable and so attractive to potential clients that all of a sudden, there was a value attached to the product that hadn't been there before. And when it came time to acknowledge that new, higher value, the company did so by simply letting her go while they enjoyed the profits from her work," Fannon says.

Since this particular client came to Fannon in the middle of her job search, she was very focused on that recent experience. "She had a huge chunk of her resume that dealt specifically with this product and the fact that it was sold to another company for \$14 million dollars," Fannon says. "This all may look good to someone who is impressed by the basics but a smart employer will look at that and think 'apparently you weren't valuable enough to keep around.' I helped her change her resume so that her work on building the product, her day-to-day responsibilities and rituals that led to increased sales, was front and center."

Hand-in-hand approach

Thomas Wietecha, an executive coach in Los Angeles, says it's almost impossible to separate the work from



Career consultants say note takers make the best employees because when they read over their notes, they're constantly assessing their work.

the end result since we only remember the work that went into the good, not necessarily the mediocre. "This goes all the way back to when we were in school. We won't remember studying really hard for a chemistry test unless we received an A-plus or maybe, an F. No one remembers how much they studied for a test when they ended up getting an 81," he says. "No one cares about the middle of the curve."

As a result, Wietecha says employees don't put too much value in the work they put in to get to the middle. Still, Wietecha says it's worth examining the paths that lead to all your work results since an examination of the minutiae can lead to some interesting insights. "The devil's in the details, right? It's the minutiae where the magic happens. It's the small little things like following up on emails or making sure a proposal is in your potential client's hands at 4:59 p.m. the day you speak on the phone instead of 9:01 a.m. the next morning," he says. "The 4:59 guy reads it on the train and is ready to move the next day. The 9:01 guy received similar proposals at 7:15, 8:45 and probably 4:59 the previous day. It's the little things — finishing up a proposal before your potential client expects it — that create success."

Deep understanding

James Evans says he began scanning in his 2018 calendar book last month to track his mileage. Inadvertently, he scanned in his notes for the day and

began understanding the importance of the smaller things he was doing to attain the larger wins, not just at work but also in his personal life. "I'm a ridiculous note taker but I'd take notes and then do nothing with them," says the 29-year-old pharmaceutical sales rep based in Sarasota, Florida. "Once I scanned everything from this year in, I had a pretty clear account of the things I did that worked and the things I did that didn't."

Career consultant Fannon says note takers make the best employees because when they read over their notes, they're constantly assessing their work. "People who track what they do and how they do it, as well as what others do, are the candidates who learn from their own mistakes. What's a better attribute in an employee than that? All those mistakes? They happen during the 9-to-5 moments. Maybe there's a choice to make an extra follow-up phone call or to send someone a small gift to let them know you appreciate their business," Fannon says. "Or maybe it's the opposite. Maybe someone writes 'Joe Smith called about next year. Email him some info on that inventory app I.T.'s working on and start talking renewal.' And when Joe Smith goes with your competitor, you'll remember you never sent the inventory app info, and you might just have some insight into why he might have made that choice."

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PERSON *of the* YEAR CHICAGO SPORTS

The BEARS FAN *and the celebration of* WORST TO FIRST

How did the Bears do it?
Colleen Kane's story, Page 3

Brad Biggs *Page 5*

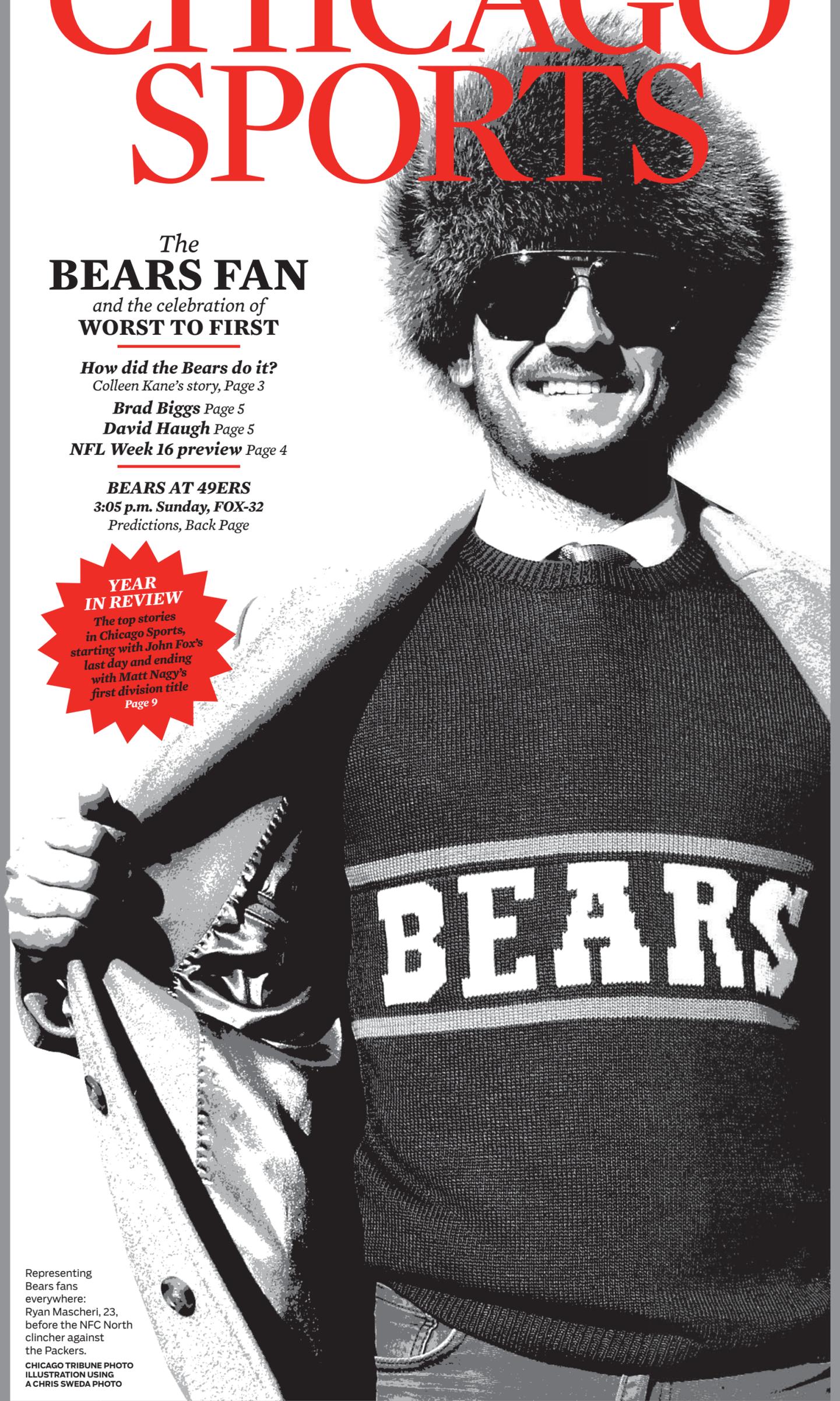
David Haugh *Page 5*

NFL Week 16 preview *Page 4*

BEARS AT 49ERS
3:05 p.m. Sunday, FOX-32
Predictions, Back Page

YEAR IN REVIEW

*The top stories
in Chicago Sports,
starting with John Fox's
last day and ending
with Matt Nagy's
first division title*
Page 9



Representing Bears fans everywhere: Ryan Mascheri, 23, before the NFC North clincher against the Packers.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION USING A CHRIS SWEDA PHOTO

JIM BOYLEN STORIES FROM HIS DAYS AS UTES COACH *Page 7*



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TOP OF THE SECOND



PHIL ROSENTHAL

Mute point: Fox isn't listening

What gives, Fox? Chicago's Fox-32 may trumpet its cozy partnership with the Bears as the team's official station, home to team-produced programming. But the 2018 NFC North champs haven't gotten a lot of respect from the station's network this season.

That's the takeaway from Fox's announcer assignments this season. The network still treats the Bears like the also-rans of recent seasons.

The good news is that Fox's Chris Myers and Daryl Johnston, whom Bears fans have been stuck with three times this season, are calling Vikings-Lions this week.

Working Sunday's Bears-49ers telecast will be Thom Brennaman and Chris Spielman, who previously called the Bears' victory over the Buccaneers.

Spielman is insightful and frankly, if he and Brennaman had done the games Fox assigned to the mediocre Myers-Johnston combo, maybe it wouldn't seem as though the network lacks interest in Matt Nagy's Bears and/or takes the Chicago TV market for granted.

CBS, by comparison, had three Bears telecasts this season and did right by the city each time.

One of its games, because it was the annual national Thanksgiving broadcast in Detroit, automatically drew the network's top announcing team of Jim Nantz and Tony Romo.

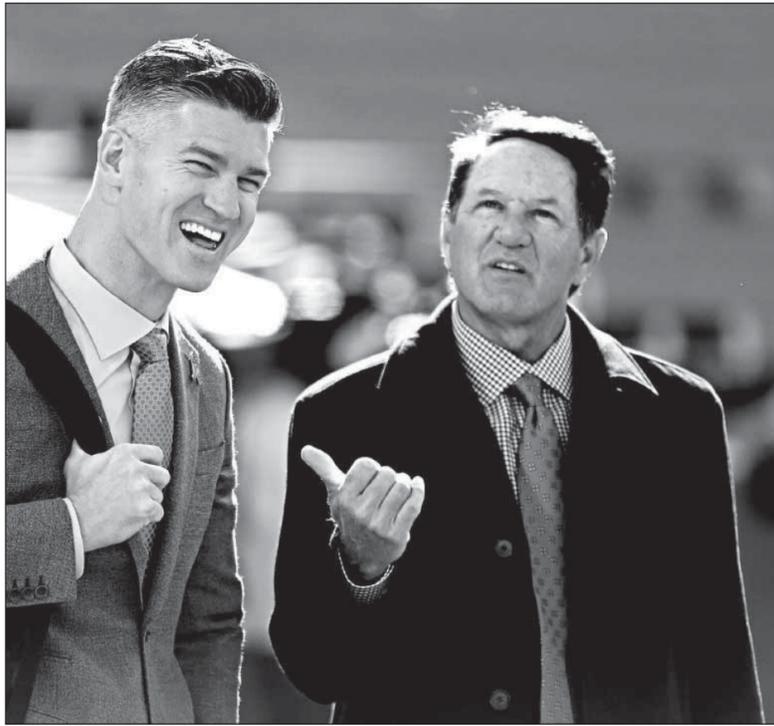
But Nantz and Romo also called the Jets-Bears game a month earlier and CBS' No. 2 duo, Ian Eagle and Dan Fouts, worked Patriots-Bears.

Through seven telecasts — eight, if you count the 49ers game coming up — the closest Fox has come to that so far is having its No. 2 pair, Kevin Burkhardt and Charles Davis, handle Bears-Giants.

In Fox's defense, two games ripe for top-flight treatment — Vikings Bears on Nov. 18 and Rams-Bears on Dec. 9 — were usurped by NBC for "Sunday Night Football."

They rounded out a trio of games with Al Michaels and Cris Collinsworth, TV's best NFL announcing team. No complaints there.

Fox also hasn't said yet who will handle the Bears' regular-season finale (and potential playoff preview) on the road against the Vikings. Who knows? There finally could be a nod of grudging respect there.



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ryan Pace has a laugh with Fox play-by-play man Chris Myers, who is back on the call Sunday.

But if Fox's disregard for the Bears wasn't evident enough in the three Chicago broadcasts handed off to Myers-Johnston, look back at the Oct. 14 Bears-Dolphins game.

Because of the baseball playoffs, the network's top two play-by-play men, Joe Buck and Burkhardt, were unavailable. They had only six games to televise that Sunday, however, which still left plenty of options among its NFL teams — and Fox chose none of them.

It didn't send Dick Stockton, a veteran whose star has fallen, and Mark Schlereth, the team that handled the Bears-Cardinals game in Week 3.

Kenny Albert, who, like Buck, hasn't had a Bears game this season, was assigned elsewhere. Same with Brennaman. Same with Sam Rosen. It spared the Bears another game with Myers.

Despite the 3-2 Dolphins being tied with the Patriots for the AFC East lead and the 3-1 Bears atop the NFC North, Fox decided to cobble together an announcing team rather than use any of its regular NFL talent.

That meant Brian Custer, best known for his boxing work and calling college football and basketball, handled play-by-play. Former Packer, Viking and Dolphin (and sometimes actor) Greg Jennings handled analysis.

The sideline reporter was Doug Gottlieb. Basketball analyst Doug Gottlieb.

To their credit, Custer, Jennings and Gottlieb proved adequate, a step up from Myers and Johnston, who have haunted Bears fans this season like Marley's ghost, telling them this is the best their team deserves.

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ASK THE REPORTER BRAD BIGGS

A cold Bear: Miller's time has been light



What has happened to Anthony Miller's role in the offense?
@bertdemeuter

That's a good question because Miller hasn't been very involved in the passing game over the last three weeks. He played a season-low 26 snaps last Sunday against the Packers. One explanation is Adam Shaheen played a season-high 27 snaps as the Bears turned to more personnel with multiple tight ends. Miller was not targeted against the Packers and has just three targets in the last three games, with his only catch the 1-yard touchdown from Tarik Cohen on Dec. 2 against the Giants. The Bears have done a pretty good job of spreading the ball around all season, but Miller's lack of involvement for this stretch certainly stands out. I would not be surprised if coach Matt Nagy designs something to get Miller involved early against the 49ers. I don't think we've seen a Miller regression. It's a long season, and wide receiver can be one of the more difficult positions for a rookie to make an impact. There are a lot of moving parts, and Miller has to master all of the elements.

Any chance that — as Patrick Mannely has suggested — the Bears use Kevin White on kickoff returns? Big athleticism.

@mdourlain

I am smart enough not to challenge Mannely's expertise when it comes to special teams. In fact, it's not unusual for me to turn to him to answer questions I have about special teams, especially the kicking and punting games. That said, I don't think the Bears will put White in the kickoff-return mix. They turned to Miller two games ago, and he had a 31-yard return against the Packers, tying for the team's longest of the season. Miller did some returning while playing at Memphis. White did not have any return experience at West Virginia. Miller, in my opinion, is more athletic and explosive and certainly has better lateral-movement skills. Perhaps Mannely has some intel, but I would be surprised if White joins the mix on special teams.

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BEARS

Wow! Did this happen?

How the Bears went from a 'a complete mess' to NFC North champs in the blink of an eye

BY COLLEEN KANE | Chicago Tribune

For just a moment, Bears fan, remove the mental block you have on the 2017 season and rewind 365 days from when the Bears clinched the NFC North title Sunday against the Packers.

Dec. 16, 2017. Ford Field.
Mitch Trubisky threw three interceptions and the Bears retreated from Detroit after a 20-10 loss to the Lions. Their 10th loss of the season strengthened the question of when — not if — coach John Fox would be fired.

The Tribune headlines over the next two days ranged from "A complete mess" to "Going the wrong way" to "End. This. Now." Now come back to the present.
Dec. 16, 2018. Soldier Field.

Trubisky threw two touchdown passes and no interceptions in a 24-17 victory over the Packers. Khalil Mack had 2½ of the Bears' five sacks of Aaron Rodgers. Vic Fangio's defense recorded its 35th takeaway of the season. And after it was over, Matt Nagy stood at the fringes of a chaotic, bouncing locker room watching his players dance to celebrate the Bears' first playoff berth in eight years.

The Tribune headline: "Crown 'em."
The Bears became the 47th team in league history to go from worst to first in the course of a year and one of 24 to have done it since 2003.

So how exactly did the Bears get from Point A to Point B? How did the vital traits of this team bring the division title to life?

Nagy's communication

Jan. 9, 2018. Halas Hall.
In a blue suit and orange tie, Nagy stood in front of the Chicago media for the first time and considered why he could succeed as head coach of a Bears team that hadn't had a winning record in six years.

"I've always considered myself a leader, a leader of men," Nagy said. "I have a command, I feel like, in the room."

Nagy's ability to communicate his message is a common thread through the Bears' accomplishments this season — from guiding Trubisky in learning his offense to persuading his players to buy in to his vision of success when skeptical outsiders saw too many obstacles.

The quarterbacks room long has been Nagy's comfort zone as a former Arena Football League quarterback, so it was a natural place to start in establishing that bond. Even as Trubisky's highs and lows in his second season have been pronounced, his trust in Nagy is evident. That starts with openness.

"(It's) him being able to be hard on me (and me) being able to take that criticism and wanting to get better from it all the time," Trubisky said. "The main thing for me is that he believes in me, and that means a lot to me. Whatever he says, I'm going to take it to heart, and he can never be too hard on me because I know he wants the best for me and this team."

Watch one of Nagy's postgame victory speeches or the Bears' "Club Dub" dance parties and you'll see the impression he has left on the team as a whole. Nagy said it has been "a surprise in a good way" how accepting his players have been.

His approach isn't just about getting them to believe in grand goals. He tries to connect with the individual by asking about his kids or holiday plans, understanding a personal relationship can foster trust.

"Those little things go a long way, and for me it's natural," Nagy said. "I've always been that way. It's having relationships with people more than as just players. The players thing is easy — you just coach 'em — but the people part is harder. ... There are a lot of different people out there, and can you connect with different personalities? That's been my favorite part, honestly, of this first year."

Fangio's command

Dec. 9, 2018. Soldier Field.
Fangio's defense was well on its way to being considered among the NFL's best by the time December hit, but this game was different.

It was a Sunday night meeting with the Rams, who less than a month earlier had beaten the Chiefs 54-51 with a high-powered attack led by Jared Goff and Todd Gurley.

"The score isn't what I'd like to see as a connoisseur," Fangio said dryly about that game.

He had another one-liner cued up for the week after the Bears intercepted Goff four times and held Gurley to 28 rushing yards in a 15-6 victory. The game solidified on a national stage what Fangio can do with a talented group of players, and it put this Bears defense among the elite.

"I tried to do a cartwheel but I couldn't," he said.

Opposing coaches such as the Rams' Sean McVay and 49ers' Kyle Shanahan see Fangio, in his 19th season as an NFL defensive coordinator, finding ways to maximize his players' skill sets and constantly adjusting his scheme based on what's best that week.

"I knew what he could do X's-and-O's-wise," Nagy said. "You don't really ever know until you do it how they handle themselves during the week with game planning."

5 TRAITS — SHOWN IN TRIBUNE PAGES — THAT LED THE BEARS FROM WORST TO FIRST

NAGY'S COMMUNICATION (shown on the day he was hired)

Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO SPORTS



BEARS GM RYAN PACE INTRODUCES COACH MATT NAGY

"I told him: 'I got you. This is something here we're going to do together. No egos involved. Right? I'm going to help you with any questions you have, and you do the same to me. You criticize me, and I'll criticize you. We may agree to disagree, but guess what? We're going to build a competitive team. And in the end, we'll be able to look each in the eyes, respect each other and smile.'"
— Nagy on his interview with Pace

It was love at first sight



Sparks flew right away between Pace, Nagy, setting the stage for start of new Bears era

BY RICH CAMPBELL
Chicago Tribune

The Halas Hall auditorium is home to Bears team meetings during the season. But it's also where the club conducts news conferences for positive milestones. When a new general manager or coach is hired, the space is big enough to accommodate the turnout. By now, it has become the physical starting point for chapters in team history.

On Tuesday, the auditorium door swung open to media for the fourth time in five years, an unhealthy frequency mostly the result of consistent losing. This is, after all, the seventh straight postseason for which the Bears have been bystanders.

So the dozens of media members in attendance Tuesday knew the drill. This time, the man who came down the front steps was Matt Nagy, the freshly minted coach now partnered with general manager Ryan Pace.

Nagy and Pace answered questions for almost an hour in what amounted to an explanation of why Nagy will accomplish what the others who recently preceded him at the front of the room — John Fox and Marc Trestman — could not.

Turn to Bears, Page 4

MORE BEARS
Chances of re-signing Vic Fangio as defensive coordinator improve as Packers hire Mike Pettine and Gus Bradley re-sign with Chargers. **Page 3**
David Haugh, Section 1, Page 1
The lineup, Page 2
Nagy on playoff loss, Page 5
Doug Plank on Nagy, Page 5



BRAD BIGGS
On the Bears

Coach well aware Trubisky is focus

Ryan Pace made a point several times of saying it's about the entire roster and not just the quarterback when the Bears introduced Matt Nagy as the 10th coach in franchise history Tuesday.

Of course, it's all about the quarterback. We all know that. The quarterback is what has driven every decision the Bears have made since their 5-11 season came to an end and really what has been behind every move since the franchise traded up to get Mitch Trubisky with the No. 2 overall pick last year.

Organizations that display the one thing the Bears crave most right now, sustained success, usually have elite quarterback play and typically consistent and credible coaching that develops and nurtures it.

Turn to Biggs, Page 4

TALKING SMACK
Steve Rosenbloom Ryan Pace said his choice of Matt Nagy as new coach was because of his leadership, not necessarily his quarterback expertise. But really, his quarterback expertise. More. **Page 2**

FANGIO'S COMMAND (shown by the win over the Rams)

Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO SPORTS

Smash and grab

Bears make emphatic statement in suffocating Goff, pinning 2nd loss on Rams



Bears' staunch effort bodes well for lengthy run in postseason
Bears defense flexes its muscles, pins clumps on high-flying Rams

MACK'S MYSTIQUE (shown in his big debut)

Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO SPORTS

It's a great 1st impression

Mack proves his value with 2½ sacks against Packers in his Bears debut



SECONDARY'S CONTINUITY (shown with the Fuller signing)

Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO SPORTS

Shutting down archrival

Bears' stout defense shuts down Packers' offense, wins 15-6



NAGY'S CREATIVITY (shown with the 'Willy Wonka' play)

Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO SPORTS

'Willy Wonka' as good as chocolate for Bears

Bears' creative play wins 15-6 over Packers

"(Now that) I get to see the mentality that he has and his knowledge of the game — what he's seen, how much he knows and different looks he can give to cause problems — I respect it even more. He goes about everything the right way, and it transfers to practice and out on the field."

Wide receiver Allen Robinson said the personalities of Nagy and Fangio are like "fire and ice." But what the coaches have in common is they have earned players' belief in what they're doing.

"Simple guy, simple mindset, but he gets the job done," inside linebacker Danny Trevathan said. "He's always ready to work. He loves personnel, game planning, being on top of that. He instilled that in us, just loving the game of football."

Mack's mystique

Sept. 9, 2018. Lambeau Field.
The first thing to know about Mack is the guy can make a first impression.

On Mack's first day of practice after general manager Ryan Pace acquired him from the Raiders on Sept. 1, Nagy recounted how Mack left a teammate wide-eyed during a pass rush. Shanahan, a former Browns offensive coordinator, recalled this week how he and left tackle Joe Thomas rated Mack as one of the best players they had faced — in 2014, seven games into Mack's career.

And then there was Mack's Bears debut.

Just one half into his Bears career — after practicing for all of a week following his training-camp holdout with the Raiders — he had strip-sacked Packers quarterback DeShone Kizer and had a pick-six against him.

"It really started from the very first day he walked onto that practice field. You could feel it," Nagy said. But every day, it's the same with him. You feel a guy who has extreme confidence in himself, and yet he's got lots of confidence with his teammates too. We love everything that he's brought. He's been everything and more to what we thought we were getting. And now, where we're at as a team, this is where his leadership is going to really show up."

Mack's impact on the Bears extends beyond his 12½ sacks and 15 quarterback hits. The attention he draws from offenses opens paths for other members of the defensive front to make plays, and the pressure he puts on quarterbacks forces them into the bad decisions the secondary seizes upon.

"His attitude and aura is contagious around young guys and guys who look up to him," Trevathan said. "The great players in this league, guys see that and they buy into it."

NFC PLAYOFF PICTURE

The Bears would win a tiebreaker with the Saints at 12-4, but it's improbable the Saints will lose their final two games. The realistic best-case scenario is overtaking the Rams for the No. 2 seed and a first-round bye. The Bears own the tiebreaker because of their head-to-head win. Here's a look the top six, with Sunday's opponent.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
NO	LAR	CHI	DAL	SEA	MIN	
12-2	11-3	10-4	8-6	8-6	7-6-1	
PIT	@ARI	@SF	TB	KC	@DET	

The secondary's continuity

March 16, 2018. Halas Hall.
About three hours after the Packers tried to pry away cornerback Kyle Fuller with a four-year, \$56 million offer sheet, the Bears matched it to retain their 2014 first-round draft pick.

The move ensured the Bears would keep their starting secondary intact with cornerback Prince Amukamara and safeties Eddie Jackson and Adrian Amos also returning. Nickel cornerback Bryce Callahan resigned a month later.

Fuller had a strong comeback year in 2017 from a 2016 season lost to injury, so it seemed like a good move. But it would have been prescient to predict how much of an impact the group could make with another year together under Fangio.

After recording only eight interceptions in 2017, the Bears have 26 through 14 games in 2018. The aforementioned five players have 20 of them, with another 60 passes defended, and have accounted for four of the Bears' six defensive touchdowns.

Fuller's consistent season, with an NFL-leading seven interceptions, has made him a first-time Pro Bowler.

Jackson joined Fuller on the Pro Bowl team after his instincts made him a game-changer in his second season. Amukamara, who has three interceptions, two forced fumbles and a return touchdown, will return to the playoffs for the first time since his rookie season in 2011 with the Giants.

McVay used the word "excellent" to describe all five players.

"It's one thing to have the numbers," McVay said. "But then when you flip the tape on, things jump off the screen and you see that, man, this is a legitimate defense that's top tier."

Nagy's creativity

Sept. 30, 2018. Soldier Field.
The play was called "Willy Wonka," and it was an early glimpse at the trickery Nagy has rolling around in his brain.

With the Bears leading the Buccaneers 28-3 in Trubisky's breakout six-touchdown game, Nagy called for backup quarterback Chase Daniel to line up next to Trubisky in the backfield. Trubisky took the shotgun snap and pitched it to wide receiver Taylor Gabriel with one smooth motion and then faked the handoff to Daniel. Gabriel scooted into the end zone for a 3-yard touchdown.

Several fun plays with wacky names followed over the next 10 games, from "Oompa Loompa" to "Freezer Left" to "Santa's Sleigh," showing off a risk-taking side to Nagy he vows to continue, even when the occasional trick goes awry.

That happened twice Sunday against the Packers — when the Bears tried a fake punt unsuccessfully and when Tarik Cohen fumbled a direct snap. Packers radio broadcaster Wayne Larrivee lost it after the Cohen miscue.

"More arrogance by Matt Nagy," he yelled on the broadcast. "A trick play. All the tricks in the world, and they're foiling the Bears now. ... Now if they can just take it and shove it up you know where."

Nagy wasn't fazed this week. "I don't have to fight (the impulse to hold back) because I'm just going to do it again," Nagy said. "I want to make sure that it makes sense though. I'm not doing it to just do it. Our players know that."

The plays have worked more often than not, and they're another thing Bears players have bought into.

Robinson said he first recognized Nagy's creativity when he was calling plays with the Chiefs, and Cohen called Nagy "a brilliant mind."

The creativity goes beyond the occasional gadget play to Nagy's ability to utilize the array of tools Pace secured over the last two seasons — from Cohen, Robinson and Gabriel to Anthony Miller and Trey Burton. *Sometime in January. Somewhere.*

Because this memory machine doesn't go into the future, it's too soon to know how the Bears' worst-to-first journey ends.

They have two more regular-season games to build on their 10-4 record and try to secure a first-round bye. As remarkable as their turnaround has been, they could make an even bigger splash with a postseason run.

Tribune headline: TBD.

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NFL



NFC FROM A TO Z

49ers
Richie James Jr. returned a kickoff 97 yards last week, the 49ers' first return touchdown in more than seven years.

Bears
The NFC North champions lead the NFL in takeaways (35), turnover margin (plus-13), interceptions (26) and points off turnovers (107).

Buccaneers
Mike Evans, whose 1,328 receiving yards are second-best in the league and just 95 short of a franchise record, wasn't named to the Pro Bowl.

Cardinals
Larry Fitzgerald needs one TD catch to tie Antonio Gates for sixth all time with 116. Fitzgerald has made a catch in 226 consecutive games.

Cowboys
Dak Prescott has 17 rushing TDs since 2016, more than any other QB in that stretch. Ezekiel Elliott leads the NFL with 1,349 rushing yards.

Eagles
Zach Ertz has 101 receptions and needs 10 to break Jason Witten's single-season record for tight ends. Ertz had three catches last week.

Falcons
In his last six games against the Panthers, Matt Ryan has completed 72.5 percent of his passes for 1,988 yards with 12 TDs and three INTs.

Giants
RB Saquon Barkley needs 191 yards to join Edgerrin James and Eric Dickerson as the only rookies with 2,000 yards from scrimmage.

Lions
They lost at least 10 games 10 times from 2001-2012. They're 5-9 and trying to avoid their first 10-loss season since then.

Packers
Aaron Rodgers has 23 touchdown passes in 14 games. He hasn't finished with fewer than 28 in any season in which he started at least 15 games.

Panthers
Christian McCaffrey has a team-record 1,747 yards from scrimmage. DeAngelo Williams had the previous mark of 1,636 yards in 2008.

Rams
Jared Goff had a passer rating of 113.5 when the Rams went into their off week late last month. In the three games since, his rating is 51.3.

Redskins
Signed this month, QB Josh Johnson played "Madden NFL 19" to learn his teammates' names. He won his first Redskins start last week.

Saints
They have scored an average of 17 points over the last three games but have held opponents to 17 or fewer in the last six games.

Seahawks
They were called for 14 penalties, including seven in the fourth quarter and overtime, for a team-record 148 yards last week against the 49ers.

Vikings
They had 202 yards of offense in the first quarter last week, more than any other team has compiled in the first 15 minutes this season.

— Los Angeles Times



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

With a potential playoff rematch looming against the Bears, the Rams need Todd Gurley 100 percent.

No questionable about it: Sit Gurley



BILL PLASCHKE

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — It was a gorgeous practice. It was a troubling practice.

A warm midafternoon sun glistened off the surrounding hills of Thousand Oaks on Thursday and bathed the Rams in the light of the impending playoffs.

But if you looked closely enough, you saw the shadow.

It darkened an offensive workout that contained a stranger in the backfield. It cooled an energy that once had been the NFL's most intense. It stretched from here into the first weeks of January.

It wasn't the shadow of a presence but an absence. It was Todd Gurley. He wasn't there. The heartbeat of this team was beating elsewhere, and the silence was startling.

Gurley wasn't taking handoffs; that was John Kelly, a rookie with 4 career rushing yards. Gurley wasn't catching passes out of the backfield; that was C.J. Anderson, a veteran on his fourth team in three years after the Raiders recently cut him.

Gurley was somewhere being treated for a left knee injury suffered Sunday against the Eagles, a setback of an undisclosed nature containing a mixed message.

In one breath Thursday, Gurley said: "I plan to go on Sunday, we'll just see from there."

Yet in the next breath, he acknowledged he did not plan to practice this week, and when asked if he could play if the game were being held immediately, he said, "Today? That's a tough question. I haven't tried to run so yeah, that's a tough question."

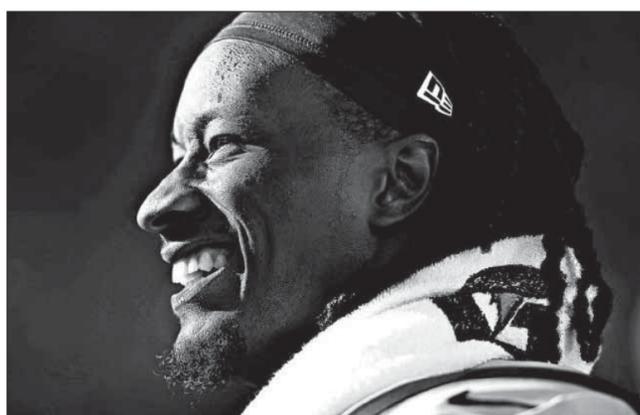
Here's an easy answer to that tough question.

Don't run. Don't play. Not this week. Not next week. Shut him down until the playoffs.

As bad as they might look without Gurley on the field, the Rams need to bench him for the final two weeks of the season to rest that knee for the important stuff — a chance to record their first postseason win since returning to Los Angeles.

They cannot win that game without Gurley. Shut him down. Now.

Sure, the Rams will miss their offensive leader — he ranks first in the NFL with 21 total touchdowns and second with 1,251 rushing yards — against the Cardinals and



EZRA SHAW/GETTY

"We've got a first-round bye that we want to get, we need to go get that. We're not worrying about three weeks from now, we need to worry about this week."

— Todd Gurley, who is listed as questionable Sunday with a left knee injury

49ers. Without him, they could even blow one of those games and lose their first-round bye.

It doesn't matter. If he aggravates the knee, they have little chance in the playoffs no matter whom or where they play.

Ignore his Sunday plans. Shut him down. Yesterday.

"We've got a first-round bye that we want to get, we need to go get that," Gurley protested. "We're not worrying about three weeks from now, we need to worry about this week."

Gurley spoke like a player itching to get back on the field. That's what he should say. That's what leaders say. But the Rams — who listed him as questionable — cannot listen.

"We got a game to win," Gurley continued to protest. "I'm pretty sure, me being out there, if I can be out there, I would put this team in a good position to help them win, so why wouldn't I be out there if I can play?"

Why? Maybe because he was limping through much of the game Sunday and was even pulled for part of it. Maybe because the incredible strain on his body — he's had the most touches in the NFL among running backs in the last two seasons — is finally starting to take its toll.

Maybe because, despite all the clamor around quarterback Jared Goff, it is Gurley who makes everything work. To unnecessarily risk his health would be to unnecessarily risk their season.

When Gurley carries the ball more than 13 times, the Rams are 10-0 this season. Over the last two years when carrying 15 times or more, they are 20-4. During that two-year span, they have lost only

one game in which Gurley rushed for more than 100 yards, and that was the turnover-plagued playoff loss to the Falcons.

"He's super important to our team, he brings a leadership with a vocal aspect in the way he works," offensive tackle Rob Havenstein said. "It's something that's heard, but, most important, it's felt by guys out there. ... The more times he's on the field, the better."

This might be a quarterback league, but the Rams are a running back team, Gurley's team, and come January they would be lost without him.

"He's incredibly important, the best running back in the league, arguably the best player in the league," center John Sullivan said. "But our offense functions as a unit, and we expect no matter who is on the field, we're going to score a lot of points."

It can function just fine against two teams that are a combined 7-21. The biggest issue is how the Rams function in January.

The Rams have proved to be a smart team, and their smartest decision would be to bench their best player, even if he was protesting right up until the end of his Thursday news conference.

"I'm here to play ball. I'm not worried about Jan. 5," Gurley said, citing the date of the first playoff games. "We play a game Sunday, the playoff would take care of itself."

And it will, as long as the Rams take care of Gurley.

(Fantasy owners, commence weeping.)

Bill Plaschke is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



AFC FROM A TO Z

Bengals
WR Tyler Boyd has topped the 1,000-yard mark (1,028) for the first time. He has started every game after entering the season with three starts.

Bills
Robert Foster, whom the Bills waived then re-signed this fall, is the team's first player since 2015 with three 100-yard receiving games in a season.

Broncos
RB Phillip Lindsay is the first undrafted rookie offensive player to be selected for the Pro Bowl. He has 1,221 yards from scrimmage and 10 TDs.

Browns
DE Myles Garrett, who was voted to his first Pro Bowl, has 12½ sacks and needs two to tie Bill Glass' franchise record from 1965.

Chargers
Mike Williams was named AFC offensive player of the week after scoring three TDs and a two-point conversions last week against the Chiefs.

Chiefs
Tyreek Hill has set career highs with 78 receptions, 1,304 yards and 11 touchdown catches. Eight of those TDs have come on the road.

Colts
Darius Leonard leads the NFL with 146 tackles but wasn't named to the Pro Bowl. "Nothing new for me," he said. "Been overlooked my whole life."

Dolphins
Jerome Baker and Minkah Fitzpatrick are the first two Dolphins rookies to have interception returns for a touchdown during the same season.

Jaguars
CB Jalen Ramsey is the team's only Pro Bowl player. Last year, the defensive unit sent six players to the all-star event.

Jets
Sam Darnold ranks second among rookies to the Browns' Baker Mayfield in yards passing (2,357) and touchdown passes (14).

Patriots
They will finish the season with a losing road record (3-5) for only the second time with Tom Brady as their starting quarterback.

Raiders
Derek Carr has been sacked at least three times in seven straight games and 47 times this season, 11 more than in the last two seasons combined.

Ravens
Their three Pro Bowl players — Marshal Yanda, C.J. Mosley and Eric Weddle — have been selected for the annual event 17 times among them.

Steelers
Mike Tomlin is the fifth coach to start his NFL career with 12 straight non-losing seasons. Marty Schottenheimer holds the record at 14.

Texans
Deshaun Watson has at least one touchdown pass in a club-record 19 straight games. He has a 120.1 rating in the last seven games.

Titans
Derrick Henry set two franchise records this month by running for 408 yards and six touchdowns during a two-game stretch.

— Los Angeles Times

ROUNDUP

Ravens, Titans win to boost playoff chances

Associated Press

Lamar Jackson threw for 204 yards and the Ravens strengthened their shot at the playoffs with a 22-10 victory over the Chargers on Saturday night in Carson, Calif.

The Ravens (9-6), who have won five of six with Jackson starting, retained possession of the last AFC wild card.

Jackson threw a 68-yard touch-

down pass to Mark Andrews, Tavon Young returned a fumble 62 yards for a score and Justin Tucker kicked three field goals.

Philip Rivers was sacked four times, threw an interception and failed to throw a touchdown pass for the first time this season.

Titans 25, Redskins 16: Blaine Gabbert threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to MyCole Pruitt with 4

minutes, 30 seconds left as the Titans rallied in Nashville, Tenn.

Gabbert came off the bench after Marcus Mariota left the game late in the first half with a stinger.

The Titans (9-6) must defeat the Colts next Sunday and have either the Ravens or Steelers lose once to earn the AFC's second wild-card spot. The Redskins (7-8) have lost five of six and were all but eliminated from postseason contention.

— Los Angeles Times

BEARS



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears rookie inside linebacker Roquan Smith, stopping Lions running back Theo Riddick, leads the team in tackles.

No splash, but Smith has more than flashed



BRAD BIGGS
Bear Essentials

At the center of the best defenses in Bears history have been some of the best middle linebackers to play the game.

With two games remaining, the Bears are on pace to set their best defensive marks in

a long time in some key statistics. They have 26 interceptions, their most since 31 in 1990, and 45 sacks, their most since 48 in 2001. The defense has allowed 1,170 rushing yards, giving it an outside shot at the team's best year against the run in a 16-game season (1,313 yards in 2001).

Credit has been widespread with outside linebacker Khalil Mack, defensive end Akiem Hicks, cornerback Kyle Fuller and free safety Eddie Jackson earning deserved Pro Bowl selections.

However, it's impossible to overlook the impact of rookie linebacker Roquan Smith, who leads the defense with 107 tackles, 15 more than Danny Trevathan, his running mate on the interior. Smith and Trevathan were named Pro Bowl alternates.

Smith hasn't had as many splash plays as some of his teammates, but he's one of only three Bears linebackers since 1982 to have four sacks and one interception as a rookie (John Roper 1999, Brian Urlacher 2000).

And Smith has been the quick study and versatile defender general manager Ryan Pace envisioned when he selected him with the No. 8 pick, making him just the fourth inside linebacker selected in the top 10 since 2001 — joining Luke Kuechly (ninth, 2012 Panthers), Rolando McClain (eighth, 2010 Raiders) and Jerod Mayo (10th, 2008 Patriots).

Interior linebackers have been devalued in the draft as defenses adjust to cover more prolific passing offenses, but by substituting size for speed and range, the Bears have the kind of defender who can help cover dangerous running backs like Tarik Cohen and the Saints' Alvin Kamara.

Smith's contract impasse over the summer, when he missed the entire preseason and nearly all of training camp, is a nonissue. He adjusted quickly and continues to get better, and credit the Bears for not hesitating to throw him in from the beginning.

"There's no substitute for practice," defensive coordinator Vic Fangio said. "No substitute for playing. He's just a little bit more dialed in on more details than he was then."

"And he's still not where he's going to end up being, even two weeks from now. A week from now. This game, this Sunday. Obviously, next year and further on in his career."

"He's just progressed a lot. Earlier in the year, he was missing some details. And those come back to bite you and they are happening less and less now."

You don't need to look far to see key elements of Smith's development and the traits that made him such a prospect at Georgia.

BEARS SCOUTING REPORT 49ERS TE GEORGE KITTLE

Information for this report was obtained from NFL scouts.

George Kittle (6-foot-4, 250 pounds) is in his second season with the 49ers after they drafted him in the fifth round in 2017 out of Iowa. Kittle is the 49ers' most productive pass catcher with 72 receptions for 1,154 yards and four touchdowns. He's second in yards among NFL tight ends and third in receptions and was selected to the Pro Bowl on Tuesday.

"He's an athletic freak," a scout said. "The 49ers are leading the NFL in 21 personnel, two running backs and one tight end with two wide receivers. The reason they're doing that is because of their run game. They want to have a lead blocker at the point of attack. They have to have a tight end that can block down, reach block or climb to the second level. When he blocks, he doesn't just block to finish the play, he blocks to finish the guy. He wants to bury guys."

"What pops out in the passing game is how Shanahan uses him. If he stays on the course and continues to play in this offense, he's going to get a huge payday. He's probably best on the deep crossing route off of play action because that creates the window for the undrafted second-year quarterback (Nick Mullens). If you can hit that window, Kittle can catch the ball and turn upfield."



AP

Impact plays

■ Week 8 vs. Jets. Fourth quarter, 6:27 remaining. Jets quarterback Sam Darnold looks downfield before hitting running back Trenton Cannon on a swing pass in the right flat. Smith matches to the running back, a key trait in Fangio's defense, and closes with enough speed to make the tackle for a 3-yard loss, driving Cannon out of bounds.

■ Week 12 at Lions. Second quarter, 3:05 remaining. The Bears rush five defenders, but the Lions have numbers as running back Theo Riddick remains in to block. Smith beats him clean with an athletic move to skip the block in the B gap and get home. Speed and quickness are required to win as an interior rusher, and he easily avoids Riddick to sack Matthew Stafford.

Development plays

■ Week 8 vs. Jets. Third quarter, 11:53 remaining. Smith reads left guard Brandon Shell pulling and beats him to the edge, where running back Isaiah Crowell tries to bounce outside and Smith stops him for no gain.

■ Week 15 vs. Packers. First quarter, 0:15 remaining. Smith reads a reach block by center Corey Linsley while left guard Lane Taylor climbs to block Smith. He slips under the block and tackles Jamaal Williams for no gain.

Both are high-level plays that show he's playing fast because he's trusting his eyes and reading keys.

"Every game it has slowed down for me little by little," Smith said. "It's just about going out and getting better and improving on the previous game. I definitely think reps helps out a lot, so live game reps every week are really what have helped me improve. You learn something new each week."

The defensive linemen and outside linebackers are the ones piling up most of the sacks, and the secondary has grabbed most of the interceptions. But it's the speed of Smith and Trevathan that allows Fangio to be more creative. They're effective rushing the quarterback, especially in zone pressures, and they supplement the short and intermediate pass defense with the ability to carry backs and tight ends in coverage.

Colorado coach Mel Tucker, the former Bears defensive coordinator who coached Smith at Georgia, hasn't been surprised by the immediate impact. Smith emerged as the Bulldogs' leading tackler as soon as he was inserted into the lineup as a sophomore.

"He's special," Tucker said. "That is why he was taken so high. Obviously, he is a great athlete and is a super-productive football player, but he's got a lot of those intangibles. He's got the character and the demeanor and leadership. He's a really hard worker. He's willing to pay the price in advance to do extra."

"Heading into the draft most of the questions teams asked me were: 'Are we missing anything? Is this too good to be true?' I said: 'No, you're not missing anything. He's that guy.' People asked me last year, who is going to be the next Roquan Smith? I might coach the rest of my career and not coach another Roquan. He's a top-10 pick, and how many top-10 inside linebackers do you see? The next Roquan Smith? I don't know. He's rare."

With time on the practice field in the spring and then a full summer of training camp, Smith should make gains heading into next season. It has been a whirlwind year. At this time last December he was preparing for Georgia's run to the College Football Playoff national title game.

"A lot of dreams have come to fruition," Smith said. "I'm blessed and extremely grateful to be a Bear. A lot of special things have happened and I am extremely fortunate to be in the position I am in."

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A Tru fact: Bears won deal with 49ers



DAVID HAUGH
In the Wake
of the News

Coming soon on ChicagoBears.com: Cameras capture general manager Ryan Pace dancing Sunday at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., as loud music blares from the visiting owner's suite.

Not one would understand Pace's urge to bust a move at the home of the 49ers the way Bears players party inside the locker room at "Club Dub" after victories.

Pace never would acknowledge it publicly, but nothing has meant more to his tenure than Mitch Trubisky — the quarterback he traded three draft picks for the right to select — developing into the promising starter of a playoff team in his second season. Nothing shaped Pace's future more than the bold deal he struck with the 49ers the night of the 2017 draft, marking the beginning of a new day for the Bears. Heck, nothing saved Pace's job more than drafting Trubisky, a good fit with great athleticism whose game lacks only consistency.

It's premature to conclude Pace won the trade with the 49ers but not too early to suggest he's leading by two touchdowns — and that calls for celebration as the Bears head to the Bay Area.

Drafting Trubisky made it necessary for the Bears to hire an offensive-minded coach such as Matt Nagy to maximize his talent because Nagy's predecessor, John Fox, lacked imagination and threatened to stunt Trubisky's growth. The relationship between Trubisky and Nagy matters as much as any in the Bears organization. Trubisky arrived first, too, when Pace stunned the football world April 27, 2017.

When NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced the Bears had traded the 49ers two third-round picks and a fourth-rounder to move up one spot to No. 2, jaws dropped all over Chicago. The reaction was no less dizzying when Trubisky walked on stage in Philadelphia to pose with his new Bears jersey next to Goodell. *He did what?*

For the Bears, it was the picture of hope. For Pace, it represented a major departure from the norm to draft a player with conviction who, realistically, also bought the GM more time. For Fox, it signaled the start of his final season as everyone quickly realized he was the wrong coach to groom a franchise quarterback.

For the 49ers, time has dulled the enthusiasm that initially surrounded a trade widely perceived as GM John Lynch outsmarting Pace. A Sports Illustrated account from inside the 49ers draft room portrayed Pace as a novice overpaying for a player he could have selected at No. 3 without giving up a king's ransom, even if several other outlets reported at least one other team trying to move up to draft Trubisky. The prevailing theme that emerged leaguewide: Pace was learning on the job.

Truth is, cutting through perception to the reality 20 months later, the 49ers have more reasons to regret the 2017 draft than the Bears do.

Moving back one spot to No. 3, the 49ers drafted defensive end Solomon Thomas, whose well-documented struggles coping with the suicide of his sister have contributed to his poor production. Lynch packaged the fourth-round pick the Bears gave him to move back into the first round at No. 31 to draft linebacker Reuben Foster, an off-the-field headache released earlier this year after a domestic-violence incident.

The 49ers dealt the third-round pick to the Saints, who chose running back Alvin Kamara, the speedster whose talents flourished in coach Sean Payton's offense. So after some wheeling and dealing, the 49ers turned the Bears' third-round choice in 2017 into three players: injured safety Adrian Colbert and 2018 selections Dante Pettis (44th overall), a wide receiver who has flashed lately, and safety D.J. Reed (142nd). The 2018 third-round pick acquired from the Bears, linebacker Fred Warner, projects as the most productive player the 49ers received in the deal and enters Sunday's game with 104 tackles.

Meanwhile, the Bears ended up with Trubisky, an individual with an innate sense of team whose progress under Nagy propped open the Bears' championship window a little wider. That progress was worth whatever mid-round role players Pace sacrificed to seize the moment. Everything about the Bears' ascension from worst to first in the NFC North began when Pace was mocked for giving up so much to get Mitch.

Remember, that offseason began with the Bears fixated on finding a starting quarterback after finally moving on from Jay Cutler. Speculation surrounded Jimmy Garoppolo, but the Patriots held on to the quarterback until trading him in October 2017 to the 49ers.

Giving the Bears an early edge over the 49ers in the Trubisky trade doesn't excuse Pace for passing on two quarterbacks likely to enjoy better careers.

MVP candidate Patrick Mahomes went eight picks after Trubisky to the Chiefs at No. 10. Deshaun Watson wound up with the Texans at No. 12.

The Chiefs found a rising star.

The Texans took a natural leader.

The Bears got their guy too, justifying whatever price they paid.

David Haugh is a special contributor to the Chicago Tribune and co-host of the "Mully and Haugh Show" weekdays from 5-9 a.m. on WSCR-AM-670.

BULLS

BULLS NOTES

'Our defensive mindset has improved'

By K.C. JOHNSON | Chicago Tribune

Shaquille Harrison called it "hilarious." Justin Holiday opted for "normal."

Whatever the description, it's clear Jim Boylen has made tougher defense a priority merely by the defensive stance he assumes on the sideline multiple times during games.

"That's what he does," Holiday said. "It might've been funny at one point. But it's normal now."

Holding the Magic to an opponent-season-low 80 points Friday helped the Bulls' defensive rating improve to 11th in Boylen's nine games as coach.

"Our defensive mindset has improved. Our defensive effort has improved," Holiday said. "We know where guys are going to be. Guys are taking way more responsibility on individual matchups as well as team help."

Of course, given that the Bulls' offensive rating has remained last and their net rating in Boylen's nine games as coach is 29th, the defense needs to be on par.

UP NEXT | Bulls at Cavaliers
5 p.m. Sunday, NBCSCH

"When Jim took over, that's the first thing he emphasized. So we're just a mirror image of him," Harrison said of the defensive mentality.

The emphasis has continued Harrison's prominent reserve role, which began over the final 12 games of Fred Hoiberg's tenure. Harrison had three blocks Friday and is one of two players in the league averaging at least one steal while playing 17 minutes or less.

Harrison is at 1.5 steals in 16.8 minutes. The Thunder's Nerlens Noel, with 1 steal in 14.2 minutes, is the other.

"I like the ball picked up and worked 94 feet. He has the ability to do that," Boylen said of Harrison. "He has a real clear concept of what his role is for us. Play defense. Compete. Rebound. Get us into our stuff. Drive the ball. It's great when a guy accepts his role and then thrives in it. He's doing that."

"He's got a great spirit for the defensive end. He has a great commitment to playing hard. He's in great shape, which helps him do his job. Whatever I ask him to do, he's willing to do it."

Harrison, signed after the Suns waived him in camp, is just happy for the chance.

"I feel like my whole life I always had to prove that I belong," he said. "So every level I played at, defense always translates."

Growth spurt: With 24 games, Harrison already has surpassed last season's total of 23 appearances with the Bulls. The relatively unknown guard went undrafted after playing four years at Tulsa. At 6-foot-4 and 190 pounds, he's a physical specimen.

"In high school (in Missouri), I was real scrawny and short, like 5-9," Harrison said. "My junior-to-senior summer, I went from 5-9 to 6-2 and then I gained, like, 20 pounds. I was 100 pounds soaking wet the beginning of my junior year. The weight room helped me a lot and I played football. I got a little bit of toughness from that."



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bulls guard Shaquille Harrison, right, is one of two NBA players averaging one-plus steal in 17 minutes or less this season.

Health report: Jabari Parker practiced Saturday, and Boylen said he's available for Sunday's road game against the Cavaliers. Parker had fallen out of Boylen's rotation before missing the last three games with a stomach virus.

Cameron Payne didn't practice with his right calf strain. And Boylen said Zach LaVine went through some drills but won't play Sunday. LaVine is 10 days into a two-to-four-week timeline after spraining his right ankle.

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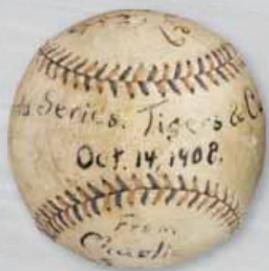
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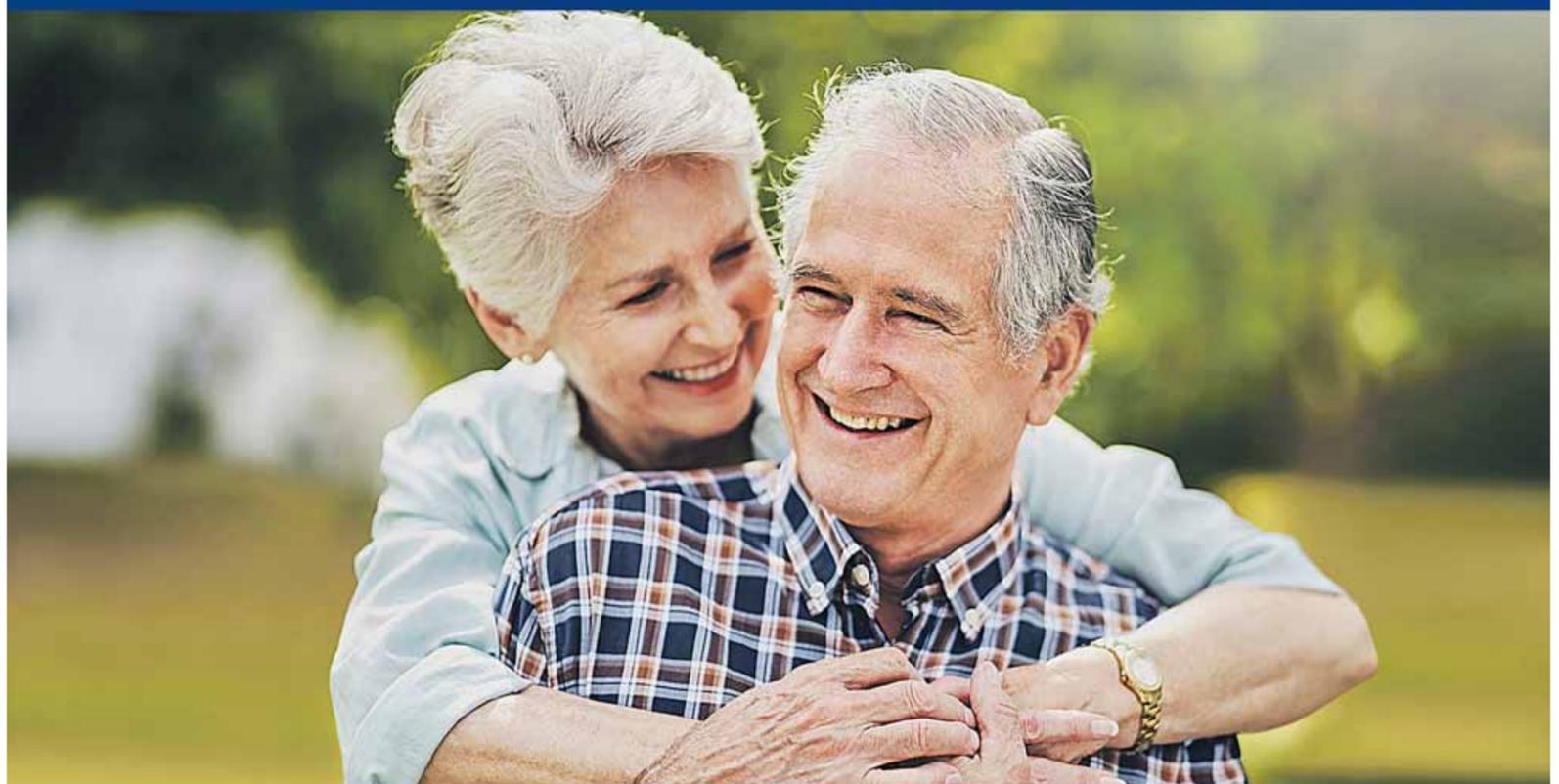
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BULLS

This story is Utes-full

In 2011, Utah fired **Jim Boylen** amid transfers and two losing seasons. Reviews out of Salt Lake City on the man known as 'Jimmy Ball' are mixed. But it sounds like Boylen hasn't changed a lick.

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN | Chicago Tribune

In Utah his players and supporters called him "Jimmy Ball." "Hey, Jimmy Ball," a fan would holler at him in the grocery store. "How's the team looking?" Jim Boylen so loved the nickname, he copyrighted it. It's still part of his Gmail address.

"I think people in Utah liked my passion," Boylen said from his office at the Advocate Center, where the Bulls train. "I loved it there, and people were great to us. We hung a banner, man."

In Boylen's second season, the Utes shared the regular-season Mountain West title with BYU and New Mexico. They won the conference tournament and earned a No. 5 seed in the 2009 NCAA tournament. Times were good.

"I loved living there," he said of Salt Lake City. "It's beautiful. My girls were young. We had a great house by a park. Out my window was a view of the mountains. Lot of sunshine. I also love snow and the winter. I'm a skier but I couldn't ski because of my contract."

Utah lost to 12th-seeded Arizona in the first round of the NAAs, and then things, well, tumbled downhill at roughly the speed of a Bode Miller giant-slam run.

Boylen's top three scorers exhausted their eligibility, and some transfers and freshmen, such as the wild Marshall Henderson, didn't stick.

His third team lost 17 times — and by 20 points at home to in-state rival BYU. More damning was that five players transferred out, including captain Jace Tavita.

The next season was a 13-18 death march with losing streaks of seven and five games. "I got fired on a Saturday," Boylen recalled. "That Monday I was skiing."

'Free will'

No one will ever accuse Boylen of not caring enough. If anything, it's the opposite.

Will Clyburn was the best player on Boylen's final Utah team, and he described the coach as "emotional ... hard-nosed ... loving. He would really get into it and push you. He would say some stuff to you where you'd either crack or keep going. But after practice and off the court, he was that same loving guy, like family."

Looking back, Boylen said of his time at Utah: "I loved every minute of it. I learned a ton. That experience has helped me here already. I don't think I'd be here if that hadn't happened."

Also this: "I ran my program with an iron fist. I had to. Hold guys accountable. (My) program is not for everybody. This is free will."

And with that, he chuckled. Those five Utes took him up on the "free will" offer after the 2009-10 season, scattering to different schools.

At least two Bulls players made an attempt at free will after Boylen called for a practice the morning after the worst loss in franchise history, a 133-77 demolition by the Celtics.

"I want to be a transformational coach," Boylen said. "Remember now, my job is to push a guy to a place he cannot take himself, whether that's in the pros, college, high school. ... I made a deal with my guys at Utah. I'd ask: What do you want? 'Coach, I want to be a pro. Coach, I want to graduate. Coach, I want to become a better person.'"

"OK, is that what you want? Now my obligation is to get you there. When they didn't do the things that would allow them to be that person, I was in their ass. Because I loved them. Because I cared for them."

One example: Utah had a Serbian guard named Luka Drca. He played four years in Salt Lake City but went back home before earning his degree. Boylen refused to accept that.

"I finish summer recruiting, jump on a



ETHAN MILLER/GETTY

"I ran my program with an iron fist. I had to. Hold guys accountable. (My) program is not for everybody. This is free will."

— Jim Boylen, whose four-year run at Utah included a Mountain West title in his second season, 2009 (above), followed by 17- and 18-loss seasons that ultimately got him fired

plane in Cleveland," he said. "I fly to Serbia. I get in. I get to my room at 2 in the morning. I hadn't eaten. I go into the honor bar and there's a Snickers, a Pringles and a Heineken. I crack the Heineken, I eat the Snickers and I open the Pringles — and somebody had already eaten them and sealed the package! Ugh."

"I meet his parents the next day. His mom and dad are both smokers. I hired an interpreter who didn't show up. I'm saying, he needs to graduate! He comes back, gets his engineering degree. I flew over there to save him. You know what that trip cost my recruiting budget? It was like eight grand to go over there! He graduated."

'A little risky'

After word spread about the threat of a mutiny from some Bulls, many who had worked with Boylen were concerned. Some were not surprised.

Veteran Salt Lake City Tribune sports-writer and radio host Gordon Monson penned a column under this headline: "Jim Boylen is burning down the Chicago Bulls, not unlike the way he torched the Utes."

Wrote Monson: "In short, Boylen was taking the reins in Chicago as though he were coaching the Saginaw High Seahorses JV team, to the extent where he was establishing the cracking of heads and organizing player leadership councils."

Monson described Boylen as a "good guy and a good assistant who isn't a great head coach. ... (His) problem was that he coached basketball like his father boxed. He knocked things down. He hit adversity over the head with a sledgehammer. If trouble arose, he punched it. There were times when a more

sophisticated, subtle, stylistic approach was needed."

Chris Hill retired as Utah's athletic director in March after a dazzling 31-year run. He was responsible for hiring Rick Majerus, Urban Meyer and Kyle Whittingham, who is 11-1 in bowl games.

He brought in Boylen after the Utes went 11-19 in Ray Giacoletti's final season, largely on the recommendation of Tom Izzo. Michigan State's Jud Heathcote was among Boylen's mentors, and Izzo championed Boylen after their work together (1987-92 and 2005-07) in East Lansing.

"Being from the Izzo family tree was a big deal," Hill said in a telephone interview. "Jim had a lot of enthusiasm, and Tom spoke highly of him. By osmosis, you get a lot of things, and Jim had been around winning. It was his first head coaching job, so it was a little risky."

That second season, Boylen won largely with players Giacoletti recruited.

Hill, as is proper protocol, declined to detail why he fired Boylen after four seasons, handing him a \$2 million buyout.

"I'd hate to air dirty laundry," Hill said. "I'm being careful because I know what is going on (in Chicago)."

Asked if he received any complaints from players about Boylen's treatment, Hill replied: "No, not really. I wouldn't get into it if I did."

Izzo has great affection for Boylen, citing his willingness to put in his dues. Boylen assisted for the Rockets, Warriors, Bucks, Pacers, Spurs and Bulls before replacing Fred Hoiberg on Dec. 3.

"To me he's a workaholic with great people skills," Izzo said. "He slept at the (Michigan State) arena a number of nights.

He wasn't married, I wasn't married, we just worked. It's what you did back then."

Izzo studies great coaches as much as anyone in the profession, saying: "I think I'm always the bad cop. Bobby Knight, Mike Krzyzewski, Gene Keady ... always the bad cop. Jim was the good cop for me. Good assistants can adjust to what they have to be. When I hear Pat Riley stories from Magic (Johnson), you realize there are many ways you can do it. You don't have to be an (expletive), but everybody has to know who is running the ship."

"My only thing to (Boylen) is: Whenever you're trying to change things, change is difficult and you have to know the climate you're in. You have to know how fast and hard you can push the buttons."

'Part of the journey'

Shortly after the Bulls promoted him, Boylen received a handwritten note on Texas A&M stationery from Michael K. Young. He was university president at Utah during Boylen's four years.

I was so delighted by the Bulls' decision to make you the head coach! You have done a great deal for that team, just as you did for Utah. And heaven knows, the NBA needs people with your integrity and honor. A great decision all around and I was delighted! I very much enjoyed getting to know you and work with you at Utah and this is a great opportunity for the Bulls. Wishing you the best in this new venture!! Warm regards, Mike

"Part of the journey," Boylen said of his time in Salt Lake City. "Part of the path."

Boylen will continue to coach his players hard. He is certain this is the right way to do it. Heck, he's at the top of his profession. After getting fired by Utah less than eight years ago, he is the head coach of the Chicago Bulls.

"There is no shame in being let go," Boylen said. "I gave that place everything I had. Just like I will give this place everything I have."

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Meet the man coached by Boylen and Hoiberg in college

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN | Chicago Tribune

He is the bridge to the Bulls' past and present, a glue stick between two coaches who look and act nothing alike.

Will Clyburn chuckled after being told he's the only man to have played for both Fred Hoiberg and Jim Boylen in college.

"It's definitely funny," he said. "Them being on the same coaching staff together was funny in the first place."

Wendell Carter Jr. consults a life coach. The rest of the Bulls might want Clyburn's cell number. But heads up: He is playing professionally in Moscow, where it's nine hours ahead.

Clyburn could have blown off a request from the Tribune to discuss his time at Utah under Boylen and Iowa State under Hoiberg. Several other former Utes made themselves unavailable.

But Clyburn, 28, wanted to put in a good word for both men: the offensive whiz who views basketball as a symphony and the defensive-minded grinder who sees it as more of a rugby scrum.

First, Clyburn's take on Hoiberg: "Great guy, great person, and coaching-wise he gave you so much freedom and confidence. He always found a way to put people in great positions. Nobody on the planet has better in-game quick hitters than that guy. Out of timeouts, off the top of his head, he always had something up his sleeve to get the crowd going. Once you play for other



Will Clyburn played under Jim Boylen at Utah and Fred Hoiberg at Iowa State.



GETTY PHOTOS

people you realize it wasn't normal."

And on Boylen: "Jim was a hard-nosed coach, man. He definitely was a general, I can say that. A very emotional guy. He really loves the game, so when stuff was not going right, emotionally, he would really get into it and push you. He would say some stuff to you where you'd either crack or keep going. But after practice and off the court he was that same loving guy, like family."

Did he ever say anything too harsh? "Hm... I can't recall," Clyburn said. "Nothing that would have hurt my feelings. Probably the funniest thing he said to a player was: 'I should have recruited your twin sister, she's tougher than you.'"

"He said it to someone right before he had to make a free throw during practice. If he missed, we would have to run. He would

say stuff to get you to play harder or to see if you would crack."

A Detroit native, Clyburn played two seasons of junior college and considered going to St. Louis, Wichita State and Utah. During a visit to Salt Lake City, he became enthralled with a coach whom locals nicknamed "Jimmy Ball."

"After meeting Jimmy Ball, it was a no-brainer," Clyburn said. "I knew he wanted to help me. He really cared about me as a person, my game, expanding my game. After that I was willing to jump ship with him."

"A lot of coaches would tell you anything in the world to get you there. This man was sincere; he didn't say: 'You're gonna be the guy; He told me it will be hard work, it will be tough and I'm gonna get you better. He kept his word.'"

Clyburn was the top scorer on Boylen's fourth team, his last at Utah.

Asked what stood out about Clyburn, Boylen replied: "His heart. He was such a good teammate, so kind. He believed in me. He would fight for me. He was our best player and he was smart enough to know that if he let me coach him hard, everyone would (accept it). But you know what I loved the most about him? How much he cared about his mom and brothers."

After Utah fired Boylen, Clyburn left too. He had a good rapport with T.J. Otzelberger, a Hoiberg assistant at Iowa State who now has the top job at South Dakota State.

The 6-foot-7 Clyburn averaged 14.9 points and 6.8 rebounds and was named the Big 12's top newcomer in 2012-13 for a Cyclones squad that advanced to the round of 64 of the NCAA tournament.

Now he cashes checks from CSKA Moscow.

NBA news travels quickly and needs no passport. Clyburn carefully considered a question about whether Bulls players, some of whom threatened a mutiny two weeks ago, should be able to take Boylen's direct, sometimes harsh, coaching style.

"My whole thing is, I'm pretty sure those players didn't get to where they are now by being babied," Clyburn said. "I'm pretty sure they had to fight through adversity, so why change now and think you're too good for a little barking and a little tough road?"

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MISSOURI 79,
ILLINOIS 63Little
for Illini
to brag
aboutPredictably chippy
as Tigers rally to end
5-game skid in seriesBY SHANNON RYAN
Chicago Tribune

ST. LOUIS — Fans greeted Jeremiah Tilmon with a mix of cheers and boos during Missouri's pregame introductions Saturday night. The same happened to Javon Pickett.

Both players had committed to Illinois but opted to look elsewhere after former coach John Groce was fired.

But the loudest boos from Illini fans and heartiest cheers from Missouri fans in the annual Braggin' Rights game were saved for Missouri's Mark Smith, who transferred from Illinois last spring after his freshman season.

That was just the start of the drama at the Enterprise Center. A minute and a half into the game, Illinois' Ayo Dosunmu and Missouri's Jordan Geist received double technicals. Every time Smith touched the ball, Illinois fans booed lustily. After some jostling in the post, Tilmon and Illini freshman center Samba Kane participated in a long, nose-to-nose stare down worthy of a boxing match news conference.

Despite a game filled with drama, it ended with none: Missouri ran away with a 79-63 victory. The Tigers (8-3) snapped a five-game losing streak against the Illini (4-8) in front of a crowd of 16,397 fans who delivered an intense atmosphere.

While Smith struggled, Tilmon and Pickett shined with 16 points apiece.

Illinois came back from an eight-point second-half deficit to claim a 56-55 lead with 8½ minutes left, but the Tigers went on a suffocating 17-2 run. Illinois even missed six straight free throws in the stretch.

Trailing 72-58 after that run, the Illini looked out of steam.

"Give Missouri a lot of credit," Illinoi coach Brad Underwood said. "They made just about every play in the last seven minutes of that ballgame. Up until that point it was an extremely good college basketball game."

The Illini relied too heavily on Frazier, who scored 17 of his 28 points in the first half. He said he was fatigued toward the end, playing nearly 32 minutes.

Frazier made 6 of his 13 3-point attempts; the rest of Illinois made 2 of 16.

Geist led Missouri with 20 points and seven assists. Smith, who is now 2-0 in the rivalry with a win on each side, was held to five on 2-for-8 shooting.

Emotions were high for both teams, as expected, but Missouri played with a sharper edge than did the Illini.

"I knew it was going to be that kind of game," Frazier said, "them having three of our players. Being my second year I tried to stay focused and stick to the game plan. The emotion was really high tonight. We were getting after it. They just fought way harder."

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JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Missouri's Jeremiah Tilmon (23) heads to the basket in the first half of Illinois' loss Saturday in St. Louis.



DYLAN BUELL/GETTY

Kenny Williams (24) of North Carolina avoids contact as Tyler Herro of Kentucky scores in the second half Saturday at the United Center.

Future stars
put on a showWith Bulls executives watching, Kentucky
and Ohio State romp at the United CenterTEDDY GREENSTEIN
On college basketball

John Calipari was explaining how his team put up too many 3-pointers Saturday when someone interrupted him. Actually, he interrupted himself.

"The stats," Calipari said, referring to the printed-out box score. "I can't read it. Could you guys read it?"

He finally asked: "Did we win?"

Kentucky did win, taking down North Carolina 80-72 in a meeting of blue bloods during the CBS Sports Classic. Perhaps you heard the roars and jeers of the Kentucky fans while Christmas shopping on Michigan Avenue.

If Illinois got this much crowd support when they play at the United Center, the Illini never would lose. It was Jordan-era loud. And when calls went against their beloved Big Blue? One guy in a UK Santa Cap sitting behind the basket slammed a chair.

"We have the greatest fans in the country. We do," Calipari said. "But they also want to win every game by 25."

Kentucky entered as the lower-ranked team and a 2½-point underdog. But No. 9 North Carolina didn't get much from its top NBA prospects — Nassir Little and Coby White — who shot a combined 5-for-19.

Kentucky's shined. With Bulls executives John Paxson and Gar Forman watching from about 10 rows off the floor, PJ Washington (11 points, 9 rebounds, 8 assists) and Keldon Johnson (23 points in 23 foul-plagued minutes) put on quite a show.

Both finished alley-oops on passes from freshman guard Tyler Herro, a Milwaukee native who originally committed to Wisconsin.

"It was good to hear how loud it got," Herro said. "We have the best fan base in the country; the way they travel is amazing. They helped us get the 'W'."

Kentucky dipped to a modest 19th in the rankings after losing to

Seton Hall in overtime two weeks ago. That was a one-point loss, and it did not get national attention. At least not like its other loss did — the 118-84 throttling by Duke on election night.

"We were just so bad defensively those first two to three weeks and that's on me," Calipari said.

Both Kentucky (9-2) and North Carolina (8-3) were sloppy with the ball Saturday, combining for 35 turnovers.

Tar Heels coach Roy Williams, as he's prone to do, flogged himself for his team's effort.

"I hope everybody has a better Christmas than I'm going to have," he said.

Ohio State did the Big Ten proud in the opening game, enhancing the basketball rep of a conference with nine teams — Michigan, Michigan State, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Purdue, Ohio State, Indiana, Maryland, Iowa — in KenPom's top 33. Maybe if the College Football Playoff expands to 68, the Big Ten would get a bid.

With Big Ten Commissioner and former Tar Heels basketball player Jim Delany watching, the Buckeyes romped 80-66 over UCLA, feasting on a wounded duck. They scored 47 points in the second half as point guard C.J. Jackson went from near-zero to hero, scoring 20 of his 22 points after the break.

"My teammates were looking out for me," Jackson said.

The 15th-ranked Buckeyes are 11-1, and coach Chris Holtmann appreciates the breathing room these victories provide.

"I doubt we're going to go 15-3 in the Big Ten," Holtmann said, "so to pick this up was good."

UCLA, the only unranked team among the four, fell to 7-5.

Ohio State is somewhat miscast in the CBS Sports Classic. The 2019 event moves to Las Vegas with the same teams.

"We love the event," Holtmann said. "It's obviously three other basketball schools, three schools with tradition that is unparalleled. For us to align ourselves with it is great."

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BIG NUMBER

179

Days until the NBA draft. The Bulls are among four teams with eight victories, the fewest in the league. No wonder John Paxson and Gar Forman were in attendance Saturday.

BLACKHAWKS

Growing pains
seem to be overToews: 'Our patience
is paying off' as Hawks
learn Colliton's systemBY JIMMY GREENFIELD
Chicago Tribune

DENVER — Jonathan Toews hasn't changed.

The relentless drive to succeed is still there, as is an intensity few athletes possess.

This is a problem because the Blackhawks — Toews' Blackhawks — have changed. A quick look at the standings from this season and last tell you that.

It doesn't mean the Hawks won't soon find their way back into the playoffs — perhaps even as early as this season if their recent uptick of four wins in six games isn't temporary. But more than likely this season is about the next one and the one after that.

Sports, of course, are about more than just winning and losing. But the Hawks have done more losing than winning, and it eats at Toews.

"It's something I'm definitely trying to manage better," he said. "It's a long season if you're carrying the weight of each loss with you into the next one. It's just reminding yourself what went wrong in the last game and carrying the motivation to be better in the next one and learn from your mistakes but also let it not wear down your confidence."

When the Hawks fired Joel Quenneville on Nov. 6, it not only ended his spectacular run that included three Stanley Cup championships. It ended a coach-player relationship without many parallels in Chicago sports history. Toews — as well as Patrick Kane, Brent Seabrook and Duncan Keith — knew what to expect from "Q" and aggressively implemented his brand of hockey.

Jeremy Colliton brought in a new personality but more important a new style of play. The Hawks switched to man-to-man

UP NEXT
Panthers at Blackhawks
6 p.m. Sunday, WGN-9

defense and changed their offensive philosophy.

"We want to attack quickly before they're ready to defend," Colliton said. "I feel like sometimes we're a little too slow to move the puck up ice. Requiring five or six passes to gain a zone. You just don't need that."

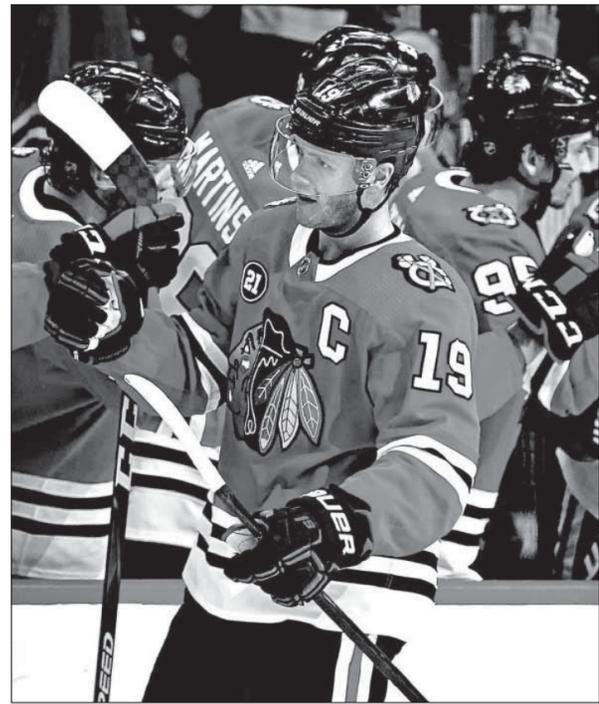
Toews admittedly had a difficult time adjusting to the new system, as did many of his teammates.

"It's hard midseason," Toews said. "You're trying to win. You're in the middle of these losing streaks that are not fun. So that's in the back of your mind. You're trying to do those little things right. Even if you do it right (when) you lose it's hard to reinforce when you're not getting the result right in front of you."

"It's kind of like sticking with a diet plan when you're trying to lose weight. It helps if you can see some results right away, right? It's that kind of thing. Our patience is paying off and it's something we need to identify and keep building off of and not let go of the progress we made."

It has been nearly seven weeks since Colliton took over, and Toews hopes the growing pains — the losses one after another — are over. The Hawks are 4-1-1 in their last six games, a span that's more impressive considering the wins came against the Penguins and Predators at the United Center, followed by road victories against the Stars and Avalanche.

"We're turning the tide where we can expect the same effort, we can expect the same system and we know what all five guys are doing on the ice," Toews said. "Just less thinking and more doing, more playing and letting things be natural out there."

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JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jonathan Toews celebrates after scoring against the Jets on Dec. 14. He said it's important not to let losing wear down your confidence.

BLACKHAWKS NOTES

IceHog express: Nilsson
goes up, Johnson downBY JIMMY GREENFIELD
Chicago Tribune

The Blackhawks are getting more comfortable dipping into the prospect pool at Rockford.

A little more than a week after they brought up Dylan Sikura and Carl Dahlstrom, the Hawks on Saturday promoted Swedish forward Jacob Nilsson from the IceHogs and sent Luke Johnson back to Rockford.

Nilsson, 25, had 14 points (six goals, eight assists) in 31 games for the IceHogs, including four points in his last two games.

Nilsson shouldn't have much of a learning curve to fit into the Hawks' system. Once he appears in a game, he will be the first player to have played for coach Jeremy Colliton on three teams.

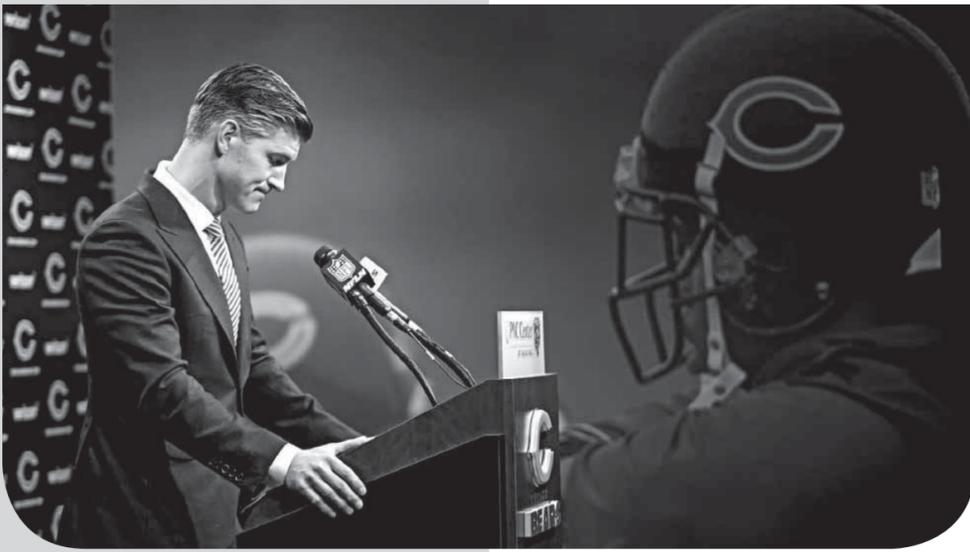
Nilsson spent two years under Colliton at Mora in Sweden before signing with the Hawks in May. In November, Nilsson told the Tribune how much he enjoyed playing for Colliton in Sweden as well as with the IceHogs before the Hawks made him their coach.

"He helped everyone learn how to be a winner," Nilsson said. "That was his main thing, what to do to be a winner. You could go out and have fun and drink some beers if you had the day off, but if you came back and weren't ready then, you didn't play."

Let's make a Delia: Goalie Collin Delia's time in the AHL helped prepare him for life in the NHL, but he never will confuse the two leagues.

After Delia stopped 35 shots Friday in a 2-1 road win against the Avalanche, he was struck by how the NHL's superior talent can make plays more predictable.

"The anticipation and reading plays is almost ... I don't want to say a little easier, but plays are more true here," Delia said. "You can really read what a guy's doing with the puck, whether he's going to be deceptive or he's looking for a guy back door, especially on their power play. Watching video you're really informed (about) what's going on."



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

**JAN.
1**

Bears fire coach John Fox, replace him with Matt Nagy

The results-based business of the NFL caught up with Fox, and GM Ryan Pace wasted no time in firing his coach after three seasons. Fox went 14-34 — a .292 winning percentage that is the second-worst in franchise history. A week after firing Fox, the Bears hired Nagy.

**FEB.
10**

Cubs sign Yu Darvish to 6-year, \$126 million deal

After months of anticipation, the Cubs signed the free agent pitcher to give their rotation a shot in the arm, so to speak, only four days before pitchers and catchers reported to Mesa, Ariz. But Darvish's first season on the North Side was anything but positive. A series of injuries derailed him almost from the beginning. He made just eight starts, going 1-3 with a 4.95 ERA.

**MAR.
20**

Blackhawks miss playoffs for 1st time in 10 years

The 2017-18 season began with promise: the return of Brandon Saad and a 10-1 destruction of the Penguins in the opener. But things went sour, and soon enough, thanks to a 5-1 loss to the Avalanche at the United Center, the Hawks were eliminated from playoff contention for the first time since the 2007-08 season.

**MAR.
24**

Loyola beats Kansas State to reach Final Four

The Ramblers went 15-3 in the Missouri Valley Conference, won the postseason tournament for an NCAA bid and became the first Illinois team to reach the Final Four since the 2005 Illini. There wasn't much drama in the 78-62 Elite Eight blowout of Kansas State, but the Ramblers' run was full of iconic moments: Donte Ingram's game-winner against Miami, Clayton Custer's game-winner against Tennessee, Marques Townes' clincher against Nevada. The 69-57 defeat to Michigan in the semifinals ended the dream, but the memories will live forever.

**APR.
20**

White Sox pitcher Danny Farquhar suffers brain aneurysm

Farquhar pitched two-thirds of an inning of relief against the Astros and returned to the Sox dugout. He then vomited, lost consciousness and fell into the arms of coaches and trainers. Farquhar was taken to Rush University Medical Center, where he had emergency surgery after he suffered a brain hemorrhage caused by a ruptured aneurysm. Six weeks later, Farquhar was all smiles when he threw out the ceremonial first pitch at Guaranteed Rate Field.

**JULY
8**

Bulls sign Zach LaVine to 4-year, \$78 million deal

The Bulls were on the verge of losing the restricted free agent, whom the Kings signed to a four-year, \$78 million offer sheet, but a few days later, the Bulls matched the offer, keeping LaVine in Chicago. Six days later, the Bulls signed Chicago native, Simeon grad and former No. 2 pick Jabari Parker to a two-year, \$40 million deal with a team option for the second year.

**JULY
26**

Cubs acquire Cole Hamels

It was quite the day for the Cubs: They completed a thrilling comeback victory against the Diamondbacks and then landed a four-time All-Star in a deal with the Rangers. Hamels — the same pitcher who tossed a no-hitter against the Cubs at Wrigley Field as a member of the Phillies — was solid from the beginning, going 4-3 with a 2.36 ERA.

**JULY
29**

Jim Thome inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame

"I still can't believe this has happened to me, a 13th-round draft pick out of central Illinois," Jim Thome said in Cooperstown, N.Y. But Peoria's finest is proof nice guys can finish first.

**AUG.
4**

Brian Urlacher inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame

When you rack up 1,354 tackles, 41½ sacks, 11 forced fumbles and 22 interceptions, you're a Hall of Fame lock. The defensive leader of the 2000s Bears that helped them reach Super Bowl XLI, Urlacher was a first-ballot inductee to Canton.

**AUG.
7**

Stan Mikita dies at 78

Arguably the greatest to wear the Blackhawks sweater, Mikita died at 78 after a long illness. In 21 seasons, he set franchise records with 1,396 regular-season games, 1,467 points, 926 assists and a plus-329 rating. His 541 goals rank second to Bobby Hull's 604.

**AUG.
21**

Michael Kopech makes major-league debut

Acquired as part of the Chris Sale trade, Kopech finally got the nod against the Twins. Too bad it ended after two innings because of a 52-minute rain delay. Kopech would pick up his first win five days later, but he would need Tommy John surgery and will miss all of the 2019 season.

**SEPT.
1**

Bears trade for Khalil Mack

The sun barely had risen when the news broke on a Saturday: The Bears landed the All-Pro edge rusher in a blockbuster deal with the Raiders. The Bears sent first-round picks in 2019 and 2020 in exchange for one of the premier players in the NFL. Mack cashed in, too, becoming the highest-paid defensive player in the league with a six-year, \$141 million extension.

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

The 25 biggest stories in Chicago sports (it starts — and ends — with the Bears)

By JEREMY MIKULA
Chicago Tribune

DOUBLE PLAY

For 25 more headlines — the 50 biggest stories of 2018 — go to chicagotribune.com/sports

ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



**SEPT.
23**

Ken Harrelson calls his final game

The White Sox announcer called it a career after 33 years calling games for the Good Guys. Hawk's career had everything: Duck snorts, cans of corn, Matt Abbatascos, hang wiff 'ems, big crooked numbers put up on boards (Yes!), gaaas, benches grabbed, simmering silences, feuds with umpires and sports columnists, Todd Frazier wellness checks, picks to click, reminiscences, stories, a perfect game, a no-hitter and a World Series.

**SEPT.
30**

Mitch Trubisky throws 6 touchdown passes against Buccaneers

In the first half alone, Trubisky connected with Trey Burton, Allen Robinson, Tarik Cohen, Josh Bellamy and Taylor Gabriel for touchdowns. He fell one shy of tying the NFL record, but the Bears walked to a 48-10 victory.

**OCT.
1-2**

Cubs lose Game 163, wild-card game

The Cubs struggled down the stretch, going 16-12 in the final month and seeing a five-game lead on Sept. 3 go poof as the Brewers forced a Game 163 tiebreaker for the National League Central title. But at least the game would be at Wrigley Field, right? The Brewers won 3-1, putting the Cubs in a one-game wild-card matchup against the Rockies. But at least the game would be at Wrigley, right? The Rockies won 2-1 in a 13-inning marathon.

**OCT.
3**

Addison Russell suspended 40 games for violating MLB's domestic-abuse policy

Allegations against Russell first surfaced in 2017, but Russell's ex-wife, Melisa Reidy-Russell, declined to talk with investigators at the time. A year later, Reidy-Russell opened up in a blog post and complied with MLB, alleging years of physical and mental abuse.

**OCT.
18**

Corey Crawford makes 1st appearance in 10 months

The Hawks lost to the Coyotes 4-1, with Crawford making 27 saves. He played in 23 of the Hawks' first 35 games, then suffered his second concussion in less than a year on Dec. 16.

**NOV.
6**

Blackhawks fire Joel Quenneville, replace him with Jeremy Colliton

Coach Q led the Blackhawks to three Stanley Cup titles in six seasons and became the second-winningest coach in franchise and NHL history. But after missing the playoffs last season for the first time in 10 years and a 6-6-3 start this season, the Hawks fired Quenneville in his 11th season with the franchise. The Hawks promoted Colliton, 33, from their AHL affiliate in Rockford.

**NOV.
10**

Northwestern wins 1st Big Ten West title

A team that went 0-3 in nonconference play, gave up 36 points in the second half to Akron and ranked among the nation's worst in yards per play went 6-1 in the conference to capture its first Big Ten West title. The Wildcats were the first team in FBS history to go winless in nonconference play and claim a division crown.

**NOV.
17**

Illinois matches worst loss in program's 127-year history

This was supposed to be the year Illinois showed signs of progress in Lovie Smith's third season in Champaign. Instead, Iowa embarrassed the Illini 63-0 at Memorial Stadium, matching Illinois' worst defeat since a 63-0 loss to the University of Chicago in 1906.

**NOV.
24**

Notre Dame completes 12-0 regular season to earn its first playoff berth

With Notre Dame needing a win in the regular-season finale to solidify its case for a spot in the final four, it wasn't easy. Host USC jumped to a 10-point lead early in the second quarter. But Ian Book and Dexter Williams fueled the Irish to 24 unanswered points, and they held off their longtime rival for a 24-17 victory.

**DEC.
3**

Bulls fire coach Fred Hoiberg and promote assistant Jim Boylen

With a 115-155 record and a 5-19 start to 2018-19, it wasn't a huge surprise that the Bulls fired Hoiberg. The Bulls promoted Boylen to coach — without the "interim" tag.

**DEC.
8**

Bulls suffer franchise-worst 56-point defeat

Boylen substituted all five starters at once — twice — in a 133-77 pasting by the Celtics at the United Center. And that didn't sit well with the players, nor did Boylen scheduling a practice for the next day after games on consecutive nights and another after a day off.

**DEC.
9**

Harold Baines and Lee Smith elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame

The Freemasons, the Skull and Bones, the Illuminati, the Today's Game Era committee. No one really knows how these secret societies work, but the baseball one elected former Cubs closer Lee Smith and White Sox outfielder/designated hitter Harold Baines to the Hall of Fame.

**DEC.
16**

Bears clinch NFC North title

The Bears completed a remarkable turnaround from 2017, winning the NFC North and clinching a playoff berth for the first time since 2010 with a win over the Packers that eliminated their rivals.

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BASEBALL

HALL OF FAME

In & doubt

BY PAUL SULLIVAN | Chicago Tribune

The Hall of Fame Class of 2019 won't be announced until Jan. 22, but the baseball writers' ballots must be submitted by Dec. 31.

Along with the annual debate over PED-tainted candidates, the recent veterans committee selections, Harold Baines and Lee Smith — whose career numbers weren't deemed worthy by writers during their eligibility period — has complicated this year's ballot a bit.

Will their selections lead voters to support others who have been overlooked on previous ballots?

Here are the 35 candidates placed in six categories, from the shoo-ins to the why-are-they-on-the-ballot guys.

SHOO-INS

Mariano Rivera: Greatest reliever in baseball history and all-time saves leader. Only question is whether he'll be the first unanimous selection. (Spoiler alert: No.)

Edgar Martinez: Close but no cigar in 2018 with 70.4 percent, the Mariners designated hitter has gained ground steadily and is expected to be elected in his 10th and final year of eligibility.

ON THE CUSP



Mike Mussina: When recording wins meant something, "Moose" was among the best with a .638 career winning percentage. Of modern-era starters with 250-plus wins, only Lefty

Grove, Christy Mathewson, Roger Clemens, Randy Johnson and Grover Cleveland Alexander top that.



Roy Halladay: Two-time Cy Young winner with two no-hitters, including a perfect game and one of only two postseason no-nos (the other was Don Larsen's perfect game in the 1956

World Series). With 67 complete games, Halladay was the ultimate throwback.

LONG CLIMB AHEAD



Omar Vizquel: Disappointing 37 percent total in his first year on the ballot, but he could take the long route like Martinez and Tim Lincecum. Had 11 Gold Gloves and 2,877 hits over 24 seasons.

HOF PURGATORY

Barry Bonds: All-time home-run king and best hitter of his generation denied entrance because of PED use. Has four more chances with writers before putting his fate in the hands of a veterans committee.

Roger Clemens: Seven-time Cy Young winner would be another no-brainer if not for steroid allegations. Like Bonds, he's waiting for the older Baseball Writers' Association of America voters to die off.

Manny Ramirez: With 555 home runs and eighth in all-time slugging percentage (.585), he would be a first-ballot pick without the PED suspensions. Manny being Manny.

Gary Sheffield: Another member of the 500-homer club (509), once a milestone that signaled automatic induction. Unfortunately he admitted to unknowingly using a steroid called "the cream" with Bonds in 2002.

Sammy Sosa: With 7.8 percent of the votes in 2018, Slammin' Sammy barely surpassed the 5 percent necessary to remain on the ballot, despite his 609 home runs. In 2009, anonymous lawyers told the New York Times that Sosa tested positive in an anonymous drug test in 2003, leaving him on the outside looking in.

Curt Schilling: Polarizing player for his political views, Schilling was one of the best postseason pitchers of his era (11-2 with a 2.23 ERA in 19 starts) and ranks 15th all time in strikeouts (3,116). But he might be his own worst enemy when it comes to trolling voters.

Miguel Tejada: An MVP and six-time All-Star, Tejada received a 105-game suspension for amphetamines in 2013. Probably not a viable candidate anyway.

Andy Pettitte: Holds the all-time postseason record for wins (19), finished with a stellar .627 career winning percentage and won five World Series rings with the Yankees. But he admitted to using HGH twice in 2004.

BALLOT FILLERS

Lance Berkman: Cubs fans once waved Twinkies at the not-so-svelte Berkman, who then ate one to a loud ovation.

Rick Ankiel: Transitioned to the outfield after getting the yips as a starting pitcher. Not a Hall of Famer at either spot.

Ted Lilly: Punched a manager in 2007 and smashed water pipes 2008. First-ballot pick in the Instigator Hall of Fame.

Juan Pierre: Former Cubs and White Sox outfielder had blazing speed but can't steal his way into Cooperstown.

Roy Oswalt: Once praised by Steve Stone and Chip Caray, igniting a feud with Cubs players that sank the 2004 season.

Jason Bay: Carlos Zambrano taped Bay's baseball card to his locker because Bay "owned" him. Bay didn't own many.

Derek Lowe: Winning pitcher for the Red Sox in drought-ending 2004 World Series. That should be reward enough.

Freddy Garcia: Winning pitcher for the White Sox in drought-ending 2005 World Series. (See Lowe.)

Jon Garland: Came to the White Sox in one of the worst deals in Cubs history and helped them win a ring. No chance.

Travis Hafner: Slugging percentage of .611 and OPS of 1.030 from 2004-06 with Indians but couldn't maintain pace.

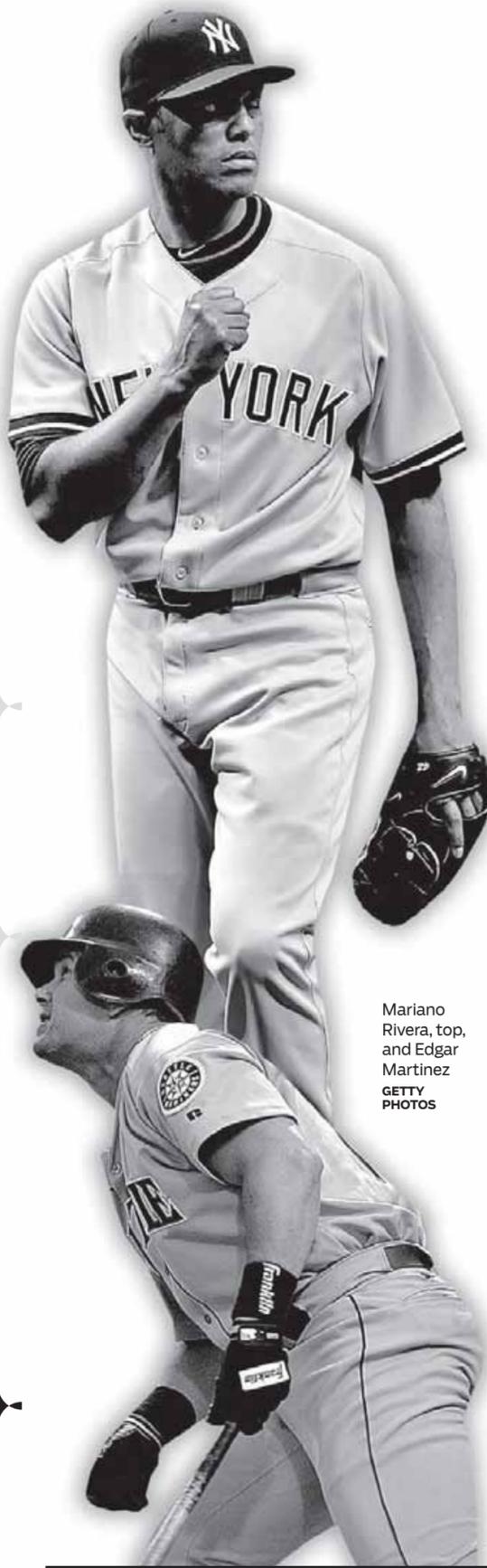
Kevin Youkilis: Good all-around player with two rings. Should be honored just to be on the ballot.

Vernon Wells: Nice five-season stretch with the Blue Jays from 2002-06 but leveled off thereafter.

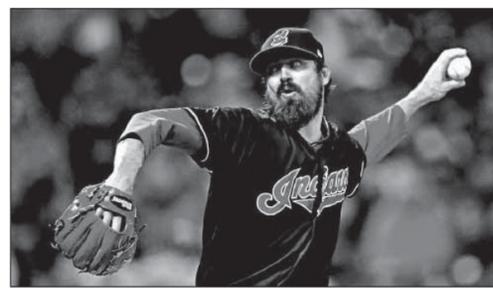
Michael Young: Shortstop with .300 career average and seven All-Star Games but could be one-and-done on the ballot.

Placido Polanco: Has as good a chance at the HOF as Placido Domingo.

Darren Oliver: Wait a sec. Isn't he still pitching?



Mariano Rivera, top, and Edgar Martinez
GETTY PHOTOS



TONY DEJAK/AP

The Cardinals on Friday signed free agent Andrew Miller, who — when healthy — has been a dominant reliever.

As Cubs play tight, Cards aggressive

Rivals push chips in (even Reds make a move) amid Harper-Machado watch



PAUL SULLIVAN
On baseball

The Cubs' official 2018 postseason T-shirts were marked down from \$40 to \$10 at a local sporting-goods store Saturday morning.

But even procrastinating shoppers were bypassing them for the Bears goodies, and for good reason.

The "October Ready" postseason slogan, printed in large letters across the front of the shirt, turned into a cruel joke to a fan base that has

grown accustomed to counting down to October from the start of spring training.

We're more than halfway through one of the quietest offseasons of the Theo Epstein era, watching National League Central rivals such as the Cardinals and Reds make significant additions and wondering whether the Dodgers are clearing the path to a Bryce Harper signing.

It's no surprise the Cubs have put their phones on mute. Epstein said last month the 2019 season "is really a reckoning in a lot of ways," suggesting the current bunch that melded in 2015 and '16 has one more chance to live up to the expectations created by its magical start.

"Whether we have a big offseason or a more nuanced offseason, you should judge us on how we play next year," Epstein said.

So far it has been all nuance. The addition of utilityman Daniel Descalso and the departure of pinch-hitter Tommy La Stella have been their most notable decisions, along with tendering a contract to Addison Russell.

The Cubs on Saturday signed free-agent starter Kendall Graveman, who was nontendered by the A's, to a one-year, \$575,000 deal with a \$3 million option for 2020. Graveman is expected to miss most of 2019 after undergoing Tommy John surgery on his right elbow in July but could return in September. He was 1-5 with a 7.60 ERA last season before being demoted and is 23-29 with a 4.38 ERA in five seasons.

Meanwhile, the Cardinals acquired slugger Paul Goldschmidt and signed left-handed reliever Andrew Miller while the rebuilding Reds added a pair of veteran hitters in Yasiel Puig and Matt Kemp, not to mention starter Alex Wood, in Friday's seven-player deal with the Dodgers.

Whether the Dodgers will use the savings to invest in Harper, who already fits the Hollywood image, could change the offseason maneuverings of several teams, including the Phillies and White Sox.

While the Cubs aren't keeping up with the Joneses, the Brewers haven't made any big moves either. After winning the division by defeating the Cubs in Game 163 at Wrigley Field, they're theoretically the team to beat.

"Now you want to stay there," Brewers general manager David Stearns told me in November. "It's hard to get there and even harder to do back-to-back years and stay there. The Cubs were a really good team in 2018, and they're probably going to be better in 2019. They're certainly not going to be satisfied with their season."

Asked if they'd be able to spend more after their 2018 success, Stearns replied: "Certainly (owner Mark Attanasio) and our ownership group have proven that where there's an investment that makes sense from a baseball perspective, they're going to be supportive."

Maybe, but we're still waiting. Other than signing second baseman Cory Spangenberg and dealing outfielder Domingo Santana to the Mariners for young outfielder Ben Gamel, the Brewers have been conspicuously quiet.

Cardinals President John Mozeliak has been the busiest NL Central executive so far. He said in July at Wrigley that the organization doesn't believe in rebuilding, and has proved it with the bold move of acquiring Goldschmidt and the riskier one of signing Miller.

A dominant reliever in recent years, Miller had three stints on the disabled list last season and has a lot of mileage on his arm. Still, he could be the Cardinals' new closer or remain in the same chameleon-like role he had with the Indians, entering in the middle innings to put out fires.

"As far as me having a sticking point on what role? That's nonexistent. I truly mean that," Miller told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "I'd like to perform well and you talk about numbers and this and that, (but) the goal is to win the World Series. I certainly told that to the Cardinals. My goal is to be one of the 25 guys jumping on top of each other at the end of the year. And I wouldn't play anywhere that I didn't think that wasn't realistic."

The Pirates, who made a significant move in July by acquiring Rays starter Chris Archer in exchange for prospects, haven't been as active as one might expect. Their biggest moves have been shedding Ivan Nova's salary on the White Sox and signing Lonnie Chisenhall to fill in while Gregory Polanco recovers from shoulder surgery. Shortstop Jordy Mercer went to the Tigers, so the Bucs could take a flier on injury-prone Troy Tulowitzki, who played under manager Clint Hurdle with the Rockies.

The Reds' big splash Friday, after recently acquiring starter Tanner Roark from the Nationals, seemingly transitions them from a rebuilding team to one intending to compete under new manager David Bell.

Whether that's realistic, they certainly have a strong enough lineup to make noise.

Teams have plenty of time to spend this winter, and an assortment of free agents will be available in January when the prices generally come down for all but the superstars — such as Harper and Manny Machado.

Epstein said before the winter meetings that the Cubs have spent "more than enough to win" and probably will have the highest payroll in club history in 2019.

"If there are limitations or there is a need to get creative, it just underscores the fact that we have to do a better job and we have to find value and efficiency on the roster," he said.

The reckoning is coming for everyone.

SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

TEAM	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	@SF 3:05 FOX-32, AM-780						
	@CLE 5 NBCSCH, AM-670			MIN 7 NBCSCH, AM-670		@WSH 6 WGN-9, AM-670	
	FLA 6 WGN-9, AM-720				MIN 7:30 NBCSCH, AM-720		@COL 8 NBCSCH, AM-720

SUNDAY ON TV/RADIO

NBA
5 p.m. Bulls at Cavaliers NBCSCH, WSCR-AM 670

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

3:30 p.m. Diamond Head Classic semifinal ESPN2

6 p.m. Diamond Head Classic consolation ESPN2

6:30 p.m. Las Vegas Classic final FS1

9 p.m. Diamond Head Classic semifinal ESPN2

9 p.m. Las Vegas Classic consolation FS1

11:30 p.m. Diamond Head Classic consolation ESPN2

Noon Giants at Colts CBS-2

3 p.m. Bears at 49ers FOX-32, WBBM-AM 780

3:25 p.m. Steelers at Saints CBS-2

7:20 p.m. Chiefs at Seahawks NBC-5, WSCR-AM 670

NHL
6 p.m. Panthers at Blackhawks WGN-9, WGN-AM 720

6 p.m. Flyers at Rangers NHL Network

BUNDESLIGA SOCCER

8:30 a.m. Augsburg vs. Wolfsburg FS1

11 a.m. Hoffenheim vs. Mainz 05 FS1

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

9:55 a.m. Everton vs. Tottenham Hotspur NBCSN

TENNIS

3 p.m. Hawaii Open Tennis Channel

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2018-19 DIV. I BOWL GLANCE	DATE	BOWL	SITE	TEAMS	TM
Sat	Birmingham	Birmingham, Ala.	Wake Forest 37, Memphis 34		
Sat	Armed Forces	Fort Worth, Texas	Army 70, Houston 14		
Sat	Dollar General	Mobile, Ala.	Troy 42, Buffalo 32		
Sat	Hawaii	Honolulu	La Tech (7-5) vs. Hawaii (8-5), late		
D26	SEVPRO	Dallas	Boston Coll. (7-5) vs. Boise St (10-3)	12:30	
D26	Quick Lane	Detroit	Minnesota (6-6) vs. Ga. Tech (7-5)	4:15	
D26	Cheez-It	Phoenix	California (7-5) vs. TCU (6-6)	4:15	
D27	Independence	Shreveport, La.	Temple (8-4) vs. Duke (7-5)	12:30	
D27	PinStripe	Bronx, N.Y.	Miami (7-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-5)	4:15	
D27	Texas	Houston	Baylor (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6)	8	
D28	Music 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	Miami Gar., Fla.	Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Alabama (10-4)	7	
D31	Military	Annapolis, Md.	Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Va. Tech (6-6)	11*	
D31	Sun	El Paso, Tex.	Stanford (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (7-6)	1	
D31	Redbox	Santa Clara, Calif.	Michigan St (7-5) vs. Oregon (8-4)	7	
D31	Liberty	Memphis, Tenn.	Missouri (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. (10-3) vs. Ohio St (12-1)	4	
J1	Sugar	New Orleans	Texas (9-4) vs. Georgia (11-2)	7:45	
J1	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
D26	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 51, N. Texas 13
D15	Las Vegas	Vegas	Fresno St. 31, Arizona St. 20
D15	Camella	Montgomery, Ala.	Southern 23, E. Michigan 21
D15	New Orleans	New Orleans	Appalachian State 45, MTU 13
D18	Boca Raton	Boca Raton, Fla.	UAB 37, N. Illinois 13
D19	Frisco	Friscio, Texas	OHU 27, San Diego State 0
D20	Gasparilla	St. Petersburg	Marshall 38, USF 20

FCS CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, Jan. 5 at Toyota Stadium; Frisco, Texas
North Dakota State (14-0) vs. Eastern Washington (12-2), 11 a.m.

AHL

WESTERN CONFERENCE	CENTRAL	W	L	OT	SOL	PT	GF	GA
WOLVES	17	9	3	1	38	118	95	82
G. Rapids	17	11	2	2	38	99	97	97
Milwaukee	16	10	5	1	38	98	88	88
Iowa	15	8	4	3	37	107	93	93
Rockford	15	10	2	4	36	75	88	88
Texas	15	10	3	1	34	108	93	93
San Antonio	13	16	1	0	27	77	89	89
Manitoba	11	14	2	0	24	65	92	92

2 pts for a win, 1 pt for OT/shootout loss.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Wolves 3, Milwaukee 1	Toronto 2, Laval 0
Grand Rapids 3, Manitoba 1	Hartford 5, Rochester 1
Charlotte 3, Bridgeport 1	Ontario 7, San Diego 6 (SO)
Binghamton 4, Utica 3	Lehigh Valley 6, Hershey 1
Cleveland 3, Bellevue 2	Syracuse 4, WB/Scranton 3
Providence 5, Springfield 4	Stockton 5, Iowa 1
San Antonio 2, Texas 1 (OT)	Tucson 4, San Jose 3
Colorado 3, Bakersfield 2 (SO)	

NFL

NFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
y-BEARS	10	4	0	.714	383	264
Minnesota	7	6	1	.536	323	300
Green Bay	5	8	1	.393	332	341
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	284	333

NFC EAST

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	276	269
Philadelphia	7	7	0	.500	311	318
Washington	7	8	0	.467	281	335
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	307	348

NFC SOUTH

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
y-New Orleans	12	2	0	.857	459	292
Carolina	6	8	0	.429	333	344
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	356	381
Tampa Bay	5	9	0	.357	344	403

NFC WEST

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
y-L.A. Rams	11	3	0	.786	448	343
Seattle	8	6	0	.571	363	292
San Francisco	4	10	0	.286	301	373
Arizona	3	11	0	.214	192	367

AFC NORTH

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
Pittsburgh	8	5	1	.607	384	316
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	363	263
Cleveland	6	7	1	.464	309	348
Cincinnati	6	8	0	.429	337	413

AFC EAST

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
New England	9	5	0	.643	374	310
Miami	7	7	0	.500	295	374
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	213	341
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0	.286	292	359

AFC SOUTH

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
Houston	10	4	0	.714	352	281
Tennessee	9	6	0	.600	293	270
Indianapolis	16	0	5	.714	372	300
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	225	289

AFC WEST

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
y-Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	499	380
x-L.A. Chargers	11	4	0	.733	405	320
Denver	6	8	0	.429	306	331
Oakland	3	11	0	.214	260	418

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

WEEK 16

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Tennessee 25, Washington 16
Baltimore 22, L.A. Chargers 10

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

Bears at San Francisco, 3:05 (FOX-32)
Atlanta at Carolina, noon
Houston at Philadelphia, noon
N.Y. Giants at Indianapolis, noon (CBS-2)
Green Bay at N.Y. Jets, noon
Minnesota at Detroit, noon
Buffalo at New England, noon
Cincinnati at Cleveland, noon
Jacksonville at Miami, noon
Tampa Bay at Dallas, noon

AFC WEST

L.A. Rams at Arizona, 3:05
Pittsburgh at New Orleans, 3:25 (CBS-2)
Kansas City at Seattle, 7:25 (NBC-5)

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

Denver at Oakland, 7:25 (ESPN)

WEEK 17

SUNDAY, Dec. 30
Bears at Minnesota, noon
Miami at Buffalo, noon
Cleveland at Baltimore, noon
Carolina at Houston, noon
N.Y. Jets at New England, noon
Cincinnati at Green Bay, noon
Detroit at Pittsburgh, noon
Indianapolis at Tennessee, noon
Philadelphia at Washington, noon
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, noon
Oakland at Kansas City, noon
Jacksonville at Houston, noon
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, noon
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 3:25
L.A. Chargers at Denver, 3:25
Arizona at Seattle, 3:25

LATEST LINE

NBA	SUNDAY
at Cleveland	1½ Bulls
at New Jersey	Off
at Indiana	Off
at Orlando	Off
at Brooklyn	7½ Phoenix
New Orleans	1 at Sacramento
at Boston	7 Charlotte
at Oklahoma City	Off Memphis
at Golden State	10½ LA Clippers
at Portland	7 Dallas
at LA Lakers	6 Memphis

NHL	SUNDAY
at Blackhawks	Off Florida
at New Jersey	Off Columbus
at Carolina	-112 Boston
at N.Y. Rangers	Off Philadelphia
at Toronto	Off Detroit
at Dallas	Off NY Islanders
at San Jose	Off Arizona
at Las Vegas	Off Los Angeles

COLLEGE FOOTBALL	WEDNESDAY
Boise St	2 Boston Coll.
Georgia Tech	5½ Minnesota
California	1 TCU

THURSDAY	
Temple	3½ Wisconsin
Miami	3 Baylor
Vanderbilt	4

FRIDAY	
Auburn	3½ Syracuse
W. Virginia	PK
Wash. St	3½ Nevada
Arkansas St	1
Michigan	7 Florida
S. Carolina	5 Virginia

SATURDAY (12/29)	
Alabama	14 Oklahoma
Clemson	12½ Notre Dame

MONDAY (12/31)	
Cincinnati	6 Virginia Tech
Stanford	6 Pittsburgh
Oregon	3 Michigan St
Missouri	8 Oklahoma St
Utah	7 Northwestern
Texas A&M	7 NC State

TUESDAY (JAN. 1)	
Miss. St.	7 Iowa
Penn St	6½ Kentucky
LSU	7½ UCF
Ohio State	6½ Washington
Georgia	12½ Texas

NFL

SUNDAY	
Bears	4½ at San Fran.
at Dallas	7½ Tampa Bay
at New England	13½ Buffalo
Atlanta	3 at Carolina
at Miami	3½ Jacksonville
at Indianapolis	10 NY Giants
at Philadelphia	2½ Houston
Minnesota	6 at NY Jets
Green Bay	3 at NY Jets
at Cleveland	10 Cincinnati
LA Rams	14 at Arizona
at New Orleans	6½ Pittsburgh
Kansas City	1½ Oklahoma St

MONDAY	
Denver	3 at Oakland

SUNDAY	
Bears	4½ at San Fran.
at Dallas	7½ Tampa Bay
at New England	13½ Buffalo
Atlanta	3 at Carolina
at Miami	3½ Jacksonville
at Indianapolis	10 NY Giants
at Philadelphia	2½ Houston
Minnesota	6 at NY Jets
Green Bay	3 at NY Jets
at Cleveland	10 Cincinnati
LA Rams	14 at Arizona
at New Orleans	6½ Pittsburgh
Kansas City	1½ Oklahoma St

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	W	T	L	GF	GA	PTS
L						

Sept. 9 @GB Lost 24-23	Sept. 17 SEA Won 24-17	Sept. 23 @ARI Won 16-14	Sept. 30 TB Won 48-10	Oct. 7 OPEN DATE	Oct. 14 @MIA Lost 31-28	Oct. 21 NE Lost 38-31	Oct. 28 NYJ Won 24-10	Nov. 4 @BUF Won 41-9	Nov. 11 DET Won 34-22	Nov. 18 MIN Won 25-20	Nov. 22 @DET Won 23-16	Dec. 2 @NYG Lost 30-27	Dec. 9 LAR Won 15-6	Dec. 16 GB Won 24-17	Dec. 23 @SF ▼	Dec. 30 @MIN Noon FOX-32
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Bears at 49ers

3:05 P.M. SUNDAY AT LEVI'S STADIUM | FOX-32 | BEARS BY 4½ (O/U 43)

THREE KEYS

Might have to go to the Kittle prod

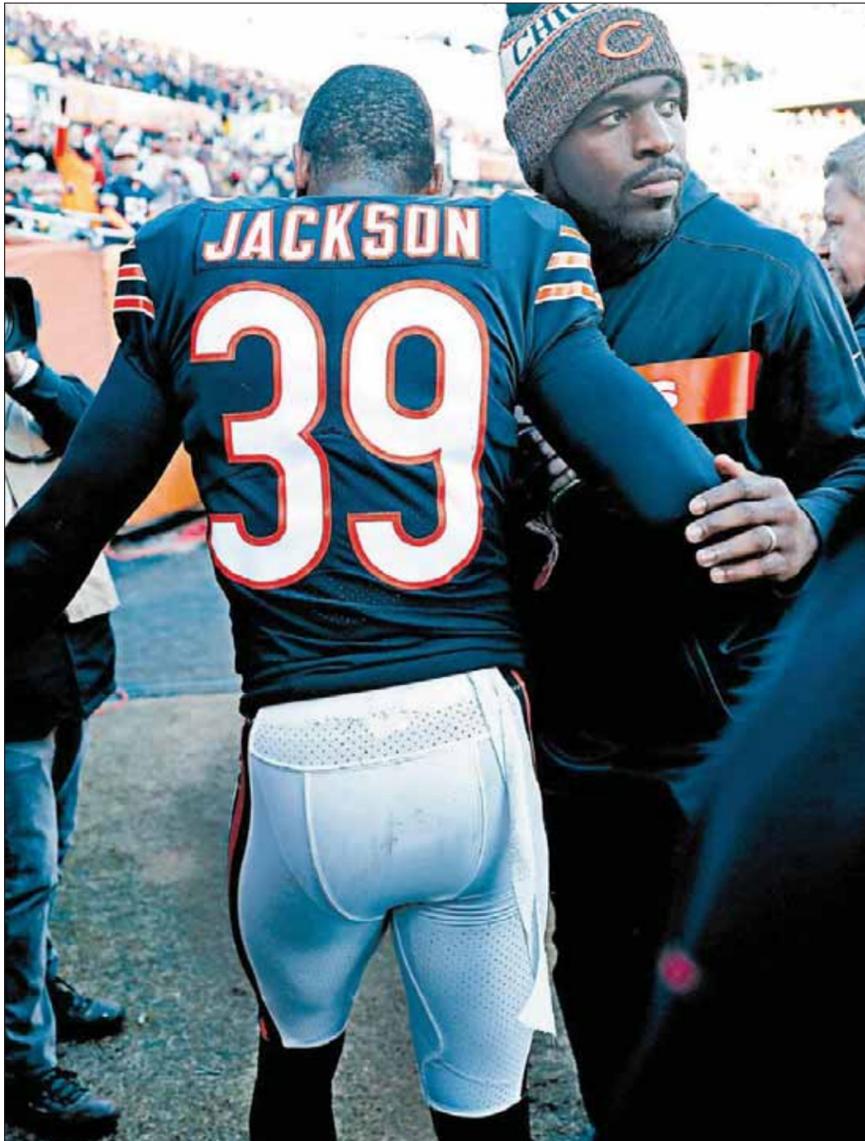
The NFC North champion Bears will go for win No. 11 Sunday when they visit the Bay area to play the 49ers. On paper, the Bears look like an obvious bet to win. But they must also guard against a human nature exhale after punching their ticket to the playoffs last weekend. Here are our three keys for a Bears victory.

1 Cover Kittle
Pro Bowl tight end George Kittle is enjoying a breakout season with 72 catches, 1,154 yards and four touchdowns. The second-year player from Iowa is the 49ers' leading pass-catcher by a mile. Receiver Kendrick Bourne is second on the team with 33 receptions, as is rookie Dante Pettis with 446 receiving yards. Niners coach Kyle Shanahan lauds Kittle's speed; he ran the 40-yard dash in 4.52 seconds at the combine. Kittle also has good hands, uses his 6-foot-4, 250-pound frame well and has been a valuable chess piece for Shanahan, who has done a brilliant job scheming to get the young tight end open consistently. Need proof of Kittle's ability to change a game? Watch the film of the 49ers' Week 14 win over the Broncos, when the tight end had seven catches and 210 yards — in the first half. Kittle has been a major weapon for quarterback Nick Mullens in play-action situations. So it's worth pointing out that the Bears did a terrific job two weeks ago limiting the Rams' play-action production. Still, with safety Eddie Jackson out, Deon Bush may be tested.

2 Stay aggressive
Mitch Trubisky did a great job playing within himself against the Packers, throwing for 235 yards and two touchdowns without a turnover. Now he'll have an opportunity to attack a 49ers defense that's about to set a new NFL record for fewest interceptions. At present, the Niners have just two picks. Yep. That's right. Two. On 484 pass attempts by opponents. In theory, that should be a green light for Trubisky. But coach Matt Nagy said that rather than bombarding his quarterback with reminders of the 49ers' interception drought, he'd rather keep Trubisky's focus on handling the Bears offense.

3 Feet of strength
If Sunday's game becomes a placekicking battle, the 49ers might have the leg up. Former Bear Robbie Gould is on home turf and enjoying a season in which he has made 29 of his 30 field-goal attempts, including a current streak of 19 in a row. Gould also knows the personality of Levi's Stadium, which has earned a reputation as a difficult place to kick. "There are two open ends," Gould said. "So the wind swirls, and it changes from quarter to quarter, from right hash to left hash." Cody Parkey has been decent since knocking two field goal attempts and two extra-points off the Soldier Field uprights six weeks ago. Parkey is 9-for-10 on field-goal attempts since. But all it will take is one gust of wind and one missed kick to blow a sense of uncertainty back into the mix.

— Dan Wiederer



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

FILL IN THE BLANKS

In the next two games, the Bears need _____.

BRAD BIGGS
To keep rolling

A convincing victory over the Rams, who entered the Week 14 game at Soldier Field with the best record in the NFC, followed by a victory over longtime nemesis Aaron Rodgers and the rival Packers have given the Bears confidence they can tangle with any team in the NFC and have a legitimate shot at winning the Super Bowl. The defense is playing at an extremely high level, and when the Bears play smart on offense and take care of the ball, they'll be difficult to beat, even if they have to go on the road. It will be important to get free safety Eddie Jackson back from his ankle injury, and the status of right guard Kyle Long is something to keep an eye on. But Matt Nagy has to keep the team rolling into January.

RICH CAMPBELL
To prove they're capable of a complete performance on the road

Remember, Mitch Trubisky is 2-2 on the road with uninspiring wins over the Cardinals and Bills. What does that mean for the Bears' chances of winning at the Superdome or the L.A. Coliseum in January? The defense surrendered 31 points at the Dolphins and 23 at the Giants. If the Bears manage to avoid a letdown against the 49ers and/or win a meaningful road game against the Vikings, it would fill a crack in what I perceive their vulnerabilities to be.

COLLEEN KANE
To balance playoff seeding with getting as healthy as possible

I understand coach Nagy's declaration that the Bears will try to make the push for a first-round bye, even if the likelihood of them overtaking the Rams for the No. 2 seed in the NFC is slim given their remaining schedules. But as they have all season, they need to be cautious with bringing back players from injury and consider giving those rest where needed. That of course goes for Jackson, who suffered a right ankle sprain Sunday against the Packers. Having him back for the postseason is key.

DAN WIEDERER
To stay healthy — and get healthy

Be honest, how fast did your stomach drop when Jackson turned his right ankle after intercepting Rodgers? All season, Jackson has shown a Mike Brown-like knack for making big plays in big moments, using his intelligence and instincts to ignite a Pro Bowl season. The Bears badly need him to be available when the playoffs begin. If his recovery doesn't happen that fast, his absence will be felt. Just ask members of the Bears' 2006 defense how meaningful Brown's season-ending injury was that season. Many still believe that had Brown been healthy for the Super Bowl, the Bears would have won that game.

PREDICTIONS

San Fran. will be in the teens

Brad Biggs (11-3)
Fill-in 49ers quarterback Nick Mullens has been impressive and Kyle Shanahan deserves credit for keeping a roster that has been decimated by injuries playing hard into the final month. The Bears outclass the 49ers and are motivated to keep rolling.

31-13
Bears

Rich Campbell (9-5)
Mitch Trubisky's only road wins this season were against the Cardinals and Bills, and he didn't play particularly well in either game. But the 49ers are allergic to interceptions, and Trubisky will take advantage of that. This sets up as a trap game, but Matt Nagy's steadying hand wins out.

23-13
Bears

David Haugh (11-3)
Robbie Gould's second-favorite NFL team will beat his employer in a one-sided game that won't be decided by a field-goal kicker. No gifts for the 49ers — the Bears defense will make sure this holiday trip is all about takeaways.

27-13
Bears

Colleen Kane (9-5)
It would be natural for the Bears to let up after huge wins against the Rams and Packers, but Nagy and his players insist that won't happen. Also, the Bears have 30 more takeaways than the 49ers. That's hard to ignore.

27-16
Bears

Phil Thompson (11-3)
Trubisky gets labeled as a poor road quarterback, but because of injury he has played in only two road games since the Week 5 open date. How he performs against a 49ers defense with a league-low two interceptions will speak volumes. The Bears should be able to overcome any hiccups.

24-18
Bears

Dan Wiederer (9-5)
On paper the Bears are the superior team in every way. They lose here only if they come out flat after taking a division championship and Pro Bowl victory lap.

28-17
Bears

FOLLOW ALONG WITH US
Get tweets from the Bears beat, photos, videos and much more at chicagotribune.com/bears

AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT THE CHICAGO BEARS

The Chicago Bears Centennial Scrapbook
By Don Pierson and Dan Pompei

Preorder Now on the Chicago Bears Online Pro Shop

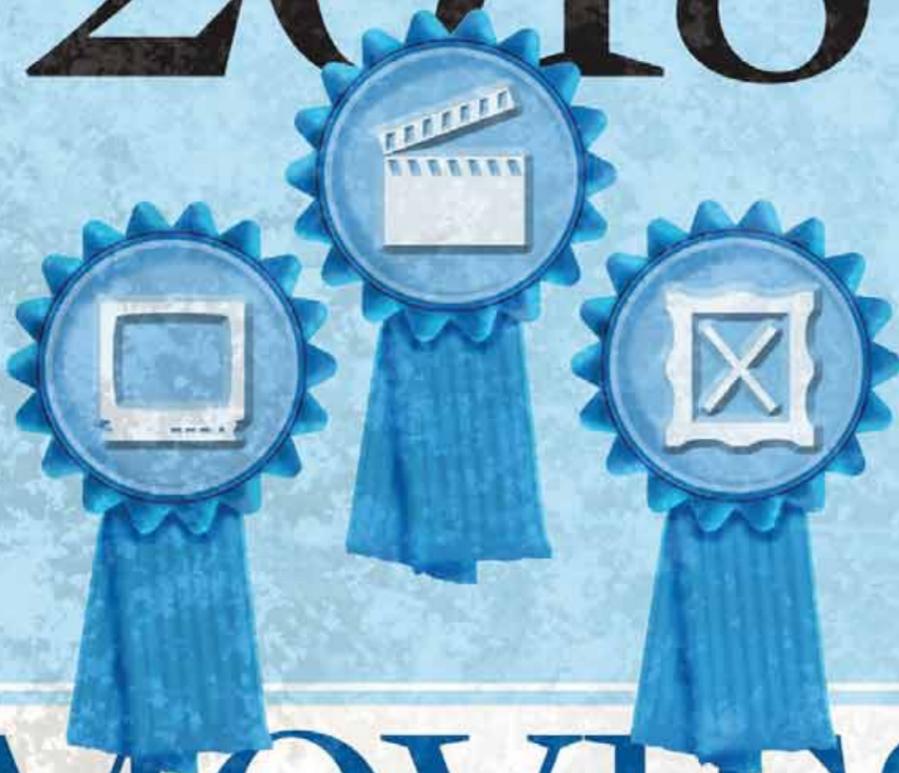


Chicago Tribune
A+E
 Sunday

TELEVISION

BEST
 OF THE ARTS

2018



MOVIES

VISUAL ART

This Sunday wraps up some of our year-end “best of” lists in the arts and entertainment, including visual art in Chicago and best of the screen, big and small.

Best movies by Michael Phillips. **PAGE 2**

Best television in the last year. **PAGE 4**

Best visual art by Lori Waxman. **PAGE 6**

STILL TO COME

Best jazz and classical performances by Howard Reich and John von Rhein. **DEC. 26 IN A+E**

ONLINE

www.chicagotribune.com/bestof2018

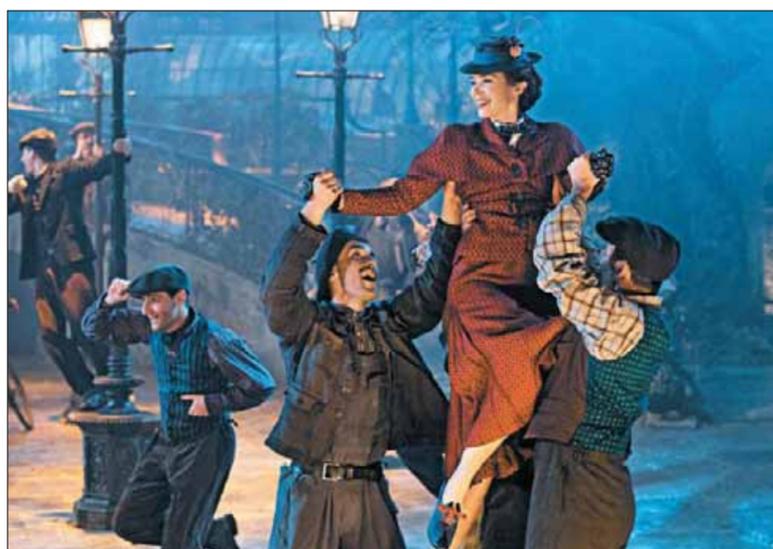
This nanny tries to save the world



CHRIS JONES

There is only one way to solve the intractable mess known as Brexit and her name is Mary Poppins. And Lin-Manuel Miranda, the un-Trumpian personification of sunny American benevolence, is the ideal fantasy sidekick.

Britain slowly is coming to terms with the reality that there is no orderly, mutually agreeable way to exit the European Union, actually no process to reflect the democratically expressed clear intent of the British people without causing utter chaos, especially in Ireland, because the British people had no idea what they were doing. Enabled by the former Prime Minister David Cameron — who reportedly set in motion his whole referendum nonsense while eating pizza at Chicago's O'Hare Airport — they boxed such leaders as current Prime Minister Theresa May into a whole series of paradoxes, just one of which is the clear necessity for some kind of Irish customs border, even though the only thing anyone seems to agree on is that a border coursing through the Emerald Isle is a terrible idea.



Emily Blunt is Mary Poppins in Disney's sequel to the 1964 movie starring Julie Andrews.

Once “Mary Poppins Returns” is seen widely in the United Kingdom beginning next week, it will dawn on Brits that what they really need is one of their traditional no-nonsense nannies, coming down from

the sky, declaring “pish, posh” to this whole will-of-the-people Brexit nonsense, manipulating time so the whole country could have a do-over of that notorious referendum, telling her Good Cop Miranda

to use his new Cockney accent and winning smile to buck up the people, and sending this exhausting 2018 on its way with a rousing chorus of “There's No Where to Go But Up,” as the Nanny Ex Machina heads back to the animated Disney heavens, whence she came.

And — given that Mary Poppins now has gone from the quirky mind of her creator, P.L. Travers, into a global Disney superhero franchise — whence she surely will come again. I wonder what we'll need her to solve the next time? (Read on for my prediction).

For we longtime students of Mary Poppins, the changes in the uber-nanny over time are just fascinating. In her original form — arguably even in the original Disney movie — she just exists. She's a fascinating and eccentric character. Simple as that. She's not there to solve any societal deficits, not beyond a messy room anyway. I suppose you could see her as a chilly herald from the authoritarian past, but she's too weird to be a conservative emissary. She's partly a nightmare, partly a savior.

But then Cameron Mackintosh joined with Disney Theatricals to turn “Mary Poppins” into a stage musical in 2009. Travers had told Mackintosh (who told the

Turn to **Poppins**, Page 8

THE BEST OF THE ARTS | 2018

MOVIES



A24

Ethan Hawke plays a minister in "First Reformed."



20TH CENTURY FOX

Viola Davis stars in "Widows."



STRAND RELEASING

Daniel Giménez Cacho is Don Diego de Zama in "Zama."



FOX SEARCHLIGHT FILMS

Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone, right, are rivals in "The Favourite."



NETFLIX

"Roma" is Alfonso Cuarón's evocation of his childhood in Mexico City.



ANNAPURNA PICTURES

From left, Lakeith Stanfield as Cassius Green and Danny Glover as Langston star in the film, "Sorry to Bother You."



SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Lakota cowboy Brady Jandreau plays a version of himself in Chloe Zhao's film "The Rider."



HULU

"Minding the Gap" finds friends Max Barker, from left, Zack Mulligan, Bing Liu and Keire Johnson at a crossroads.



TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

"Can You Ever Forgive Me?" features Richard E. Grant and Melissa McCarthy.



MARVEL STUDIOS-DISNEY

Michael B. Jordan, left, and Chadwick Boseman face off in "Black Panther."

Confronting hard truths

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune

So many images linger from the 2018 movie year:

Michael B. Jordan and Chadwick Boseman in "Black Panther," fighting to the death in such a way as to actually make us care about the ideals behind the violence;

The unbroken, camera-on-the-car-hood shot in "Widows," charting precisely how far a ruthless Chicago politician must travel to get from vacant-lot photo op to Hyde Park mansion;

Regina Hall, Haley Lu Richardson and Shayna Mahayle in "Support the Girls," screaming their lungs out on a building rooftop, just because it feels good;

The title of "A Star is Born" lighting up the screen at the perfect moment in Lady Gaga's stroll up the ramp, while she sings a bar or two of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

The year 2018 wasn't like any I've ever experienced as a critic or as a civilian. A larger, unceasing, threatening real-time documen-

tary seemed to be going on all around us. (1968 was like this, too, but I was 7, and more interested in "Laugh-In.") Whomever you voted for in the 2016 presidential race, or in this year's midterm elections, the sheer distraction of American politics made the act of entering other worlds, on all kinds of screens, crazy-difficult.

And utterly necessary. We all seek the truth, or at least a break from the lies: The difference of opinion regarding the source of those lies has carved up this nation, perhaps permanently.

My No. 1 and No. 2 films this year share something in common. Both movies showcase the unaffected grace of their nonprofessional leading performers. The earnest amateur on screen is no guarantee of a feature film's success: Clint Eastwood's use of the real-life heroes in "The 15:17 to Paris" didn't work as truth or as dramatization, it merely came off as a misguided favor to the young men who saved lives that day. But when the strategy does work, it's magic.

Best 10

10. "Black Panther." Suddenly the Marvel Cinematic Universe seemed to matter again, with director Ryan Coogler's imagining of Wakanda, and his reminder that superheroics mean more when there's a foot in the real world.

9. "Zama." Argentine filmmaker Lucrecia Martel's shimmering historical mirage about an officer, devoted to the Spanish crown, waiting to leave 18th century Paraguay. And waiting. And waiting. My favorite opening shot of the year: actor Daniel Gimenez Cacho, posing in full uniform and tricorne hat, at water's edge, posed as if waiting for the court painter to arrive.

8. "Sorry to Bother You." Boots Riley, musician, activist and provocateur, made a devilishly comic screed against capitalism, telemarketing, labor, capital, white culture and making a buck the hardest possible way. His prodigious imagination went everywhere, including

straight to an ending that practically dared audiences to stick with it. But already, in his feature debut, Riley's camera sense is more interesting than, for example, Spike Lee's.

7. "First Reformed." In the performance of his career, Ethan Hawke plays a man of the cloth tortured by doubts, frailties and visions of bloody redemption in writer-director Paul Schrader's bracing career high.

6. "Widows." Gillian Flynn and director Steve McQueen's teeming adaptation of an '80s British miniseries gave marvelous roles to Viola Davis, Elizabeth Debecki and Daniel Kaluuya, among many others. The Chicago locations felt fresh. Not a Bean in sight.

5. "Minding the Gap." The year's most fluid, intuitive and absorbing documentary found Chicago-based filmmaker Bing Liu revisiting his Rockford, Ill., haunts and childhood comrades, each facing a different set of all-too-human demons.

4. "The Favourite." My hate mail confirms it: Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos' sly, nasty look at 18th century British court intrigue and sexual competition is not for all tastes. But the performances by a ripping Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz made this slightly demented historical travesty work in human terms.

3. "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" Director Marielle Heller's second remarkable picture in a row, following the criminally underseen "Diary of a Teenage Girl," concerned true-life literary forger Lee Israel (Melissa McCarthy, never better) and 1990s New York, a land of crushed hopes and constant opportunities for reinvention.

2. "Roma." Alfonso Cuarón's grand, silvery evocation of his early 1970s Mexico City childhood was also a tribute to the nanny who raised him during a difficult adolescence. Yalitza Aparicio, a first-time actress, embodies quiet strength amid a series of fastidiously com-

posed vignettes. Shot in exquisite 65 millimeter black and white, this is a movie to roam around in.

1. "The Rider." Chinese-American writer-director Chloe Zhao's gorgeous, plaintive masterwork of poetic realism featured Lakota cowboy Brady Jandreau playing a version of himself, in a South Dakota Badlands tale very close to the performers' real-life experiences. In a year such as this one, when the truth was so hard to come by, "The Rider" gathered up undeniable cinematic details by the bushel.

Worst 10

10. "Red Sparrow"
9. "Death Wish"
8. "Rampage"
7. "The 17:15 to Paris"
6. "Aquaman"
5. "Avengers: Infinity War"
4. "Welcome to Marwen"
3. "Death of a Nation"
2. "Life Itself"
1. "The Happytime Murders"

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

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THE BEST OF THE ARTS | 2018

Year's movies celebrated female strength

BY ASHLEY LEE
Los Angeles Times

Strong women have seized the big screen in 2018. Finally, right?

That optimistic sentiment makes headlines year after year after year. Whenever a few female-centered films galvanize awards-season buzz or box-office numbers, it's pitched as a newfound phenomenon. It awakens new hope that Hollywood might accept, once and for all, that story-telling led by and about women can secure both critical and commercial success.

We've heard all that before, but 2018 stands out as the year that introduced a slew of stories led by female characters who embody a different definition of "strong."

"We're not holding up a banner for all of womanhood, and I certainly don't know how to do that," Karyn Kusama, director of "Destroyer" (starring Nicole Kidman), says. "It's important for men and women alike, but in this case, particularly women, to see characters who struggle with the same torments that we all do."

"I do hope there's an increasing awareness about what it does to our larger human consciousness to see interesting versions of ourselves reflected on the screen: specific, authentic, weird women who do things in their individual way," she adds.

This year's movies collectively showcase a diverse spectrum of female strength. This gamut spans in age (from the adolescents of "The Hate U Give" and "Madeline's Madeline" to the after-middle-aged ladies of "Book Club" and "The Wife"), in racial background ("Crazy Rich Asians," "Support the Girls," "Annihilation"), and even in interpretations of motherhood ("Wildlife," "Tully," "Private Life").

Whether tackling the humors of college campuses ("Life of the Party"), the antics of accidental espionage ("The Spy Who Dumped Me") or the horrors of webcam pornography ("Cam"), each story celebrates each female character for the complex human being she is.

This year, the female-driven fare on the big screen is rich, with more listings than this piece has space to include.

Some entries are exemplary how-to's, such as the portrayals of civil-rights icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg ("On the Basis of Sex") and Belle Époque novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette ("Colette"). These origin



Teyonah Parris, from left, Kiki Layne and Regina King in a scene from "If Beale Street Could Talk."



"Ben Is Back," a drama starring Julia Roberts as a mother confronting her son's addiction.

stories see Felicity Jones and Keira Knightley, respectively, prevailing over patriarchal systems and the men who exemplify them.

Other narratives this year could be seen as cautionary tales. Hollywood isn't necessarily condoning the ruthless manipulations of Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz's social climbers in "The Favourite," the fatal mind games of Anna Kendrick and Blake Lively's suburban mothers in "A Simple Favor," the intriguing techniques of Maggie Gyllenhaal's educator in "The Kindergarten Teacher" or the questionable choices of Melissa McCarthy's literary forger in "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"

"It's not just about telling the pure, clean journey with the likable woman and the monologue at the end," says "Widows" actress Elizabeth Debicki.

These female-skewing films have been favored at the box office too: "A Star Is Born," "Crazy Rich Asians," "Halloween," "Ocean's 8," "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" and "A Wrinkle in Time" are among the top-25 domestic-grossing movies of the year so far. Additionally, "Suspiria" and "Eighth Grade" each broke the year's records for highest per-screen average in their opening weekends, and "Hereditary" became A24's top-grossing title.

"Ultimately, the industry is driven by economics more than anything else," says box-office analyst Karie Bible of Exhibitor

Relations. "If female-driven films keep making money like this, they will keep getting made."

This year in particular, amid whatever wave of feminism we're in, a single definition of a strong woman is far from universal.

For some, strength is best expressed when standing up for sexual-assault victims, shouting about gender parity, marching in the streets in protest and running for office — and winning.

For others, strength is painful, rooted in endurance instead of exertion. It's speaking your truth and, despite dismissal, discrimination and defeat, getting out of bed to face another day.

Most intriguingly, a handful of female-led releases zoom in on charac-



Felicity Jones plays the young Ruth Bader Ginsburg in a scene from "On the Basis of Sex."



Rosamund Pike portrays war journalist Marie Colvin in "A Private War."

ters who source their fortitude in traits that are connotatively feminine.

Take "A Private War," in which Rosamund Pike portrays the late war correspondent Marie Colvin. The drama highlights how her empathy and sensitivity equipped her to report on the innocent victims of the conflicts she covered in ways that others in the male-dominated field did not.

"I hope that when women see this movie, they're able to look at Marie and say to themselves, 'I can make a difference, and I don't have to be something that I'm not to do it,'" says screenwriter Arash Amel.

A few movies — such as the "Transformers" franchise movie "Bumblebee," starring Hailee Steinfeld, and the post-apocalyptic

adventure entry "Mortal Engines" with Hera Hilmar — highlight women whose capacity for compassion is not a fault, but an asset.

Two titles center on mothers who will do whatever it takes to save their kids. In "Bird Box," a determined Sandra Bullock tries to accompany her children to safety from a mysterious apocalyptic nightmare. And in "Ben Is Back," a tenacious Julia Roberts heroically and heartbreakingly goes to great lengths to help her drug-addict son (Lucas Hedges).

"Her superpower is that unconditional love as a parent, even for a kid who, from what it looks like, there's not a lot to love," says "Ben Is Back" writer-director Peter Hedges.

"She doesn't do every-

thing right, but she does do everything from a place of love. I hope people who will see this and think about those who have been fighting for them hardest — oftentimes, it's their mothers," he adds.

This spectrum of strength is especially widened by two performances, both by fresh faces: "If Beale Street Could Talk," (with notable newcomer Kiki Layne as a pregnant black woman trying to free her beau from jail) and "Roma" (with first-time actor Yalitza Aparicio as a family's longtime caretaker).

All of these holiday releases — including "Vox Lux," which stars Natalie Portman as a problematic pop star; "Destroyer," in which Kidman embarks on a rampage of revenge acts; and "Second Act," featuring Jennifer Lopez embellishing her professional credentials for a promotion — present offbeat portrayals of female strength without any kind of blanket judgment.

Even "Mary Queen of Scots," which juxtaposes the feminine compassion of Saoirse Ronan's Mary Stuart with the practiced masculinity of Margot Robbie's Queen Elizabeth, doesn't end the movie with an endorsement of a side.

"These are women who have to be unbelievably strong because they're ruling at a time when many people considered the idea of a female monarch to be against nature and against God," says director Josie Rourke.

"What we really need, and what we're really owed, is some deep and honest reflection into what we mean when we say 'strong women,'" Rourke says. "Until we do that, I don't think we'll really see the change we're all so desperate for."

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THE BEST OF THE ARTS | 2018

TELEVISION SHOWS

Dramedy dominates the small screen

BY HANK STUEVER
The Washington Post

Forget the days when a lone TV critic could honestly claim to have watched everything in the past year. This list is more about taking a minute to salute the shows that rose above the streaming/cable/broadcast glut and impressed me with their stories, performances, structure and, most of all, left me with a sense of satisfaction.

1. "Barry" (HBO). Wickedly funny, deeply felt and unnervingly tense, Bill Hader and Alec Berg's dramedy about a tormented hit man who accidentally winds up in acting school is a terrific example of how to push a viewer's preconceptions: Funnyman Hader turns out to be a remarkably versatile protagonist, and Henry Winkler's work in the series redefines the concept of a comeback.

2. "The Americans" (FX). There's little left to say, except to salute creators Joel Fields and Joe Weisberg, their writers and certainly their cast (especially Keri Russell, Matthew Rhys, Holly Taylor and Noah Emmerich) for a near-perfect and emotionally draining send-off to this superb Cold War family drama.

3. "Killing Eve" (BBC America). It was sort of a sleeper hit at first, but word quickly spread about Phoebe Waller-Bridge's splendidly paced, six-part action thriller about a desk-bound American (Sandra Oh) working in a London intelligence office who begins obsessively hunting for a wily and weird assassin (Jodie Comer). As it charges toward a confrontation, the series soars on Oh's and Comer's per-



Clockwise from top left: Sandra Oh, Sean Delaney and Owen McDonnell in "Killing Eve," a six-part action thriller on BBC America; Bill Hader in "Barry," an HBO dramedy; Yvonne Orji, left, and Issa Rae in "Insecure," an HBO series in its third season; and Donald Glover in "Atlanta: Robbin' Season" on FX.

formances as two women thoroughly absorbed in a game of chase.

4. "Escape at Dannemora" (Showtime). Brett Johnson and Michael Tolkin's adaptation (with director Ben Stiller) of this story of two convicted murderers (Benicio Del Toro and Paul Dano) who escaped a maximum-security prison in 2015 with the help of a besotted employee (Patricia Arquette) is striking for its unadorned quality. It's a disciplined example of how a masterful true-crime miniseries can skip the need to play up a theme.

5. "Kidding" (Showtime).

Despite my initial worry that David Holstein's dramedy about a troubled but beloved kids TV host (Jim Carrey as Jeff, aka "Mr. Pickles") might bump too close to the sacred memory of Mister Rogers, "Kidding" stands entirely on its own. "Kidding's" conception of Mr. Pickles' imaginary world — with puppets and songs — shows top-notch creativity while Carrey gives his most memorable performance in years.

6. "Insecure" (HBO). My interest in what happens to the characters Issa Rae and company have created in this hilarious and sharply observed dramedy continues unabated — particularly

with the show's third season, in which Rae's character leaped before she looked, quitting her job as a social worker, becoming a Lyft driver and testing the patience of friends. Beyond the comedy scenes, which are fantastic (that girls' trip to Coachella alone is worth a rewatch), there's covert reporting here about surviving the rapid, widening gentrification of Los Angeles.

7. "The Fourth Estate" (Showtime). With President Donald Trump demonizing the media (and recently implying that it's OK to kill a journalist under certain conditions), master documentarian Liz Garbus

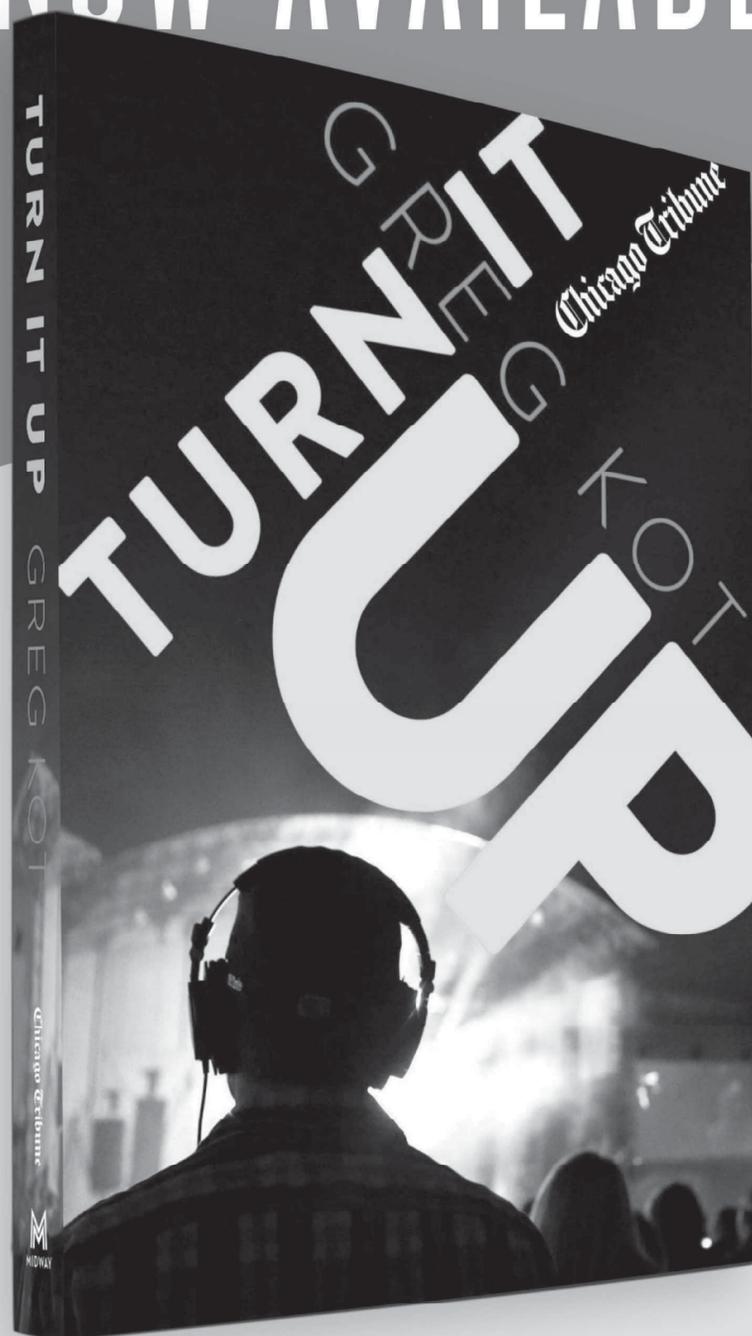
delivered this astounding and intimate look at the inner workings of The New York Times' Washington bureau. All Americans need to see this example of the First Amendment in action.

8. "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" (Amazon). It's on this list as much for its first, Emmy-winning season as its just-released (and so far equally marvelous) second season. This comic period drama about a hyperactive 1950s Manhattan housewife who finds her calling in the Village's stand-up comedy scene is creator Amy Sherman-Palladino's grandest achievement yet.

9. "Atlanta: Robbin' Season" (FX). The second season of Donald Glover's dramedy "Atlanta" had deeper story arcs, set against the unease of the holidays (aka "robbin' season"), further cemented the show's worth as a study of the human condition.

10. "Forever" (Amazon). A delicate sense of grief (ennui, maybe?) runs through some of the year's best TV shows, particularly in Alan Yang's effectively quirky "Forever," in which Fred Armisen and Maya Rudolph play a married couple who discover the afterlife is just an extension of their bland (yet content) suburban routines.

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THE BEST OF THE ARTS | 2018

VISUAL ART



CHICAGO DCASE

"Keith Haring: The Chicago Mural Exhibition" at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Great art in spaces big and small

By LORI WAXMAN

Chicago Tribune

We are arguably in the midst of a great cultural upheaval, precipitated by generational shifts, a vastly expanded and digitized media landscape, and the existence of the Trump Administration. Some days this shakeup takes the form of Black Lives Matter protests, sometimes it's the outing of a sexual harasser by a victim emboldened through #MeToo, somehow it also includes the monetization of nearly everything and everyone.

The art world, though often presumed to be a special world unto itself by its citizens, myself included, has hardly been immune. Be it an exhibition, a news item, a court case, a record-shattering sale, an act of censorship or some combination thereof, the results have rarely been categorical. "The Morality Wars," penned by film critic Wesley Morris for the New York Times Magazine's October culture issue, was a must-read essay on the mess of it all.

In 2018 alone, the famed fashion photographers Mario Testino and Bruce Weber, the multidisciplinary artist Jan Fabre, the curator Jens Hoffmann, and the architect Richard Meier, among others, were publicly accused of disreputable behavior and professionally penalized for it. The National Gallery of Art in Washington canceled not one but two shows, by painter Chuck Close and documentary photographer Thomas Roma, because of allegations of sexual misconduct against them.

There are plenty of arguments to be made for separating the art from the artist, but there are even more for creating environments in which artistic genius is not used as an excuse for disregarding the rights of others. Australian comedian Hannah Gadsby riffed on this subject, with Picasso's institutionally indulged misogyny as case study, for a good 20 minutes of her Netflix special "Nanette," in what might be the first extended use of art history in a stand-up act. That's what feminist critique can sound like, at its best. What it can look like was shown by Justine Pluvillage, when the French video maker presented "Amazons" at the Hyde Park Art Center, transforming the catwalk windows into a panoramic screen across which vogued, strutted, strode and rolled a disarmingly diverse group of Chicagoans, rendered as a monument to resilient womanhood.

According to a study by the Association of Art Museum Directors, small and mid-size museums are majority run by female directors, big-budget encyclopedic institutions by men. Beginning in late 2017 and continuing throughout 2018, these figures worsened dramatically, not locally (whew!) but nationally and internationally, with the firings and forced resignations of Helen Molesworth at LA MOCA, Laura Raicovich at the Queens Museum in New York, Beatrix Ruf at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Maria Ines Rodriguez at CAPC Bordeaux, and Olga Viso at the Walker in Minneapolis. Every one of these incidents prompted widespread outrage because, while the circumstances of the individual cases varied widely, what united them was obvious: a powerful, acclaimed woman in the art world was forced out for doing her job, a job that would not have been lost if she'd been a man.

So, what did they do in those jobs of theirs? Among the many shows she organized during her four-year tenure as chief curator of MOCA, Molesworth originated the Kerry James Marshall survey, a rare critical and popular hit that traveled to the MCA Chicago last year and made Top 10 Lists around the country, including the Chicago Tribune's, for its masterly upending of the whiteness of art history. She's what's been called an activist curator — a curator who takes into account the ghettoization and exclusionism that have for so long dictated what does and doesn't get displayed in museums.

We have a few of our own activist curators in Chicago, and they put up some of the year's most urgent shows. Allison M. Glenn's "Out of Easy Reach," an ambitious exhibition by a multigenerational array of



HANS HAACKE/ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY

Hans Haacke's "Gift Horse" was installed on the Bluhm Family Terrace on the roof of the Art Institute of Chicago.



ELYSE BLUESTONE

Installation view of "Brendan Fernandes: The Living Mask" at DePaul Art Museum



HYDE PARK ART CENTER

Justine Pluvillage in "Amazons"

women artists of color, installed simultaneously at the DePaul Art Museum, Gallery 400 and the Stony Island Arts Bank, dismantled from every possible angle any remaining assumptions about abstraction being a white-hetero-guy thing. Also at DPAM, director Julie Rodrigues Widholm mounted "Brendan Fernandes: The Living Mask," the latest in a series of solo shows as hard-hitting in their politics as they have been seductive in their presentation.

At the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Sheridan Tucker Anderson's "In Their Own Form" pushed the portrayal of black people fearlessly forward in a mes-

merizing group show of Afrofuturist photography and video. The Floating Museum collective, meanwhile, moved their enormous foam bust of Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable onto a spit of overgrown land at the mouth of the Chicago River, advocating for a planned but as-yet-unbuilt commemorative park to Chicago's first non-indigenous settler, a handsome and educated black man rendered in sickly yellow, waiting incongruously amid the greenery.

Or should we say greenbacks? Because too often lately, in the art world as elsewhere, it all comes down to money, whether it's questions about the dubious

source of a museum board member's wealth or the fact that art has become one of the most popular asset classes for rich investors worldwide. Hans Haacke's "Gift Horse," installed since October on the rooftop terrace of the Art Institute, trenchantly illustrates the situation: through the bones of the fifteen-foot-tall bronze horse skeleton, an LED bow on its leg blinking stock exchange prices, rise the gleaming skyscrapers that ring Millennium Park. Best view: through the equine ghost's empty belly, right at 65 W. Monroe.

An even more haunting experience can be had at the Arts Club, where a survey of Gaylen Gerber's "Supports" just closed. On display were a vast range of objects Gerber bought at auction — everything from a prehistoric Moche cup depicting the god of the underworld to a mirror from the Kennedy Winter White House in Palm Beach to a Ming dynasty figurine — and repainted in either white or gray. Had these artefacts been vandalized, or neutered, or rendered somehow more pure, like all those colorless Greek statues that it turns out were once vibrantly painted? What was their new value as the creation of Gaylen Gerber? Contemporary art continues its meteoric rise, shattering auction records left and right. Tapping the lunacy, Gerber succeeded in something rare: a show equal parts brilliant and nauseating. I'll be thinking about it well into 2019.

Exploiting that very lunacy was Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who planned to auction off a mural created in 1995 by Kerry James Marshall for West Garfield Park's Legler Library. The sale would have capitalized on Marshall's status — set in May — as maker of the most expensive work by a living African-American artist, would have generated a projected \$15 million for library renovations, and would have proved that public art is nothing but a tradeable commodity. This just one year after the mayor's widely touted "Year of Public Art." This the same year as the Cultural Center's gladdening display of panels from the late Keith Haring's super-cool 488-foot-long street art mural, painted in 1989 with hundreds of CPS students. In the face of furious outcries from critics, museum directors and Marshall himself, the Mayor made the most extraordinary about-face of the year: he canceled the sale. And found money somewhere else in the city budget for some of the renovations.

"Knowledge and Wonder" will be returned to the library in the new year.

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THE BEST OF THE ARTS | 2018

THE MUSIC SCENE

Copeland's blues, Marinaro's comeback



HOWARD REICH
On Music

As this turbulent year draws to a close, Chicago music lovers, at least, have many reasons to give thanks. And that's true whether you listen to jazz, classical, blues, gospel, avant-garde or (I hope) all of them. Among this year's victories, large and small:

Shemekia Copeland's blues. How fortunate for us that the greatest female blues singer under age 40 lives in Chicago and continues to embrace a music indelibly identified with this city. Though Copeland personifies certain blues traditions, she also pushes the genre forward, most recently with her fiery, socially conscious new album, "America's Child." In its tracks, Copeland confronts racism, hate, xenophobia and other perils of our time. Regardless of subject matter, though, there's no mistaking the majesty of Copeland's instrument, nor the ferocity of her delivery. In effect, Copeland reaffirms the relevance of the blues.

Paul Marinaro's comeback. One year ago, the singular Chicago singer faced mortal danger: He was rushed into emergency surgery as he went into septic shock, due to perforated diverticulitis. After months of recovery and further surgery, Marinaro regained his strength, rebuilt his instrument and returned to where he belongs, the stage. He recently posted on Facebook that he was "on my way to performance no. 21 in 14 days," a clear sign that Marinaro is swinging again. He'd be the first to acknowledge that his dramatic comeback owes a great deal to two friends who helped restore him to health: music impresario Celine Peterson and singer Rose Colella, their sacrifices saying a great deal about the nature of community in the world of jazz.

DePaul's new music center. The construction long underway at Fullerton Avenue and Halsted Street, on DePaul's Lincoln Park campus, foreshadowed a major edifice for the university's School of Music. But few could have been prepared for the spaciousness, beauty and versatility of the school's \$98 million Holtschneider Performance Center. Its four soundproof performance spaces accommodate an array of musical expression, from grand opera to intimate jazz, each equipped with computer-controlled acoustic systems. Add to this 80 practice rooms, multiple rehearsal spaces, state-of-the-art recording studio and other amenities, and you have a musical nexus that will benefit not only DePaul students but the city at large.

Delmark Records' rebirth. It was only a matter of time before Delmark Records founder Bob Koester, 86, would need to decide what to do with the label he founded 65 years ago. Would he shut it, sell it, bequeath it or something else? And what would he do with its catalog, inventory and studio at 4121 N. Rockwell St.? Fortunately, Koester sold the whole shebang to two Chicago musicians who said they were determined to build on the founder's legacy, Julia A. Miller and Elbio Barilari. They're making good on their word, having already released several noteworthy recordings, including guitarist Fareed Haque's exquisite collaboration with the Kaia ensemble, "New Latin American Music for Guitar and String Quartet," and a reissue of the Roscoe Mitchell Sextet's landmark "Sound."

Daniel Barenboim's return. It had been 12 years since the former Chicago Symphony Orchestra music director stood before the ensemble, Barenboim con-



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK / CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Shemekia Copeland took on the cause of social justice with "America's Child."



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ / CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Former Chicago Symphony Orchestra music director Daniel Barenboim conducts the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Nov. 1.

spicuous by his long absence. Stories of Barenboim's unhappy departure from the CSO in 2006 abound, but when I asked the conductor why he'd stayed away, he would go only so far as to say this: "Because when I finished, I finished - I don't really believe in going back. I closed the chapter." Nevertheless, when CSO music director Riccardo Muti invited him back, Barenboim decided the time had come, and he was right. His reading of Smetana's concert-length tone poem "Ma Vlast" ("My Country") was by turns poetic, rhapsodic and urgently expressive.

Grossman Ensemble's debut. The Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition, at the University of Chicago, already has been up and running, but it took a huge step forward in public perception by launching its resident band, the Grossman Ensemble. Thirteen new-music specialists, including Chicago's Spektral Quartet, offered four world premieres earlier this month at the university's Logan Center for the Arts, the polish of the performances matched by the originality and stylistic diversity of the scores. To have an ensemble of this caliber committed to playing new music in Chicago and, one hopes, around the world, stands as boon to the city's ever-expanding contemporary classical scene.

Davenport's 20th. Can an intimate little cabaret survive for two decades in a city overflowing with music of every genre imaginable? Apparently so, for Daven-

port's marked its anniversary on the upswing, its calendar packed with performers familiar and unknown, its audience loyal, growing and increasingly younger. Applause goes to founders Donna Kirchner and Sue Berry, who own the building at 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave., and, therefore, haven't gotten squeezed out of an up-and-coming neighborhood by perpetual rent increases. Chicago's cabaret professionals could not have asked for a warmer setting or more devoted supporters.

Kevin Cole's comeback. Chicago singer Paul Marinaro wasn't the only important artist to overcome a perilous health scare. Cole, the leading interpreter of George Gershwin's piano works, was based in Chicago from 1994 to 2016 and started noticing disturbing neurological symptoms after moving back to his hometown, Bay City, Mich., in 2017. He was diagnosed with an acoustic neuroma, defined by the Mayo Clinic as a "usually slow-growing tumor that develops on the main (vestibular) nerve leading from your inner ear to your brain." The requisite surgery threatened to destroy most of Cole's hearing, but he came through it astonishingly well, with "maybe 10 or 15 percent" hearing in his right ear and "100 percent" on the left, he told me. When Cole played the Ravinia Festival in June, his pre-eminence as a Gershwin pianist remained wholly intact.

Erwin Helfer's music. Every Tuesday evening, 82-year-old pianist Helfer gets on his bicycle (weather permitting) and ped-

als over to the Hungry Brain, at 2319 W. Belmont Ave., where he plays the blues, boogie and traditional jazz that seem to course through his veins. Helfer has been studying this classic American repertoire for most of his life, and he performs it as lovingly as Murray Perahia dispatches Mozart. Ultimately, Helfer stands as one of our last links to the era of blues-piano man Little Brother Montgomery, early New Orleans jazz drummer Baby Dodds, venerable blues singer Mama Yancey and her husband, piano whiz Jimmy Yancey, among other Helfer mentors.

Winter's survival. That's the jazz club, not the season. Two years ago, music-lover Scott Stegman decided to realize a dream that many harbor but few realize: opening a jazz club of his own. Though the first months were rocky, due to various construction and bureaucratic delays, Stegman stuck with it, recently marking the second anniversary of this downtown room, at 465 N. McClurg Court, on the promenade facing the Ogden Slip. Over time, Winter's Jazz Club has claimed its place as a forum for first-rate singers such as Paul Marinaro, Tammy McCann and Denise Thimes, but also as a home for superb instrumentalists such as reedist Victor Goines and drummer Dana Hall. Long may it swing.

Howard Reich is a Tribune critic.

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WATCH THIS: SUNDAY



Tea Leoni

"Madam Secretary" (7:30 p.m., CBS): The CBS political drama marks its 100th episode with "Family Separation: Part 1," the first in a two-part episode (concluding on Jan. 6) that addresses one of the hottest of hot-button topics in the current real-world American presidency: the separation of unauthorized immigrants from their children. Elizabeth (Tea Leoni) clashes dramatically with the governor of a state that has implemented that very policy.

"Christmas Bells Are Ringing" (6 p.m., HMM): While helping plan her widowed father's (Mark Humphrey) Christmas Eve wedding at her family's Cape Cod vacation home, freelance photographer Sam Rogers (Emilie Ullerup) is dismayed to learn that her hopes of landing a fulltime position with a Boston newspaper hinge on her success at giving the photo editor an impressive set of new holiday images with almost no advance notice. Fortunately, an old Cape Cod friend, Mike Phillips (Josh Kelly), helps her find inspiration — along with a little romance — in this 2018 movie.

"Christmas Made to Order" (7 p.m., Hallmark): Catalog company staffer Gretchen Hart (Alexa PenaVega) yearns to turn her dream endeavor — decorating homes and companies for various big holidays — into a reality, and she takes a big step in that direction when workaholic architect Steven Brenner (Jonathan Bennett) hires her to deck the halls of his own home. After years of putting off his relatives, Steven's family insists it's his turn to play host for their joint Christmas, but he's also concentrating on a work pitch that could transform his career in this 2018 movie.

"The Year: 2018" (8 p.m., ABC): Robin Roberts hosts this two-hour retrospective that revisits some of the most memorable and even iconic events and experiences of the year now drawing to a close, joined by colleagues George Stephanopoulos, Michael Strahan, Amy Robach and David Muir. The eighth edition of this annual special promises to include both the high points and the low, ranging from memories too happy to be forgotten as well as those that leave an indelible impression for the opposite reason.

"Gingerbread Giants 2" (8 p.m., 11 p.m., Food): At the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C., five gingerbread artists from across the country compete to take cookie architecture to the next level during the 25th annual National Gingerbread House competition. The contestants — who include the event's returning champion, his arch-rival and a complete newbie — have their sweet work cut out for them as they vie for top honors at this celebrated holiday event.

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SUNDAY EVENING, DEC. 23

		PM	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00
BROADCAST	CBS	2	• (6:30) 60 Minutes (N)	Madam Secretary: "Family Separation: Part 1." (N) ©	God Friended Me: "The Good Samaritan." ©		NCIS: Los Angeles: "Fool Me Twice." ©		
	NBC	5	• Football Night (N)	(7:20) NFL Football: Kansas City Chiefs at Seattle Seahawks. (N) (Live) HD					
	ABC	7	Disney Prep & Landing	Prep & Landing	The Year: 2018 (N) © HD				News at 10pm (N) ▶
	WGN	9	• (6) NHL Hockey: Florida Panthers at Chicago Blackhawks. (N) (Live) © HD	Blackhawks Extra (N) ©	Weekend News (N)	Instant Replay (N) ©	Chicago's Best ©		
	Antenna	9.2	3's a Crowd	The Ropers	3's Comp.	B. Miller	Mork/Mindy	Alice ©	Soap ©
	This TV	9.3	In the Heat of the Night	In the Heat of the Night	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (G,'68) *** ▶				
	PBS	11	Little Women on Masterpiece © HD	Victoria on Masterpiece: "Warp and Weft; The Sins of the Father." © HD					Check, Please!
	The U	26.1	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Engagement	Engagement	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Seinfeld ©
	MeTV	26.3	Columbo: "Rest in Peace, Mrs. Columbo." ©				Touched by an Angel ©		Night G'ery
	H&I	26.4	Star Trek ©		Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9		Star Trek ▶
	Bounce	26.5	• Thin Line-Love and Hate		Little Man (PG-13,'06) **	Shawn Wayans.			White Chk ▶
	FOX	32	The Simpsons HD	Bob's Burgers ©	Family Guy ©	Rel: "Kids First Visit."	Fox 32 News at Nine Sunday		Fox Chicago Final Word
	Ion	38	• (6) A Christmas Kiss ***		A Christmas Kiss II (NR,'14)	Elisabeth Harnois. HD			Merry Kiss ▶
TeleM	44	• (6) Gladiators of Rome		The Last Airbender (PG,'10) *	Noah Ringer. ©			Noticiero	
CW	50	• Postgame	Big Bang	Masters of Illusion		Charmed: "Jingle Hell."		Big Bang	
UniMas	60	• Night at Mus.		The Other Woman (PG-13,'14) **	Cameron Diaz.			Erase un ▶	
WJYS	62	Ever Increasing Faith		Truth of God		Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	
Univ	66	Los Diez Mandamientos				Crónicas: Historias (N)		Noticias (N)	
CABLE	AE	John Wick (R,'14) ***	Keanu Reeves. ©			(9:01) Nightcrawler (R,'14) *** © ▶			
	AMC	• (6:30) The Polar Express (G,'04) ***		The Santa Clause 2 (G,'02) **	Tim Allen. © ▶				
	ANIM	Crikey! It's the Irwins (N)	Amanda-Res. (N)			The Zoo: "A Star Is Born."		The Zoo ▶	
	BBCA	National Lampoon's Vacation (R,'83) **				National-European ▶			
	BET	Hairspray (PG,'07) ***	John Travolta, Nikki Blonsky.			Martin ©		Martin ©	
	BIGTEN	Minnesota	Michigan State			Northwestern		Big Ten ▶	
	BRAVO	Housewives-Atlanta (N)	Vanderpump Rules (N)			Dirty John (N) ©		Watch (Sea-	
	CLTV	News at 7	News (N)	News at 8	News (N)	SportsFeed ©		News ▶	
	CNBC	Shark Tank ©		Deal or No Deal ©		Deal or No Deal ©		The Profit ▶	
	CNN	CNN Special Report ©		The Seventies ©		The Seventies ©		The 70's ▶	
	COM	• (6:25) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby				Dirty Grandpa (R,'16) * © ▶			
	DISC	Alaska (N)	Last Frontier (N)			The Last Alaskans (N) ©		Alaskan (N)	
	DISN	Good Luck Charlie, It's Christmas! ('11)	Bizaardvark			Coop	Raven	Raven	
	E!	• Overboard	Overboard (PG,'87) **	Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell. ©				New Years ▶	
	ESPN	SportsCenter (N) (Live) ©	World/Poker			World/Poker		SportCtr (N)	
	ESPN2	• Axe Throwing League (N)	E:60	Road to CFP		College Basketball (N) ▶			
	FNC	Scandalous (N)		The Next Revolution (N)		Charles Krauthammer (N)		Scandal ▶	
	FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games		Gingerbread Giants 2 (N)		Holiday Baking		Cookie ▶	
	FREE	• Santa Clause 3		(8:15) Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (PG,'00) ***					
	FX	Deadpool (R,'16) ***	Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin. ©			Deadpool (R,'16) *** ▶			
	HALL	Christmas Made to Order (NR,'18)	Alexa PenaVega.			Welcome to Christmas (NR,'18) © ▶			
	HGTV	Hawaii (N)	Hawaii (N)	Bahamas (N)	Bahamas (N)	Island (N)	Island (N)	Hunters Int'l	
	HIST	Forged in Fire: The 12 Cuts of Christmas: "Merry Ax-mas." ©						Forged ▶	
	HLN	Death Row Stories ©		Death Row Stories ©		Death Row Stories ©		Death Row ▶	
	IFC	Mr. & Mrs. Smith (PG-13,'05) **	Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie. ©			I, Robot (PG-13,'04) *** ▶			
	LIFE	3 Holiday Tails (NR,'11)	Julie Gonzalo. ©			(9:03) A Twist of Christmas ('18) © ▶			
	MSNBC	• President's Men		Dateline © (Part 1 of 2)		Dateline © (Part 2 of 2)		Dateline ▶	
	MTV	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	
	NBCSCH	• Basketball	Chicago	Bulls (N)	Postgame	All Access	Poker (N)	Football ▶	
	NICK	SpongeBob	Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG,'05) **	Steve Martin.		Friends ©		Friends ▶	
	OVIATION	• (6) Terms of Endearment (PG,'83) ****				A League of Their Own (PG,'92) *** ▶			
	OWN	Police Women of Dallas		Police Women of Dallas		Police Women		Police ▶	
OXY	Snapped ©		Homicide for the Holidays		Homicide for the Holidays		Snapped ▶		
PARMT	• (6) The Mummy (PG-13,'99) **	Brendan Fraser. ©			The Mummy Returns (PG-13,'01) *** ▶				
SYFY	• Pirates	(7:45) The Addams Family (PG-13,'91) **	Anjelica Huston.				Pirates ▶		
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Guest Book		
TCM	The Holly and the Ivy (NR,'52) ***	Ralph Richardson.			A Christmas Carol (NR,'51) *** © ▶				
TLC	90 Day Fiancé: "Where Truth Lies." (N)				Return to Amish (N)		Gypsy ▶		
TLN	Living-Edge	Manna Fest	In Grace		Turning Point ©		Let Think		
TNT	The Intern (PG-13,'15) **	Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway. ©			Failure to Launch ** ▶				
TOON	Gumball	Gumball	Family Guy	Burgers	Amer. Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy		
TRAV	Haunted Case Files ©		Haunted Case Files (N)		Fear the Woods (N) ©		Haunted ▶		
TVL	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Two Men	Two Men	King		
USA	• Harry Potter	(7:28) Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13,'11) *** ©							
VH1	Casino (R,'95) ***	Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone. © ▶							
WE	Law & Order: "Survivor."		Law & Order: "Corruption."		Law & Order ©		Law ▶		
WGN America	The Matrix Reloaded (R,'03) ***	Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne. ©					Matrix ▶		
PREMIUM	HBO	• Pete Holmes (7:45) Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13,'09) **			Sally4Ever		Blockers ▶		
	HBO2	• Fifty Shades Freed ('18) *		The Shop	(8:45) Sally4Ever ©		(9:20) The Snowman ** ▶		
	MAX	Atomic Blonde (R,'17) ***	Charlize Theron. ©			Thoroughbreds (R,'17) *** © ▶			
	SHO	Escape at Dannemora	Ray Donovan (N) ©			Escape at Dannemora (N)		Escape ▶	
	STARZ	Outlander (N) ©		Counterpart (N) ©		Outlander: "Wilmington."		Counter ▶	
STZENC	• (6:18) Leap Year ('10) *		The Proposal (PG-13,'09) **		Sandra Bullock.		Papillon ▶		

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Chicagoland

TWRP

A super-sweet plea for social justice

Poppins, from Page 1

Tribune) that she wanted the show to be much darker and less chirpy than the movie. Mackintosh hired the brilliant British writer Julian Fellowes (now of "Downton Abbey" fame) who wrote a book to the musical wherein Mary Poppins rehabilitated the Banks family in progressive fashion, teaching Mr. Banks to pay more attention to his family and spent a lot less time in the office. The musical was every bit as moralistic and progressive as "Mary Poppins Returns," but the nanny pointed her umbrella at an individual family and, most significantly, its patriarchal leader. Be a better husband and father, she kept saying. And that's exactly what Fellowes has continued to write in "Downton Abbey," where his pen is always pointed at Hugh Bonnevill's Lord of the Manor.

This time, though, in "Mary Poppins Returns," the screenwriter David Magee (an American) has Mary Poppins take on broader societal ills. It's surely no confidence that the setting on this sequel is the 1930s, during what was known in Britain as the Great Slump or, on this side of the Atlantic, as the Great Depression.

If you're heavily invested in the stock market, you might be wondering this week if we are headed there again.

The new songs in the movie, penned by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, have taken their lumps, but there's no denying that "There's Nowhere to Go But Up" is a pretty accurate lyrical depiction of the current political mood on both sides of the Atlantic. I'll join that choir.

Sure, a lot of critics have found "Mary Poppins Returns" to suffer from imbibing too many spoonfuls of sugar. And they're not wrong. But they also miss the point: when you're pleading, as does this movie, for compassionate bankers, unionized justice for the worker, an end to poorly documented mortgage repossessions and, above all, a return to a populace that goes through life with a sense of wonder, a single spoonful is just not enough. Not in 2018. It takes a whole packet now.

Aesthetic snobs have to take their lumps. Given that "Mary Poppins" is now a superhero franchise, the stories have to keep increasing in scope and thus we already watch Emily Blunt's nanny flying all over London Town, impacting not just her family but the whole populace, standing for unity and equity with rigor and standards, and for old-fashioned Anglo-American exceptionalism, standing shoulder to shoulder across the Atlantic.

Simply put, she's a Brexit fantasy. In one bizarre scene, Meryl Streep plays an Eastern European "cousin" of the great one, thus confining immigrants to a weird hovel down an alley that Miranda's character says he has never noticed before. And



Jane (Emily Mortimer), John (Nathanael Saleh), Annabel (Pixie Davies), Ellen (Julie Walters), Jack (Lin-Manuel Miranda) Georgie (Joel Dawson) and Mary Poppins (Emily Blunt).



The 1964 "Mary Poppins" starred Dick Van Dyke and Julie Andrews.

that's exactly how a lot of Brexit voters would like it to be.

Alas for them, reality differs. No nanny is coming to solve our obsession over control, to tear down our half-built walls, to turn back time before democratic decisions got made that are making everything pretty terrible. We have to learn to take care of ourselves.

You can see how rough these last few months have been by the amount of pleading that goes on in this film. This is one of its flaws — every few moments, someone is arguing for a return to childhood simplicity, or for the rekindling of a sense of wonder, for human compassion, for fairness or for some other transformation. It happens so often, it feels desperate. A clingy reach.

But it's also understandable. It's the mood. Director Rob Marshall's film is the work of artists who perceive crisis.

Where does Mary Poppins go now? Assuming some kind of resolution is found to Brexit — the sun has to keep coming up, after all — and the divisive American political nightmare finds a new equilibrium after 2020, then Mary will be free to solve the biggest problem of all, which, since she's already transcended human mortality, is the health of the planet over the next 50 years.

I bet there are meetings now at Disney — Mary Poppins says "pish, posh" to carbon emissions while Lin-Manuel Miranda, who doesn't really need a character to get in the way of his persona, inspires us that it is not too late to save the human race.

The bankers will all be robots by then, but Poppins will still travel by umbrella, the latest iteration of the Banks children will need old-fashioned love and attention, and Miranda, with some salt and pepper in his hair, will still be riding around on his bike, smiling, singing and willing us to believe in the possibilities presented by our own selves.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

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CELEBRITIES

Veteran actor still panics on a shoot

BY TIM GRAY
Variety

Richard E. Grant has been winning kudos — including a Golden Globe nomination — for his supporting role in Fox Searchlight's "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"

The film, written by Nicole Holofcener and Jeff Whitty, was directed by Marielle Heller ("The Diary of a Teenage Girl") and stars Melissa McCarthy as real-life celebrity biographer Lee Israel and 61-year-old Grant as Israel's friend Jack Hock.

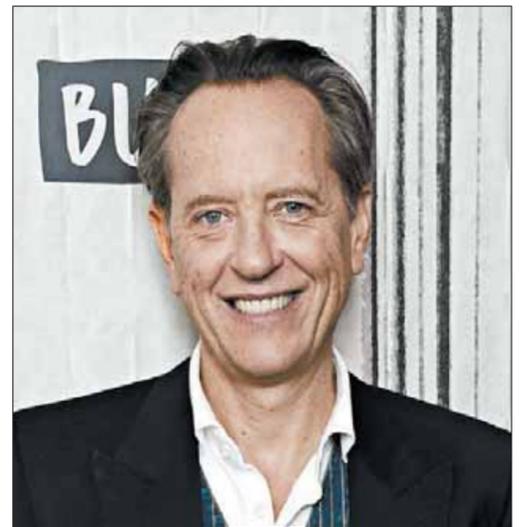
The following is an edited transcript of the conversation.

Q: Was "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" a fast shoot?

A: Yes, 26 days and not easy: all on location in Manhattan and in rough weather of January. Marielle Heller is so kind and nurturing. No matter how complicated the day was, she always set aside time in the morning to rehearse just with the actors. You felt that you honored what the scenes required. That process speeded up the filming because that time paid off.

Q: Do you have the self-doubt that most actors feel?

A: I always panic on the first day of work. You can do all the Stanislavsky-back story homework, but when that moment arrives and you are in the clothes, hair and makeup of somebody else, and you're saying the words created by some-



EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION

You can do all the Stanislavsky-back story homework, but when that moment arrives and you are in the clothes, hair and makeup of somebody else, and you're saying the words created by somebody else — I never know how to do it.

—Richard E. Grant

body else — I never know how to do it. It's a complete mystery to me. I don't know where it comes from. But of course I love it.

Q: You've written two books about film experiences. How did they come about?

A: I've kept a diary since I was 11. It's a way of taking stock, almost meditative, trying to make sense of stuff because life is chaotic. I went to the Academy's Governors Awards, and there were Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood. I still feel completely star-struck. It should have gone away by my age, but it hasn't.

(Editor's note: The books are "With Richard: The Film Diaries of Richard E. Grant"

and "The Wah-Wah Diaries: The Making of a Film," in addition to a work of fiction, "By Design a Hollywood Novel.")

Q: You and Melissa McCarthy are both writers, so did you ad-lib?

No. The script was so smart and so deft, very witty in the first part to real emotional heft in the second part. I improvised two words in my first scene in "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" That was it. Robert Altman, of course, encouraged improvisation. I worked with him on three films ("Gosford Park," "Ready to Wear" and "The Player"), and when I first asked him for clues about my character, he said, "I have no idea. Surprise me."

Dec. 23 birthdays: Actor Ronnie Schell is 87. Actor-comedian Harry Shearer is 75. Actress Susan Lucci is 72. Singer Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam is 54. Jazz trumpeter Irvin Mayfield is 41. Actress Anna Maria Perez de Tagle is 28.

In this Cleveland hall, classical music is king Page 5

Which country on the Indian Ocean would you go to in order to visit Durban? GeoQuiz answer, Page 4



PETER W. CROSS AND PATRICK FARRELL/VISIT FLORIDA

A child watches mermaid performers during a show at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. The mermaid shows are scheduled to resume in mid-March after renovation work at the park.

From mom to mermaid

After bout with cancer, mother hightails it to weekend mermaid camp in Florida

BY AMY BIZZARRI
Chicago Tribune

WEEKI WACHEE, Fla. — Few positives sprout from a bout with breast cancer. The first time I lay prone at the center of the “Star Wars”-like machine that would blast me with radiation, I made a conscious decision to banish fear from my brain and focus on my travel bucket list, which had come to a standstill in the rush of work, raising children as a single mom and, well, life.

No. 1 on my list was a visit to Weeki Wachee Springs State Park.

My father had waxed nostalgic about this magical spring, an hour’s drive north of Tampa, which he visited on a family road trip from Chicago to Florida in the ‘50s. Named by the Seminole Indians, the crystal blue swimming hole ranks as one of Florida’s 30-some first-magnitude springs, a designation bestowed on springs discharging at least 64 million gallons of water a day.

It’s also the only spring in the world populated by mermaids.

Since 1947, a team of mermaids has performed underwater shows for spectators in what’s now a 400-seat submerged theater, outfitted with submarine-style glass windows.

When I found out about a two-day mermaid camp that trains the over-30-year-old crowd in the ways of the merfolk, I signed up stat. That’s the gift of breast cancer: You realize there isn’t any time to lose. As luck would have it, on the one-year anniversary of the date I clanged the end-of-treatment cymbal at the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center in Chicago, I dove into my magical mermaid adventure.

Newton Perry, a legendary

Navy SEALs trainer, put this quiet corner of Florida on the map in the late 1940s when he built the subterranean theater and placed a “Mermaids Wanted” ad in a local newspaper. Weeki Wachee’s Hollywood-style, sunken shows featured elaborate sets, complicated musical numbers and stunts like eating a banana and sipping a Coke ... entirely underwater. The amazing acts attracted not only tourists but also Hollywood; the park served as the set for several movies, including “Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid” (1948) and “Neptune’s Daughter” (1949).

The Sirens of the Deep Mermaid Camp is a way for 30-and-older landlubbing women to test the waters as mermaids for a weekend. (There’s also a Junior Mermaid Camp for kids ages 7 to 14.)

The eight women in my session ranged in age from 30 to 60. We came from different places — Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Chicago — but we all shared a love of water and a common goal: to step out of our ordinary lives and into the deep blue spring. Each of us was paired with a retired Weeki Wachee mermaid, a “Legendary Siren” to help us learn this unusual new skill set.

My first challenge was figuring out how to squeeze my lower body into a very tight, spandex mermaid tail — while wearing scuba fins.

The second challenge was trying to avoid falling flat on my butt while walking, on land, toward the diving ladder, a distance of about 15 feet, in aforementioned scuba fins and spandex tail.

The third challenge was braving the spine-tingling temperature of the freshwater spring, hovering around a nippy 73 de-



GEORGE SKENE/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Former mermaid Vicki Smith, left, practices underwater with other mermaids at Weeki Wachee Springs in 2007.

grees year-round. The sheer beauty of this peaceful, bubbling world made me forget the chill.

Many of the Legendary Sirens are well into their 60s and 70s, but they give the contemporary mermaids a run for their money. My instructor, Vicki Smith, 78, still danced through the strong currents with the greatest of ease. She fondly remembered performing in shows back in the late ‘50s, when “diving into that pristine world of liquid diamonds was heaven on Earth.” She even swam for Elvis when he visited the park in 1961.

Vicki taught me how to gather speed by shaking my tail fin — a spandex tube that bound my legs together, turning my scuba fins into a mono-tail. She showed me how to dolphin-dive toward the center of the spring and ascend like a swan, how to use my breath to control my depth, how to wave like Ariel and how to flash a brilliant smile, underwater, with my eyes wide open.

Our small group of mermaid campers worked as a team to learn the signature Weeki Wachee

water ballet moves. We dared one another to dive deeper — with a heavy dose of girl-powered encouragement and lots of laughter above water.

“Some people find their peace and serenity in the woods,” Smith said. “For us, we find it in the water.”

Somewhere along the way, I forgot that I was trapped in the body of a middle-aged woman: There I was, not quite a lithe water ballerina, but a mom of two children, with plenty of heartaches and pain riding along on my tail scales, suspended midspring in “dolphin arch” position, smiling confidently at my imaginary spectators. I’m a so-so swimmer and as clumsy as can be on land. But I’m always enthusiastic and ready for a challenge. That’s the magic of Weeki Wachee: It can truly transform you into a carefree mermaid, if only you give it a chance.

Weekend camp sessions cost \$450, with proceeds benefiting the Friends of Weeki Wachee, a volunteer-run organization dedi-

cated to preserving the park’s natural beauty and running the camp.

Camp lasts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes lunch. Though your trainer will be with you at all times in the water, you should be comfortable swimming and treading water at a depth of approximately 15 feet. Evenings are free to relax, though a day spent in the springs guarantees an early bedtime. Most mermaids opt to stay at the nearby Microtel Inn & Suites in Spring Hill.

The Weeki Wachee website encourages would-be mermaid campers to follow the park on Facebook and Twitter to get 2019 camp dates, which are expected to be announced in late January or early February. Camp sessions sell out quickly on a first-come, first-served basis.

Even if you’re not attending mermaid camp, a visit to the 538-acre park is worthwhile for a taste of Old Florida-style fun. Admission is \$13 for adults and \$8 for children ages 6 to 12. That price includes access to Buccaneer Bay, a spring-fed water park with a lazy river and white sand beach. Visitors can also take a relaxing riverboat ride or explore the adjacent Weeki Wachee River by kayak, available for rent onsite.

Admission also gets you a seat at the daily mermaid shows, but those performances — as well as riverboat cruises and wildlife shows — won’t resume until mid-March, due to renovation work at the park.

Mermaid campers cap off their session by performing a short showcase of their newly learned feats to visiting family and friends.

My kids won’t soon forget spotting their tail-finned mom swimming up to the airtight theater window to blow them an underwater kiss.

I won’t forget it either.

Amy Bizzarri is a freelance writer.

Branson is brighter than ever this Christmas

BY DAVE G. HOUSER
Tribune News Service

Long popular as a go-to place for country music, Branson, Mo., is staking its claim as home to the most spectacular and longest-running Christmas celebration of the 2018 holiday season.

At the center of all the excitement is Silver Dollar City, the Ozark Mountain town’s omnipresent 100-acre 1880s-era theme park. In early November, it unveiled its biggest and

brightest Christmas lighting array ever, throwing the switch on 6.5 million colorful LED lights. This is now the world’s second largest Christmas lighting display. Only Busch Gardens’ Christmas Town in Williamsburg, Va., is brighter, boasting some 10 million lights.

The annual holiday festival, known as “An Old Time Christmas,” continues through Dec. 30. It features a nightly light parade, two Broadway-style musical productions, a

five-story special effects Christmas tree, strolling carolers, a Living Nativity and a selection of seasonal food offerings at the park’s more than 20 restaurants and food stands. Fine craftsmanship also is showcased, as the park’s 100-plus artisans create one-of-a-kind holiday items.

The impact of so many millions of lights is best experienced in Silver Dollar City’s Midtown area. Here, Christmas in Midtown takes holiday lighting to an entirely new level, filling a

single acre with more than 1.5 million lights. Visitors enter Midtown through huge light tunnels and wreath portals to witness a number of innovative lighting elements, including flying angels and running reindeer.

Twice nightly, a parade of lights, Rudolph’s Holly Jolly Christmas Light Parade, winds through Midtown streets. The festival also features two original musical productions, “Dickens’ A Christmas Carol” and “It’s a Wonderful Life.”



DAVE G. HOUSER/TNS

Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, Mo., presents its biggest Christmas celebration yet, with 6.5 million lights.

Scotland's majestic Isle of Skye



RICK STEVES
Tribune Content Agency

Scotland's islands may be distant fringes, but those who venture to them are richly rewarded with dramatic landscapes, a rich heritage and a warm welcome. Among Scotland's countless islands, the favorite among travelers is the scenic Isle of Skye, with its narrow, twisty roads winding around the island in the shadows of craggy, bald mountains, and a coastline ruffled with peninsulas and sea lochs.

Just off the northwest coast, Skye is the country's second-biggest island. Though it takes two hours to drive it from south to north, it only has about 13,000 residents. The island seems to have more sheep than locals — and it's been that way since the Highland Clearances back in the 1800s. That's when wealthy landowners decided sheep were better for their bottom line than people. Landless peasants were driven out and to this day the island's population is half what it used to be.

Connected to mainland Scotland by a bridge, Skye is a two-hour drive from Inverness, the largest Highlands city. While most travelers visit Skye as a harried day trip from Inverness, it's better to spend at least two nights here.

Skye's best home base is Portree, with a picturesque harbor area but no real sights. There are a few hotels, hostels and bed-and-breakfasts in town, while more B&Bs line the roads into and out of town. But as Skye has gotten very popular in recent years, Portree is now jammed with visitors in the summer. It's important to book accommodations as far



DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCCELLI/RICK STEVES' EUROPE

Portree, the largest town on the Isle of Skye, is nestled deep in its protective harbor, where colorful homes look out over bobbing boats and the surrounding peninsulas. There are a few hotels, hostels and bed-and-breakfasts in town.



CAMERON HEWITT/RICK STEVES' EUROPE

As you drive around the Trotternish Peninsula on the Isle of Skye, you may encounter more sheep than people.

ahead as possible.

While Portree has several good sit-down restaurants, my go-to meal is fish-and-chips at the harbor-side "chippy." Its outdoor picnic bench is forever

empty, though, as seagulls are famously aggressive here. Hungry diners are forced to eat standing up against the wall, or else a gull will swoop down for a slab of cod.

In good weather, the island's highlight is a drive north of Portree around the Trotternish Peninsula. This drive is packed with windswept castaway views, unique geological formations and some of Scotland's most dramatic scenery, including jaw-dropping cliffs plunging into the sea, such as the 200-foot-tall Kilt Rock, named for volcanic lava columns that look like pleats in a kilt.

It's worth getting out of the car and taking a hike. One of my favorites is the easy walk across a dramatic escarpment called the Quiraing, where landslides caused the jagged formations. Hikers are richly rewarded with a closer look at the formations and unforgettable views of the island. Even a short walk to a nearby bluff — to get away from the cars and be alone with the wind and

the island wonder — is rewarding.

Another stop along the drive is the fine little Skye Museum of Island Life, which shows how a typical family here lived in the 1800s. Seven thatched stone huts represent a croft, or typical farming community of Scotland. In these huts, the kitchen was where all the action happened. Families would huddle around the hearth, where a peat fire would burn day and night, giving off its signature sweet, smoky smell. For social time, the community would gather for a ceilidh, where they'd gossip, drink whisky, then pick up some instruments and play music and dance.

Aside from the Trotternish Peninsula, Skye has a handful of other worthy sights. Perched on a rock overlooking a sea loch, Dunvegan Castle is the

residence of the MacLeod clan, who claim that this is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland. The castle provides an interesting look at rural Scottish aristocratic lifestyles and their antiquated clan system.

For whisky lovers, a tour and tasting at the Talisker Distillery is a must. This Skye institution, which has been distilling here since 1830, is situated at the base of a hill with 14 springs. Island whisky tends to be smokier than mainland whisky due to the amount of peat smoke used during malting. It's fun to taste and compare.

If you know where to look, you'll find that the island is strewn with the scant remains of past civilizations. Just off the road between the distillery and castle hides Dun Beag, an Iron Age fort. From the parking lot, a 10-minute walk leads to a 2,000-year-old stone tower capping a hill — a stony remnant of a long-forgotten, proto-Scottish people. It was likely built as a lookout tower and/or safe house, where families and their domesticated animals would gather in times of attack. Looking at the number of broken stones surrounding it, it's clear the tower stood much taller at one point.

Scrambling around Dun Beag is particularly evocative. Surrounded by 360 degrees of deep-green views, it feels as if you're uncovering yet another dimension of this fascinating land. And that's the appeal of this island. It's vast, beautiful, inviting and marinated in clan lore, luring the traveler ever deeper.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes *European travel guidebooks* and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

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TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

What's the holdup with WOW Air compensation?

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT
King Features

My daughter and I traveled from Toronto to Paris in April 2017. Our return flight was with WOW Air.

The night before our return to Canada, I received an email from the airline saying that the plane that was to return us to Canada had been in a mishap. It was a plane that carried 350 people.

WOW replaced the aircraft with one that could carry only 220 people. The airline said that if anyone chose to go to Toronto another way, it would refund the cost of the flight and give us each 400 euros to compensate us for the hassle.

I had to be at work the following day. My daughter and I emailed the airline to say that we would take it up on its offer, and we booked another flight on another airline and went home on the day we were scheduled to fly back.

WOW Air refunded the cost of the return flight promptly. The airline asked me to file a request for the promised compensation, which I did. WOW Air indicated that there would be a wait of eight to 10 weeks.

Five months later, I received an email stating that the airline had processed my claim and that my daughter and I could receive 500 euros each if I took the offer in the form of a flight credit or 400 euros each in a cash settlement. We opted for the cash settlement.

It's been over a year since WOW promised the money. This seems very unfair. There is no way to communicate directly with someone at the office. I would like the 800 euros that was promised to us by WOW Air. Can you help me?

— Robert Weinper, Shelburne, Canada

A: WOW should have paid you and your daughter each the 400 euros at the same time it refunded your airfare. A delay of this length is inexcusable.

Let's back up a little. Your return flight to Paris experienced a "mishap," but WOW replaced it with a different aircraft — in airline lingo, an "equipment change." In doing so, it went from a larger aircraft to a smaller one. That meant WOW Air had too many passengers.

Interestingly, since your flight originated in Europe, it's subject to a consumer law called EU 261 (www.elliott.org/frequently-asked-questions-about-eu261/).

WOW Air seems to have completely glossed over that little detail. Had you waited and allowed WOW Air to bump you from your flight against your will, you might have received an even more generous compensation. But you took the WOW Air compensation offer, so this issue comes down to the agreement between you and the airline, not EU 261.

You had that deal in writing, but it appears that the airline was noncommittal about the timeline for reimbursing you. One way to speed things up is by contacting a supervisor. I list the names, numbers and email addresses of the WOW Air customer-serv-

ice executives on my consumer-advocacy site: www.elliott.org/company-contacts/wow-air/.

As I reviewed the paper trail between you and the airline, I saw no reason for this delay. You were entitled to immediate WOW Air compensation. I contacted the airline on your behalf, and it paid you the 800 euros it had promised.

Christopher Elliott is the ombudsman for National Geographic Traveler magazine and the author of "How to Be the World's Smartest Traveler." You can read more travel tips on his blog, elliott.org, or email him at chris@elliott.org.

CELEBRITY TRAVELER
DREW CHADWICK

Travels inspire musical journey

By JAE-HA KIM
Tribune Content Agency

Best known for his work with Emblem3, musician Drew Chadwick says he finds inspiration in his travels, which have taken him all over the world. But there's no place like home for the 26-year-old "Pacific" singer. "I've done a pretty significant amount of traveling," he says. "But nowhere has ever been as beautiful or held as much sentimental value as Washington state, which I consider to be home base number one."

An edited version of our conversation follows.

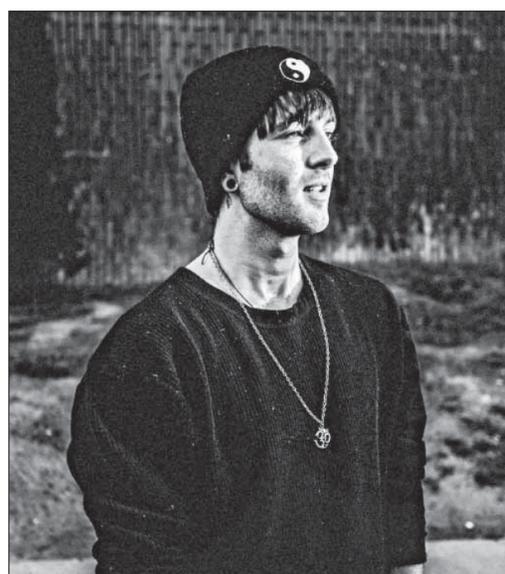
Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: There's this island off the coast of South Thailand. I don't want to say its name because I don't want people to know where it's at, but it's actually paradise and it's an island where no animals are killed and all the food's plant-based. Everyone is enlightened and lives together in harmony with nature. I would recommend that (visitors) forget that they previously existed the second they step off the plane. That way the trip will be a rebirth and a fresh experience with no weight from the past.

Q: What was the first trip you took as a child?

A: I went to the happiest place in the world — Disneyland. I absolutely loved it.

Q: What's the most important thing you've learned from your travels?



CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ PHOTO

A: That it's not where you go. It's not the marvels that you witness. It's not even those who you are in company with. It's the quality of your very being, the richness of your heart and the lightness of spirit that makes any location and any adventure a cherishable, memorable, enriching experience.

Q: Have you traveled to a place that stood out so much that you felt compelled to incorporate it into your work?

A: Absolutely. Inspiring landscapes and dynamic cultures always stimulate creativity and art.

Q: If you've ever gone away for the holidays, which was the best trip?

A: One time, I didn't see my mom for a couple of years. On Mother's Day around 11:55, I showed up at her house, which is about 3,000 miles away from where I currently live. She was so happy.

Q: Where is the most romantic destination?

A: I think the answer to this is very subjective, but my personal opinion would be a hotel suite with some champagne and a beautiful view of maybe Paris or Rome right around dusk.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: Bali. I just know that I would fit in great there. Seems like my kind of people: kind, sincere, spiritual practitioners aimed at thriving together as a community on a beautiful island. Also, I want to visit the Hang Son Doong caves in Vietnam because there's a lot of uncharted territory there. It's only now just being discovered. They found hidden beaches and forests, underground rivers and massive caverns filled with radiant crystals.

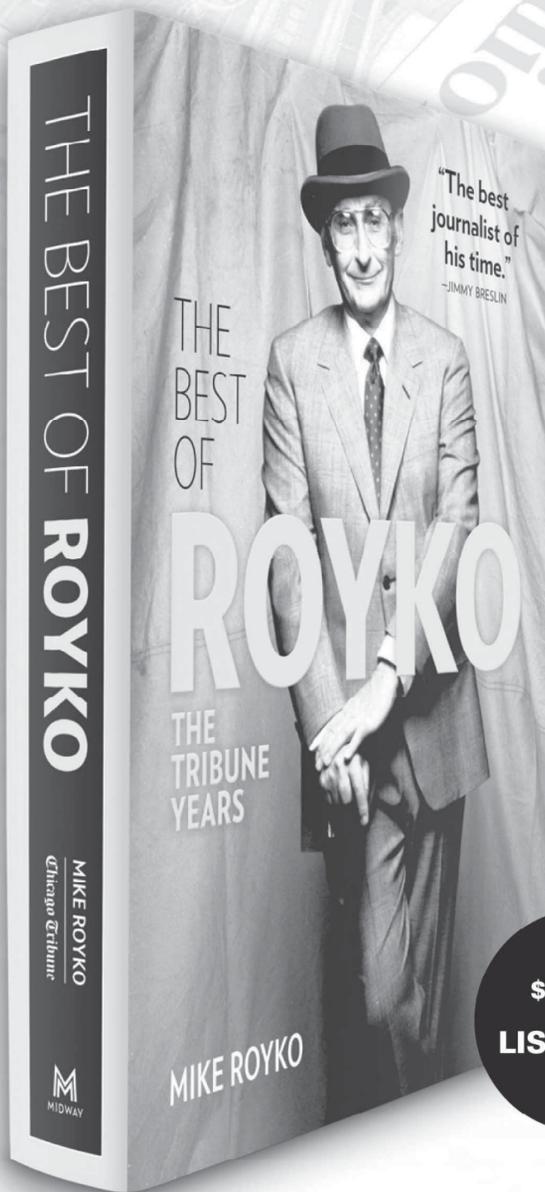
Q: What would be your dream trip?

A: Rent a mansion in Bali with my closest friends and celebrate like there's no tomorrow, because there is no tomorrow or yesterday, there is only now.

Q: What is your best and/or worst vacation memory?

A: One of my best memories is going to Brazil and shutting down the airport while being greeted by fans. My worst would be flying out to the Philippines for a show and not getting paid.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.

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One of three craters of an extinct volcano is seen in the background as bushes of prickly pear crisscross the landscape of the island of Linosa, roughly 100 miles south of Sicily.

RELAXED RHYTHMS

On tiny Linosa, it's easy to adopt island's slow pace

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY FRANCIS D'EMILIO
Associated Press

LINOSA ISLAND, Italy — There are no hotels, but islanders open up their simple, gaily painted homes to those seeking relaxed rhythms.

No banks, either, but there's not a lot of money can be bought here. The sole souvenir shop has a few knickknacks. Costs are modest for meals made from local ingredients — lentils, eggplant, peppers perhaps, plus the catch of the day from the emerald-hued, pristine waters surrounding tiny Linosa island.

But stunning natural beauty is free and abundant on this verdant paradise that rises up in the form of an extinct volcano from the Mediterranean seabed.

Of the many splendid small Italian islands that dot the Mediterranean waters near Sicily, only Linosa had eluded me, vacation after vacation, perhaps because it takes some determination to get here. Unlike some other islands, like Pantelleria, where Italian VIPs keep summer homes, or Lampedusa, known for lively nightlife, there are no flights from the Italian peninsula, no airport.

To enjoy Linosa's charms, either you take a long ride by ferry, or, if waters are calm, an infrequent hydrofoil from the nondescript Sicilian port town of Porto Empedocle. Or you make a

shorter sea journey from Lampedusa, the only other inhabited island in the Pelagie Archipelago, closer to northern Africa than to Sicily.

This year, in the waning weeks of summer, I came, accounting by my mere presence for about 5 percent of sojourners those days on Linosa. We swam or snorkeled in coves cradled by dramatically dark, jagged lava rocks, climbed volcanic craters and watched sunsets near the black-sand beach where caretta caretta loggerhead turtles waddle ashore each year to lay their eggs.

On any given day during "high" season in July and August, there are at most about 50 holidaygoers who spend a few days or so. In September, there were some 20 of us, several of us solitary travelers. With the exception of a French couple and myself, all were Italians.

Those numbers compare with a year-round resident population of about 300 Linosani, as the locals call themselves. In the sole town, tidy streets are lined with houses in hues of fiery ochre trimmed with orange, robin-blue highlight by white, or sea green with doors framed in red.

In early morning — afternoon temperatures in one of Italy's hottest places can climb into the 90s and feel like 115 or higher — Linosani come out to sweep the tiled sidewalks and water potted plants, including hibiscus that

grow as tall as trees.

With the cool of the evening, Linosani emerge again, parking kitchen chairs outside homes to chat with neighbors. After a couple of strolls in the few streets, visitors can befriend much of Linosa's population.

"After a few days, you become islanders too," said Alberto Ramirez, who runs one of the two B&Bs on the island and whose family has lived here for six generations.

Linosa's only "night spot" is a wine bar, which, on a late summer Saturday night, closed up shop before midnight.

Ramirez recalled a couple who lodged by him recently telling him, "Linosa's not for us, it's too tranquil."

"Here you come to relax, go to the sea, maybe have an 'aperitivo' in the evening," Ramirez said. "There's no disco."

On maps, Linosa resembles a roundish speck in the sea. One can stroll around the entire island, whose coastal perimeter measures under 7 miles, in a few hours.

Only residents can bring cars on the island during summer, but motor scooters and motorized bikes can be rented by the day. The electric "bici" are a big hit as well with Linosani, whose cars are easily recognizable because the salty sea air corrodes the paint.

Come nightfall in late summer



A resident walks along a main street in the town of Linosa.

or early fall, on the northerly side of the island you can hear the cries of thousands of a fascinating feathered colony of greater shearwater birds, known as *berte maggiore* in Italian. They fly up and over the Mediterranean from Libya and Algeria, their cheek pouches full of fish for young chicks which have hatched in crannies left by lava rocks near the seaside.

After Linosa's first modern settlement was established, in 1845, with 30 hardy souls, the islanders would eat the birds' eggs, rich in protein.

Now the birds' evening rituals help feed the island's economic mainstay, tourism.

Giovanni Grana passionately shares with a handful of tourists on his plain wooden motorboat the details he's learned about shearwater flocks' habits from his nightly observations. He makes the facts of bird life sound like poetry.

"My aim is to make the tourists fall in love with the island," said Grana.

For a reasonable fee (about 25 euros, or \$29), he takes visitors out to sea just before sunset to witness an amazing spectacle.

Like commuters crowding

their route home, the shearwaters skim the sea in ever increasing numbers to form "clans" that then link together in what the Linosani call "rafts," creating a sort of a highway of birds stretching to what seems to be the horizon to await darkness before making landfall to check on their chicks.

This fascinating nightly ritual is missed by day-trippers who come for a quick-look-tour, a dip in the sea and lunch at port before catching the late-afternoon hydrofoil back to their hotels on Lampedusa, some 31 miles away.

On my last morning, as I climbed 600 feet to the top of the Mount Volcano crater, church bells clanged to gain islanders' attention. Then a booming voice informed them by loudspeaker that with the mid-morning hydrofoil an internist would arrive, for anyone needing a doctor.

I would shortly be leaving Linosa, which had seduced me with its naturalness and friendliness, on that same hydrofoil, at vacation's end.

When I reached the dock, some 150 day-trippers poured out of the boat. I promised myself I'd be back when I could again have Linosa practically all to myself.

NEWS TO USE

BY PHIL MARTY
Chicago Tribune

Here are some of the more interesting events, deals, websites and other travel tidbits that have come across our desk recently:

■ **Bundle up:** The Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition will be held Jan. 16-19 in Rockford's Sinsissippi Park. Teams from around the state will vie to represent the Land of Lincoln in the 2020 U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition. High school teams also will compete. tinyurl.com/y96yn389

■ **Hardy competitors** will tackle the elements Jan. 12 during the Arctic Warrior Race in St. Germain, Wis. There will be 3.1- and 6.2-mile snowshoe races and obstacle course races of the same length. The obstacle course includes a tire shuffle, arctic switch-back climb and fat-tire bike trek. tinyurl.com/yd2udqu9

■ **A Christmas re-creation** of a page from the 1969 Sears Wish Book is on display Jan. 4 at the McHenry County Historical Museum in Union, Ill. It includes original plastic angels, a snowman, a 10-foot-wide building and more. There's also a quilt show and a collection of rocking horses dating from the 1930s through the



Sculptors show the crowd what they've got at the Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition.

'60s. tinyurl.com/y8rqprgq

■ **South Haven, Mich.**, will be celebrating New Year's Eve in the Haven. Downtown streets will be closed for music and dancing, there will be family and kids' activities and ice skating. At midnight, a beach ball drops to bring in the New Year. tinyurl.com/ydx2bhv

■ **Winter thrill seekers** should head to Pokagon State Park, west of South Bend, Ind. The park has toboggan runs that drop 90 feet in elevation over a quarter of a mile, with sleds clocked at more than 30 mph. Hours are 5:30-9 p.m. Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 25. Extended hours over Christmas. Toboggans

are available to rent. tinyurl.com/y9pg77k7

■ **Winter Iowa Games** will get underway in January with competitions scheduled across the state. More than 20 sports will be represented including basketball, cross-country skiing, indoor paddling, pickleball, skiing and snowboarding, trapshooting and volleyball. tinyurl.com/ybcpacz3

■ **The International Wolf Center** in Ely, Minn., is offering a North Country by Dogsled program Jan. 11-13. Participants will spend a day dogsledding and a night camping in a heated yurt. Number of participants is extremely limited. If this outing is filled, the center operates a variety of other adventure programs throughout the

year. tinyurl.com/ydf8f8kc

■ **Soulard Mardi Gras** will run from Jan. 6-March 5 in the historic Soulard area of St. Louis. Among the activities will be a Family Winter Carnival, Cajun Cook-off, Taste of Soulard and the Grand Parade. www.stlmardigras.org

■ **Holiday Mansion Tours** are held through Dec. 29 at Bruce-moore, a 19th century mansion on a 26-acre estate in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The four-story mansion is decorated for the holidays, showcasing 13 Christmas trees. tinyurl.com/y88tdy1b

■ **The Knox Winter Jazz Series** at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., will include two free events Jan. 12 featuring the Luciano Antonio

Brazilian Quartet. An afternoon workshop will show how to play Brazilian percussion instruments. No musical experience is required to participate. In the evening there will be a concert. tinyurl.com/y8onoyrg

■ **The 20th annual Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race** will be held Jan. 5 from Muskallonge Lake State Park in Newberry, Mich. The race attracts mushers from the U.S., Canada and beyond. There will be pro and amateur races, including a youth category, with distances ranging from 4 to 51 miles. www.tcsdr.org/home.html

■ **Chicago, Detroit and Minneapolis** represent the Midwest in the listing of Best Things to Do in 25 of America's Most Fun Cities from Thrillist. Listed as best Under-the-Radar Thing for Chicago is Pilsen. The list is at tinyurl.com/ydbak5n9.

Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time. Listings are not endorsements. Send tips at least a month in advance to ChicagoTrib-Travel@gmail.com.

Phil Marty is a freelancer.

GEOQUIZ ANSWER

South Africa. The country's third largest city has a very large population from India.



MARCUS YAM/LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTOS

The intricate, lacelike aluminum leaf pattern on the ceiling of Cleveland's Severance Hall is said to match philanthropist Elisabeth Severance's wedding dress.

In this Cleveland hall, classical music is king

In a city renowned for rock, a grand symphonic venue

BY CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS
Los Angeles Times

CLEVELAND — Above, the ceiling was done up in silver, beige and blue like frosting on a wedding cake. Below, at the lip of the stage, a tall man in a black suit and white bow tie leaned forward with a tip.

"This is going to be something," said Mark Jackobs, one of the Cleveland Orchestra's viola players. "This is a freight train."

Jackobs, who has played in the room for 25 years, knew just how the sound would flood Severance Hall, one of North America's most admired classical music venues.

This was my first concert in the hall, so I had plenty of questions. But before I could ask more, the lights dimmed in the 1,920-seat auditorium, and we rushed to our seats.

Conductor Franz Welser-Most raised his baton. A hundred musicians, including Jackobs, snapped to attention. The train, also known as Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3, was leaving the station.

Inside the hall

When the orchestra's leaders launched the campaign to build Severance Hall in 1928, Cleveland was on a roll. As America constructed skyscrapers, Cleveland's steel mills were shipping vast tonnage on Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River.

The city's population was about to hit 900,000. The orchestra, founded in 1918, had already played New York, made its recording debut, and started on the path to worldwide acclaim.

Since then, Cleveland has shrunk, suffered and been smirked at like few other American cities. But it also has reinvented itself and begun to bloom again.

As I explored the auditorium and roamed the city for four days in September, I was amazed that in the middle of a city so changed, the orchestra and its hall have never stopped doing what they set out to do.

A day before I heard the orchestra, Andria Hoy, its archivist, gave me a tour of the hall, which didn't quicken my pulse right away. In fact, if architecture is frozen music, Severance Hall's Georgian neoclassical exterior is "Pomp and Circumstance" at 23 beats a minute.

But inside, it's "Rhapsody in Blue" meets "King Tut." Once you step into the grand foyer, you're swallowed by a mashup of art deco swoops and Egyptian Revival details.

It was 1928, Hoy told me, when



The grand foyer, a double-height oval space outfitted with marble from Italy and Indiana, is surrounded by two dozen columns, a series of Egyptian Revival murals and two sets of stately stairs.



Cleveland is making a comeback after a rough few decades when the population plummeted. Nowadays, the city has about 390,000 people, and the downtown has reinvented itself.

philanthropists John and Elisabeth Severance pledged \$1 million for a project to be designed by Walker & Weeks, a local architecture firm. Then Elisabeth died at the family winter home in California, followed by the stock market crash in late 1929.

Yet John didn't hesitate. Construction began a month after the crash, and he took every opportunity to stamp the concert hall with Elisabeth's personality, ultimately spending more than \$2 million in Great Depression dollars, about \$29 million today. It opened in 1931.

The intricate, lacelike aluminum leaf pattern on the ceiling is said to match Elisabeth's wedding dress.

"He really turned this building

into a memorial to her, which is where a lot of the opulence comes from," Hoy told me.

The grand foyer, a double-height oval space outfitted with marble from Italy and Indiana, is surrounded by two dozen columns, a series of Egyptian Revival murals and two sets of stately stairs.

As for Cleveland's orchestra, the musicians never relinquished the reputation that spread globally under the exacting George Szell, music director from 1946 to 1970.

New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles may be bigger cities, but in January a New York Times headline proclaimed that "At 100, the Cleveland Orchestra May (Qui-

etly) Be America's Best." (A later article in October noted that the orchestra had fired its concertmaster and principal trombonist for sexual misconduct and harassment.)

Bela Bartok, Leonard Bernstein, Benny Goodman, Wynton Marsalis, Yehudi Menuhin, Leontyne Price, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Mstislav Rostropovich — all have stood on the Severance Hall stage.

It remains the orchestra's home in fall, winter and spring. (Concerts move to the Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls in the summer.) The hall also hosts graduations, weddings, Cleveland Pops Orchestra concerts and other events.

If you go

Severance Hall: 11001 Euclid Ave., Cleveland; 216-231-1111, clevelandorchestra.com. Tours, which last two hours and are free, are offered once or twice a month; reservations required.

The legacy

On concert night, I arrived early so I could start with a meal at Severance, the venue's fine-dining restaurant. Solicitous service, tasty sea bass special. Good omens.

The music began with Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1, a sprightly, sunny work despite being composed while Russia and the rest of Europe were a mess. I'm no music critic, but it sounded seamless and precise to me, and the rest of the room seemed to agree.

The hall was about two-thirds occupied, the crowd mostly 50 and older and white, although one or two sections were dominated by students. Eager to woo young and varied listeners, the orchestra offers free admission to those 18 and younger for many performances.

The next piece was Bartok's Piano Concerto No. 2 from 1931 — a challenging, dense work featuring ferocious guest pianist Yefim Bronfman. In one passage he seemed to conjure the sound of mist rising from a pond. In another, Bronfman played with such force and speed that his whole body shuddered.

After intermission was the sonic assault that Jackobs had warned me about, Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3, composed in 1928.

Before beginning, Welser-Most addressed the audience, suggesting that Sigmund Freud must have influenced this piece. He also asked us "to listen for not just the melody but what is happening underneath."

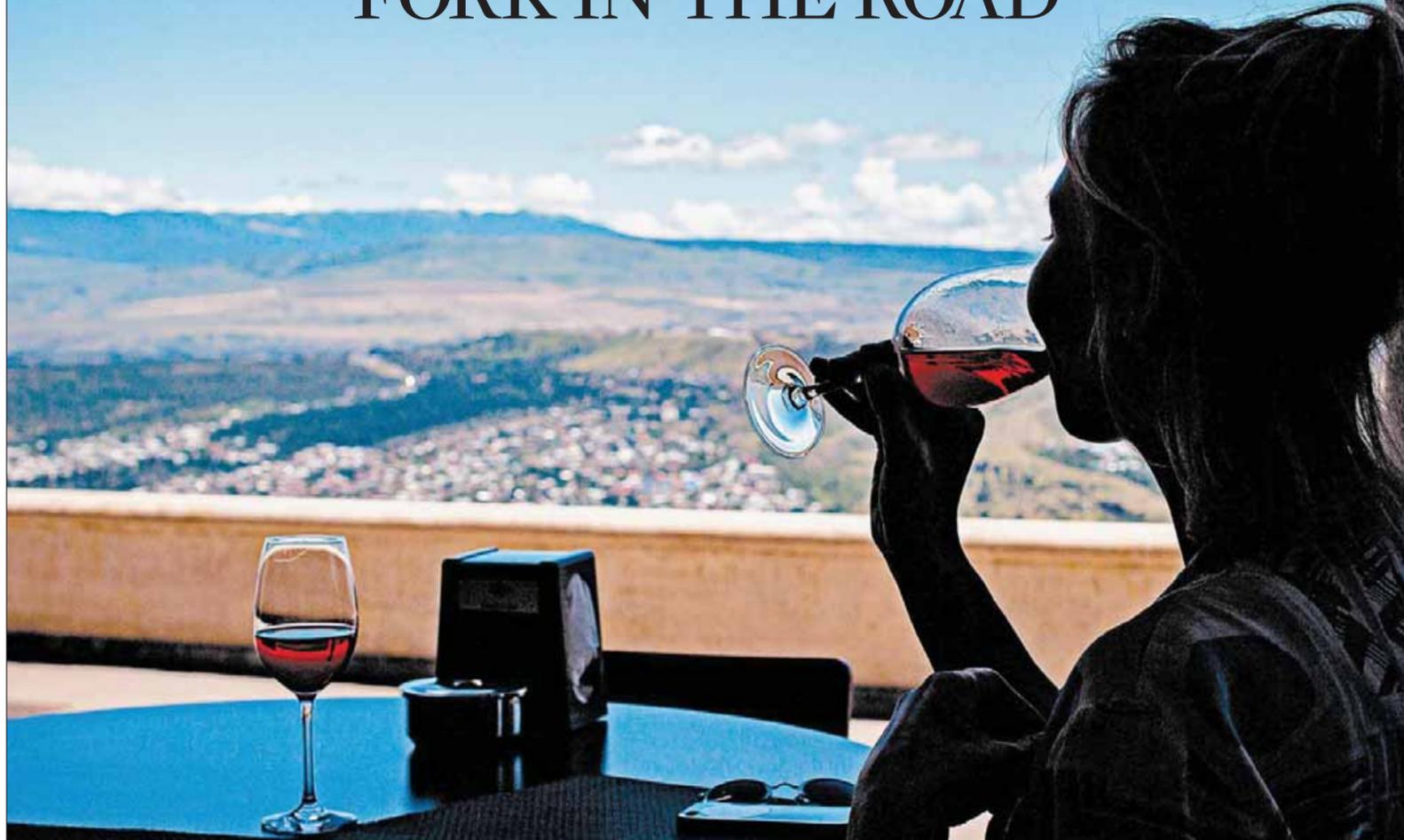
Then, from the first note: shrieking strings and brass, booming tympani, curious three-note clusters ascending and descending — a beginning as dark and alarming as the night's first Prokofiev piece had been bright and frisky.

From there, things calmed a bit, with plenty of delicate passages. I could relax and look around a little. But this is a symphony that began its life as an opera about demonic possession, so chaos was bound to return.

At the close of the fourth movement, Prokofiev dispatched us with a pair of booming, dissonant full-orchestra chords. Utter doom, under a twinkling aluminum ceiling.

At Cleveland's Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the amps are turned to 11 to get effects like this. In Severance Hall, they do it without amplifiers, in a suit and bow tie, just as they have for 87 years.

FORK IN THE ROAD



GETTY

In Georgia's capital city of Tbilisi, you'll find a mix of quaint Old World neighborhoods, trendy new riverfront areas and plenty of spots to try the wine.

A land of ancient vineyards

Savoring Old World wine and bread in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia

BY KEVIN BEGOS
Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia — Want to learn about the origins of wine-making? You'll have to go about 2,000 miles east of Bordeaux, France, to Georgia, in the Caucasus Mountains.

This beautiful and affordable country has many other attractions for both budget and sophisticated travelers.

There are 1,000-year-old churches, wild mountains offering winter and summer splendor, and coastal resorts on the Black Sea. After being part of the Soviet Union for decades, Georgia declared independence in 1991, and the country has embraced tourism and development.

While visiting Georgia to research a book about the origins of wine, I kept having to choose

between wine experiences and other tempting options. Georgian architecture, food, wine and music is a multiethnic mix of East and West. Romans, Persians, Mongols, Arabs and Russians all fought to control the country over the last 2,000-plus years. Now the people are overwhelmingly Christian, yet street food and Georgian chants have a Middle Eastern or even Asian tinge.

For wine lovers, a trip to Georgia is like going back to a vineyard Garden of Eden. Archaeological sites show that Georgians began making wine at least 5,000 years before the French.

Patrick McGovern, a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, has examined 8,000-year-old Georgian pottery that is decorated with "grape clusters and jubilant stick-figures, with arms raised high, under grape arbors," and burial mounds contain ornate gold and silver goblets with depictions of ancient drinking ceremonies. The classic Georgian chant "Shen Khar Venakhi" ("Thou Art a Vineyard") was reputedly written by King Demetris I in the 12th century. It is still popular at weddings.

You can experience and taste some of the wine history throughout the Georgian countryside. Small wineries and many, many families still ferment grapes in oval clay containers called qvevri,

which may have inspired the later amphora of Greece and Rome. Georgia has hundreds of native wine grape varieties, including kisi, mtsvane, rkatsiteli and saperavi. Try the unfiltered and natural golden (or orange) wine style for a sense of how wine was first made thousands of years ago.

A "Game of Thrones" episode could be filmed in the eastern Kakheti region, which has numerous vineyards. The Alaverdi monastery and winery, which dates to the year 1011, features a 170-foot (50-meter) tower and high stone walls, with beautiful icons inside the church.

Father Gerasim, bearded and dressed in a traditional long black cassock, said the Alaverdi monks are carrying on a tradition passed down through generations.

"I remember when I was about 3 or 4 years old, my grandfather or father took me to the wine cellar every time they went. Wine ties, and tied, the human being to his community, to his land," Gerasim said.

Ancient rituals linger. Every September, Georgians from several ethnic and religious backgrounds make a pilgrimage to Alaverdi called Alaverdoba. The festival, which now lasts for about a week, was in ancient times a multi-week harvest celebration linked to pagan, pre-Christian moon cults.

For outdoor pursuits, the Caucasus Mountains rise to more than 15,000 feet, with glacial lakes and semitropical valleys hidden throughout. It is untamed land, but also a botanical and human crossroads for Central Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East that is home to Anatolian leopards, bears, wolves, lynx and golden eagles.

Researchers from the Chicago Botanic Garden found that the Caucasus contains 6,400 distinct groups of plants in a region about the size of Minnesota. In layman's terms, the isolated mountain valleys may have helped nurture and protect different species, like natural time capsules.

Back in Tbilisi, the capital, you'll find a mix of quaint Old World neighborhoods and trendy new riverfront areas. The Georgian State Museum has a fine range of cultural and historical

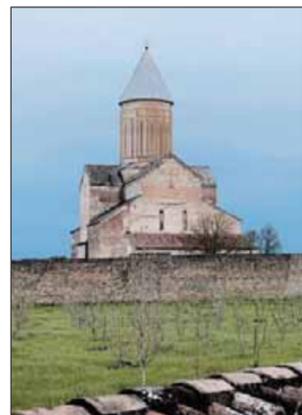


GETTY

Georgians serve their wines to visitors during a 2013 festival in Tbilisi.



KEVIN BEGOS/AP



KEVIN BEGOS/AP

A vineyard in Georgia's Kakheti region, left, with the Caucasus Mountains in the distance. Wine has been made at Alaverdi monastery, right, near Akhmeta, since the 11th century.



SHAKH AIVAZOV/AP 2009

Georgian musicians play near a stove while a baker makes bread during a celebration in the town of Senaki.

exhibits.

Small bakeries make chewy, crisp, khachapuri bread. Shaped like a small alien spacecraft, try it with the traditional melted cheese and egg in the center. There are also Georgian flatbreads — like pitas — stuffed with savory mixes of chopped meat and spices, and a wide variety of dumplings.

There are upscale restaurants,

too. PurPur combines local dishes with classic French-style cooking in a 19th-century atmosphere. Try the pkhali appetizer, which is a sort of pate made from ground walnuts and different vegetables, such as beets or spinach. The various types (and colors) taste like eating fresh vegetable shoots straight out of a garden — subtle yet vibrant and alive.

For a darker experience you

can also visit the Joseph Stalin Museum in Gori, his birthplace. Tour groups offer it as a day trip from Tbilisi.

Finally, you can go for a swim or spa visit at numerous Black Sea resorts.

Kevin Begos is the author of the new book "Tasting the Past: the Science of Flavor & the Search for the Origins of Wine."

Chicago Tribune
**LIFE+
STYLE**
Sunday



Worth the wait

Couples who rekindle long-lost relationships often find intense romance

Balancing Act

10 books Heidi Stevens loved and learned from in 2018 — all written by women

Books

Octavia Butler's "Parable of the Sower" inspires SAIC students

Answer Angel Ellen

Don't overspend on trendy rings, jewelry, Ellen Warren advises

Candid Candace

Wings to Cure gala raises \$3.5 million for cutting-edge cancer research

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ask amy

BY AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Woman faces karma at church

Dear Amy: I'm struggling with comments from my women friends regarding my appearance. Weekly, at church, I have encountered comments like: "Oh, your hair is wet!" (The implication is: You come here every week — get it together!)

Here's another: "WHAT is wrong with your chin?" (Two inflamed spots.)

Amy, I am freaking 62 years old and have been going to this church for 20 years. Yet I never really got the memo of dressing for other women. I know of many sarcastic ways to respond, but I would rather say something more benign like, "Well, I just wanted to come to church today." I wish to find solidarity in my women friends, but instead we pick on each other in petty ways.

Confession: I used to do this, too, but now I make only complimentary comments.

— *Sad in Sacramento*

Dear Sad: You confess that you used to talk in this judgmental way to other women but now you only deliver compliments. This is your penance. It is called "What goes around comes around." Or, more biblically, "We reap what we sow."

I like your statement "Well, I just wanted to come to church today." It's time for all of you to become more intimately connected with the Golden Rule.

Dear Amy: I've been friends with "Jean" for decades. Her son got married this summer at a location more than 300 miles away. Jean told me I was the only one of her friends that she was able to invite to the wedding, so I felt a certain pressure to go.

The couple rented a summer camp with several cabins for guests to stay in. I opted not to stay there. About three days before the wedding, I asked if there was going to be a rehearsal dinner. Jean said yes, but because I chose not to stay at the camp, I was not included. I told her that in my experience, out-of-town guests are invited to the dinner. I said, "I'm hurt by this. Could we talk about it?" She got mad and told me that it was too late to talk about it and that I was being "nasty" by "lecturing" her.

I apologized profusely for my words, reasoning that she was under a lot of stress because it's her only son and she's

been in poor health for some time. She was cordial but distant to me at the wedding. I thought we were OK.

About three weeks later, I got an email telling me how hurt she was, and how she's always been afraid to speak her mind to me, because she's afraid of my anger. She brought up an occasion decades ago when she claims I yelled at her in front of her son and my kids, which I could not remember.

She says now that what happened between us before the wedding is "done" — but it's not done for me. I drove more than 700 miles to attend, apologized for what I said, learned that she's been afraid of telling me her true feelings, and now, in her mind, "what's done is done."

I say old friends should be able to talk things out honestly. And I want an apology. I want to have my hurt feelings recognized too. Don't friends owe each other a candid conversation?

— *Upset Friend*

Dear Upset: You are not owed an apology. You rudely insinuated that your friend was obligated to invite you to her son's rehearsal dinner (she wasn't), and when she was honest in her reaction and later in her description and feelings about your dynamic, you blamed her for that, too.

You've already had your candid conversation. You should thank her for her honesty, use it as an opportunity to review your own behavior and expectations, and look for ways to get on a firmer footing moving forward.

Dear Amy: "Worried Aunt" was despairing over the future of her niece, who was marrying a man with whom she was in a stalemate. I really appreciated your idea that the aunt could respond to this tension by suggesting premarital counseling. My former fiancé and I broke up during ours (thank God).

— *Happy Now*

Dear Happy: The stress of wedding planning reveals fissures in relationships. Counseling can help create paths of communication or lead to a timely parting.

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To contact Life + Style: Questions? Ideas? Comments?

Send what's on your mind to lifelandstyle@chicagotribune.com



balancing act

By HEIDI STEVENS

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10 books I loved and learned from in 2018

They help us live better lives — and they're all by women

While a few big books hogged the limelight this year (Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury," Bob Woodward's "Fear"), a handful of others went about their business helping us live more present, more deliberate, more empathetic, more purpose-driven lives.

Here are 10. They're all written by women.

"How To Be a Happier Parent: Raising a Family, Having a Life, and Loving (Almost) Every Minute," by KJ Dell'Antonia: The former Motherlode blogger for The New York Times offers permission and encouragement for parents to prioritize their own joy and fulfillment, even (especially?) when their children's lives aren't picture-perfect. Get more sleep, she urges. Settle fewer sibling fights. Dive headfirst into your own hobbies. "I'm raising future adults, not perfect children," she writes. And future adults ought to prioritize the happiness of others as well as their own.

"Interracial Relationships Between Black Women and White Men," by Cheryl Judice: Northwestern University sociology professor Judice tells the stories of black women dating, married to or divorced from white men — the highs, the lows, whether and when race factored into those highs and lows, what led them to date outside their race, how their families received their partners, how they were received by their partners' families. "It is my hope," Judice writes, "that presenting their stories will cause more black women to intentionally seek to broaden their idea of suitable dating and marriage partners." It's a fascinating read and an invitation to question a lot of the stories we tell ourselves about love.

"Beyond Birds and Bees: Bringing Home a New Message to Our Kids about Sex, Love, and Equality," by Bonnie J. Rough: After living in the Netherlands with her husband and young



SCRIBNER, HARPER, GRAND CENTRAL, AVERY, CROWN, BOOKBABY, AGATE MIDWAY, DOUBLEDAY, SEAL PRESS, POLIS

daughters, Rough had an epiphany. "Not every society treats bodies as shameful and sex as offensive," she writes. "I saw that many of my international friends were raising kids far more likely to have optimal sexual health and self-esteem, better sex lives and more advantages of gender equality than their average American peers. I'd gone to see how they accomplished this, and most of all, while my kids were still little, to find out if I could reinvent my own philosophy about sex, clarify my guiding principles and discover approaches more practical and more effective than the old-fashioned birds-and-bees checklist." Her book is the result.

"In Pieces," by Sally Field: In a searing memoir, the Oscar- and Emmy-winning actress opens her wounds and explores their permanence and their staying power. She reveals the sexual abuse she endured at the hands of her stepfather and the way her off-screen life was shaped by her on-screen roles. She gives us her life in pieces, even the devastating ones.

"Enough as She Is: How to Help Girls Move Beyond Impossible Standards of Success to Live Healthy, Happy, and Fulfilling Lives," by Rachel Simmons:

"Yes, this is the most promising moment for girls in history," Simmons told me in an interview. "At the same time, girls have more expectations and obligations than any time in history. That's not an easy responsibility to bear." Be a STEM star, but with perfect makeup. Be class president, but with plenty of time for your friends. Be an athlete, but not too muscle-y. Her book offers a road map for parents and educators guiding young women toward balance.

"Dark Chapter," by Winnie M. Li: a harrowing, courageous novel based on Li's experience of being attacked and raped in a Belfast park when she was 29. The book explores the lives of both Vivian, the victim, and Johnny, the perpetrator, and Li infuses each character with equal humanity. I've never read anything like it.

"Becoming," by Michelle Obama: a front-row seat to a remarkable woman's life as first lady of the United States, but also as a mother, daughter, wife, sister, friend and citizen trying to juggle and honor every role with the care and weight it deserves. "There's a lot I still don't know about America, about life, about what the future might bring," she writes. "But I do know myself." And that's what she shares

in this book.

"Vote Her In: Your Guide to Electing Our First Woman President," by Rebecca Sive: a weaving together of bold, barrier-busting women — Shirley Chisholm (the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives), Ida B. Wells (journalist, anti-lynching activist, co-founder of the NAACP) and, yes, Hillary Clinton (first female presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party), and a call for us to build upon their stories. Enough "year of the woman," Sive writes. "It's time for a century of women. And then another. And another."

"Voice Lessons for Parents: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Listen," by Wendy Mogel: Genius strategies for communicating with our sons and daughters at various developmental stages. One of my favorite tips is for sons, but I've used it with my daughter as well.

"Some boys prefer to write down a big thought, confession or heartfelt sentiment and slip a note under your door rather than say it in person," Mogel writes. "If you leave little notes every so often on his desk, night table or pillow, you've opened up an avenue of communication he hadn't realized was available and he'll be more likely to do the same."

"What If This Were Enough?" by Heather Havrilesky: a book of essays that tap into the underlying sense of malaise and disconnection that colors so much of our day-to-day interactions. "Face-to-face, real-time connection to others feels fraught and awkward compared to the safe distance of digital communication," she writes. "Our worlds exist on our phones, which feels like a very isolating experience even though you're connecting with other people and can see other people are outraged with the world and what's happening in their lives. ... You're like this strange, isolated spectator surrounded by all these strange, isolated spectators. It breeds a certain level of madness."

Join the Heidi Stevens' Balancing Act Facebook group, where she hosts live chats every Wednesday at noon.

An ongoing study that began in 1993 found that of the 4,000 participants who found their way back to former loves, 72 percent of them were still together

Old flames, new romance



KRISTEN NORMAN/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

John and Megan McDonald at their Chicago home in 2017. They dated in high school, broke up, got back together and have been married for 10 years.

BY DANIELLE BRAFF
Chicago Tribune

Linda Waud and Charles “Ben” Waud dated through most of high school and a year of college, and then went their separate ways.

It wasn’t until they bumped into each other at their 35-year high school

reunion that he told her, “I guess it’s time for us to talk.”

Shortly after the reunion they got married, and the Florida couple have been inseparable for more than two decades.

“Yes, this can be a beautiful life,” Linda Waud said.

Now, thanks mostly to

social media, more and more couples are experiencing the rekindling of high school and college romances, though not as many are encountering the happily-ever-after ending that Waud and her husband now have.

A study by Nancy Kalish at California State Uni-

versity in Sacramento, which began in 1993 and is ongoing, found that of the 4,000 participants who found their way back to old loves, 72 percent of them were still together. If they were married at the time that they rekindled their romance, the success rate was just 5 percent — be-

cause one or both didn’t leave their marriages. The success rate for those who left their marriages jumped to 72 percent. And if they returned to the first love they ever had, the success rate was even higher: 78 percent. If they married their lost loves, the divorce rate was just 0.4 percent.

These rekindled romances appeared to be even more passionate than romantic movies would suggest: 71 percent of those in the study said that their reunion was the most intense romance they’d ever had.

“These romances are a lot faster: They meet for

coffee, and then they go to a hotel room,” said Kalish, a professor of psychology.

It happened very quickly for Megan McDonald, who dated John McDonald in high school but had a bad breakup when he went away to college.

Over the next three years, they didn’t talk but constantly asked about each other via mutual friends.

When Megan bumped into John at dinner at a friend’s house, they realized they had to be together forever.

“We made the decision right then and there, and decided that if it was going to be real, it needed to be real, because neither of us lived in the same state,” Megan McDonald said.

So they made the quick decision to date long-distance for two years until they could rearrange their lives to be together.

Now the couple live in Chicago, have been married for 10 years and have a 5-year-old and a 4-month-old.

There is an unfortunate side of meeting an old love a few years or even decades down the line.

Many of them are in new relationships, Kalish said.

The internet has made finding these old loves very casual: A simple email or a Facebook message doesn’t hurt and isn’t as suspicious as a handwritten letter or even a phone call, she said.

But that initial message can lead to another, which eventually could result in a meeting ending in an affair.

“These people weren’t looking for affairs. They never cheated before, and they never cheat again,” Kalish said. “Before you know it, all the emotions come back, even for a happy marriage — they don’t expect it.”

In fact, the majority of the people in the study who reconciled began via an affair.

Decades ago, these couples didn’t meet until their children were older, as they were reconnecting through

reunions. But today they’re reconnecting when they’re younger because it’s easier to stay in touch or to find each other through Facebook or other social media outlets.

That usually means the couples are bringing young children into their affairs.

But these aren’t the only issues to consider.

If the couple miss out on years of each other’s lives, they often feel resentful that they lost this time and that the other person gave those years to someone else. Many times they can’t or won’t have children with their old love, which is also a difficult concept to fathom, Kalish said.

Despite those issues, the couple can try to make it work — and many of them do, but they need to realize that they’re different people than they were in high school, said Rachel Sussman, a licensed therapist and relationship expert.

“When we think back on those memories — especially high school and college loves — we were carefree and looking beautiful and thin and happy — and we have an idealized idea of what love looked like, and our brain naturally does a trick on us,” Sussman said. Instead of thinking about the problems in the relationship, you think about your passion and how much better that relationship was than all of your later relationships. So you need to be realistic, and you need to realize that some of those problems may still exist.

But the good news is that research has shown that the more you have in common with someone, the better the chances you have of succeeding in a relationship.

You most likely have much more in common with your high school or college love than you have with someone you randomly meet online, Sussman said.

Sometimes, this is exactly why these relationships have such great odds:

The couple tried dating other people after high school or college and realized that the alternatives weren’t so great. They’d really clicked but gave up on each other because they thought they were too young, or because they thought they could find someone better. But it’s been years, and they still haven’t found that person whom they had invented in their head, said Randi Gunther, clinical psychologist, marriage counselor and author of “When Love Stumbles.” Or maybe they married and then divorced, and were trying to figure out what to do next. And they started wondering what ever happened to their first love, who usually was a very pure love, free from the practicalities of financial or other restrictions.

The phrase “absence makes the heart grow fonder” could also apply here, Gunther said.

“When people fall in love from their hearts, and not from practical choices, those loves never go away, especially when they occurred when they were not yet bruised or cynical,” he said. Couples who reconnect describe it as “coming home,” she said.

But they shouldn’t neglect to have real conversations about their lives as they are today, as opposed to simply going back in time, Sussman said.

“The early dates are really exciting because you’re playing catch-up: You have those stories of what it was like to go to prom together,” she said. “But then, you have to play catch-up and use the same criteria of dating someone new: Do you have the same life goals? Finance goals?”

Make sure you use the same strict dating criteria with your former love that you’d use with anyone else, Sussman suggested.

The good part: They already know your history.

Danielle Braff is a freelancer.

Some parents call police over teens’ cellphone use

BY NARA SCHOENBERG
Chicago Tribune

The trouble typically begins when a teen’s cellphone use is out of control, leading to poor grades, family conflict or lack of sleep.

The parent will try to take the phone away, said Victoria Perisee-Johns, a police crisis worker at several west suburban police departments. But by then, the teen may feel he has the right to the phone. He’ll hoard it — taking it everywhere with him, including the bathroom. Or he’ll give it to a friend for safekeeping. Or he’ll hide it.

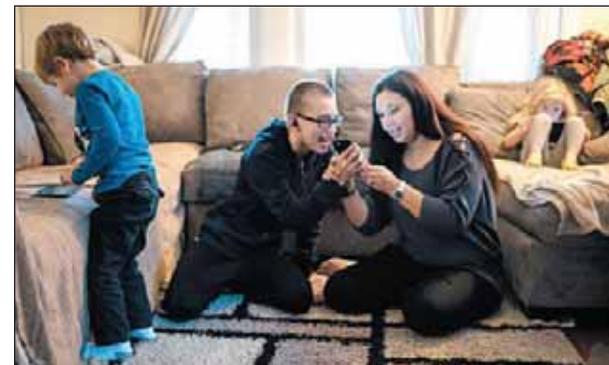
He may become verbally aggressive if the parent tries to take the phone, or he make attack: hitting, punching or pulling hair.

And that, said Perisee-Johns, is when some parents call the police.

“It is happening at an alarming rate,” said Perisee-Johns, who provides advice and support to parents in these cases. “We’re seeing aggression, we’re seeing agitation, we’re seeing kids run away — all of it over things like cellphones and video games.”

Local police departments say they don’t track cellphone disputes between parents and children, and their assessments of the problem vary. In Evanston, it’s fairly common for calls to police regarding parent-child disputes to involve cellphones, but Evanston police Cmdr. Ryan Glew said that, in these cases, cellphone disputes appear to be symptoms of family problems rather than root causes.

Devorah Heitner, author of “Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World,” pointed out that the vast majority of families are not calling the police about



ROB HART/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Victoria Perisee-Johns, a police crisis worker, monitors the cellphone use of her son Cyprian, 14, and the screen time of Channing, 5, and Amira, 3.

cellphone disputes.

“This is extreme,” she said of calls to the police. “But it does give you a sense of how desperate and helpless parents can feel in the face of a very strong, immersive relationship with tech.”

Battles over cellphones or video games are at the root of about 20 percent of the parent-child disputes that are referred to Perisee-Johns by police in west suburban communities. Perisee-Johns offers affected families brief problem-focused support, which includes a combination of family therapy and parenting support services.

In these cases, she recommends that parents come up with very clear rules, for example: “I expect you to hand in your phone at 9 p.m., I expect you to maintain a B average, I expect you to wash the dishes every night.” If the child doesn’t comply, the punishment is specific and predetermined, for instance, losing the cellphone for a set amount of time. And — this is important, Perisee-Johns said — the rules must be enforced consistently.

Heitner said parents should be on the lookout for signs of phone trouble. If device use is leading to daily conflict, academic problems, loss of sleep, risky communication with

strangers, coercion or harassment, it may be time to get some outside help in the form of mental health services, support from other parents or an app that limits screen time.

“A lot of parents are looking — whether it’s in early childhood or the tween years — for some support on ‘How do I get my kid on board (with family rules)? If I’m not going to threaten them, if I’m not going to hit them, if I’m not going to deprive them of things, then what is the plan?’” she said.

“There are parenting classes in many communities and sometimes they’re free or very affordable, and that is a resource that parents should never feel ashamed of taking advantage of.”

She also recommends talking to other parents. With her own teenage son, Perisee-Johns deploys a point-based discipline system. When a cellphone rule is broken, a punishment is assigned, say, 400 points, and her 14-year-old son can work off those points (and earn back phone or video game time) by doing set tasks. Perisee-Johns said her son has control over how fast he earns back his privileges, and he accepts the system without conflict.

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A week of things to do with the kids

Monday

THE DRAKE'S HOLIDAY TEA

Do kids still get visions of sugar plums? They might after a visit to The Drake. With just a few hours to wile away before Santa's visit, enjoy a hallowed Holiday Tea experience: the sounds of a harpist and carolers, hot tea and scrumptious pastries. The seatings run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (make your reservation in advance) at The Drake Hotel's Palm Court, 140 E. Walton Place. \$52, \$25 for kids ages 3-12. tinyurl.com/y8c94gqg

Tuesday

'HOLIDAY MEMORIES' FLOWER SHOW

Looking for something low-key outside of the house Christmas Day? Both of the city's conservatories are open — and free, as always — on Christmas. Lovers of the color pink will thrill to Garfield Park's "Tickled Pink"-themed blooms, but Lincoln Park's "Holiday Memories" takes the all-ages crown: Toy trains weave throughout the display of Christmas-time flora and twinkling lights. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (daily through Jan. 6) at Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive. Free. tinyurl.com/yb8dek6j

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Cap your Christmas night with a drive to enjoy Christmas lights! The greater Chicago area offers many such displays, including this Aurora festival, where you'll wind past more than 400 lit-up trees, signs and animated tableaux. The Rotary Club of Aurora and the city itself team up to present this annual spectacle, which stretches for more than a mile. 5-9 p.m. (through Dec. 26) inside Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive, Aurora. Free. aurorafestivaloflights.com

Wednesday

'ANTARCTIC DINOSAURS'

In a winter-break bonus for families, the Field Museum extends its hours, staying open later Wednesday through Sunday. That gives dino lovers a little extra time to see "Antarctic Dinosaurs," which closes Jan. 6. Unearthed by Field Museum paleontologists, these fossils depict previously undiscovered species that roamed the earth's southernmost continent before it was frozen. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Field, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive. \$32, \$28 for students with ID, \$23 for kids 3-11 (includes general admission). tinyurl.com/ydaun8dz

BY WEB BEHRENS | Chicago Tribune



360 CHICAGO

The best bird's-eye views of the city are from the top of 875 N. Michigan (formerly the John Hancock Center), where the eastern perspective is basically all lake. Enjoy the panorama as well as a great bargain when 360 Chicago offers free everything for kids at the year's last Sunday Funday. For kids 11 and under, general admission is free all day long, while a Tilt ride is free 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sweet spot is 1-3 p.m., when you'll also encounter magic and storytelling. At the 360 Chicago Observation Deck, 875 N. Michigan Ave. \$22 for adults and adolescents (age 12 and up); half-price admission for Chicago residents; \$8 for Tilt. tinyurl.com/y92b8kav

KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Observe Kwanzaa this week at one or both of DuSable Museum's celebratory programs. Honoring history and culture, the two-day event encourages youth to remember their ancestors and build upon their legacies. Performers include Najwa Dance Corp, Thunder Sky Drummers and more. Noon to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday at the DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Place. Free. tinyurl.com/y8xsjt34

LIVE ACTION DISNEY: 'BEDKNOBS AND BROOMSTICKS'

This 1971 live-action adventure comedy follows the template established seven years earlier by the much more successful "Mary Poppins," matching young British children with a magical mentor — in this case, the inimitable Angela Lansbury as a noble witch. They band together to fight Nazis during the Blitz, which makes the movie sound dire, but "Bedknobs" tosses in an animated sequence and songs by the Sherman Brothers.

It's back on the big screen as part of the Music Box's Live Action Disney series, running Wednesday through Jan. 3; "Bedknobs" screens at 1 p.m. Wednesday and four times thereafter. The Music Box, 3733 N. Southport Ave. \$11, \$7 for kids 11 and under. tinyurl.com/yca2s9eg

Thursday

AIC'S WINTER BREAK OPEN STUDIO

The Art Institute offers this annual diversion: four days of complimentary drop-in art-making. This year, the focus is on painting, inspired by ancient Japanese masterpieces on display in "Painting the Floating World." 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Enter via the Art Institute of Chicago's Ryan Learning Center, 159 E. Monroe St. Free. tinyurl.com/yc3rd6xu

HELLENIC MUSEUM'S WINTER FAMILY DAY

The post-Christmas week is a great time to hit a museum or two with the family

— so why not take your children to one of the city's less-famous institutions? Greektown museum includes crafts and exhibit tours, geared for kids 4 and up with an adult. You'll also find some unique fun: dance lessons and a hands-on cookie (Koulourakia) demo. The fun begins at 1 p.m. at National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted St. \$10, \$7 for kids 3-12. Register online in advance. tinyurl.com/y8yertuq

Friday

WINTER BREAKOUT ADVENTURES

The Forest Preserves of Cook County invites the family to enjoy a winter day outdoors. Hike the forest preserve (with snowshoes, if the snow gods smile upon us); go sledding; learn about the animals that live in the preserves, then learn how to track them; and warm up indoors during craft sessions with natural materials. Noon till 3 p.m. at Rolling Knolls, 11N260 Rohrssen Road, Elgin. Repeats one week later, on Jan. 4, at Camp Sullivan in Oak Forest. tinyurl.com/y8ejm82z

Saturday

BY THE FIREPLACE AT NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER

North Park Village Nature Center is a hidden gem of the Chicago Park District system: 46 acres of nature preserve, with trails that take visitors through four distinct ecosystems: forest, prairie, wetland and oak savanna. On this last Saturday of the year, the center gets the fireplace blazing. After enjoying a short outdoor hike, families are encouraged to warm up by the hearth, where you can even read the storybooks provided. Drop in between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at North Park Village Nature Center Park, 5801 N. Pulaski Road. Free. tinyurl.com/y8zmvmac

Sunday

'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST'

Be their (paying) guest! This Drury Lane production of Disney's "tale as old as time" brings Belle to life — along with her two would-be suitors, plus Mrs. Potts, Cogsworth, Lumiere and the rest — with flair. Wednesdays through Sundays, through Jan. 27 (plus two performances New Year's Eve) at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. \$60-\$75. tinyurl.com/y825ly8e

Web Behrens is a freelance reporter.

Make the most of holiday giving dollars

Educate yourself on organizations you're interested in

BY KATE THAYER
Chicago Tribune

From donation drives organized at work or school to fundraising campaigns on social media, holiday requests for giving seem to be everywhere. Most people can't donate to every cause, so where should their money go?

Experts advise giving to smaller organizations — perhaps in your own community — where individual donations can have a greater impact, and vetting those groups before donating.

If someone wants to donate \$25 or \$100 or some other relatively modest amount, it will make a bigger difference to a smaller organization, said John List, the Kenneth C. Griffin Distinguished Service Professor in Economics at the University of Chicago. List notes that the top 1 percent of wage earners in the U.S. give 40 percent of all gifts, and they tend to give large sums to bigger, more well-known organizations.

"It's hard for people like me ... to make that kind of a difference on the bigger organizations," he said. "The big organizations thrive on the top 1 percent. The small organizations thrive off of us."

Noticing organizations doing good work in your own community is a good place to start, List said. People should donate to causes that matter to them, he said, whether it be the environment, disease research or social service agencies that help the poor. And there are ways to find legitimate but lesser-known organizations and make sure your donated dollars have the most impact.

"A lot of people ... think it's hard to find good information (on charities), and



JAMIE GRILL/TETRA IMAGES

Small donations can have a big impact at smaller organizations, but experts advise vetting groups before donating.

they're paralyzed and give to a (big, popular) organization," he said.

List suggested using charitynavigator.org and searching by organization size and area of interest. The website shows Internal Revenue Service data, which demonstrates that a charity is legitimate and includes how much it's received in recent years.

People also can request information directly from a charity, List said. He suggested asking for a complete list of previous donors and how much every donated dollar produces in benefits. Keep in mind that some organizations don't have only tangible benefits, List said. For example, the Make-A-Wish Foundation doesn't track the number of smiles someone has in his or her last year of life, he said.

List said it's best to avoid a lot of grassroots, GoFundMe-type fundraising because it's hard to know where the money is going. A New Jersey couple and a homeless man were charged with theft last month after investigators said the trio had concocted a story that prompted a GoFundMe page soliciting donations for the man. Instead, officials said, the couple used the more than \$400,000 in donations to buy a BMW and designer handbags, and to go on trips.

"You give to feel good about the good that you're doing," he said. "If it's fraudulent, you've just destroyed the reason why you give."

Some prefer to see an immediate impact by giving directly to someone asking for help on the street.

After urging from the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and several groups that work with the homeless, Illinois municipalities, including Chicago, have started to repeal ordinances banning panhandling. This is part of a larger, national movement to reverse such bans, which advocates say are unconstitutional.

Chicago last month repealed its ordinance that forbade panhandling in certain places and under certain circumstances, noted Anne Bowhay, spokeswoman for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. Other municipalities that have repealed bans include Aurora, Oak Park, Peoria, Urbana and Decatur.

"Chicago's panhandling ordinance was actively enforced, so this is an im-

portant victory for people in Chicago who panhandle as a means of a survival," Diane O'Connell, community lawyer at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, said in a statement Thursday. "We have spoken to hundreds of people experiencing homelessness who have been ticketed or arrested for violating this ordinance — locked up or charged fines they cannot pay for nothing more than exercising their First Amendment rights. The city was forced to recognize that everyone has the right to ask for help."

Though recent news of a woman stabbed to death right after giving to a panhandler in Baltimore may cause alarm in some, Bowhay said it's unclear if that was a scam and the perpetrators weren't actu-

ally homeless panhandlers. She said most encounters people have with those on the street are rewarding.

Bowhay said that besides donating to charities that serve Chicago's homeless, her organization simply encourages people to give however they see fit.

"If someone is asking for a handout and you want to give a dollar ... people should do what they think feels right," she said, noting that she's also seen people take the homeless into restaurants for meals and even hand them new, clean pairs of socks.

"They should do what they feel," Bowhay said. "I think most people do that."

The Associated Press contributed.

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A showcase of 'visionary muscles'

Octavia Butler book inspires exhibit from SAIC students

BY DARCEL ROCKETT
Chicago Tribune

Author Octavia Butler is still sowing seeds, through her words on the page.

Her book "Parable of the Sower" — the first in the Earthseed series wherein Lauren Oya Olamina tries to make a life in a world where society has fallen in on itself over issues like climate change, wealth inequality, drugs, war and water shortages — is the foundation on which D. Denenge Duyst-Akpem, professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, developed a fall 2018 professional practices class, "Take Root Among the Stars: The Legacy of Octavia Butler, Surviving the 21st Century & Beyond."

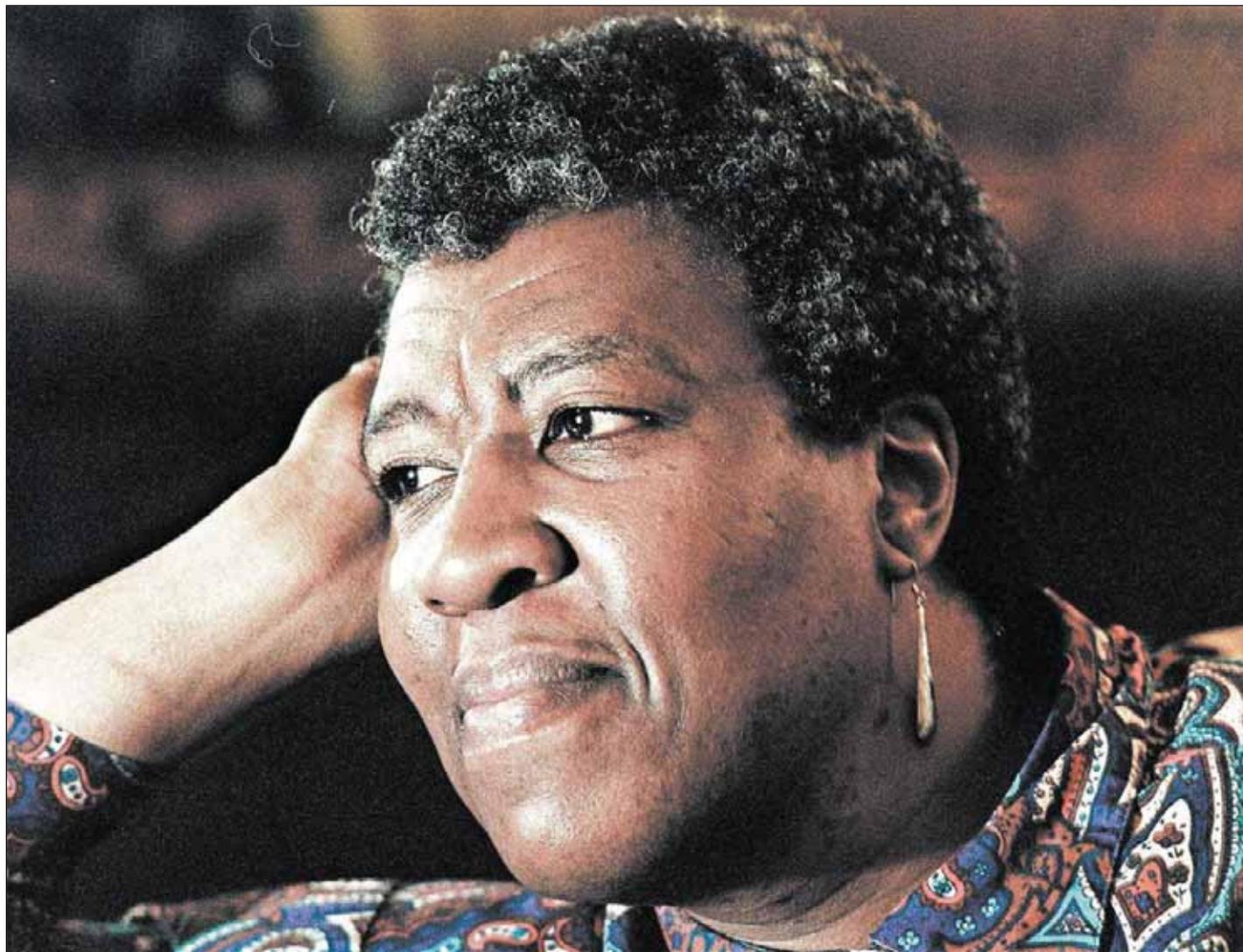
"Octavia Butler is dearly beloved," Duyst-Akpem said. "One of the things that's so exciting about her work is the fact that as speculative fiction, it's so close to the present."

"I think one of the reasons that she's so beloved is that she doesn't shy away from the realities of disaster and what humans create with their hierarchical nature, and yet her characters are innovators, her characters are creating new spiritual practices, her characters are leading the way. She gives us inroads to consider how we can have agency in the present moment, what we can do now."

Duyst-Akpem, an Afro-futurist artist and educator, used Butler's tale in her course to look at themes of blackness, decolonization and what it means to imagine liberated futures individually and within a community. SAIC students produced works of art about the intersection of survival and thriving (aka "thrival," a term recently introduced by artist/architect Amanda Williams in the context of "thrival geographies") in our current time. Each student created a "go pack" filled with things that they deem noteworthy for their sanity and self-preservation — journals about traversing the city landscape, where to forage for edibles, maps — practical items as well as conceptual ones, Duyst-Akpem said.

"Everything from what astronauts eat for various missions to activated charcoal to cleanse water, and other things that one might need," she said.

Jamilah Abu-Bakare's pack is for little black girls, with items like double Dutch ropes, barrettes and mapping in hair plaits.



MILBERT ORLANDO BROWN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 1998

Octavia Butler's book "Parable of the Sower" was the jumping-off point for a course at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Student Kaitlin Weed's equestrian-focused pack has handwritten sheets of poems for loved ones tucked into saddle bags. Junior Katie McMath designed a soft care package with gifts of scented sachets and items for stress relief. Grace Kromah's pack is a West African print head-tie with family images screen-printed inside.

"There are some really interesting threads, each very beautiful and personal addressing these larger questions," Duyst-Akpem said.

"What I hope students and visitors gain in experiencing the exhibition is how we engage Butler's work in the creation of our

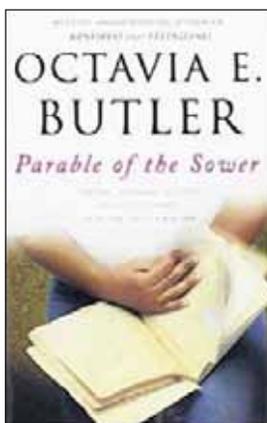
own and how we can feel powerful in building those visionary muscles."

We spoke with Duyst-Akpem prior to the exhibit to learn more about Butler and why "Parable of the Sower" is timely for this moment in history.

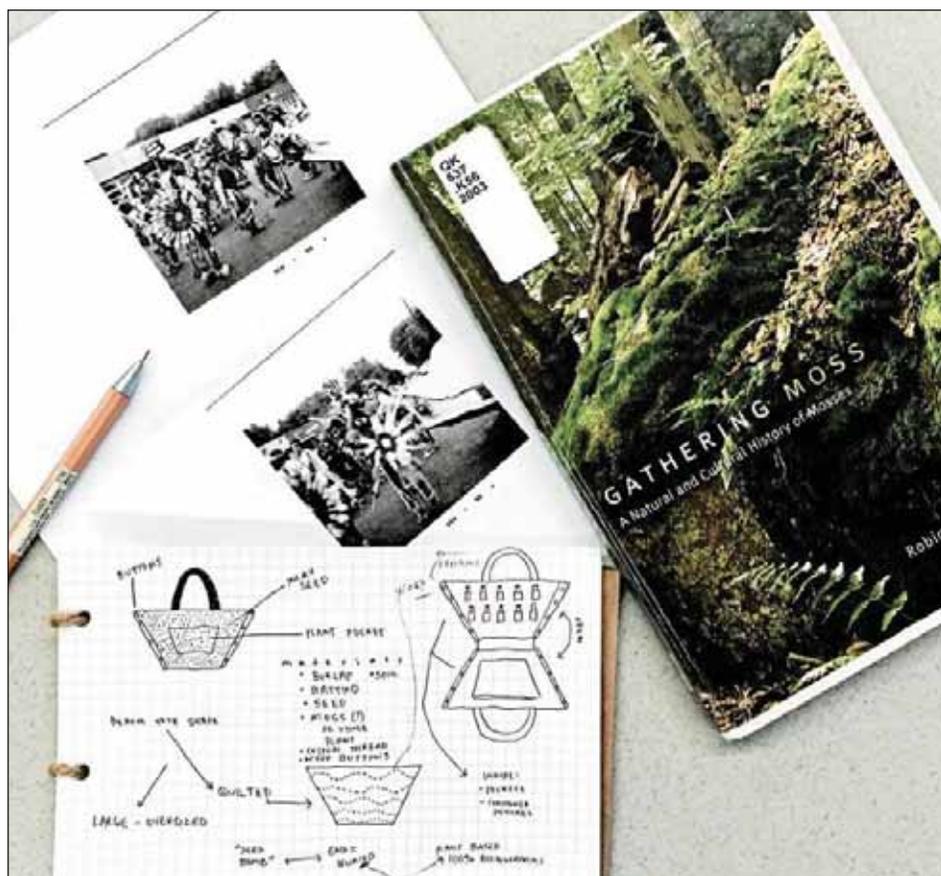
Q: Why was this course created?

A: This course developed as a response to a few factors. One was to increase visibility of black women practitioners — namely

Octavia Butler — in PWI (Predominantly White Institutions). And to illuminate and celebrate her work and its application to



our lives today, especially in this moment locally, nationally and globally. Butler's work presents an accurate, prophetic and dystopic vision, but rather than being wholly pessimistic, it offers us points of agency embodied in the young character of Lauren Oya Olamina. The creation of survival packs is not a gratuitous statement in response to imagined disaster scenarios. We are aware of and respond to the many dire circumstances occurring at our doorsteps and further afield and also recognize the many ways we each experience hardship, asking how we may tend to the present and prepare for the future. Each student has developed their pack as an investigation of what constitutes for them survival at this moment and what it means to thrive in the midst of difficult circumstances.



ASH WOLFE

A sketchbook and materials for a survival pack by Ash Wolfe, student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The items are part of the “Take Root Among the Stars” exhibition.

Q: What does it mean to focus on the issues found in “Parable of the Sower” in the current climate?

A: Octavia Butler’s work provides a portal for us to examine our lives and the current political, social and environmental climates. Her prophetic work shows us how we can utilize imagination in the space of science fiction to re-construct our world. Her stories are speculative but very close to home.

Q: Visibility has always been a concern for the black community. Elaborate on how people can be heard and seen — now and in the future?

A: As far as visibility is concerned, I can speak to the steps I take, which includes offering courses like this and working to decolonize the canon — which means an inclusive curriculum, highlighting a range of voices, especially of black women artists and practitioners. It is my hope that students can take these tools and opportunities to stretch their imaginations and use that as a foundation to navigate how they wish to be seen, how they wish to present their work, how they will let their voices be heard.

It’s important to start with valuing your own voice. As one of our great poets Jayne Cortez riffed, “Find your own voice / and use it / Use your own voice / and find it.”



HILARY HIGGINS/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

D. Denenge Duyst-Akpelem taught a class at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago based on Butler’s “Parable of the Sower.”

This might mean working against internalized pressures to minimize yourself. Speak up. Use social media or online spaces to share what’s important to you and protest what you won’t stand. As Octavia Butler



DELANEY EUBANKS

An Octavia Butler survival pack by SAIC’s Delaney Eubanks is also part of the exhibit. Eubanks and other students’ artworks are about the intersection of survival and thriving.

did with her journals, such as the “So be it! See to it!” invocation. Write your intentions and beliefs down. Not only can you manifest what you name and envision, it will be more difficult for your voice to be lost, or your actions misconstrued later. But first and foremost, take good care of you.

Q: What interventions can we create now that could transition us to the next level as a community?

A: One of the major interventions that I see happening more openly now is a return to indigenous ways of understanding self and the world. For instance, as part of the course, we went on an urban foraging workshop with Nance Klehm, a well-known expert in the field of sustainability. That short class session with her really honed our skills in understanding what is right here around us. Students learned to trust their instincts, and there was a beautiful moment when Klehm asked (a) grad student to try a mushroom to guess what tree it had been growing on. After a moment, she answered, “Apple!” and Nance was thrilled that she was right! Our bodies can guide us; it’s a process of learning and unlearning, of trusting instinct and nature, supported by research and study.

Q: In an era of police shootings and mass incarceration, what insight can

Butler’s work provide in changing the system?

A: As Andrea Hairston writes in “Octavia Butler — Praise Song for a Prophetic Artist,” Butler is an “impossibility specialist.” In the (Earthseed) series, the futures are no less bleak, but what she provides is agency through a central character who keeps going, no matter what. Butler’s work provides an entry point — a challenging one — to consider what “the future” looks like to us and how we can become the ones guiding that vision. In “Parable of the Sower,” Lauren begins writing “Earthseed: Books of the Living” with the central tenet that “God is Change.” Through the course and development of the survival go-pack, it is my hope that her work teaches us to be prepared and to interrogate for ourselves what preparedness and protection mean. One of the primary insights rooted in this is how to shape-shift and flow with change, even as we work to improve our lives and those of others in the world around us.

The journals inspired by Octavia Butler’s “Parable of the Sower” will be displayed in the sixth-floor library cases through Jan. 26 at the LeRoy Nieman Center, Sharp Building, 37 S. Wabash Ave. Free admission.

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Adult fiction faves from 2018

No shortage of compelling and otherworldly work

BY JOHN WARNER | Chicago Tribune

Sales of adult fiction declined by 16 percent from 2013 to 2017. There's lots of speculation as to why — lack of recent blockbusters like “Fifty Shades” or “Gone Girl,” politics sucking up all the available media oxygen, the rise of Netflix. But here's something I'm sure of: The decline has nothing to do with quality.

In trying to determine my 2018 Biblioracle Book Awards for fiction, I couldn't whittle my list to fewer than 20 titles that deserve recognition. This has simply been one of my best years of reading in recent memory. If you let some of these books kick off your 2019, you'll have some good reading ahead of you as well — Biblioracle guaranteed.

Roman a Clef of the Year

“Asymmetry” by Lisa Halliday

Simon & Schuster, 288 pages, \$26

Three novellas joined together into a semi-cohesive whole, but don't bother with that. The opening section of an affair between a young woman and a writer with a strong resemblance to Philip Roth manages to burrow deeper into emotions with every page.

Have a Hanky Ready Book of the Year

“The Great Believers” by Rebecca Makkai

Viking, 432 pages, \$27

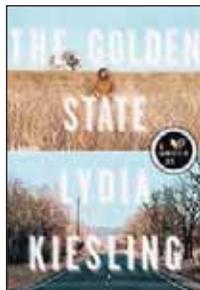
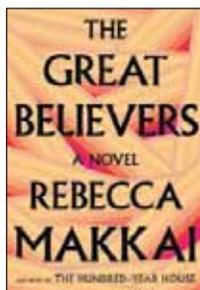
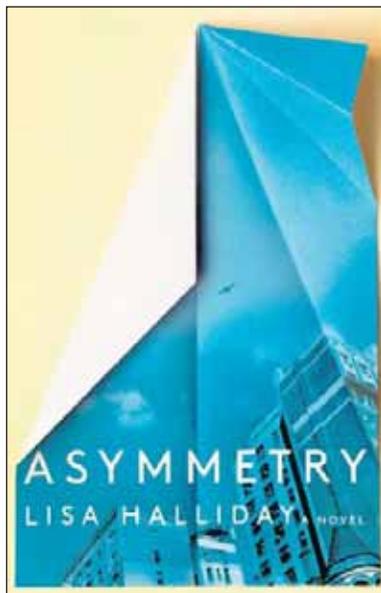
The tragedy of the AIDS crisis and its aftermath, told with care and grace. Co-champion: **“Don't Skip Out on Me” by Willy Vlautin** (Harper Perennial, 304 pages, \$22.99). I want to recommend this book to everybody, but the end is so emotionally overwhelming, I'm worried they'll get mad at me for making them feel those feelings.

Most Mesmerizing Book of the Year

“The Golden State” by Lydia Kiesling

MCD, 304 pages, \$26

In theory, little connects my life to that of Kiesling's protagonist, Daphne — a mother of an 18-month-old in the midst of an emotional crisis over a Turkish-born husband having been exiled from the United States by a visa snafu and a job she can no longer bear — but Kiesling's rendering of the moment-to-moment existence of Daphne as a caregiver to a young child is almost hypnotic in its strength. I still don't understand how this book worked its spell on me.



I Can't Believe the Author Did That Book of the Year

“My Sister, The Serial Killer” by Oyinkan Braithwaite

Doubleday, 240 pages, \$22.95

The title is both joke and not. Like a lot of this book, you're never quite sure how to take it, but the result is a nasty and delicious little novel that you'll read in a day and wonder about for days later.



Adventure Yarn of the Year

“Washington Black” by Esi Edugyan

Knopf, 352 pages, \$26.95

A throwback to Mark Twain or Jules Verne, this is the story of Washington Black, born a slave in Barbados, but who goes on to have literal world-wide adventures.



Post-apocalyptic Story Set in the Future Book of the Year

“Severance” by Ling Ma

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 304 pages, \$26

Shen Fever has turned most of the country into shuffling drones, repeating mundane tasks as their bodies decay. Candace Chen has escaped the fever, but seems to recognize her pre-plague life wasn't so different from the afflicted. A tale of survival that is simultaneously dead serious and satire.



Post-apocalyptic Story Set in the Past Book of the Year

“The Overstory” by Richard Powers

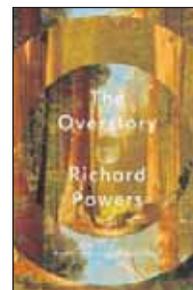
Norton, 512 pages, \$27.95

Ostensibly centered on the “timber wars” of the 1990s, which saw old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest decimated, Powers' powerful storytelling makes a case that we've already ruined the planet by turning our backs on the magnificence of nature. We're living in a post-apocalypse. We just don't recognize it yet.

I didn't intend to end the Biblioracle Book Awards on such a downer note, but on reflection, it seems appropriate. One of the reasons fiction is so vital is its role in rendering truths we can't easily see.

In recognizing those truths, at least some measure of hope is kindled.

John Warner is the author of “Why They Can't Write: Killing the Five-Paragraph Essay and Other Necessities.”



Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

John Warner tells you what to read next based on the last five books you've read.

1. **“The Tuscan Child”** by Rhys Bowen
 2. **“The Witch Elm”** by Tana French
 3. **“Summer Sisters”** by Judy Blume
 4. **“Little Fires Everywhere”** by Celeste Ng
 5. **“The Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story”** by Douglas Preston
- Cathleen E., Chicago
I'm leaning toward interesting nonfiction for Cathleen, and that's bringing me to **“Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War”** by Tony Horwitz.

1. **“Nobody Walks”** by Mick Herron
 2. **“Mrs. Fletcher”** by Tom Perrotta
 3. **“Parting Shot”** by Linwood Barclay
 4. **“The Polish Officer”** by Alan Furst
 5. **“The Millstone”** by Margaret Drabble
- David B., Chicago
This is a bit of a weird book with a tone not everyone takes to, but I feel like David may enjoy it: **“May We Be Forgiven”** by A.M. Homes.

1. **“White Noise”** by Don DeLillo
 2. **“Blood Meridian”** by Cormac McCarthy
 3. **“Black Hawk: An Autobiography”** edited by Donald Jackson
 4. **“The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir”** by Thi Bui
 5. **“A Gentleman in Moscow”** by Amor Towles
- Beth H., McHenry
“White Teeth” by Zadie Smith. Book it. (Pardon the pun.)

Get a reading from the Biblioracle

Send a list of the last five books you've read to books@chicagotribune.com.

Being left out of wedding plans is a blessing in disguise



JUDITH MARTIN
Miss Manners

Dear Miss Manners:

After sending us a “save the date” notice for a fall wedding, our nephew called to say that he and his intended were overwhelmed by wedding plans, especially the family pressure to include relatives they scarcely know.

They decided instead to elope to the Southwest. We agreed it was a great plan and thought no more about it.

That is, until learning that what had evolved was actually a destination wedding, complete with a dinner and a reception, to which “close friends and relatives” are invited — my husband’s sister among them — though we are not!

I am feeling miffed! Am I out of line?

Gentle reader: No, just out of favor. While this whole procedure was clearly rude, Miss Manners recommends that you consider yourself lucky — and that much richer — for not having spent money on a forced vacation with (apparently distant) relatives.

As an added bonus, she permits you to forgo the present that she feels certain will be solicited, and suggests you reward yourself with an actual vacation.

Dear Miss Manners:

This past Thanksgiving, at the home of the same close friends with whom I have spent the last several Thanksgivings, the host and I began a political discussion between din-

ner and dessert.

We are at opposite ends of the spectrum, but the discussion was civil. The hostess informed me that other guests were uncomfortable with our discussion. She directed her comments solely to me, not to both her husband and me.

She took me to task in front of the entire party about how it was not good to discuss politics when people do not agree, but her comments also included a long story recounting how representatives of my political side had been rude to her during the recent election. She said point-blank that she did not want her Thanksgiving to be about politics, so the subject of conversation should be changed.

I was so upset by this ungracious treatment that I discreetly left the party a few minutes later. The next day, she called to say she was sorry that I felt the need to leave, but that she has the right to set the subject of conversation in her home. She offered no apology for embarrassing me, but she reiterated that politics were not an appropriate topic of conversation.

I grew up in a politically divided household; my father was a Democrat, and my mother was a Republican. There were frequent political discussions, often passionate, but always civil and respectful. My hometown was also a small state capital, so political discussions were always a part of any social gathering.

Have we reached a point in this country where politics can only be discussed with people who share the same views? At parties, must we forgo passionate discussions about politics, the arts, religion — basically all ideas — and dwell

solely on the humdrum gossipy events of people’s daily lives?

Needless to say, I will not attend any future parties at this friend’s home (assuming I’m invited), but should I avoid discussing anything that can be remotely considered controversial when I am at social events?

Gentle reader: If you and your host were able to discuss your political differences in a calm and civil manner, Miss Manners would consider it a public service.

Mind you, she is aware of the social ban on controversial topics. But that specifically has to do with those who are unable to do so in a respectful manner, which may now include a vast majority of the population.

There is no such exception in the rule against embarrassing one’s guests.

Dear Miss Manners:

When I am having guests for afternoon tea, do I use little plates, with the teacups set on top of them, or do I use little plates plus the teacups set on their matching saucers?

Gentle reader: The cups and saucers are correctly placed on top of the little plates, sometimes with a tiny napkin in between saucer and plate. This is especially convenient for any of your guests who have three hands with which to hold the filled food plate and the saucer while drinking from the teacup.

To send a question to the Miss Manners team of Judith Martin, Nicholas Ivor Martin and Jacobina Martin, go to missmanners.com or write them c/o Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

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ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE; JOAN MORAVEK/FOOD STYLING

Melted chocolate coats toasted pecans baked on a quick shortbread crust.

Better, simpler than pie



LEAH ESKIN
Home on the Range

Pecan pie is good — in theory. Who quibbles with pie? Or pecan? And yet, the two pleasures, united in the oven, separate. Flaky pastry clings to the bottom of the pan. Crisp nuts rise to the top. In between lurks a layer of goo. There's no explaining this strange alchemy — short of reading an actual recipe.

Better to simply simplify. Pecan bars cut to the crunch: tender shortbread below, caramelized nuts above. With little interference in between. A few chocolate chunks, perhaps. But who quibbles with chocolate?

The bars, short and sweet, are compact enough to count as cookie — no need for fork, fridge or fear.

leaheskin.com

Pecan bars

Prep: 30 minutes **Bake:** 20 minutes **Makes:** 32 bars

Nuts:	Top:
2 ½ cups pecan halves	½ cup sugar
Pastry:	2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 stick (½ cup) unsalted butter, softened	2 tablespoons heavy cream
⅓ cup sugar	½ teaspoon salt
1 egg yolk	½ teaspoon vanilla extract
10 tablespoons all-purpose flour	⅔ cup dark chocolate disks, chips or chunks
¼ cup cocoa powder	
½ teaspoon vanilla extract	
¼ teaspoon kosher salt	

1 Toast: Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spread out pecans on a rimmed baking sheet; slide into oven and toast until nuts darken slightly and give off a sweet, nutty fragrance, about 6 minutes. Pull out pan; leave oven on. Pour nuts onto a work surface to cool.

2 Grind: Measure ½ cup toasted pecans into the food processor. Pile in all pastry ingredients, in order. Process to a soft dough, about 30 seconds.

3 Par-bake: Line a 9-by-9-by-2-inch baking pan with parchment paper, leaving some overhang. Pat in pastry. (Cover pastry with waxed paper while patting if dough is sticky). Bake until dry to the touch, but still soft, 10 minutes. Pull out pan; leave oven on.

4 Caramelize: To make the top, scatter sugar into a heavy skillet. Heat over medium-high until sugar melts and turns caramel brown, about 4 minutes. Stir in remaining toasted pecans and turn down heat to low. Stir in the butter, cream, salt and vanilla. Pull pan off heat. Scatter in chocolate and stir once, just enough to mix in, not completely melt, the chocolate.

5 Bake: Scrape nut mixture over par-baked pastry. Bake, 10 minutes. Cool completely. Grasp parchment overhang and lift out. Slice into 2-by-1-inch bars; you should have 32. Enjoy.

After juicy success, brewers experiment with brut IPAs

BY ZAK STAMBOR
Chicago Tribune

Over the summer I got a text from a friend, “What’s your take on brut ipas?”

I’m almost always up for a hot take. But this time, aside from a critique of his lackluster spelling and capitalization skills, I couldn’t muster one. While I had read plenty of tweets and articles about the newfound style — notable for its light color and body, effervescence and extreme dryness — I had only had a single taste of the style. And that beer was remarkably unremarkable. It was fine, dry with a hint of bitterness. But if it hadn’t been labeled a brut IPA, I may well have forgotten about it.

The reason that brut IPAs had begun garnering attention was clear: The style offers a stark contrast to New England IPAs, the “it” beer of the past couple of years, which are hazy and juicy and not at all bitter. But while I got the appeal, over the summer and into early fall, I hadn’t

seen many around. I thought maybe I was missing something or looking in the wrong places. Then after talking with Samantha Lee, co-founder of Hopewell Brewing Co., which first brewed Clique, its take on the style, in September, I realized I wasn’t alone.

Before Hopewell’s brewers made Clique, they had only tried a single brut IPA, at Cruz Blanca Brewery & Taqueria. That beer and the unique process involved in brewing a brut IPA — brewers add the enzyme amyloglucosidase during fermentation to break down complex sugars that otherwise might not ferment — were enough to “get the conversation rolling,” she says. A few weeks later, Hopewell brewed Clique, a beer that features bright citrus notes and a dry finish.

I heard a similar story from Brian Strumke, the gypsy brewer behind Brooklyn-based Stillwater Artisanal Ales, who is known for making Belgian-style beers.

“To be honest, I had

only tried one or two, and I didn’t even enjoy them,” he says. Nevertheless, he decided to experiment with the style because he liked the concept. He brewed his batch of his version, Extra Extra Double Brut IPA in July and has plans to play with more variants on the style, including one with sauvignon blanc juice and maybe even a crazy hybrid, like a sour brut IPA.

His idea is to experiment because brut IPAs offer an interesting template to play around with. He’s far from alone. Over the past few months, a slew of breweries, including Revolution Brewing, Stone Brewing, Collective Arts Brewing and Brewery Vivant have attempted to put their own spin on the style. For many, the brut IPAs offer a sharp departure from their other offerings. And as someone who is all for variety, I think that’s clearly a good thing.

How’s that for a luke-warm take?

Zak Stambor is a freelance writer.



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Clique by Hopewell Brewing Co., left, and Brut-Hero IPA by Revolution Brewing are examples of the brut IPA style, which is quite different from the juicy New England IPA style.



puzzle island

For interactive puzzles and games go to chicagotribune.com/games

12/23

REIN CHECK: All eight, in order, to start with

By GREG JOHNSON | Edited by STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

Across	68 Veep before Al	5 Mr. Tolstoy
1 What some YouTube videos "go"	69 No longer vacant	6 Swinelike mammal
6 Not level	71 Noble title	7 "— my case"
12 Judge as qualified	72 Spiced tea from India	8 Giving back sass
20 Biscotti flavoring	74 Primary	9 Outperforms
21 Operatic passage	76 Getz of jazz	10 GPS reading
22 Spanish miss	78 "Take a chill pill"	11 Fin descriptor
23 Addition to spice up a dish	81 Actress Dern	12 Jellied garnish
25 Venerable	82 Pastor's nickname	13 Stop doing
Hollywood and Vine theatre	85 Certain dietary restriction	14 It's often seen on airport TVs
26 Lamb's ma'am	86 Squirm about	15 Take turns
27 Sounds like Daffy Duck	88 According to	16 Mark on many exams
28 Roof rack gear	89 Water beside Toledo	17 Tries one's best
30 Long-eared equine	91 Reduced version	18 It means "resident"
31 Help-a-tenant gathering	92 "Start playback"	19 Univ. aides
34 Ballet practice facility	94 Meeting schedule	24 Intensified, with "up"
38 Opposite of 'neath	96 Camera function	29 Winter headwear
39 Prefix for port	98 Bed on wheels	32 Freight measure
40 "It's our turn"	99 Oscar role for Brando and De Niro	33 Piece of some pies
41 Strut with spirit	102 Trité	34 PD investigator
47 Landscaper's installation	108 Flatbread of India	35 Administers an oath to
50 Start of a choosing rhyme	109 Pop singer Del Rey	36 New York college
51 Fabric fringe	110 <i>Burr</i> novelist	37 Cameo stone
52 App extras	111 Organic compound ending	39 Corn's coat
53 Pre-refrigeration deliverer	112 Collapsible silk headgear	41 Excellent, in the '90s
55 Peace, in a Latin Mass	115 Aggressive football strategy	42 Bowling button
56 Colorado resort	119 It's left on the highway	43 French physicist
58 Venerable ointment brand	120 Less strenuous	44 Tylenol alternative
61 Typical high-schooler	121 Single statistic	45 Bubble up
62 Salsa specification	122 Walks over	46 How many LPs were rereleased
63 Siphons off	123 African fly	48 Exercising count
64 Smelter byproduct	124 A Van Gogh home	49 Expressive music genre
66 Of <i>Survivor</i> groups		53 Tennis great Lendl
		54 Valueless
		57 Early computer
		59 Step between floors
		60 Hobby shop wood
		62 Chocolate/graham-cracker cookie
		65 Costumes
		67 Grain layer
		68 Smear on
		69 A to E, to musicians
		70 "Is it worth the risk?"
		72 Greenish blue
		73 Where sea meets sky
		74 Insignificant
		75 Touched down
		77 Certain undercover cop
		79 Start of the 12th century
		80 Had done laps in water
		81 Water garnish
		82 Pore through
		83 "Consequently ..."
		84 From Austria's capital
		87 Disturb a speaker
		90 Erstwhile digital encyclopedia
		92 Retired miler Sebastian
		93 One-time Navajo foe
		95 Disney duck
		97 Via wagering
		100 South American plain
		101 Eroded
		102 Band's signal to start tools
		104 Military nucleus
		105 '80s Streisand film
		106 Occur after
		107 Regards as
		110 Gripping gadget
		112 Literary adverb
		113 — excellence (superior)
		114 Comprises
		116 Much-repeated "Deck the Halls" syllables
		117 US vaccine regulator
		118 Shape of orecchiette pasta

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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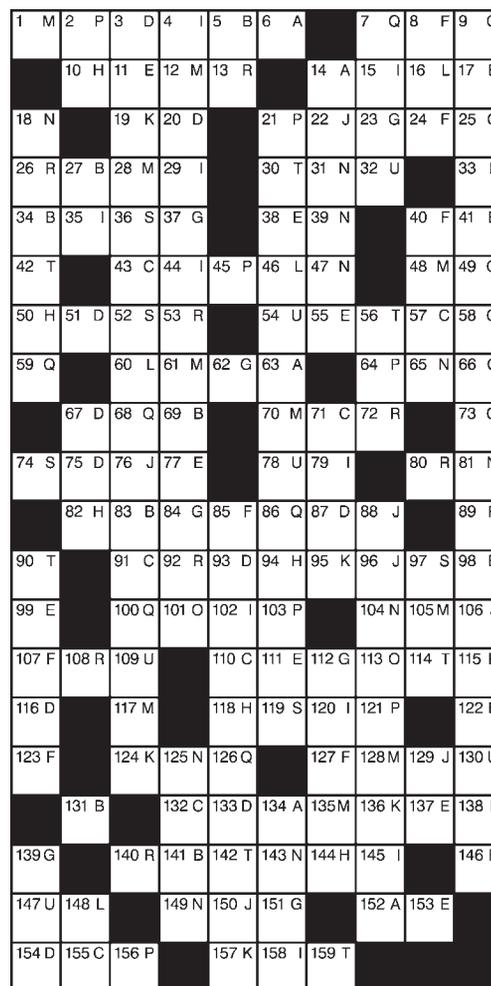
Quote-Acrossic

1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the quotation.

Clues

- Words**
- A. Dignified bearing 14 134 152 6 63
- B. Lively interest 5 17 34 41 69 141 27 131 98 83
- C. Discard: 2 wds. 132 155 57 91 43 71 110 25 66
- D. All 3 87 51 133 67 154 93 75 20 116
- E. Rowdy guy 111 38 11 122 55 153 99 137 77
- F. Try to reach: 2 wds. 33 107 24 8 40 127 123 85
- G. Device; execute 112 62 84 139 37 23 151 49 9
- H. Deft 144 82 10 118 50 94
- I. Waste time: 2 wds. 29 120 15 79 35 4 44 158 102 145

- J. Twist together 22 129 106 96 150 76 88
- K. A dried fruit 95 124 19 157 136 115
- L. Calls a number 148 16 138 46 60
- M. Vocation 105 12 70 48 135 117 1 128 61 28
- N. Fairly good: 3 wds. 125 81 18 31 65 149 39 104 143 47
- O. Bag 73 101 113 58
- P. Separate from: 2 wds. 21 45 156 146 121 64 89 103 2
- Q. Very likely: hyp. 86 126 100 59 68 7
- R. Most slender 80 13 140 26 72 108 53 92
- S. Lift 74 119 97 52 36
- T. Give legal right 56 159 30 114 90 142 42
- U. Gnawing mammal 109 78 130 32 147 54



Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

By Max Frankel.
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Mo' Fun

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

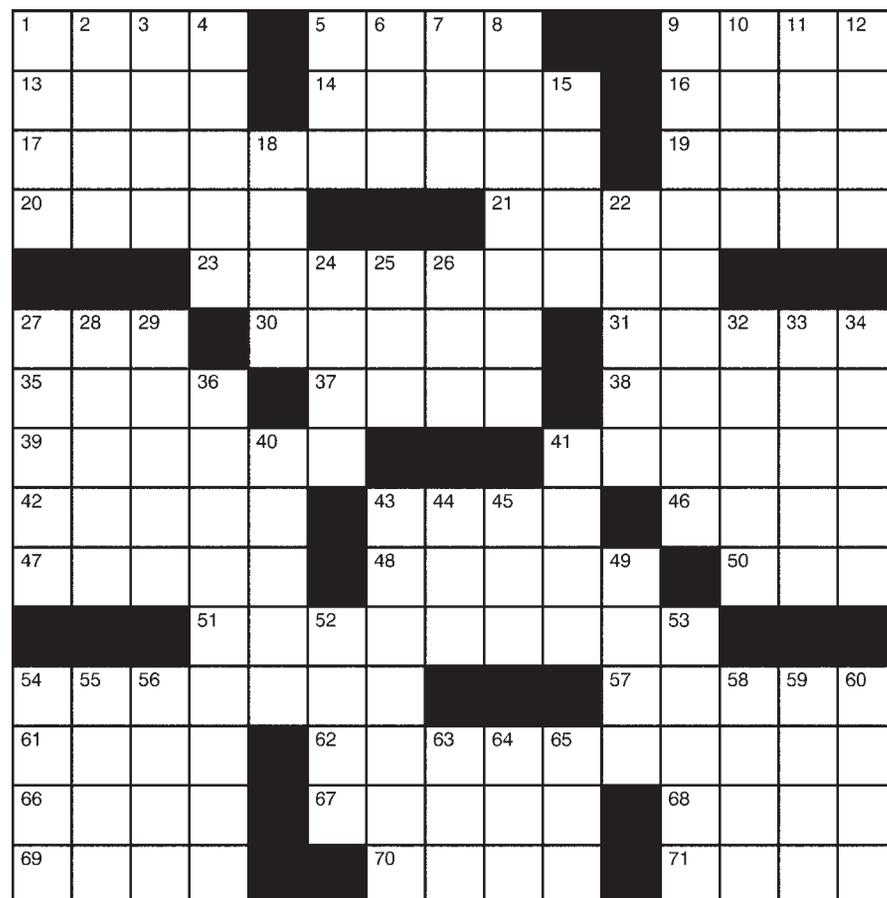
- 1 Five or nine, e.g.
5 Colleen
9 Chess ending
13 Tuscany river
14 Military groups
16 Yours and mine
17 Uruguayan capital
19 *Exodus* author
20 CT town
21 Ship's weight
23 Court divider
27 Scrooge's expletive
30 Dictum
31 Tabasco, e.g.
35 Styptic
37 Juarez worker
38 Roofer's supply
39 ___ de Beauvoir
41 Actor Ed, and kin
42 Nerdish
43 Elevator brake inventor
46 Hook's go-fer
47 Slow, to Masur
48 Snooped
50 Four-legged toter
51 Amuse

- 54 *The Concord Hymn* author
57 Flower part
61 Regan's father
62 Nice neighbor
66 Unadorned
67 Color
68 Sun. reading
69 Friend in need
70 Glommed
71 Fly's finish, at times

Down

- 1 Pacify
2 Aphrodite's cherub
3 Miller and Beattie
4 Chamber group
5 British endearment
6 Black bird
7 Drummer Catlett
8 Western headwear
9 Rockies, e.g.
10 Nimbus
11 Neat
12 Actual being
15 Before long
18 Divorcees
22 Where swallows wallow?

- 24 Mane site
25 Louis or Carrie
26 Equal: prefix
27 Spice rack item
28 Precisely adjust
29 Subject to error
32 Moslem scholars
33 Demeter's counterpart
34 Slalom bends
36 Capital of Nuevo León, Mexico
40 Night lights
41 Cruising
43 *Johnny* ___
44 Craggy hill
45 Follower
49 Platter
52 Cats and turkeys
53 Gets closer
54 Napoleon slept here
55 Repast
56 Countess's husband
58 Wave breaker
59 High: L.
60 Swag
63 Vote
64 0-0 or 1-1
65 "Amen!"; e.g.



Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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Quick Visit

By C.C. BURNIKEL

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 Bowling pin wood
- 6 Princess Charlotte, to Harry
- 11 Hornets, e.g.
- 16 2008 TARP beneficiary
- 19 Think tank nuggets
- 20 "The Thin Blue Line" director Morris
- 21 Mexican month
- 22 Stage coach Hagen
- 23 *Chances that slipped away
- 26 Tricky bit
- 27 Type of well
- 28 Fulda tributary
- 29 Griller's flipper
- 31 Bird hangout
- 32 Romance novelist Hilderbrand
- 34 Gate datum: Abbr.
- 35 Windows forerunner
- 36 Type of jam in Sacher tortes
- 39 One of the original Warner Bros.
- 41 Sporty car roof
- 44 Long story
- 46 Way to go: Abbr.
- 48 Frees
- 52 Platform site: Abbr.
- 53 Twitter forwards, on Twitter
- 56 Kings Peak state
- 58 Just _ bit
- 59 Ramallah-based org.
- 60 Make an ad spicier, say
- 62 *True view
- 65 Shower unit?
- 67 Gives someone a hand
- 68 Flake or Duckworth: Abbr.
- 69 Gin flavor
- 70 *Often the best choice, in retrospect
- 74 Catcher's place
- 77 Good times
- 79 Bring down
- 80 One often includes a colon
- 82 *Swindlers
- 87 Hearing range
- 88 Surreal ending?
- 89 _ song
- 90 Trash
- 91 Pronoun for a princess
- 92 "Mr. Blue Sky" band
- 93 They can yield immediate results
- 96 Poker great Ungar

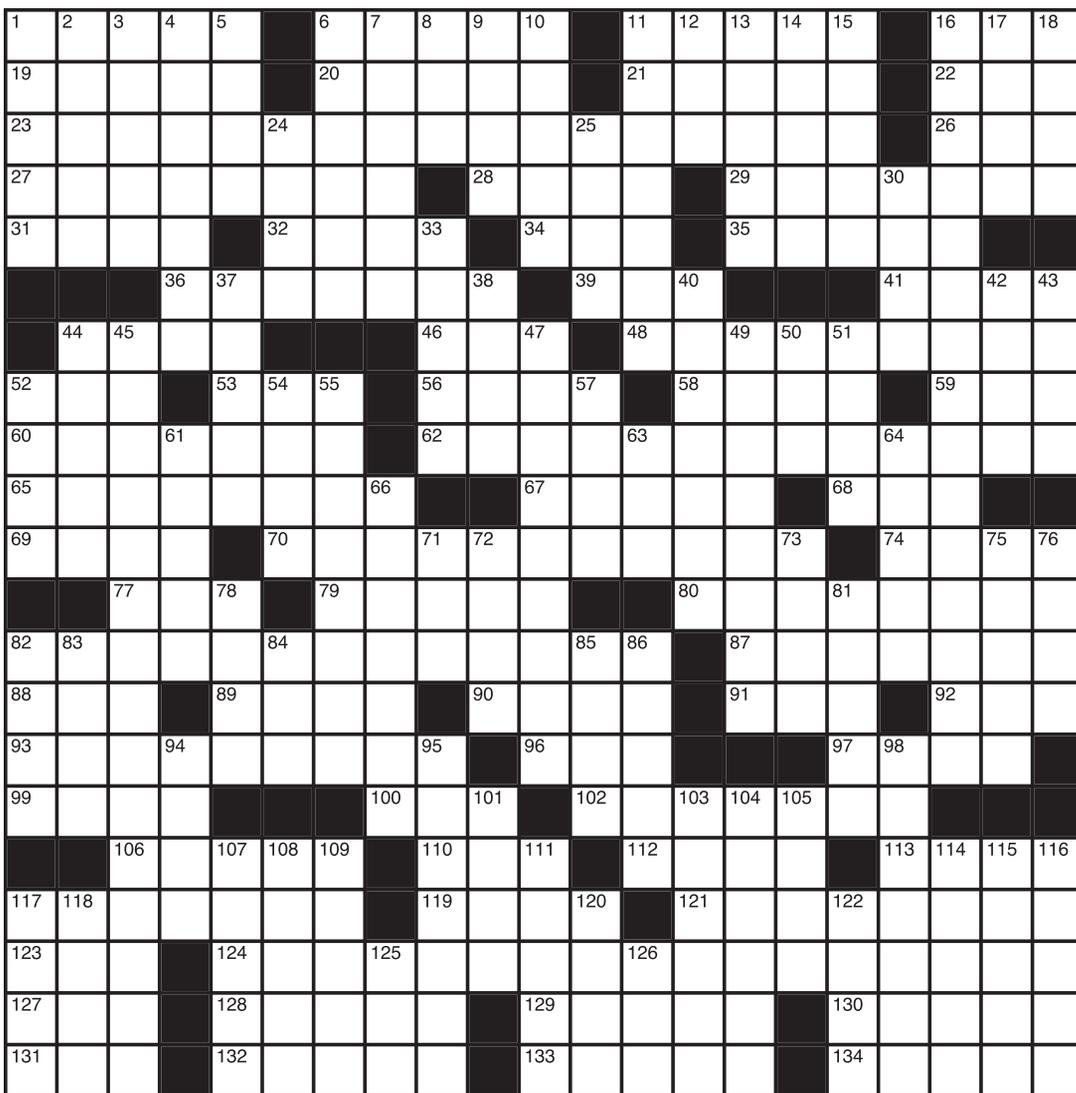
- 97 PlayStation handheld game
- 99 Baking amts.
- 100 Autobahn winter hazard
- 102 Take no side
- 106 Tibetan monks
- 110 Sports radio host Patrick
- 112 Editor's retraction
- 113 Salinger character who says to the story narrator, "I don't think I shall tell you my full name"
- 117 First name in exploration
- 119 Noteworthy stretches
- 121 Fruit-flavored frozen treat
- 123 Showy wrap
- 124 *Ristorante appetizers
- 127 Overhead rumbler
- 128 "I'm with you"
- 129 Links hero, familiarly
- 130 _ Blue: old laundry soap
- 131 Graphic top
- 132 "Uh-uh!"
- 133 Bonkers
- 134 Packed away

- 38 Jackson 5 member
- 40 Hearty pastry
- 42 Capital on a fjord
- 43 Menial laborer
- 44 Big bargain
- 45 *Bending over backward, say
- 47 Spiteful
- 49 Masters Tournament weekend groupings
- 50 Qtr.-ending month
- 51 Luau souvenirs
- 52 Much of Eastern Eur., once
- 54 Tough's territory
- 55 Unwelcome giveaways
- 57 Emergency menu
- 61 Butterfingered
- 63 Tended tots
- 64 Classic grape sodas
- 66 Divide fairly
- 71 Giant among low-cost carriers: Abbr.
- 72 Four: Prefix
- 73 Biblical builder
- 75 Dough
- 76 Opposite of exo-
- 78 Like comfy slippers
- 81 "Three Coins ..." fountain
- 82 Punch deliverer
- 83 Venomous vipers
- 84 "The Black Cat" author

Down

- 1 Lombardy's capital
- 2 Place on a pedestal
- 3 Raid targets
- 4 Reason to challenge an out call
- 5 Those, in Tabasco
- 6 Sherpa, usually
- 7 Like a typical O. Henry story
- 8 Boot the ball
- 9 Dove's digs
- 10 Slip past
- 11 "Mandatory Fun" parodist, familiarly
- 12 Red or army follower
- 13 Earthshaking event
- 14 Gets ready
- 15 "Such a pity"
- 16 *Former Chilean dictator
- 17 Leaning type: Abbr.
- 18 Lady on stage
- 24 Place to tie up
- 25 Court dividers
- 30 "... and your little dog, too!" dog
- 33 "Ya think?"
- 37 Medicare prescription drug section

- 85 "On the Bus With Rosa Parks" poet Dove
- 86 Slight
- 94 Nicholas, for one
- 95 Bet money an "all in" player can't win
- 98 Loafer's quality
- 101 Actress Gilbert
- 103 Visit briefly ... and a hint to the answers to starred clues
- 104 Bigelow alternative
- 105 Lead-in to girl or boy
- 107 "Scarface" setting
- 108 '60s-'70s veep
- 109 _ voce: softly
- 111 Twangy-sounding
- 114 Tuckered out
- 115 Man with a code
- 116 Nagano-based printer giant
- 117 Provide fake cover for, e.g.
- 118 Sleeper agent
- 120 Texas MLBer
- 122 To be, to Benoît
- 125 Non-neutral atom
- 126 "Wish Tree" artist



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Jumble

Unscramble the six Jumbles, one letter per square, to form six words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

GLIPTH

NSUIEW

MIEILS

NNNAOC

MYFIAN

HRWATT

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



This week's answers appear on the next page

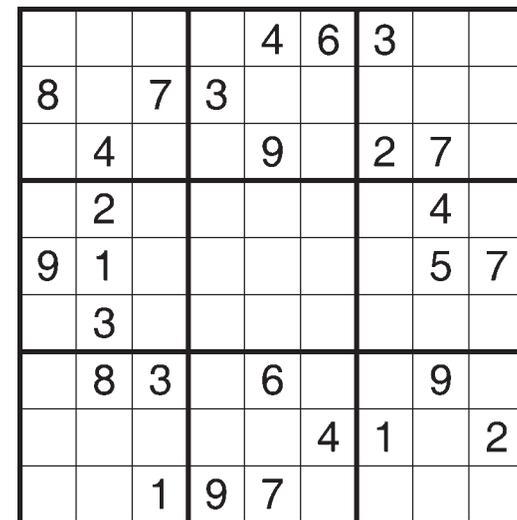
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Sudoku

12/23

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Level: **1 2 3 4**



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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SOCIAL GRACES

Telling a date she has food in her teeth

BY CHRISTEN A. JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

Q: You're on a first date. Your date has food in his or her teeth. Do you bring it up?

A: Sitting through a date with someone who has something in his or her teeth is insufferable — I totally advocate for honesty. It's about how you tell your date.

Send the news in a light

way, not in a way that reprimands, is angry or shaming. Keeping it light and truthful makes for a real connecting moment. Some people say to motion to your teeth and point to where the food is.

You can also say, "You may want to check the mirror. I know this is awkward, but I hope you'd do the same for me." Assess your date's character by how he responds; you can't gauge his character if you

don't tell him.

If you don't speak up about the things that are minor, you can't be in a healthy relationship, so it's important to admit that the moment is awkward.

— *Sandy Weiner, dating & love coach for women over 40*

A: None of us likes discovering we have something in our teeth — we feel unguarded and vulnerable. But it's far better to find out

sooner than later. You don't want to look in the mirror at the end of an evening and have a sliver of arugula smiling back at you.

Tell your date as soon as you can and as discreetly as you can. It's a sensitive topic, so you might as well acknowledge it. You could say, "I know this is delicate, but you have a little something in your teeth." Once any initial embarrassment wears off, your date will certainly be grateful.

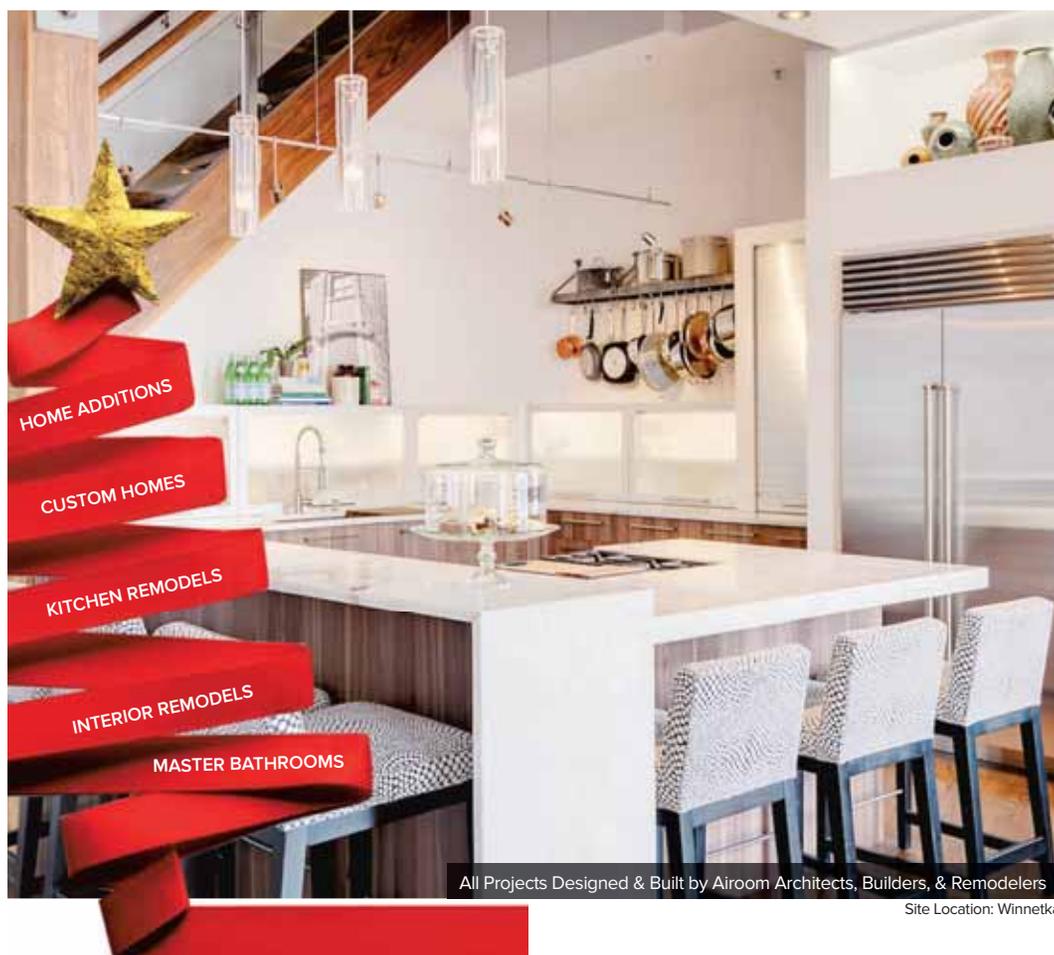


JANIE AIREY/GETTY

Now, the two of you have overcome a minor social tremor and come out on the other side laughing with your dignity intact. You've gotten a bit closer, and now the night can progress.

— *David Coggins, author of "Men and Manners: Essays, Advice and Considerations"*

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the Theater Loop
WITH CHRIS JONES

Do your windows let in too much noise?

Here's a primer on sound-dampening your home

BY ELISABETH LEAMY
The Washington Post

When I have insomnia, I hear every car and conversation that passes outside my house. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that when I hear every car and conversation outside my house, I get insomnia. Either way, I've been shopping for sound-dampening windows.

I've discovered that sound suppression is not really on the radar of most window salespersons. It's not their fault; sound ratings for windows are buried in PDF documents on manufacturers' websites, if they are published at all.

There are two systems for rating how effectively a wall or a window stops sound. STC stands for sound transmission class and measures higher frequency noises such as voices and barking dogs. OITC stands for outdoor-indoor transmission class and measures low-frequency noises such as airplanes and traffic. The higher the STC or OITC rating of a barrier, the better it is at blocking out noise.

For example, the walls of a typical midcentury brick colonial might have an STC rating in the mid-50s and an OITC in the low 50s, according to Michael Kerr, an acoustical consultant and owner of Bay Acoustics in Baltimore. By contrast, the walls of a newer house, clad just in siding, might have an STC in the mid-30s and an OITC in the mid-20s. The key is to buy windows with STC and OITC ratings as close to that of your walls as possible.

It's easy to find windows with sound ratings in the 20s or 30s. In fact, if you own a home with siding, you should not waste money on windows that are better at blocking sound than your walls.

For those who own brick or stone houses, it's difficult — and expensive — to find windows with sound ratings in the 50s, or higher, to match their walls. Kerr

suggests choosing a window with a sound rating no more than 10 points lower than that of your walls. If your home has lots of glass, go higher. If it has little, you can go lower.

I found myself trying to choose among three brands with ratings within one point of each other. Kerr told me that the human ear can't distinguish a one-point difference and that the margin of error in acoustical tests is three points, anyway. His advice: "Choose the window you like the look of, because ... these one-point differences are not meaningful."

You should verify a window's sound rating by reviewing the acoustical test report performed by a certified lab. "Ask for a copy of the test data," said Casey Mahon, president and CEO of St. Cloud Window in Minnesota, which makes high-end noise-reducing windows. "If you're a window manufacturer and you don't have a test, you're a wannabe."

Kerr and Mahon both said not to bother getting new windows unless you can achieve at least a six-point improvement in sound rating. That means you need to know the sound rating of your current windows, which can be elusive because that wasn't published in the past.

You can hire an acoustical consultant to take measurements in your house. Consultants, whose prices begin at about \$5,000, often discover noise is coming through a home's walls, vents or electrical outlets, rather than its windows. "People usually recoup our costs by not making bad decisions," Kerr said.

If your windows are the problem, there are several ways to achieve better sound ratings. Here's a rundown from least to most complex and costly.

Storm windows

Adding storm windows is an excellent option. Many now open just like any other double-hung window, so they do not have to be removed in the spring, and can be



JEFF GREENBERG/GETTY

There are a number of factors that go into achieving better sound ratings with your windows, including the material used in construction of a home's walls.

made to precisely match your existing windows. Alternatively, some manufacturers have inexpensive and effective interior storm windows made of plexiglass that attach using magnets.

Double-pane windows

If you live in an older home, it could still have single-pane windows. Switching to double-pane windows — two pieces of glass with air space between them — will almost certainly block more noise.

Thicker glass

Mass is one factor in blocking sound, so choosing dual-pane windows made of thicker glass is the next step up.

Dissimilar glass

You also could choose a dual-pane window in which the two panes of glass are of different thicknesses. One might be one-eighth of an inch thick and the other a quarter of an inch thick.

These dissimilar glass panes block different sound frequencies, giving you more noise protection.

Laminated glass

Laminated glass has a layer of plastic sandwiched between two panes of glass, which dampens sound energy. Laminated glass was developed to resist shattering in hurricanes, and ended up doing a good job of blocking sound as well. The downside is that laminated glass can add 15 to 80 percent to the cost of your new windows.

Triple-pane glass

Triple-pane glass can have either a modest or a major impact on noise coming into your home. If the three panes are close together, they add a bit more mass to block sound. But if the panes are of different thicknesses and there is a large air space between them (more on air space below), they can be effective.

Wider air space

A wide air space between panes of glass kills noise by disrupting the sound waves. If you're struggling with major noise from a freeway or a flight path, look for windows with an air space of at least two inches. More is better. Specialty window companies make windows with large air spaces, or you can achieve a wide air space by adding storm windows.

None of these techniques will solve your noise problem unless your windows are installed correctly. One contractor told me that he would seal my windows with spray foam, which Kerr said is a terrible idea because it hardens and conducts sound. Kerr said the correct material is acoustical caulk, which doesn't harden. Finally, the window must fit tightly in the opening in your wall and close tightly, too.

Elisabeth Leamy is a freelancer for the Washington Post.

Pretty holiday displays pile up the poinsettias

BY NORMAN WINTER
Tribune News Service

Black Friday turned out to be a real shocker for me. It wasn't for store fighting, super discounts on large TVs or digital cameras but, instead, it was the rush to buy poinsettias. I was surprised that poinsettias made the "loss leader" list, similarly, to the 39-cents-per-pound turkey at Thanksgiving. Second, I was just as shocked that the consumers were willing to wait outside the store at 5 a.m. to buy huge quantities of poinsettias.

I bet Joel Roberts Poinsett, our first ambassador to Mexico, the one credited with first bringing them into the United States in 1825, would have been absolutely stunned. All I can say is yippee yahoo because that means the door is open even wider for maximizing their use during the long Christmas season — which I might add seems to be getting longer every year.

The past few years, I have had the opportunity to be a part of maximizing the use of poinsettias in massive displays created at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens as part of the December Nights and Holiday Lights celebration. The use of poinsettias was different each year and always brought out the cameras.

No matter how you choose to use them, in combination with Red Delicious and Granny Smith apples as in Savannah, festively arranged on the hearth and fireplace mantel, or around the tree, the poinsettia is one of the most treasured Christmastime traditions.

The tradition started long ago when they were called Flores de Noche Buena (Flowers of the Holy Night) because of the legend of Pepita and Pedro. The story told long ago was that a little girl in Mexico, named Pepita, and her cousin, Pedro, were on their way to church in honor of the Christ child. Pepita was poor and had no



Ice Punch poinsettia dazzles with its variegated foliage.

money for gifts.

On the way to church she picked a bouquet of wildflowers, and as she laid them lovingly on the altar, they turned into beautiful poinsettias, hence the name Flores de Noche Buena.

The colorful parts of a poinsettia are actually modified leaves known as bracts. The true flowers are the small, yellow buttons in the centers of the bracts. The traditional color may be red, but colors and varieties today have reached staggering numbers. One recent university trial showed 212 varieties on display.

If you are like me, you're a kid in a candy store when it comes to poinsettias; we love them all and need three of each.

You quickly see the predicament both for the shopper and the greenhouse producer with hundreds of varieties; there is just no way one could grow them all. What is important is that you shop for poinsettias now. Poinsettias can hold their color way past Christmas if you shop wisely.

Look for plants with fully mature, thoroughly colored and expanded bracts, and small green flower buds. Select plants with dark green foliage down to the soil



NORMAN WINTER/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTOS

Poinsettias massed with Christmas trees and Granny Smith apples create a dazzling display.

line. This indicates a healthy root system. As a rule of thumb, poinsettias should be 2½ times bigger than their pots. In other words, a 15- to 18-inch-tall plant looks best in a 6-inch container.

Durable plants promise weeks of enjoyment. Look for strong, stiff stems, good leaf and bract retention, and no signs of wilting, breaking or drooping. Carefully inspect packaged poinsettias before purchasing them. With the busy holiday season, forgetting to water can be disastrous for a poinsettia. Feel the soil, and water when it is dry to the touch.

Don't be shy; use poinsettias throughout the home for the prettiest Christmas ever.



The wavy bracts of the variety Carousel are uniquely stunning.



MORTON ARBORETUM

Like us, oak trees live in communities based on sharing. Oaks have especially intimate relationships with particular kinds of fungi that live on their roots.

Trees live in communities that are based on sharing

BY BETH BOTTS
Chicago Tribune

This is the time of year for sharing, when families and friends gather for meals, gift-giving and rituals. It's a reminder of how much we mean to each other and how much we need each other.

Nature, too, is all about sharing. A big tree standing by itself may look majestic and self-reliant. Yet a tree is never alone. It belongs to a community of organisms that depend on each other. "That's what an ecosystem is — the way things live together in a particular place," says Julie Janoski, manager of the Plant Clinic at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. "Every plant, and every other living thing, evolved to have a place in a community."

The giant redwood trees of California are among the largest organisms in the world. Yet to live, they need help from some of the smallest — billions of tiny bacteria in the soil that provide the trees' roots with nutrients. Squirrels and beetles help redwoods

distribute their seeds. In return, these and many other animals receive food and shelter. The moist canopy of the redwoods creates growing conditions for so many other plants, lichens and other organisms that it's been called "a garden in the sky."

In the native woods of Illinois, oak trees stand at the center of many natural communities. They provide food, shelter and nest sites for hundreds of species of animals, while spring-blooming wildflowers and other native plants thrive at their feet. That's just above the ground: In the soil under an oak are thousands of species of bacteria, fungi and invertebrate animals.

Oaks, like many trees, have especially intimate relationships with particular kinds of fungi that live on their roots. The fungi send out filaments that probe far into the soil, bringing back important nutrients to a tree's roots. In return, the tree shares the energy-rich sugars it produces in its leaves.

Often, trees and other

plants live in groups like families. After all, acorns tend not to fall far from the tree, although they may get some help from squirrels and birds that move them a little farther. "When you see a grove of oaks or a cluster of pussy willows, chances are they're related," Janoski said.

As we share food, music and memories with our families and friends, let's not forget the natural communities outside. In our yards, along our streets and in our forest preserves and national parks, plants and animals need space and care to keep living together. Just as we nurture our relationships with yearly rituals, let's protect nature so trees, wildflowers, chipmunks, caterpillars, birds and, yes, bacteria can share our world.

For tree and plant advice, contact the Arboretum's Plant Clinic (630-719-2424 or plantclinic@mortonarb.org).

Beth Botts is a staff writer at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle (www.mortonarb.org).

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SMART SPEAKERS

Rejuvenate your winter skin with the latest skin-care remedies

By KAVITA DASWANI | Los Angeles Times

If summer beauty is all about bronzing and glow, then winter is the time to nourish and moisturize. Beauty brands are tapping into a demand for products that are as natural as possible ideally vegan and often from different cultures with effective ingredients formulated to soothe, soften, tighten and tone. And once your skin is set, don't forget to add a little holiday sparkle. Here are some products you should check out.



CARTER + JANE

Carter + Jane

Carter + Jane named its new product the Everything Oil because it's meant to make pores look smaller, soften fine lines, speed up collagen production, and fade spots and scars with a blend of oils from nourishing ingredients such as prickly pear seed, almond, aloe vera and avocado. It can be used all over the face, body and hair. \$128, carterandjane.com



PIXI

Pixi

Retinol has long been recommended by dermatologists to help with skin concerns such as hyperpigmentation and fine lines. Cult fave brand Pixi recently launched its Retinol Tonic, a light-yet-potent liquid said to endow the skin with a pretty glow. \$15, Target and pixibeauty.com



Starskin

Starskin has recently bowed its Orglamic Pink Cactus Collection, part of which is the two-step organic oil Hydrate + Glow Facial sheet mask. Break open the enclosed capsule and massage the blend of various seed oils, including *Camellia japonica* and prickly pear cactus oils onto your face. Apply the mask, made from various fruit and flower extracts with hyaluronic acid, and peel off after 15 minutes. \$15, starskin.com



AUSTIN WRIGHT/CRUDE

Crude

Skin care brand Crude is turning the idea of cleansing on its head by taking soap out of all its products as well as sulfates, chemicals and parabens to go all plant-based and vegan. The body wash, for example, is made from sunflower oil, aloe vera and essences of lime, lavender and bergamot. The brand is offering a Convert Kit, incorporating several products, including a series of serums and its specialized pull cloths that deeply cleanse skin. \$135 for the kit, livecrude.com

STARSKIN



SILK THERAPEUTICS

Silk Therapeutics

Liquid silk is one of a dozen ingredients in the new Hydra-Rich Advanced Moisturizing Cream from Silk Therapeutics, a doctor-founded brand that has silk as a core component of all its products. The new cream uses collagen molecules to seal in hydration. \$120 for a jar lasting between 80 and 100 applications, silktherapeutics.com

Trendy rings are best bought on the cheap



ELLEN WARREN
Answer Angel

Dear Answer Angel

Ellen: I don't even know exactly what to call these things, but I'm seeing more women wearing rings that sit in the middle of their fingers, not the way traditional rings are worn. Is this a fashion trend? What do you think of them?

— *Bethy J.*

Dear Bethy: I've started seeing these, too, in magazines, in fashion blogs and on real people. They go by a variety of names: midfinger rings. Knuckle rings. First knuckle rings. Top knuckle and midi rings. They're all the same thing. To be even slightly comfortable, these rings need to be skinny, not clunky. And the reason I would be concerned about wearing them is that it's way too easy for them to fly off and never be seen again. So, if this is a trend you'd like to hop on, don't spend much money on the ring. There are plenty to be had on etsy.com, Target and anywhere costume jewelry is sold. For example, H&M (hm.com) has a nine-pack for \$9.99.

Dear Answer Angel

Ellen: Why do men's jeans come in even-number sizes? I need a 35-inch waist and 31-inch length. But I have never seen this size anywhere! My 32-inch lengths get worn out by walking on them at the bottom, and the 30-inch jeans look like I am ready for the flood. The 36-inch waists are baggy, and the 34-inch are sitting on the shelf gathering dust.

— *Steve E.*

Dear Steve: You're experi-



ISTOCKPHOTO

Wearing rings near the tips of your fingers is a trendy detail to add to your costume jewelry mix.

encing the frustration of all of us who are taller, shorter, heavier or skinnier than the majority. In the case of men's jeans, manufacturers do make certain odd-numbered waist or lengths but not many. Cruising around the internet, I did find some Levis styles that come in 35-inch waist models (but not with odd-numbered lengths) on Amazon. Other options? You can have your jeans custom-made (for a significant price) or take them to a tailor to have them altered. Some stores will shorten them for free, but that doesn't solve the too-big or too-small waist problem. Since the dimensions of two identically sized men's jeans vary from brand to brand, if you had all the time in the world to try on pants (who does?), you

would eventually find a pair marked 36x32 that fit you perfectly. But who wants to bother with that? Resign yourself to jeans that are slightly too big in the waist (wear a belt) and require hemming. That's the easiest solution.

Dear Answer Angel

Ellen: This time of year, I like to give Visa, American Express or Discover gift cards as gifts, but I wonder if there is any place I can buy them without the added fee, which I believe is \$3.95. The money these three companies would make by waiving their fee at Christmas time would be astronomical. I know I can buy certain department and restaurant gift cards without additional charges, but I like to give a card that can be used anywhere,

anytime. Any ideas?
— *Margaret C.*

Dear Margaret: I'm like you. It kills me to pay a fee for a gift card. And you're right, American Express charges \$3.95. Visa and Master Cards are \$2.95 and up. No thanks! (Discover stopped issuing gift cards in 2015.) The answer is Amazon gift cards, which are fee-free; the people on your gift list can buy just about anything they want or need on Amazon. You can purchase the gift cards online or where gift cards are sold, like supermarkets and drugstores.

You can also buy previously owned gift cards at a discount on raise.com and cardpool.com, but you don't save a lot, and it seems like more trouble than it's worth.

Angelic readers 1

Meredith responded to the issue of neck wrinkles with before and after photos of herself using Secret Lift (cosmesearch.com, \$15.95). She writes: "After reading your column that mentioned only plastic surgery or creams, I had to weigh in. Secret Lift provides a temporary face-lift with sticky pads and elastic thread (basically). It's cheap, not dangerous and works." I watched the video, and it seems pretty complicated and requires longish hair to hide the pads and elastic. That said, Meredith's after photo looks great, and she swears it's not edited or touched up.

From Tova W.: "I just turned 78 years young. I walk 5 or more miles a day with my super sweet 11-

year-young dog, Gracie, and I am pleased to tell you that I have NO wrinkles in the skin on my neck. I have been using OLAY REGENERIST Micro-Sculpting Cream (in a red jar) (drugstores, \$23 and up) every morning and every evening. I love it! It really works!"

Angelic readers 2

Reader Adrienne B. asks for your suggestions: "Do you know of any swim cap that is best for keeping your hair dry? I'd love to incorporate swimming as part of my exercise but the idea of dealing with wet, chlorine-compromised hair is really unappealing." I've never found a swim cap than genuinely keeps my hair dry, but if readers have some experience with a miracle cap, let me and Adrienne know the details. Please.

Reader rant

Maja R. writes, "I'm horrified by your column that said it's OK to wear sequins and glitter day and night. Some folks are busy refusing plastic straws. Others have made robots to skim bags and other trash off the ocean waves. Why would you thwart what the planet actually needs in favor of useless baubles? Sequins and glitter are seldom made of metal anymore, and now are made of undetermined plastics, which doesn't biodegrade no matter what eats it (too often whales, turtles, and seabirds). You could have told your reader that they're not only passe, they're dangerous!!"

Now it's your turn

Send your questions, rants, tips, favorite finds — on style, shopping, makeup, fashion and beauty — to answerangelellen@gmail.com.

From electric colors at Tom Ford to more natural takes on the pattern at Victoria Beckham and J. Crew, leopard print coats showed up in just about every designer's collection for winter. J. Crew leopard-print faux fur coat. \$298, J. Crew and jcrew.com



J. CREW

Winter coat shopping?

Here are the season's 5 hottest trends

BY DAVID SYREK
Chicago Tribune

Designers dropped real fur in droves this year and created some of the season's warmest — and coolest — coats. Kensie faux-shearling coat with oversize notched lapels. \$128, Nordstrom, and nordstrom.com



NORDSTROM

dsyrek@chicagotribune.com



NORDSTROM

From embellished to oversize, winter's best coats are bold. Monse Hudson's Bay cozy, cocoonlike blanket coat. \$697, nordstrom.com



NORDSTROM

Cozy, supersize puffer coats ruled the runways and are available at all price points. Sosken Genesis oversize down puffer jacket. \$356.90, Nordstrom and nordstrom.com

The season's biggest coat trend — for women and for men — is plaid. Zara red-and-white plaid coat with lapel collar. \$169, Zara and zara.com



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Fashion finally crowns new prince who's on a mission

BY ROBIN GIVHAN
The Washington Post

Kerby Jean-Raymond won the most lucrative and prestigious competition for young American fashion companies last month. His brand is Pyer Moss, a sportswear label that bears his distinctive social, political and aesthetic point of view. His fingerprints are all over it. It is an auteur's collection.

His victory at the CFDA-Vogue Fashion Fund awards speaks not only to his success as a designer but also to his ability to nudge fashion toward a place of great social engagement and responsibility. In applauding Jean-Raymond's work, the industry is also applauding itself.

And yet Jean-Raymond's prize is one of the few recent times the annual competition has gotten it right, as it too often reflects the industry's mania for buzz, novelty and other sugar-high qualities not necessarily compatible with building a lasting career.

Jean-Raymond, who founded his label in 2013, gained early notice for a T-shirt that listed the names of people of color who had been killed in incidents of police violence. When he wore it to present his collection to editors and buyers in September 2014, its audacious social justice message rippled through the fashion industry, and it primed audiences for the complex runway productions yet to come that would incorporate visual arts, live vocals and musicians.

There have been hurdles as he has built his brand. He lost accounts because of his outspoken nature. He struggled to regain financial control of his company. With a team made up of artists and architects — folks whose creative expe-



GETTY PHOTOS

A look from the Pyer Moss Spring 2019 collection.

rience lies outside of fashion — he honed a message that at once celebrates the unique stories of people of color while placing them into the broader context of universal, shared experiences. Pyer Moss has referenced the eccentric wardrobe of Jean-Raymond's Haitian-immigrant father, the modest beauty of church choir robes, the urban cool of athletic gear and the soulfulness in contemporary art.

Every designer offers something unique, but Jean-Raymond's singularity is how well attuned he is to these cultural times. He has used both his fashion and his runway shows to further the conversation about gun violence, police brutality and endemic racism. His work captures the diversity of voices demanding to be heard, the sense of cultural upheaval and the notion that simply living authentically is a



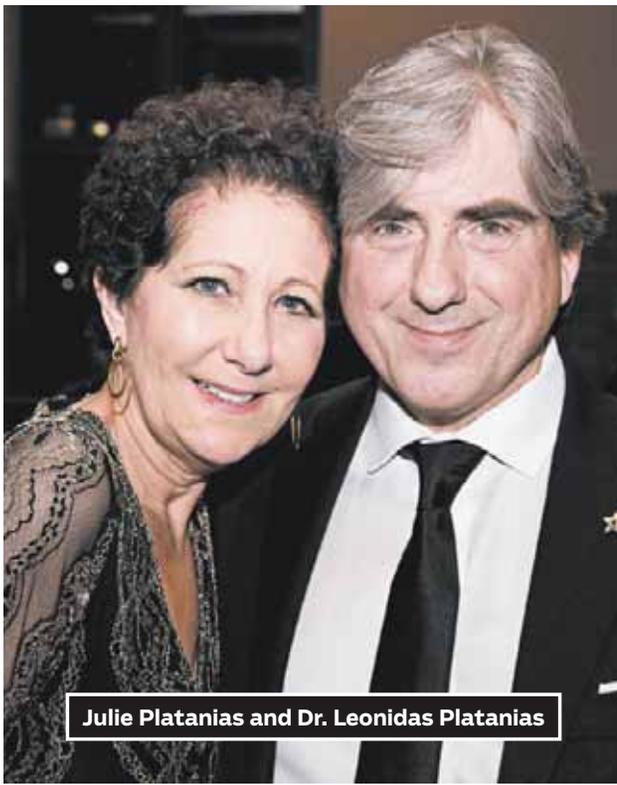
Fashion designer Kerby Jean-Raymond

powerful form of protest.

He has backed up his high-minded ideas with collections that have been increasingly better crafted and more thoughtfully conceived. Along the way, he has signed on for the requisite collaborations: His is with Reebok. His clothes have also had their share of red-carpet moments on the backs of socially engaged celebrities such as Yara Shahidi.

Today, Pyer Moss is also well positioned to speak broadly to the place fashion occupies in the cultural conversation. Fashion is where topics from immigration to police brutality converge, where diversity is front-of-mind, where beauty is defined, gender is debated and creativity is cooked up, gorged on and spat out.

The winner of this year's competition was announced by actress Emily Blunt at a dinner at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Past winners, runners-up and finalists include just about every buzzy young designer this city has produced — from the competition's first winners Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez of Proenza Schouler to Joseph Altuzarra, Prabal Gurung and Victor Glemaud. Over the years, the cash award has ticked upward so that it is now \$400,000. But the invaluable prize is the one-on-one business mentoring that helps designers navigate the industry's financial perils.



Julie Platanias and Dr. Leonidas Platanias



Barbara and Shawn Jeffers



Anna Shtayner, from left, Jennifer Wycykal, Brittani Sylvester and Danielle Samoylovich

Candid Candace

BY CANDACE JORDAN
Chicago Tribune



Gala raises \$3.5 million for cancer research

The Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation hosted its third annual Wings to Cure gala Nov. 10 at Navy Pier.

Attracting more than 600 guests, the black-tie event raised \$3.5 million to support cutting-edge research at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University.

Themed “I Will Survive,” the event was held in the Grand Ballroom with elegant white and gold decor throughout. As guests passed through the Lakeview Terrace, they saw photo collages of survivors and the word “HOPE” spelled out in oversized gold letters.

Emcees LeeAnn Trotter of NBC-5 and Lou Canellis of Fox-32 welcomed guests and shared personal stories of how cancer has touched their own lives.

Trotter introduced a video highlighting the groundbreaking research by physicians and scientists at Lurie Cancer Center.

They included Drs. Leonidas Platanias (center director and HCRF scientific advisory board chair), Olga Frankfurt (co-director of the leukemia program), Roger Stupp (professor of neurological surgery and co-director and medical director of the center’s Malnati Brain Tumor Institute), Maha Hussain (professor of medicine and center deputy director) and William Gradishar (chief of the hematology/oncology division and director of the Maggie Daley Center for Women’s Cancer Care).

Platanias spoke passionately about eradicating cancer and posed the question: Why is cancer still here? “Cancer goes back to ancient times,” he said. “It’s been around for thousands of years, and during that time, unfortunately, cancer cells have become smarter and smarter. But, so have we. We now have technologies and weapons we didn’t have before. I believe strongly that cancer can be defeated if physicians, researchers and philanthropists work together as a team.”

Freelance writer Candace Jordan is involved in many local organizations, including some whose events she covers.

More online

Find more photos and video of this event at www.chicagotribune.com/candidcandace

YVETTE MARIE DOSTATNI/PHOTOS FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Brandi, Jaeson and Amanda Chang



Billy, Ellie, William, Maria and Alexander Palivos



Maria Pappas, with Peter and Vicky Palivos



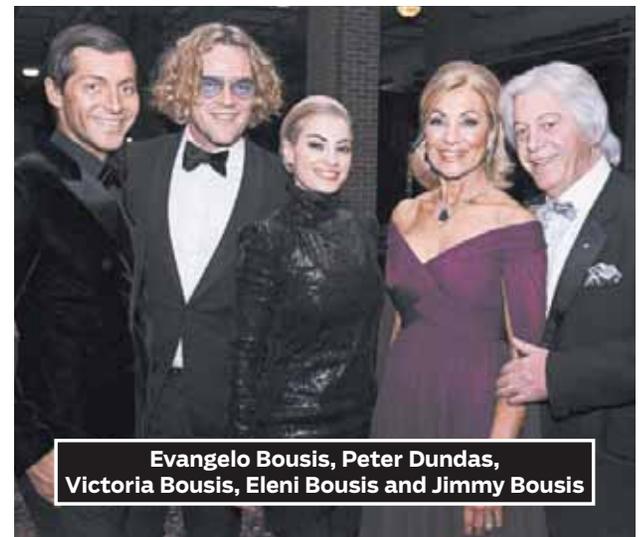
Anastasia Pantelidis and George Bousis



Hermene Hartman and Wendell O'Neal



Kathy and Dean Marousis with Alexandra Marousis, 10



Evangelos Bousis, Peter Dundas, Victoria Bousis, Eleni Bousis and Jimmy Bousis

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Does not include Seasonal Department

Glass Decor

Glass Department, floral glass vases and craft glass containers
Does not include craft stained glass

Metal Decor

Metal wall decor, functional & decorative metal accessories
(Includes metal containers in our Floral & Crafts Departments)
Does not include furniture

Wicker, Decorative Boxes, Trays & Storage

Does not include large trunks or craft & paper crafts storage



Men's Metal & Wood Decor

Wall and table

New Year's, Valentine's Day and items labeled The Spring Shop™ are not included in Home Decor sale.



Remaining CHRISTMAS 66% OFF

Does not include fabric
Limited to supply on hand
Selection will vary by store
Includes Christmas candy



FLORAL 50% OFF

Categories Listed

Ribbon & Trims by the Roll
Ribbon, bows, tulle & deco mesh in our Wedding, Floral and Fabric Departments
Does not include ribbon, trim or tulle sold by the yard

Stem Naturals
Bouquets, sticks, pods, grains, fillers and grasses
Does not include feathers

Garlands, Swags, Wreaths & Teardrops
Flowering and greenery

Wedding

Items Labeled Studio His & Hers™
Invitations, toasting glasses, ring pillows, cake toppers and more

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40% OFF

FURNITURE

ALWAYS

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THE MARKED PRICE*

ALL YARN

Every skein, brand, color and size

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Does not include thread and floss

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Always **2.79**
Marked price* \$3.99

T-Shirts
Always 30% off the marked price*
Includes Youth and Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirts, Gildan®, Comfort Colors®, Baseball & Long Sleeve T-Shirts, Sweatshirts and Infant & Toddler T-Shirts

30% OFF

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Solid colors and patterns available

99¢
As Priced

All Tulip® Products

40% OFF

BEST-SELLING BOOKS

Bibles, Devotionals, Gift Books and Children's Books

ALWAYS

40% OFF - 50% OFF

THE MARKED PRICE*



PARTY

Streamers

175' Roll

99¢

Solid Color Table Cover

Rectangular 54"x108" Round 84"

99¢ 1.49

24 oz Fondant

White All Colors **5.99 8.99**

Candy Wafers

12 oz bag

Does not include \$3.59 12 oz bags

1.99

12" Balloons

25 Count Solid Color

1.59

3.5 lb Buttercream

Decorating Icing

9.99

White Fondant

5 lb Vanilla

15.99

FRAMES 50% OFF

Categories Listed

Photo Frames

Always 50% off the marked price*

Our entire selection of basic & fashion tabletop frames and wooden photo storage

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Poster, document and portrait frames with glass

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Always 50% off the marked price*

Always 50% off the marked price*

Always 50% off the marked price*

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All 2 oz Craft Paint

DecoArt®, Ceramcoat®, FolkArt® and Anita's™

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Bowls, shapes, letters and numbers

Crayola® Products

Clay

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Mayberry Street® Dollhouse Furniture & Miniatures

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Priced \$4.99 & Up

50% OFF

PAPER CRAFTS 40% OFF

Most Categories Listed

Cricut® Vinyl & Accessories

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All Planners & Planner Kits

Includes The Happy Planner®

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Includes Clear and Cling Stamps

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Marked Prices* from 44¢ to 69¢

Raspberry Cricut EasyPress™ 2

\$109 \$159 \$209

\$109 Regular price \$159 Regular price \$209 Regular price

Merlot or Lilac Cricut Explore Air™ 2

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\$49 Regular price

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Categories Listed

Explorer by Traditions™

Pendants, beads and filigree inspired by world travels

Strung, Tubed & Boxed Beads

Color Gallery™, Bead Treasures™ and Czech Glass Beads

Metal Gallery™

Does not include sterling silver

Swarovski® & Create Your Style™

Includes beads, flatback stones, hotfix stones and charms

Bead Stringing

by On-A-Cord®, On-A-String™ & On-A-Wire®

Timeline by Bead Treasures™

Designs representing the Gilded Age, includes Components by DC Comics

ART SALE

All Master's Touch® & Fine Touch®

50% OFF

Paint Sets, Easels, Single & Packaged Brushes, Art & Sketch Pads, Art Canvas & Panels, Tube Paints and more

Does not include items priced under \$3.99 & "Your Price" items

All Art Tables & Easels **50% OFF**



Home Dec Fabric

Prints, solids, sheers and more

Fleece

Prints, solids and microfleece

Calico Prints & Solids

Apparel prints and batiks

ALWAYS **30% OFF**

THE MARKED PRICE*

FABRIC

Ribbon, Trim & Tulle Spools

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50% OFF

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Chicago Tribune REAL ESTATE



SKYNESHER/GETTY

Buying, selling or renovating a home can be quite stressful. Communication with real estate agents and contractors is key to a smoother transaction.

Tears and kitchen faucets

How to ease emotions of buying, selling or renovating a home

BY JOANNE CLEAVER | Chicago Tribune

The emotional stress of buying, selling and renovating homes is legendary.

Chicagoan Catherine Pilgrim thought she was holding up pretty well. Then came the kitchen faucet.

That would be the \$1,000 faucet that her contractor assumed was nothing more than debris once it was removed, despite Pilgrim's insistence that the prized faucet would be re-installed.

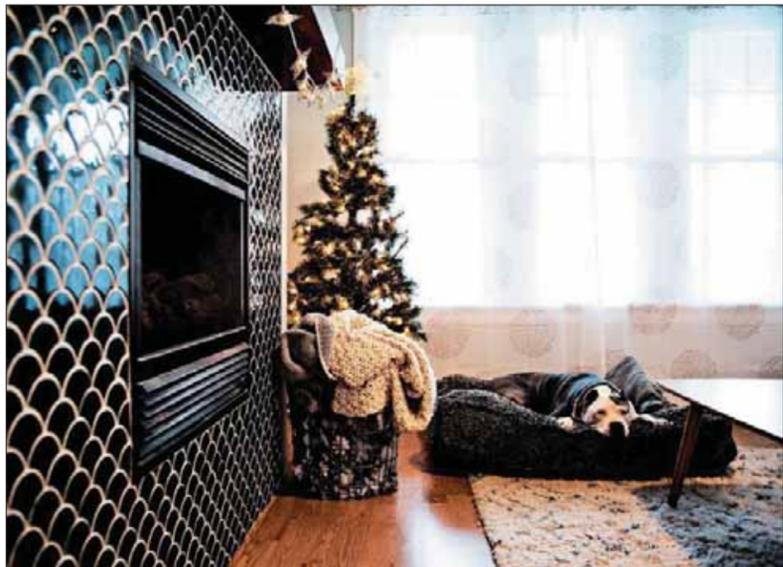
"It was an expensive faucet, and I loved it, and there was no reason not to use it, and he just questioned me about it," recalls the 44-year-old graphic designer.

"I had to tell him, 'I'm going to keep it.'"

We all have our faucet — the point at which we realize that the process has pushed us to the breaking point.

Haunted by the still-fresh memories of the 2008 real estate and stock market meltdown — during which the median family lost 28 percent of its wealth, according to Stanford researchers — today's buyers, sellers and renovators seem to have few emotional reserves for weathering the grueling process of buying, selling and renovating.

Turn to **Homes**, Page 7



Catherine Pilgrim redid the floors and the fireplace before moving into her home in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood.

KRISTAN LIEB/
FOR THE CHICAGO
TRIBUNE

What buyers, sellers should know about conflicts



KENNETH R. HARNEY
The Nation's Housing

When you're involved in a real-estate transaction, do you assume that the realty agents are required to represent the best interests of the home buyer or seller with whom they are working?

The Consumer Federation of

America recently posed that question to a national survey sample of adults, and 50 percent answered yes. An additional 16 percent said "yes, almost always." So two-thirds of consumers in the survey had roughly the same impression.

But a new report from the Consumer Federation — an umbrella group representing nearly 300 local and state consumer organizations — suggests that it's not necessarily so. The reality, according to the study, is that "real estate agents often are not required by law to represent the interests of buyers or sellers." As a

result, sometimes things can go seriously awry.

The study cites ongoing litigation in New York, where clients of a major realty brokerage firm have filed suit alleging that the company "has stripped thousands" of buyers and sellers of the right to employ an agent who is "loyal to them and only them" through its alleged misuse of "dual agency." In a dual-agency situation, agents of a single brokerage purport to represent both sides of a transaction, the seller and the buyer. The broker and agents in these cases pocket the entire real-estate commission

rather than having to split it with a competing firm's agent.

The plaintiffs in the New York case claim that they were pushed into either paying tens of thousands of dollars more for a house or selling a house for much less than it was worth because the agents were working for the same broker — an inherent conflict of interest designed to keep the full commission "in house." They also allege that the realty company made it a practice to do large numbers of 100 percent in-house-commission transactions to maximize its revenues, despite the potential harm to its clients.

Among other things, the company allegedly paid its agents bonuses when they brought in both sides of the commission. The brokerage has denied the allegations.

Dual agency is legal in 46 states, according to Finley Maxson, senior counsel for the National Association of Realtors. Illinois is one such state. Typically the brokers or agents involved are required by state law to disclose the arrangement to clients, but the CFA says that rule is not always followed, or disclosures are presented in a paperwork blitz

Turn to **Harney**, Page 3

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VHT STUDIOS PHOTOS

HOME OF THE WEEK

Hinsdale home with luxury kitchen: \$1.5M

ADDRESS: 722 S. Bruner St., Hinsdale
ASKING PRICE: \$1,499,000
 Listed on Dec. 3, 2018

This five-bedroom home built in 2015 features a spacious open floor plan and is within walking distance of schools, a Metra stop and downtown Hinsdale. The luxe white kitchen features marble countertops, a walk-in pantry, a breakfast area with a built-in bench and reclaimed beams that carry into the family room. The first floor offers an office, dining room overlooking a bluestone front porch and an oversized mudroom. The master suite has a balcony, dual closets and spa bath. Laundry is on the second floor, and the lower level is complete with a rec room, game room, wet bar, and a fifth bedroom and full bath. Agent: Megan McCleary of Berkshire Hathaway Home-
 Services KoenigRubloff, 630-780-1913



**Some VHT Studios photos are "virtually staged," meaning they have been digitally altered to represent different furnishing or decorating options.*

At press time, this home was still for sale.

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EMILY SACHS WONG

LUXURY CHICAGO REAL ESTATE



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3 Beds | 4.2 Baths • \$5,549,900
65Goethe5N.info

- Classically designed residence in a superb Gold Coast building
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- Hand-waxed, wide plank flooring
- Oversized Bulthaup eat-in kitchen
- Lovely lake views
- Two private terraces
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351 W HURON ST

4 Beds | 4.1 Baths • \$3,600,000
351WHuronPH.info

- Fabulous new development in happening River North location!
- Full-floor soho-like loft residences with 4,500sf of luxe living
- Direct elevator access to each unit
- Floor-to-ceiling windows and doors
- 1,500sf individual outdoor spaces
- Ready for your personal design!



2033 N FREMONT ST

5 Beds | 4.1 Baths • \$3,280,000
2033NFremontSt.info

- Incredible modern interior behind a gorgeous vintage Lincoln Park facade.
- Wide and gracious living spaces with fabulous finishes
- Completely custom kitchen w/ Calcutta marble countertops & seating for 6
- Three bedrooms on second level
- Ultra-luxurious top-floor master with private deck and downtown views



2248 N BURLING ST

6 Beds | 4.1 Baths • \$3,250,000
2248NBurlingSt.info

- Live on a one-way street leading to Oz Park!
- Completely custom limestone home with studio coach house over the garage
- DeGiulio kitchen & butler pantry
- Three beds on second level, plus a den/family room that could be a fourth bed
- Full-floor master suite is a true sanctuary with coffee bar, spa bath and private deck
- Two guest beds on lower level
- Lincoln Schools



ELITE STREET

'Fugitive' mansion sells for \$2.925M

By Bob Goldsborough
Chicago Tribune



MARGARET WILCZEK/KOENIG RUBLOFF REALTY

The Old Town home that was the setting for a murder scene in the 1993 film "The Fugitive" sold this month.

The five-bedroom, 6,129-square-foot modernist house in Old Town that was the setting for a murder scene in the 1993 film "The Fugitive" sold Thursday for \$2.925 million after seven years on the market.

Built in 1981 and designed by Ron Ysla, the mansion had been on and off the market since the seller, fertility doctor Norbert Gleicher, first listed it in 2011 for \$3.95 million.

Located on West Wisconsin Street, the four-story mansion has 4½ baths, walls of windows, an indoor swimming pool, three bedroom suites with fireplaces, a sauna, an elevator and a roof deck over the attached three-car garage.

Probably the house's signature feature is a glass-floored catwalk over the first-floor great room. Ysla built the first part of the house and then sold it a few years later and moved to Winnetka. Gleicher then bought and renovated it before it was used for "The Fugitive." In the mid-1990s, Gleicher added two more floors, the elevator and the roof deck.

Public records do not yet identify the buyer.

Historic Wheaton estate built for golf pioneer Charles Blair Macdonald sells for \$1.33 million: A historic Colonial-style Wheaton estate built in 1897 for golf pioneer Charles Blair Macdonald sold Thursday for \$1.33 million.

Known as Ballyshear, the five-bedroom, 6,020-square-foot mansion is on a private, tree-lined lane off

Plamondon Road just west of the Chicago Golf Club, which Macdonald founded in 1892. It is the nation's oldest 18-hole golf course. Macdonald named the three-story home Ballyshear after his grandfather's Ballyshear manor and estate in Argyllshire, Scotland.

The Tribune reported in February 1897 that architect Jarvis Hunt designed the mansion, which anchored a colony of summer homes occupied by members of Chicago society, who congregated around the golf club between the 1890s and the 1910s. Many of the homes, including Ballyshear, later were converted for year-round use.

Macdonald and his wife, Frances, moved to New York in 1900 and rented out the mansion for several years until selling it in 1905. Later owners included investment banker Burton J. Vincent and public finance expert Walter W. Filkin. Thursday's sellers, Matt and Jessica Krauser, paid \$1.65 million for the mansion in 2007 and worked to restore it.

The mansion has 5½ baths, two fireplaces, a second kitchen on the third floor and a home theater. Outside on the 1.82-acre property are an in-ground pool and tennis court.

The sellers first listed the mansion in October 2015 for \$1.975 million.

Listing agent Michael LaFido of @properties noted that the sale was the highest price in Wheaton

for a home that is a century old or older since June 2013. It also was the third-highest-priced sale for a century-old home in DuPage County in 2018, he said.

Former Bears coach Marc Trestman sells Glencoe town home for \$555,000: Former Chicago Bears head coach Marc Trestman and his wife, Cindy, on Dec. 6 sold their three-bedroom, 2,000-square-foot brick town home south of downtown Glencoe for just over \$555,000.

Trestman, 62, was the Bears' head coach for the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Trestman and his wife bought the Glencoe home after the Bears fired him in December 2014. They paid \$625,000 for it in April 2015.

Built in 1988, the town home was remodeled in 2015 and has hardwood floors, French doors opening to a patio, a fireplace in the living room, private baths with each bedroom, a kitchen with granite countertops and top-of-the-line appliances, a finished basement and an attached one-car garage.

The couple first listed the home in February 2017 for \$695,000.

Listing agent Craig Stone of Stone Realty Group declined to comment on the sale.

Bob Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.

ctc-realestate@chicagotribune.com

What do you do if a seller won't leave after closing?

By Ilyce Glink and Samuel J. Tamkin
Tribune Content Agency

Q: We just closed on a house, but the sellers have not vacated the property on our agreed terms. They were supposed to be out on the closing date. But, they're still there.

We want to move into our new home. We're running up against the end of our lease, and will have to be out from our place within the next week. What should we do to get them out?



DREAMSTIME

A: This is one of the recurring nightmare scenarios Sam worries about when he represents buyers. The first thing he does when he meets his buyers at the closing table is ask whether they have inspected the property just prior to the closing and if they can verify whether the sellers have moved out.

If the sellers have moved out, and the property was left in the condition required under the contract, Sam proceeds with the closing. If not, then the closing is either delayed (if the sellers are in the process of moving out) or some significant portion of the funds is put into escrow until the sellers complete the move.

Sam recently had a client who was buying a home. The buyer inspected the home the day before the closing. When the buyer got to the closing, Sam asked if the sellers had moved out. One of the sellers was at the closing and asked if she could leave some stuff at the home and pick it up a day or two later. The buyer agreed.

However, when the buyer got to the home, it turned out that the sellers had left quite a lot of stuff in the home. Sam would't

Sellers who won't leave can put a damper on your moving plans. It's best for them to leave the home before closing.

allow the buyer to close until the sellers were completely out. That meant no money. Once the sellers understood that salient point, they quickly found people to help them pack and get out of the property.

Sam's preference is for sellers to leave the home prior to closing, where they hand over the keys and head off to their new home. Unless specifically negotiated and documented in the contract, buyers are entitled to take possession of the home when they pay the seller the money for the home.

If a seller wants to stay in the home after closing, the buyer and seller should have a written agreement setting out the expectations for that post-closing possession between the parties.

Sometimes a seller needs a day or two, or even a week, after closing. When these situations arise, some of the purchase price (often a daily fee) is often put into an escrow account, held back to make sure that the seller moves out as promised and leaves the home in the shape it's supposed to be in under the contract. If the seller does not vacate on the

appointed date, or leaves the home damaged in some way, then the money held in escrow can be given to the buyer as a penalty or to fix the property.

Unfortunately, you've lost your leverage. You've paid the money and the seller hasn't moved. Now, you'll need to engage an attorney to demand possession of the home and determine what steps you can take to force them out. In some states, getting a seller out can take time because you have to go through the eviction process. In the meantime, the seller is staying in the home for free. Check your purchase and sale agreement to see what it says in case the seller defaults on the delivery of possession of the home to you. You may be able to sue the seller and recover attorney fees as well.

Your first step is to consult with a savvy attorney who can help you figure out your options and next best step.

Ilyce Glink is the CEO of Best Money Moves and Samuel J. Tamkin is a real estate attorney. Contact them through the website ThinkGlink.com.

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			15 yr fixed	3.990	0.000	\$999	20%	4.183		
			5/1 ARM	3.750	0.000	\$999	20%	4.962		
			Mortgages are our business for over 120 years! Apply online - Fast approval. Ask about our full pre-approval product - same as a cash offer. Great rates on multi-family properties. We service our own loans!							
Central Federal Central Federal Savings and Loan Association	4.695%	Points: 0.000 Fees: \$755 % Down: 20%	15 yr fixed	4.000	0.000	\$755	20%	4.117	708-416-3690 www.centralfederalsavings.com	NMLS# 458026
			30 yr jumbo	4.625	0.000	\$755	20%	4.661		
			15 yr jumbo	4.000	0.000	\$755	20%	4.058		
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GateWay Capital Mortgage Gateway Capital Mortgage Inc.	4.385%	Points: 0.000 Fees: \$795 % Down: 5%	15 yr fixed	3.875	0.000	\$795	5%	3.885	888-595-7339 www.gwcmortgage.com	NMLS# 246585 LIC# 6760411
			3/1 ARM	4.125	0.000	\$5	5%	4.126		
			5/1 ARM	4.125	0.000	\$5	5%	4.127		
			7/1 ARM	4.250	0.000	\$5	5%	4.256		
			30 yr jumbo	4.750	0.000	\$50	20%	4.760		
			5/1 jumbo ARM	4.875	0.000	\$50	20%	4.888		
30 yr FHA	4.250	0.000	\$50	3.5%	4.260					
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SAVINGS UPDATE

Should I pay my 2018 property taxes by December 31?

If you're like most American homeowners, an envelope recently arrived in your mailbox detailing what to cough up for this year's property taxes. But the bill comes with a choice: Should you pay this year or in January?

As with many questions, it depends. How you expect your taxable income next year to compare to this year's is one factor, as is the amount of your property tax.

First of all, the date you pay any property tax, not the date it's assessed or applied, determines when you can deduct it on your tax return. Pay by Dec. 31 and you can make a deduction on your 2018 tax return.

But if you know you'll owe more income tax next year, due to increased income or selling assets, then paying in January allows you to take the deduction on your 2019 return, offsetting an otherwise increased tax hit. The converse is also true:

if you expect your income to be higher this year than in 2019, paying by Dec. 31 will likely garner a bigger tax break.

It's even possible to hold one year's tax payment for January and then pay the next year's in December, creating a tax year with a double deduction. But although this is still allowed, changes to this year's tax law make that work for fewer people.

That's because the IRS now caps the annual deduction for property taxes plus state income taxes at \$10,000. If your area has high property taxes or state income taxes, the new limit won't accommodate deducting two years' tax bills at once.

Most homeowners with steady tax scenarios are best served by simply sticking to the same payment schedule every year. But a bit of forecasting can help determine if December or January is your better bet.



GETTY

In some cases, real estate agents are not bound by law to represent the best interests of their clients.

Consumers may not have all info

Harney, from Page 1

and clients fail to focus on them.

Stephen Brobeck, author of the new report and immediate past executive director of CFA, says the vast majority of consumers don't understand the varying types of representation by realty agents. The key question they need to ask before agreeing to work with any agent, he says, is: Will you be representing us exclusively throughout the transaction and have a fiduciary duty to us? A fiduciary duty means that the agent is legally obligated to "procure the greatest advantage" for the client.

Among the common forms of representation examined in the CFA study:

Single agent: In this case, the agent works solely for the client and has a fiduciary responsibility to the client.

Subagent: This is where the agent works with the buyer but has a fiduciary duty to the seller.

Transactional agent: In this case, the agent works with both the buyer and seller to facilitate a sale but has no fiduciary responsibility to either party.

Dual agency: The study describes this as an arrangement whereby "the agent somehow is expected to represent the interest of both the seller and the buyer in a home purchase."

"The Holy Grail is to capture the entire commission," Brobeck said. "The listing agent might say to the seller, we've got a hot buyer for your house" who happens to be a colleague.

In the New York case, one plaintiff alleges that she sought to buy a four-bedroom house for its list price of \$599,900 but was pressured to pay \$635,000 by her agent. She subsequently received a disclosure form with a pre-checked box indicating that she was giving "informed consent" to dual agency — which was not provided to her in advance and thus violated state law.

Another plaintiff says he was pressured to pay \$125,000 more than he should have because of a dual-agency arrangement between agents.

The takeaway: If agents' disclosures aren't clear to you, probe further. You need to know who — if anyone — has your best interests paramount.

Harneycolumn@gmail.com

Rate Criteria: The rates and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 12/18/18. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC, does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. The institutions appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 740. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of \$165,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of \$453,101. Lock Days: 30-60. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. FHA Mortgages include both UFMP and MIP fees based on a loan amount of \$165,000 with 5% down payment. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. VA Mortgages include funding fees based on a loan amount of \$165,000 with 5% down payment. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. To access the NMLS Consumer Access website, please visit www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.

APARTMENT HUNT

Amenities aplenty along South Branch

BY PAMELA DITTMER MCKUEN
Chicago Tribune

A new neighborhood is cropping up along the South Branch of the Chicago River, and its name is Southbank. The master plan calls for a 2-acre public park, a half-mile of riverwalk with a water taxi stop and kayak launch, and about 2,000 residences.

The Cooper at Southbank, a contemporary glass tower, welcomed its first residents in September. Within the 29-story building are 452 apartments and town homes, plus amenities galore.

“The Cooper was designed to complement its riverfront surroundings and offer a lifestyle that matches the creative energy of the South Loop,” said Justin Patwin, project director for Southbank at developer Lendlease of Chicago.

The area’s high walkability and convenient public transportation provide easy connections to downtown jobs, schools, shopping, restaurants and cultural institutions, he said.

The units

The apartments at the Cooper at Southbank range from studios to three bedrooms configured into 52 floor plans. Traditional apartments are on the seventh through 28th floors, and penthouses are on the 29th floor. Two- and three-level town homes wrap the base of the tower on the west side, overlooking the river and park.

All units are finished with wide-plank flooring, a washer and dryer, window shades and eco-friendly thermostats. Units with one bathroom have a shower; units with two bathrooms have a shower and a tub. Some units have balconies.

Kitchens have contemporary duo-tone cabinets with light gray uppers and steel gray lowers, stainless steel appliances, quartz counters and penny-round tile backsplashes.

The three-bedroom town homes also have terraces and direct access to private two-car garages.

A two-bedroom model is a



The Cooper at Southbank includes a landscaped terrace with a pool, fire pits, grilling stations and more.

corner unit measuring 1,104 square feet. The front door opens to a foyer and L-shaped hallway flanked by coat and laundry closets. The two bedrooms are side by side. The master bedroom has a walk-in closet and full en suite bath with a shower. The second bedroom has a linear closet and is across the hallway from a second full bath with tub. The remaining space is an open-plan kitchen and living room. Along the interior side is an appliance wall and peninsula, and an alcove that can be imagined as a bar or workspace. A balcony wraps the opposite, exterior wall.

The amenities

A robust amenity package assures plenty of leisure activities and work-from-home support. The entire sixth floor is dedicated to special-interest nooks and spaces. Among them are a virtual sports simulator room; music room with playable instruments, turntable and high-fidelity sound system; shop space with worktables, sewing machines and easels; fitness center with yoga equip-



The 29-story contemporary glass tower houses 452 riverside apartments and town homes. It welcomed its first residents in September.

ment and ballet barre; video game room; arcade games; library with fireplace; and private co-working rooms.

For outdoor relaxation and recreation, a landscaped terrace features a swimming pool with sun deck and cabanas, pizza oven and grilling stations, bocce ball court, fire pits and movie screening area.

Amenity spaces continue on the 29th floor with a chef’s kitchen, formal dining room and lounge. The rooftop terrace invites social gatherings of all sizes and promises spectacular city views.

“If people work from home, they have the space where they can leave their apartment and work in kind of a social setting,”

The fine print

The Cooper at Southbank
720 S. Wells St.
Chicago, IL 60607
312-260-1023
www.thecoopersouthbank.com

Apartments: Prices based on availability and subject to change. Studio, 451 to 581 square feet, from \$1,710; one-bedroom, 678 to 850 square feet, from \$2,215; two-bedroom, 993 to 1,104 square feet, from \$3,157; two-bedroom penthouse, 1,135 to 1,420 square feet, from \$4,646; three-bedroom penthouse, 1,411 to 1,997 square feet, from \$5,642; two-bedroom town home, 1,153 to 1,938 square feet, from \$4,806; three-bedroom town home, 1,940 to 2,123 square feet, from \$7,404.

Lease terms: 12- to 24-month lease terms; \$50 application fee and \$500 administration fee. Promotions may apply.

Renters insurance: Required

Utilities: Monthly utility package ranges from \$75 to \$200 a month, depending on unit size. Package includes water, sewer, natural gas and trash collection. Residents pay electricity separately.

Parking: \$250 a month for unreserved space in attached garage.

Pets: Two-pet maximum. One-time fee, \$500 a dog and \$300 a cat. Monthly fee, \$30 a pet. Breed restrictions apply.

Smoking policy: No smoking anywhere on the property.

Patwin said. “Or, if they want to host friends, there are many spaces for social gatherings.”

On-site services include 24-hour concierge, package delivery, complimentary Wi-Fi in common areas, valet dry cleaning and laundry, car charging stations, loaner bikes and a dog run. Under development are 6,030 square feet of retail space.

The folks behind it

The Cooper at Southbank is owned and developed by Lendlease. The architect is Perkins + Will, and the managing agent is Bozzuto. All are based in Chicago.

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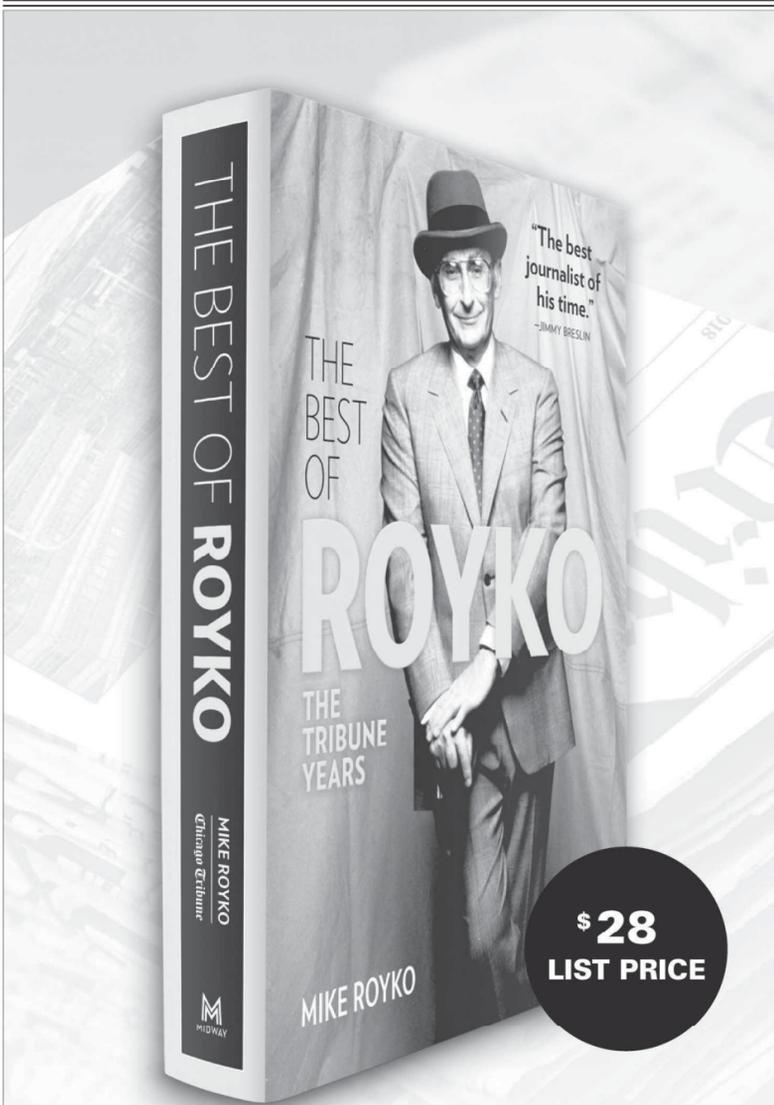
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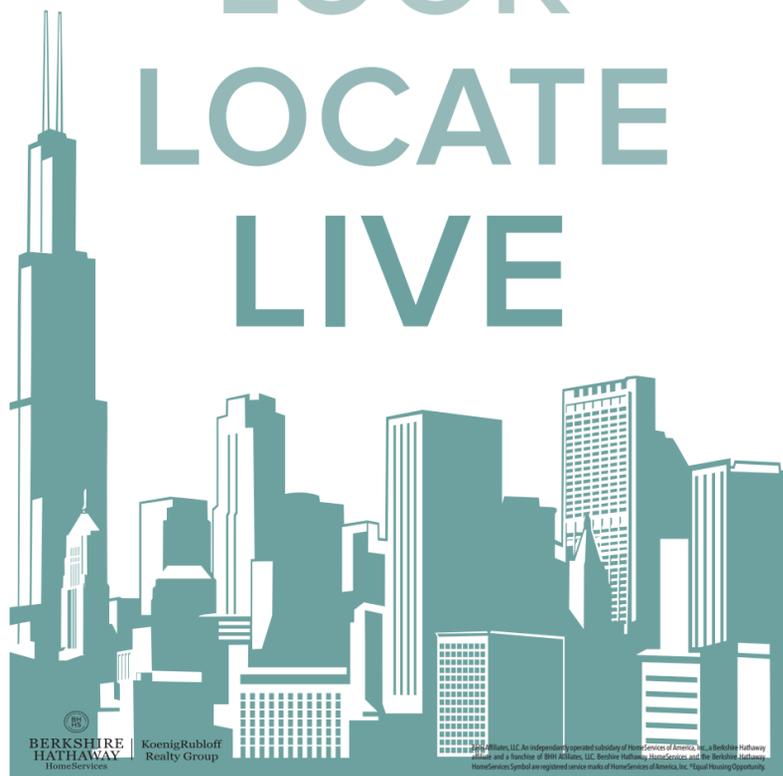
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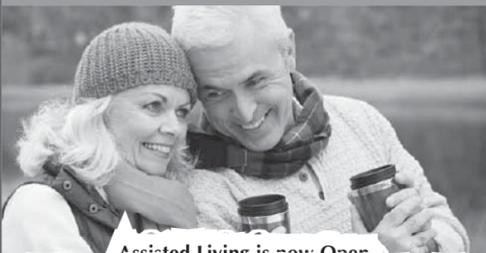
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Friendship Village of Schaumburg Schaumburg, IL 60194	847-490-6265	From \$1,517	From \$2,276	From \$2,898	RC, SA, AL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
GreenFields Of Geneva Geneva, IL 60134	630-232-9105	Life Plan Community	From \$2,632	From \$3,451	RC, SA, AL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Heritage Senior Apartments Alsip, IL 60803	866-665-7473	\$635	\$845	\$945-\$1,035	SA				●	●	●	●	●
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The Reserve of Geneva Geneva, IL 60134	630-584-4300		\$1,785 start	\$2,132 start	SA, RC, AL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
King Bruwaert Burr Ridge, IL 60527	630-230-9551			All-inclusive range on fees.	RC, AL		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
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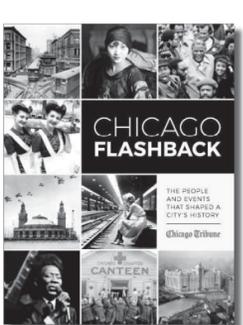
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Chicago Tribune

Renovation an emotional experience

Homes, from Page 1

When listing service Homes.com surveyed 2,000 consumers, it found that a third of first-time homebuyers broke down and cried during the process. "There's a lot of pressure to make the right decision, from a financial standpoint," said Grant Simmons, vice president of search marketing for the company.

Major stressors include unrealistic expectations and disagreements about when and where to compromise. "There are always trade-offs over resources. You have to make compromises — should we get the kitchen we want now or invest in it down the road? People argue," Simmons said. That includes the 28 percent of first-time buyers who had blowups with their realty agents, according to the Homes.com survey.

First-time homebuyers Mike and Nerissa Padilla spun their wheels on a foreclosure as they tried to navigate the notoriously tricky process of negotiating with the lender that owned the house within its straitjacket timeline. With earnest money on the line, they had to scramble to get an inspector who could thoroughly check the house within five days. "It turned out it would have been a renovation nightmare," said Mike Padilla, 35.

Having dodged that bullet, the couple continued looking. When they found the Frankfort, Ill., house they eventually bought in 2016, negotiations nearly broke down over four undistinguished ceiling fans that the sellers had recently installed.

"They aren't even that special," said Mike Padilla of the fans. "But I wasn't going to buy a house with holes in the ceiling. So the seller told us to pick out fans we wanted installed instead."

Tears, meltdowns, ecstasy and agony: David



KRISTAN LIEB/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Catherine Pilgrim's Irving Park renovation benefited from lessons learned in an earlier project.

"At some point, you want your house back and the romance is gone."

— David Lupberger, remodeling consultant

Lupberger has seen it all. Now a Boulder, Colo., consultant to the remodeling industry (under the company name Remodel Force), he coaches remodeling contractors on the emotional arc of their clients' experiences. Of course, it's the mutual goal of contractors and homeowners to get a quality job done on time and on budget, but perceptions of how to accomplish that vary wildly and widely.

"People don't have expectations of exceptional work practices, but they do know how they're treated,"



CATHERINE PILGRIM PHOTO

A before and after photo of Pilgrim's kitchen (and \$1,000 faucet) in a Chicago townhouse. The contractor was set to toss the faucet after it was removed in the remodel.

Lupberger said. "It's all about managing expectations. My job as a contractor is to clearly create expectations that are manageable and that my clients understand and accept."

His epiphany came when he was a contractor and discovered how much marriage counseling had in common with good client management. It's impos-

sible to over-communicate during the intimately disruptive process of renovating, Lupberger believes, so he created a template guidebook for weekly status meetings with homeowners.

That alone eases stress, he says, because homeowners know they can count on seeing the project manager, get their latest questions

answered and find out what will happen next. "I remove the mystery. Then all I have to do is keep my promises," Lupberger said. He informs clients that they will go through despair and frustration as complications ensue and the finish line seems to be further away every week.

"It will upset every routine. At some point, you want your house back and the romance is gone," Lupberger said.

Veteran Chicago remodeling contractor Don Van Cura, of Don Van Cura Construction, couldn't agree more. "You can't eliminate all the stress. It's very inconvenient, and you don't have a haven anymore," he said.

Chicago area residents endure an extra layer of stress as they manage the permit process, which is notoriously complex with multiple levels of verifications — sometimes even requiring letters of approval

from the alderman. And contractors often fail to explain why delays happen: Materials were on back order or came in damaged, or inspectors canceled their appointments, for instance.

And homeowners inflict stress on themselves when they indulge in "while you're at it" last-minute requests and changes that throw off timelines and subcontractors.

"I wish we had more conversations about what it's really like," Van Cura said. "You're still going to redo your kitchen, but then you'd know what the stressors are."

"We homeowners literally don't know how to do the work, so it seems impossible, like literally, it will never get done," Pilgrim said.

But in most cases, including hers, it does. Thanks to wisdom forged in the fire of renovating her first house, a Ravenswood townhouse now for sale, she is midway through renovating a house in Irving Park. At first, Pilgrim said, she thought that renovating consisted of ordering materials and installing them. Then she learned that she had to address electrical and plumbing issues first. She now has a short list of "great contractors" who not only do their work well but who are willing to coach her a bit too.

And she has gained the unexpected virtues of patience and Zen in the process.

"In the end, it will get figured out, but in the moment, every glitch is a huge thing," said Pilgrim of seemingly endless delays and complications. "You're spending all this money, and you're like, 'All I'm asking is for this water heater to be replaced. That's all.' But you learn to let it go."

Joanne Cleaver is a freelance reporter.

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2019 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat Redeye

Why make a 797-horsepower muscle car? Because Dodge can. **Page 3**



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Chicago Tribune RIDES



ROBERT DUFFER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Ram 1500 rides as quiet as an SUV, is finished like a luxury car and has heavy-duty pickup truck capability.



ROBERT DUFFER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Volvo XC40 straddles the line in size between the luxury subcompact and compact crossover class.



ROBERT DUFFER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The 2019 Ford Mustang Bullitt honors the 50th anniversary of the movie starring Steve McQueen.



CARS.COM

In a battle of the best new three-row midsize SUV, the 2019 Subaru Ascent and the 2018 Volkswagen Atlas are just about equal.

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Chicago Tribune

American sedans are dying, the market is overrun with crossovers and self-driving cars are still a ways off. Blah, blah, blah — the best rides of 2018 still gave us a charge without breaking the bank.

From hot laps on a track to weeklong loans in the driveway, the best vehicles beat expectations with powertrains that were powerful but efficient, technology that was safe but intuitive, interiors that were welcoming but affordable. Here are our favorites:

Truck

1. 2019 Ram 1500: Best here does not mean fuel economy or towing capacity or rugged good looks, though Ram could win all those arguments with the 395-horsepower 5.7-liter HEMI V-8. Unlike the Chevy Silverado, it feels, looks and drives much more evolved than its predecessor. We said, “It rides as smooth as a crossover but with all the pickup capability of a heavy-duty truck with a V-8 engine.”

GMC Sierra AT4: Honorable mention to the GMC Sierra AT4 and its innovative MultiPro power tailgate. It folds down like a normal gate, but then another smaller gate within that folds down into a large and long step. In the upright position it can be used as a shelf or two-tiered

cargo extender. Makes for the best bed in the business. Standard on SLT, AT4 and Denali trims.

Full-size SUV

We’re not sure of the wisdom of American automakers cutting sedans and essentially ceding that space to foreign makes, but the Americans know what they do well, and their best passenger vehicles are full-size SUVs.

1. 2018 Lincoln Navigator offers serenity now for the harried family with massaging 30-way adjustable seats that are as good as a La-Z-Boy. All the cargo space, all the easy folding power seat options, and all the power and efficiency in the 450-horsepower twin-turbo V-6 engine make this a sure winner, despite the \$90,000 price tag. It makes the Cadillac Escalade feel like an old woody wagon, and more importantly, Navigator points the Lincoln brand in the right direction.

2. 2018 Ford Expedition is equally good for being about \$20,000 less than the nearly six-figure Navigator. Great application of helpful technology — not just for technology’s sake — such as the Pro Trailer Backup Assist, which uses a knob to help you back up 9,200 pounds instead of the counterintuitive turning of the wheel right to make the trailer go left. Even though Sync3 feels small and out-of-date, the Expedition is well-done.

THE BEST RIDES OF 2018

3. 2019 Chevy Suburban RST injects some life into the Suburban before an expected 2020 redesign. Can’t beat the Suburban on interior space, and even with the performance-oriented 420-horsepower 6.2-liter V-8 EcoTec engine riding on 22-inch wheels, it was really smooth and quiet. Blacked out and trimmed out, it was \$82,000. We’d opt up for the Navigator.

3-row crossover

This is the one people ask us about the most, probably because we have two tweens and all the detritus that comes with them. The best not-minivan for 2018, no matter how loudly we extol the virtues

of the Chrysler Pacifica, goes something like this:

1. 2018 Volkswagen Atlas and 2019 Subaru Ascent: We’re going to call it a draw between the all-new Atlas and all-new Ascent. Both were late to the game, and both are really well done, but top trim levels will set you back nearly \$50,000. The Ascent in Touring trim proves Subaru can push into the premium class, up there with Lincoln and Acura. Yet it still does those things Subaru is better known for, like trusted AWD and smart safety features. It comes only with a 260-horsepower turbo four-cylinder engine but still can tow 5,000 pounds. The Atlas, by comparison, is the roomiest of the

class behind the Chevy Traverse, has a potent 276-horsepower V-6 and is conservatively handsome. And we absolutely love the digital cockpit.

3. 2019 Honda Pilot

The refreshed Pilot is the runner-up; all-around good with genuine off-road chops and smart interior layout with a solid powertrain. It just blends in a little too blandly with all the other crossovers out there.

Small crossover

The subcompact and compact crossover segments get lumped together because none of them gets our motor running. Yet this is what we’d shop if we were in the market.

1. 2019 Volvo XC40: Sized larger than it looks, this somewhat subcompact crossover is powered by a 248-horsepower turbo four-cylinder with plenty of punch. We loved the orange interior in the R-Design trim level, and the spartan dash justifies the learning curve necessary for the touch screen. It was priced right, too, starting at \$35,000.

2. 2018 BMW X3 M40i: Smooth and efficient on the highway, tight and responsive on the back roads, the X3 compact crossover comfortably fits four adults without nipping rear headroom like the X4 or smaller X2 or any of those other ugly turtle-back crossovers.

It looks good too.

3. 2019 Acura RDX: The third-generation compact crossover is taller, wider and longer than its predecessor and feels roomier than the compact competition. It’s attractive without trying to attract attention, and the turbo four-cylinder engine keeps it light on its 20-inch wheels. Sharp, clever details offset the introduction of a dual touchpad nuisance to control the display screen.

Sports car

1. 2019 Ford Mustang Bullitt: The 5.0-liter V-8 gets a 20-horsepower boost over the GT to 480 horsepower, which lifts top speed 8 mph to 163 mph, thanks in part to some engineering tweaks from the GT350. The naturally aspirated rumble with the cue-ball shifter hits all the right notes.

We might pick the 6.2-liter V-8 Hot Wheels Chevy Camaro SS on the track, but the Bullitt wins the garage spot.

Plug-in vehicle

Tesla Model 3 makes good on its hype as the best plug-in vehicle of 2018. The battery electric compact sedan has instantaneous torque, a spartan interior commanded by a center screen instead of an instrument cluster, and good interior space.

rduffer@chicagotribune.com
[Twitter @DufferRobert](https://twitter.com/DufferRobert)

Lincoln channels Rolls-Royce for special edition Continental

BY AARON BRAGMAN
Cars.com

Lincoln is celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Continental nameplate by bringing back coach doors — also known as suicide doors — for a limited edition.

The 2019 Lincoln Continental 80th Anniversary Coach Door Edition will stretch 6 inches in the wheelbase, all of it coming in the rear passenger compartment. The roof, rear doors and rear windows

are longer, and the greenhouse has a decidedly more formal, squarish look to it.

Rear-hinged doors will be fitted. But this isn’t just some chop-shop special — Lincoln is providing a bunch of specially engineered parts for the conversion as well, from rear door panels to interior trim, to give it a factory quality look.

The new rear doors will have the same kind of e-latching system as the regular Continental, but they now will swing open 90 degrees from the rear. Until

now, the only vehicles you could get rear-hinged doors on were extended-cab pickup trucks and Rolls-Royces.

The only spec for the 80th Anniversary Coach Door Edition will be Black Label trim, giving buyers a choice of two interior colors: the light-colored Chalet interior or the black-and-saddle Thoroughbred theme. Being a Black Label means the Coach Door Edition will be fully loaded, including the 30-way adjustable seats, active noise

control, a Revel premium audio system and more.

The 6-inch stretch gives the Continental the most rear legroom in its class, and a new flow-through center console adds to the tray tables and wireless charging that help luxe up the accommodations.

Only 80 of these 2019 80th Anniversary Coach Door Editions will be built, with deliveries starting in June, according to Lincoln. The price will be “north of \$100,000” according to one Lincoln executive.



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A limited run of 80 units will be produced for the 2019 Lincoln Continental 80th Anniversary Coach Door Edition.

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ROBERT DUFFER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat Redeye, a 797-horsepower street-legal muscle car based on the limited-production Demon, can cover a quarter-mile in 10.8 seconds.

It says 'America,' quite loudly

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Chicago Tribune

Why? This was the response of nearly everyone who encountered the 797-horsepower Dodge Challenger Hellcat Redeye. From the group of men clustered in the cold to hear that hellfire supercharged V-8 engine come to life, to the kids sprawled out on the wide rear seats of the retro muscle car, to the new owner of a 392-horsepower Challenger SRT8: Why? Why build something so powerful for the street? Why buy something so powerful that you can only use it for all its worth on the drag strip?

The same interrogators came up with the same answer: Because you can. Because bigger, faster, more. Because America. Because 707-horsepower, which is now 717-horsepower for the 2019 Hellcat, is not as big as a 797-horsepower Redeye.

Because Dodge did. The lovely lunatics in the Street and Racing Technology (SRT) team at Dodge seem to have no end to squeezing more and more power out of the aging muscle car.

Dodge has captured something uniquely and unabashedly American with the Challenger: warm nostalgia for big-bodied muscle cars and mind-blowing horsepower potential.

To extend the mileage of the model even more for 2019, Dodge now has the 797-horsepower Hellcat Redeye, a more street-friendly, less drag-strip-

2019 DODGE CHALLENGER SRT HELLCAT REDEYE
Maxed-out muscle car
As tested:
\$86,600
(excluding \$1,395 delivery)
Base price: \$69,650
Mpg: Really? 13 city, 22 highway, 16 comb.
Engine: Supercharged 6.2-liter HEMI V-8
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic
Competitive rank: What competition?

intended subvariant of the 840-horsepower Dodge Challenger SRT Demon.

The difference between the Redeye and Hellcat is not just the colored-in red eye of the Hellcat logo.

Redeye uses the limited-production Demon's larger supercharged 6.2-liter HEMI V-8 along with high-strength modifications and 25 component upgrades over the Hellcat to hit 60 mph in 3.4 seconds and a top speed of 203 mph.

We hit neither of those marks. The onset of winter in the Snow Belt is not the time for any rear-wheel-drive muscle car, let alone one that, upon startup, can rattle the icicles off the garage. That sound is such a terrible temptation; the caged beast awakes with a hunger every time it starts up, makes you want to throw down, to go to hell and not give a damn if you

come back. It's fearsome. And when it's under 40 degrees, it should be feared.

It has super-wide 305 all-season Pirelli P-Zero slicks wrapped around 20-inch-by-11-inch wheels. All-season, my eye. They need to be baked to get any grip at low temperatures, especially with 707 pound-feet of torque going to the rear wheels. At on-ramps, the rear slid from right to left; hammering a lane change, the rear slid from right to left; so many times the rear slid that we almost stopped hitting the throttle. But who are we to deny such dangerous temptation?

And that straight-line shot. A quarter-mile in 10.8 seconds, one second slower than the Demon, which takes the title as the quickest street-legal production vehicle. Redeye is still in the company of Lamborghini and other supercar exotics that are four times as expensive, that don't have a back seat and don't require the driver to wear a designer tracksuit.

Those a few more reasons to answer the why.

Like those other speed cars, Redeye is mostly for show. Unlike those other cars, not one is as functional nor as fun. No other car can comfortably fit four — aside from Tesla — like the Challenger Redeye. No other can cruise down Main Street as uniquely in the '70s as it can now. And therein lies the plum-crazy truth. There's nothing else like it on the road.

Bright headlights in new cars bother some drivers



BOB WEBER
Motormouth

Q: I do not know if it's only me because I am an old man, but I notice more and more newer cars and SUVs have very bright headlights that are focused high. The lights from the opposite cars are so bright, I have to often use sunglasses. I wonder why I don't see a complaint in Motor-mouth from anyone else.

— P.S., Darien, Ill.

A: High-intensity lights, including LED headlights, can be annoying, especially for older folks for whom glare issues increase with age. Of course, from the driver's perspective, they are a big improvement for seeing down the road at night. We have noticed that, on uneven and bumpy two-lane roads, the lights seem to flash in our eyes like the flash from a camera. It washes out our ability to see just about everything. Keeping an eye on the white edge line often helps follow the road and reduces the temptation to look at the oncoming headlights. A growing and even greater problem comes from owners installing auxiliary arrays of super-bright LEDs that are illegal in most states.

Q: I park my 2015 Honda Accord at the airport for three or four days a week due to work. Are fuel additives that prevent fuel system icing like Iso-HEET worthwhile, or is the alcohol content in modern fuels enough to absorb possible water in a fuel tank and fuel lines?

— J.C., Willow Springs, Ill.
A: The ethanol in gas



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

When facing bright oncoming headlights, keeping an eye on the white edge line often helps drivers follow the road and reduces the temptation to look at the lights.

station pump gasoline is an effective anti-icing chemical. We have not gotten any fuel line freeze-up questions in years. But for cars that sit for long periods, Iso-HEET has advantages. It is isopropanol, rather than ethanol. Iso-HEET has the ability to surround water molecules and move them through the fuel system and into the combustion chambers to be removed.

Q: You recently wrote about swapping 17-inch and 19-inch tires/wheels on Hondas. Won't that affect the speedometer/odometer results? Can it be corrected?

— E.B., Macungie, Pa.

A: If you make the change properly, there will be no issues with the speedometer, odometer, anti-lock brake system or more. When moving up to a 19-inch tire, the rim must be smaller diameter so that the overall diameter is unchanged. Moving up 1 inch is called "plus one" in industry parlance. Moving up 2 inches is "plus two," and so on.

Q: I have a possible cause for the vibration experienced by "L.L." in his or her 2006 Lucerne after a motor mount replacement. I got a replacement mount for my 1985 Chevy Celebrity from a local auto parts

dealer and put it in myself. The result was terrible vibration felt through the steering wheel. When I went back to complain, the parts dealer rechecked his catalog and insisted he had given me the right part. While he was looking in his manual, I was reading it upside down over the counter and noticed two identical part numbers next to each other with the letters "HYD" next to one of them. I asked about that, and he told me that was the one filled with hydraulic fluid (the one he had given me was solid rubber). I'm sure you see where this is going. That's the one I needed, and it made all the difference. The parts looked just the same.

— M.O., Downers Grove, Ill.

A: Good point. The fluid filled motor mounts absorb vibrations that solid ones transmit.

Send questions along with name and town to *Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60601* or *motormouth.tribune@gmail.com*.

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Robert Duffer, Rides editor
rduffer@chicagotribune.com

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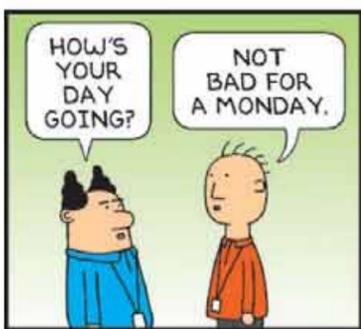
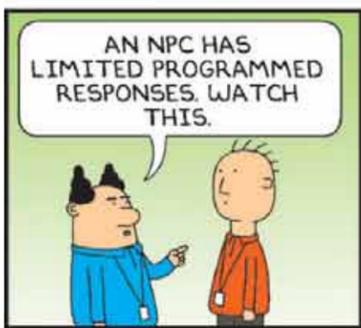
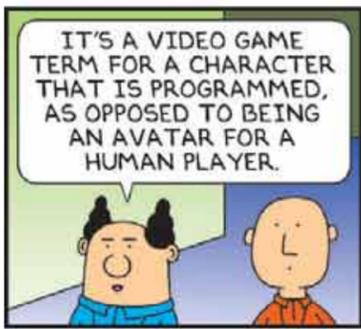
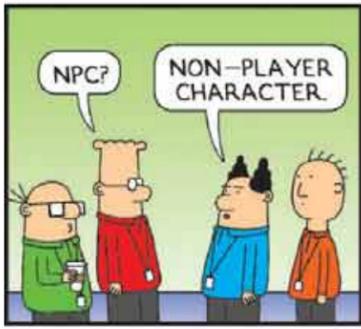
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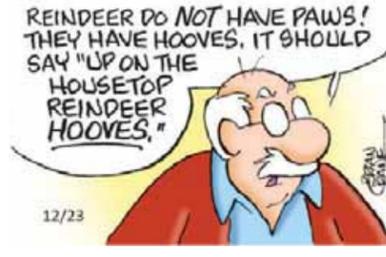
Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



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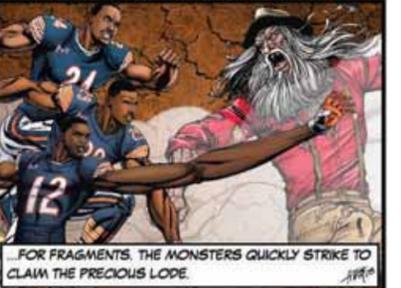
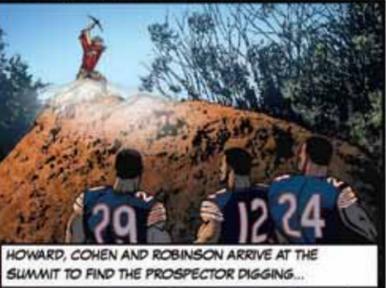
WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Frazz By Jef Mallett



Week 16: Bay Area Battle



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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By Lynn Johnston

CHRISTMAS ISN'T FOR A FEW DAYS, KIDDO!
I KNOW.

ELIZABETH?!
UH?

I WAS JUST THINKING...

I WAS THINKING ABOUT ALL THE KIDS WHO DON'T HAVE PRESENTS TO WAKE UP TO.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT KIDS IN THE HOSPITAL, KIDS WHO ARE LONELY -- I WAS JUST THINKING HOW LUCKY I AM.

CHRISTMAS IS JESUS' BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT, DADDY?
UH HUH.

I WISH I COULD GIVE HIM SOMETHING!

HONEY, YOU ALREADY HAVE!!

MR. BOFFO

-THE PESSIMIST CALLS IT A SMALL BANK ACCOUNT-
-THE OPTIMIST CALLS IT "FUN-SIZED"-
AND HIS WIFE BOBBY WEEDEMAN
BY JIM MAERTZ

I MOVED MY THINGS INTO THE LARGE CORNER OFFICE

AND PUT MY NAME ON THE DOOR

ARCHIVES/VIDEOS at MRBOFFO.COM

YOU ASKED ME WHY I'M HOME EARLY

THEY WOULDN'T GIVE ME THE PROMOTION, SO I TOOK IT!

BREWSTER ROCKIT

Space Guy!

Tim Rickard

WHATCHA WATCHING, MOM?

THAT NETWORK THAT PLAYS THOSE CHRISTMAS ROMANCE MOVIES.

THEY'RE CORNY, BUT I ENJOY 'EM. THIS ONE'S CALLED "A CHRISTMAS PRINCESS."

WONDER IF THERE'S A NETWORK THAT HAS CHRISTMAS MOVIES FOR GUYS.

ON THE MAN CHANNEL: "A VERY EXPODEY CHRISTMAS," "YULETIDE SHARK NINJAS" AND "A FACE-PUNCHING HOLIDAY"

NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley

Take It From the Tinkersons

By Bill Bettwy

THE DAYS LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS ARE BETTER THAN CHRISTMAS ITSELF.

THEY ARE?!

ARE WE GETTING GIFTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

No.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GIFTS. IT'S THE VIBE. IT'S THE SPIRIT OF BELIEVING AND HOPE!

I'VE NEVER SEEN DAD THIS DRUNK.

Nebbish

The Power of Substitution

THE OLD WOMAN INTRODUCES HERSELF... TYCHE... AND CONTINUES THE STORY OF HER KIND

WE COULD NO LONGER TRUST OURSELVES WITH SUCH POWER, SO WE CONJURED A WAY TO PROTECT THE WORLD FROM IT... AND US

"ONE BY ONE, WE TRANSFERRED OUR POWERS INTO AN INNOCENT VESSEL OF BENEVOLENCE... A CHILD OF PURITY. WE BROUGHT HIM TO YOUR MONASTERY TO BE RAISED FREE OF EGO. WHEN HIS TRAINING WAS COMPLETE, HE WAS DESTINED TO RETURN HERE AND REPLACE ME AS GUARDIAN"

BUT HE'S UNAWARE OF HIS POWERS! HE CAN BE DANGEROUS IF HE FALLS UNDER THE WRONG INFLUENCE. I MUST GET HIM BACK TO THE SAFETY OF THE MONASTERY

NO, CHILD... IT'S SAFER HERE WITH THE RIGHT PERSON TO GUIDE HIM

TYCHE?!

NEXT WEEK: CHANGE OF SCENERY

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FoxTrot

By Bill Amend

IS IT ME, OR IS THE SANTA ON YOUR SWEATER GETTING FATTER?

HIS, UM, DIET STARTS NEXT WEEK.

Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni

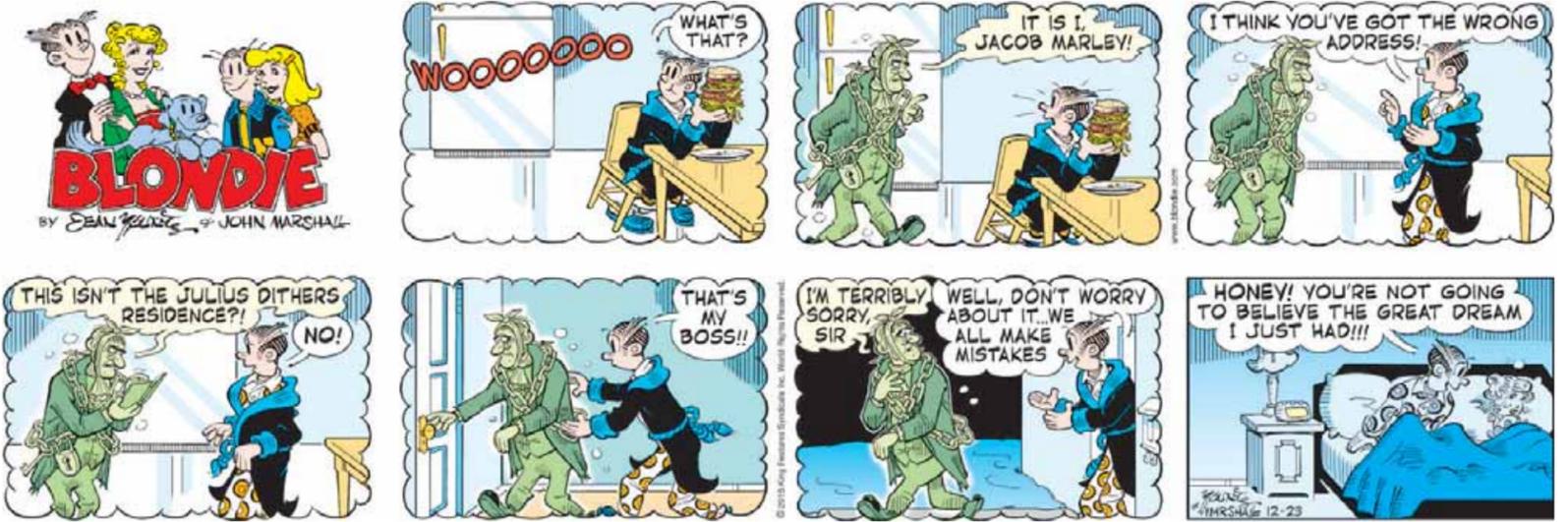
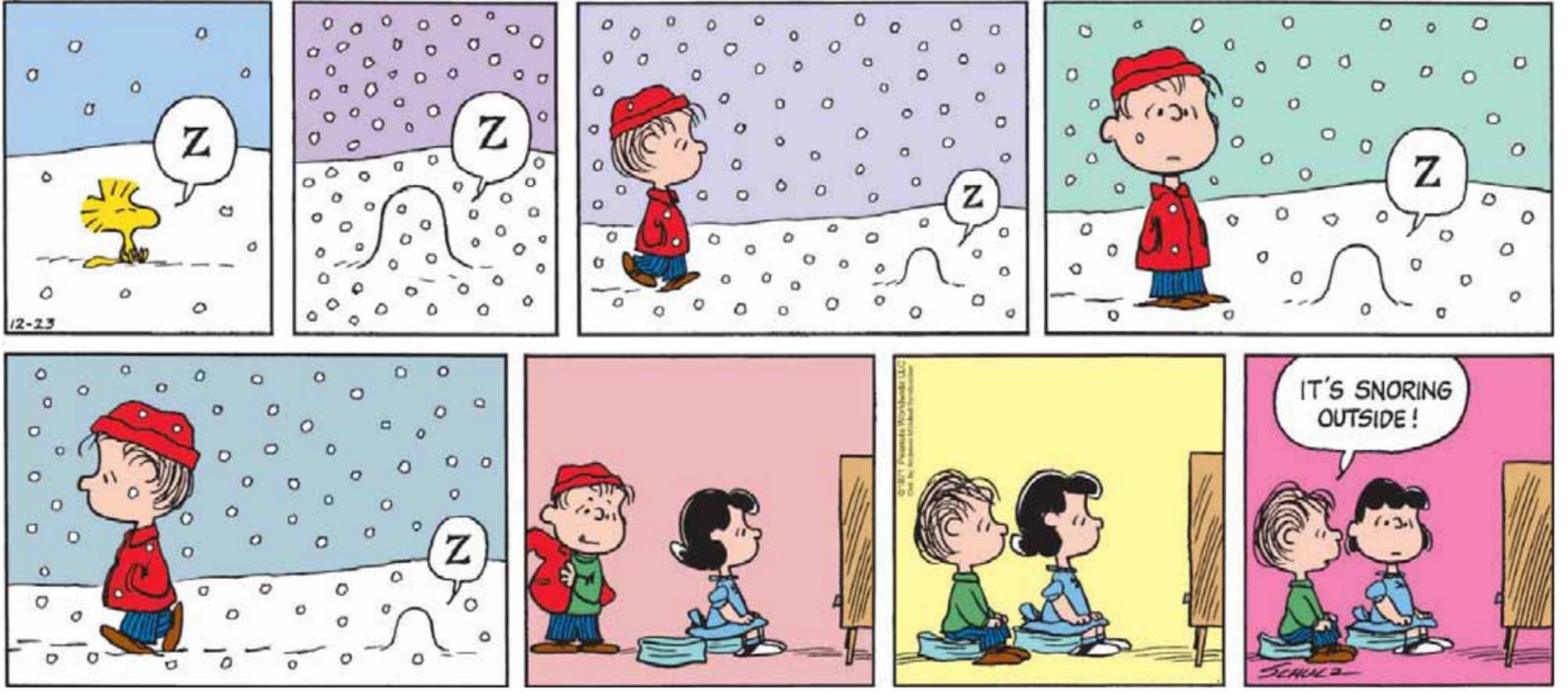
OKAY, I GOT YOU GUYS WHAT YOU WANTED. THINK YOU CAN CONTROL YOURSELVES THIS YEAR?

OF COURSE!

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12 SECONDS... A NEW RECORD!

Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz

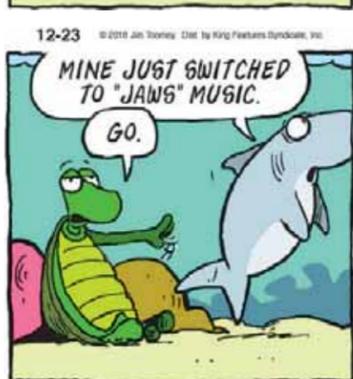
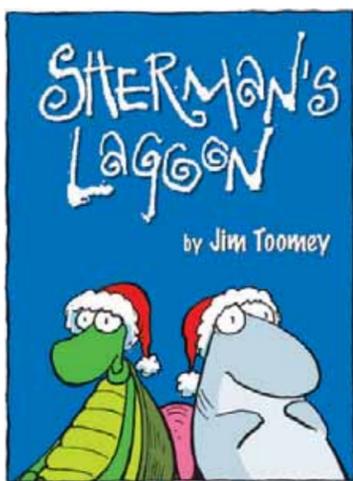


Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



The Lockhorns By Bunny Hoest and John Reiner





Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



The Middletons By Ralph Dunagin and Dana Summers



Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



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ANSWER ANGEL

WHAT TO KNOW
BEFORE BUYING
A WINTER COAT



THE GOODS

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**MICHELLE YEOH
WANTS TO SEE MORE
ACTING ROLES FOR
ASIAN-AMERICANS**

EMPOWERED

Finding the heart in powerful woman

Michelle Yeoh talks about character in 'Crazy Rich Asians'

BY RAMIN ZAHED
Los Angeles Times

Michelle Yeoh is no stranger to playing powerful women on the big screen. The commanding Malaysian-born actress began her career as the queen of Hong Kong martial arts movies and made English-speaking audiences take notice in features such as "Tomorrow Never Dies," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Memoirs of a Geisha." This year she made a huge impression with her portrayal of the regal Eleanor Young, the intimidating, status-conscious mother in the blockbuster hit "Crazy Rich Asians."

As Los Angeles Times film critic Justin Chang wrote earlier this year, "In a crisp, authoritative, sometimes startlingly vulnerable performance that never lapses into dragon-lady stereotype, Yeoh brilliantly articulates the unique relationship between Asian parents and their children."

On a recent Friday afternoon over a cup of coffee, Yeoh discussed the movie and the importance of seeing more Asian-American roles in Hollywood. When her rave reviews were mentioned, she was visibly moved and wiped a tear from her delicate face. "I played her as an homage to all the amazing mothers that I know. I didn't want her to be this two-dimensional villain," she noted.

The following is an edited transcript of the conversation.

Q: So, can you tell us a little bit about how you came to play this plum role?

A: When Kevin Kwan's



KIRK MCKOY/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Michelle Yeoh played the mother of the groom in the surprise hit "Crazy Rich Asians."

book first came out in 2013, I tried to get the rights, but they were already taken. Later, when I met the film's director, Jon Chu, he told

me, "You were always my Eleanor, and I told my producer Nina Jacobson that I want Michelle to play the character." I thought

Eleanor was such an interesting character because she is really motivated by her maternal instincts. She is not this snob who looks

down at Rachel (Eleanor's son's American girlfriend, played by Constance Wu). She wants to make sure Rachel is strong enough to handle the rules and responsibilities of this wealthy society.

Q: How did you prepare to play Eleanor?

A: Although I am not a mother myself, I know a lot of women like Eleanor who are very protective of their children. I also know some of the "crazy rich" people who live in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. I had to make Eleanor very stiff and formal. She never talks with her hands. You always need to feel her formidable presence — not simply out of fear but out of respect. She has really earned the respect of others. She is like the captain of this ship. If you visit one of the kitchens in Hong Kong, you'll see these women who are definitely in charge. They set the bar very high for themselves and expect everyone else to try to reach for those tough standards.

Q: Of course, the film was one of the major box office hits of 2018, making over \$235 million worldwide. Why do you think the film hit such a sweet spot?

A: It has been a long time since we had movies with all-Asian casts — films like "The Joy Luck Club" (1993) and "Memoirs of a Geisha" (2005). "Crazy Rich Asians" explored the cultural differences between Asian-Americans and their relatives in Asia. It was a feel-good movie because everyone enjoys looking at all the beautiful fashions and the amazing food and feeling as if you're part of this huge wedding.

It also illustrates the old values and how some of them should really change,

like the way sons are favored in those societies. I think it has a very empowering message for women, that some of those old traditions need to be broken. I work with the United Nations (as a goodwill ambassador) to promote gender equality, and a big goal is to promote education so that women don't put limits on what they can achieve.

Q: In addition to playing Eleanor, you also broke more barriers this year by playing the dynamic starship Capt. Georgiou on the "Star Trek: Discovery" series. What are your thoughts on the importance of featuring diverse roles in Hollywood?

A: To be fair, I have been very blessed because I started out my career by venturing out into the men's world of action movies. I set the right "Don't mess with me!" tone, and I have had great opportunities to do very different kinds of movies. However, we've been fighting a long battle to get good roles. I would get these scripts, and they'd tell me that the role was written for a man, but they would change it to fit me.

A movie like "Crazy Rich Asians" shouldn't be an event: It should be normal. We shouldn't be cast in token roles. Sometimes, they just add Asian roles because they want the movie to sell in China. Recently, I went to a restaurant and the chef came out and said, "My pastry chef, who is a young Chinese woman, made this pastry just for you because you made her feel empowered." That meant so much to me. We all need our stories to be told, and these stories and faces have been missing from the screen for such a long time.

7 things to know when buying a winter coat



ELLEN WARREN

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: With the recent cold snap, I'm having my annual winter-coat crisis. I have short and long wool versions that work fine when it's above freezing. My dilemma is with the deep freeze options. Here's what I think are my options, but I'm hoping you have a better recommendation:

1) My 15-year-old Lands' End parka, still wind- and cold-proof, except the hood doesn't cinch, so it is essentially a cold air balloon on top of my head. 2) A new, reasonably affordable parka from the same company — it calls the hood "adjustable," but I'm skeptical. 3) An investment in a Canada Goose parka that is more than my mortgage payment. Please tell me there are better options when it's a deep freeze and I need to keep my head warm.

— *Mary McI.*

Dear Mary: Like you, I've never found a cloth coat that is as warm as a parka. If you don't object to down or down/feather combos, those are your best bet in a parka or coat, although synthetics have vastly improved in the warmth category. Here are some guidelines:

1. If you'd like to stick with a wool coat, buy a size up, then order a light down jacket from uniqlo.com. I have them in three different weights to wear underneath when it gets really bad out there. And they roll up into a tiny bag, so they're great for travel. Sometimes I wear a big coat and three under jackets — the Papa, Mama and Baby bear concept of cold weather dressing.

2. If you want a hood that stays put in the bluster, it has to have a drawstring or some snaps to keep it snug.

3. Brand name isn't everything. Well-known parka brands like Columbia, North Face, Canada Goose and Montcler, with heavy advertising budgets, will



FLASHPOP/GETTY

Online shopping makes it easy to compare coat prices, but consider waiting for end-of-season sales too.

keep you warm at a substantial price, but I've had good luck with no-names that I've bought at discounters like T.J.Maxx.

4. Comparison shopping is easy online. The internet has plenty of sites that list the warmest winter wear, if you want to do some homework.

5. Inner sleeve cuffs are a feature you'll be thankful for — they keep out the wind.

6. If you don't need a coat right now, it's best to wait. Too late for this winter, but end-of-season is when you'll find those great coat bargains.

7. Shop eBay for gently used or tags-still-on from the folks who have given up and moved to warmer climates!

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: I'm a short, large woman, and I want to

join an exercise center. What is appropriate attire for me, and where is a good place to find it? I'm not fashion-conscious but don't want to feel people are snickering. Please help!

— *Call me "T"*

Dear T: Good for you for committing to an exercise program. Ironic, isn't it, that those of us who could most profit from beginning to exercise to control our weight (and, more important, to take control of our health) have trouble finding workout clothes? The good news is that there are more and more good options available as the light bulb goes on among manufacturers that not all of us are size 6!

Exercise newcomers might prefer what used to be called sweatpants but now are "joggers,"

many with drawstring waists instead of form-fitting leggings. Petites should consider capri-length bottoms that might hit at the ankle on shorter women instead of the customary midcalf. When searching online sites, using the word "active" might help narrow the search. Here are some options for you that carry stylish bottoms, sports bras and tops in plus sizes: Old Navy (plus size active tops and bottoms 1X to 4X (oldnavy.com)); Lane Bryant's Livi Active (lanebryant.com); Juno Active up to 6X in petite, average and tall (junoactive.com); Lola Getts (lolagetts.com); Torrid (up to 6X, torrid.com); C9 Champion brand at Target (target.com); and Xersion at JC Penney, (jcpenny.com).

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: Is it

appropriate to wear leather at work? I just purchased some faux leather pants and a skirt, and I'd like to wear them with sweaters to work. My work environment is business casual and people wear anything from jeans to suits.

— *Ani M.*

Dear Ani: Many pleather (faux leather) pants and skirts (and coats and sweaters) can totally fool the eye. It ain't your mother's fake leather — that screamed "plastic" — anymore! And it sounds as if your workplace would be fine with your new faux leather clothing, since you indicate that pretty much anything goes.

My only caveat is that if your new clothes are truly skintight, you could be verging into a danger zone. On ESPN, I saw a broadcaster wearing a short black leather (or fake leather?) skirt that left nothing — with a capital N — to the imagination. It had a serious hooker vibe. Some pleather leggings are so revealing that they are not suitable for the workplace.

And I should add here my frequent lament that leggings aren't pants. I know you see them everywhere — not just at the gym — but that doesn't make this a good look. If you're going to wear leggings out and about, at the very least cover your assets with a tunic!

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: Can you please recommend a good, budget-friendly neck-firming cream? After looking at some recent photographs of myself, I think I could use something to firm my neck!

— *Susan B.*

Dear Susan: Oh, how I wish I could recommend some magic for your neck. I've tried plenty of face and neck firming creams, lotions and tonics — from frugal drug-store products to potions in the \$100-plus category — and have seen no noticeable difference. The problem is that old monster: gravity. I don't trust the "before" and "after" videos and photos I see in print and online. Readers: If you've found a product that you love, I want to hear about it pronto!

THE GOODS

Winter's floral trend in home and fashion design

BY JESSICA MOAZAMI
Chicago Tribune



NORDSTROM
Anthropologie's beaded floral Ollie pillow refreshes your home with springtime charm. \$70.40, nordstrom.com



Fornasetti's Flora lacquered wood box holds all of your precious keepsakes. \$658, Barneys New York, Chicago and barneys.com

BARNEYS NEW YORK



Call in a little spring with Kate Spade New York's Jeweled Camellia iPhone 7 and 8 case, and Jeweled Meadow iPhone X case. \$50 each, katespade.com

KATE SPADE NEW YORK



GETTY

Valentino's flower embroidered black velvet dress. valentino.com for stores.



GETTY

Dries Van Noten embellished floral silk crepe gown. driesvannoten.com for stores.



GETTY

Balenciaga watercolor floral print dress with black silk overlay. balenciaga.com for stores.



ZARA

Zara's borosilicate glass floral stem shot glass adds a touch of spring to your table. \$5.90, zarahome.com



ETSY

Add romance to your room with Wallpapers 4 Beginners handmade floral wallpaper. \$41.46 a roll, etsy.com



ETHAN ALLEN

Kick back in style in Ethan Allen's Clara wing chair. \$1,918, Ethan Allen and ethanallen.com

Jessica Moazami is a freelance stylist.

COMMENTARY

Why I gave up on 'flattering' clothing

BY ALISON GARY
The Washington Post

"What the heck are these?" my husband asked, pulling a piece of clothing from the laundry hamper to toss into the washing machine. "Did you cut up a pair of my jeans?"

In his hands was something I swore I'd never, ever wear. Something that as recently as this spring I instructed one of my blog's readers to remove from her closet because it was so offensive: a pair of high-waisted, cropped, wide-leg jeans. Vintage-inspired fade, frayed hem, button fly: a mix between mom jeans and culottes.

How did I get here? I have spent my entire life and career meticulously cultivating a look that would elongate, slim, flatter. This garment was the antithesis of all that I have preached and practiced for years.

I've had a passion for fashion since I was very young. My mother would scold me for using a whole box of Kleenex and a roll of tape to create dresses for my Barbie dolls. In high school, I was known for my quirky and inventive looks; after college, I got a job in apparel. When I switched to corporate America, I created a fashion advice blog. I read all the books, was a "What Not to Wear" devotee, and totally drank the fashion rules Kool-Aid. There were certain things you should and shouldn't wear to flatter your figure. To flatter meant to create an hourglass shape: Whittle that waist and lengthen those legs.

Not an easy feat for a

5-foot-3 curvy young woman. I wore columns of dark color; I obsessed over hemlines to have them at that perfect point to make my leg look long and lean; I invested in many wide elastic belts, which were worn just below the rib cage to not only make my legs look longer, but to give the appearance that I had a smaller waist. I had a whole drawerful of Spanx and another of pushup bras, and every pair of shoes I owned had at least a 3-inch heel. I don't want to admit how many wrap dresses I've purchased over the past decade, and all of them would be in colors appropriate for a "Winter," a la "Color Me Beautiful," the famous guide to which colors should be worn by which women according to their complexions. If an item didn't "flatter," it didn't enter my closet.

When I turned 40, I started to slowly question my choices, easing up on some of those hard-and-fast rules. I worked so hard and for so long to fit my shape into the ideal of my Barbies in their Scotch tape-cinched Kleenex dresses. I was exhausted.

So I broke the rules.

It started with an orange sweater that caught my eye in a Gap store window. I went in hoping to find it in a color more fitting for a "Winter," but all they had was the sunny shade. I tried on the orange and ended up purchasing it. I loved the color, and I smiled each time I pulled it out of the drawer and over my head. I was surprised how easily it fit into my wardrobe, complementing my dark denim and providing lively con-

trast with my cool red lipstick. What's funny is I got more compliments wearing it than any cobalt blue or emerald green piece in my closet.

I moved on to horizontal stripes, something I was told I couldn't wear because I have a large bust. The thing is, I had the same size chest whether it was covered in solid black or Breton stripes. I started with one top from J. Crew, and now I have more than a dozen that are regularly worn and loved. I wear stripes so much, I think if a cartoon character was made to represent me she'd be wearing a navy and white striped T-shirt.

Some rules I broke out of necessity. After I gave birth to my daughter, I developed plantar fasciitis and couldn't wear heels. I tried. Lord, I tried. It went away and I went back to heels — and then developed a fallen arch. I have now embraced my collection of Birkenstocks, brogues, flats and funky sneakers.

Some rules were easy to break once I got the hang of fashion rule breaking. Into my closet came chunky sweaters, overalls, midi skirts and plenty of big, bold prints. It was liberating to wear clothing that was fun and for me, not to fit an ideal. But some rules took longer to break. I was happy and feeling free in any color, bold stripes and flat shoes, but I just could not get on board with the latest trend of wide-leg cropped jeans and pants. The difference? Stripes, flats and an outside-the-box color weren't ... ugly. And I really found this trend ugly. There's nothing



ALISON GARY/PROVIDED TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The author, enjoying cropped, wide-legged jeans, a supposed no-no for short women.

that will make this short squat body look even more short and squat. It's why I advised my blog reader to ditch her pair. I couldn't do ugly. Or could I? It wouldn't hurt to try ...

And now I sit here in wide-leg cropped jeans writing this piece. I saw the trend so much in my Instagram feed that it wore me down. I own three pairs of cropped wide-leg pants and wear them all the time. I wear them with heeled boots, with flats, with Birkenstocks, with my Nikes. And yep, my beloved new jeans do look an awful lot like a pair of his jorts,

but I don't care. I'm dressing for me and it makes me happy.

When I wrongly recommended that woman give up her jeans, I did give some good advice: "... we are square pegs and a lot of fashion is round holes. We try to shove ourselves into those round holes with compression garments, uncomfortable shoes, and over-shopping thinking there's that perfect something that will make us suddenly chic. Style comes from within you, not within your closet. You are fabulous just the way you are. You deserve clothing that

doesn't require so much effort and so little payback."

The older I get, the better a relationship I have with my body. I want to pamper it for how well it's supported me all these years. Now I am finally taking my own advice and recognizing that I look best when I enjoy what I'm wearing. Sometimes that's a dress that whittles my waist or a shoe that makes my legs look amazing — and sometimes it's a piece that breaks all the rules.

Alison Gary is the editor of the style blog [Wardrobe Oxygen](#).



CRATE & BARREL

Crate & Barrel's porcelain Logan collection is an obsession for Michel Smith Boyd, an interior designer in Atlanta. For daily use, he says, sturdiness is a key consideration.



WILLIAMS-SONOMA

Apilco's Tuileries dishes will "last a lifetime," says Katie Jacobs, an entertaining expert from Nashville, Tenn. "They'll never scratch. They're restaurant-grade."



WEST ELM

West Elm's textured dinnerware is a staple for Nik Sharma, food blogger and columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. He loves color in his food, not in his dinnerware.

Tastemakers pick best white dishes

BY LINDSEY M. ROBERTS

The Washington Post

It's entertaining season, and maybe you're hosting Thanksgiving for the first time. Or maybe you're getting married and merging households. Whether planning a dinner or planning for the future, you're going to need dinnerware. And experts agree: Choose white china.

Interior designers, cookbook authors, food stylists and home design bloggers choose white dishes because of their timelessness and versatility.

"White is the perfect option because it always looks fresh, and it's so easy to add to or update, or keep it fancy or make it everyday, because you can go every direction and it's never off-putting to anyone," says Michel Smith Boyd, an interior designer in Atlanta

and one of this year's style spotters for High Point Market, a home furnishings and design event. "You can add personality with bread plates, glasses, a charger. If you have a basic set of white, it will take you so far."

Just as there are many shades of white, there are also many different types of white dinnerware, so we asked tastemakers for their advice and recommendations.

"I'm obsessed," says Boyd about Crate & Barrel's stackable porcelain Logan bowls (\$44.95 for eight, www.crateandbarrel.com). "What I look for more than anything for daily use is something sturdy that will mix with what I already own. These bowls stack, with an almost-3-inch rim. ... They're kind of contemporary." Pieces of the Logan collec-

tion are sold individually or in sets of eight (eight dinner plates, for example), and eight four-piece place settings would run \$179.80. To set a trendy table this season, Boyd says to think about white dinnerware mixed with two other elements: Muted neutral pottery and wooden serving spoons or, if you lean modern, black cloth napkins and accent dishes in a primary color.

Nik Sharma, food blogger and columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and author of the cookbook "Season: Big Flavors, Beautiful Food," loves color in his food, not in his dinnerware. "I like color, especially in vegetables and salads. Sometimes ingredients like balsamic vinegar are so dark, and then when you put them on a dark plate, you can't see them. I like to see them," he says.

He likes a warmer white for entertaining and uses the stoneware textured dinnerware set from West Elm often (\$129 for four place settings of dinner plates, salad plates, bowls and mugs, www.westelm.com). Each type of dish from the set is also sold in sets of four; dip bowls are also available.

To Myquillyn Smith, advocate for "cozy minimalism," white is the obvious choice for dishware. It can be dressed down for everyday use and dressed up for dinner parties, just like a great pair of jeans. "I want a simplified collection of dishes that stack easily, look great together and take a beating from our family," she says, recommending the Avesta stoneware from Project 62 (\$19.99 for four three-piece place settings of dinner plates, salad plates and

bowls, www.target.com). As the North Carolina blogger writes in her new book, "Cozy Minimalist Home: More Style, Less Stuff;" "the home exists to serve the people and not the other way around."

Apilco's Tuileries dishes will "last a lifetime," says Katie Jacobs, an entertaining expert from Nashville, Tenn., and author of "So Much to Celebrate: Entertaining the Ones You Love the Whole Year."

"They'll never scratch. They're restaurant-grade." (\$383.80 for four place settings of dinner plates, salad plates, soup plates, cups and saucers, www.williams-sonoma.com).

For holidays, she'd pair them with a paper tablecloth, a big bowl of Christmas ornaments and a place card, "an additional touch that makes your guest feel

special." Some pieces are also sold individually and in sets of four.

Newlyweds Elyse Maguire and her husband had a shortlist when they registered for china: It must be dishwasher-safe, slightly edgy and fancy enough for dinner parties. Together they agreed on Spin Ceramics' reinforced white bone china in the Free Loop pattern (\$135 for one dinner plate, one salad plate, one soup bowl, one cup and one saucer, www.spinceramics.com). "They are very simple but have an organic, asymmetrical design," says Maguire, the Parsons School of Design graduate and textile designer who founded a knitwear company on Cape Cod. "They make an elegant place setting for dinner parties but they're still practical enough to use every day."

Actress shares untapped places

BY JAE-HA KIM
Tribune Content Agency

Born and raised in Mexico, actress Martha Higareda (“Altered Carbon,” “No Manches Frida”) currently is based out of Marina del Rey, Calif., though she notes, “I live (out of) a suitcase most of the time.”

When she’s at home, she enjoys taking weekend getaways to Napa, for food and wine. “But since I love adventure too, I love jumping on a plane and going to Bryce Canyon or Zion in Utah,” she says.

An edited version of our conversation follows.

Q. Where have your travels taken you?

A. So many places. It’s always fascinating to me to be in a different part of the planet. We were promoting “Altered Carbon” (in Seoul, South Korea) and it was so different than any other city I’ve ever been in. The high-rises are incredible. Imagine New York, but multiply it by 10, but with no ads and wide streets, very clean and organized. And in between this massive modern city rests these beautiful palaces, like Gyeongbok, which literally transports you in time.

Q. What is your favorite vacation destination?

A. That is probably one of the hardest questions someone could ask me, as I love traveling so much to many different places. I love Tulum, Mexico, for the beaches, the ruins, the people and the food. It’s a good combo between relaxing on the white sand beach, eating the best seafood and exploring the Mayan ruins and cenotes. It really is paradise on Earth. The contrast between the ruins and the bright blue ocean can bring tears to your eyes. Then also going to the cenotes, they are sacred places for the Mayans, with crystalline water caves with tree roots growing from above to touch the water. You feel a bit like Indiana Jones while you’re there. For adventurous activities, I love Hawaii, the Big Island. You can dive at night with the giant manta rays or take a helicopter ride to watch the glowing lava of Kilauea.

Q. What untapped destination should people know about?

A. In my country? Taxco. It’s a little town nestled in the middle of the mountains, with cobblestone streets and amazing food. When you arrive there, it feels like time stopped for a while. Get lost in the local markets and buy amazing silver. If we talk about a different country, I’d say Sapa in Vietnam. You take a



ASHLEY BARRETT PHOTO

night train to the mountains. The adventure starts on a night train and then you arrive to this magical town nestled in the mountains and the clouds, where miles and miles of rice fields are planted, and definitely Bagan in Myanmar. If you are the Indiana Jones type, this is the place. You hop on your electric scooter with a map and water, and off you go to explore the temples with secret passages. It’s truly a wonder!

Q. What was the first trip you took as a child?

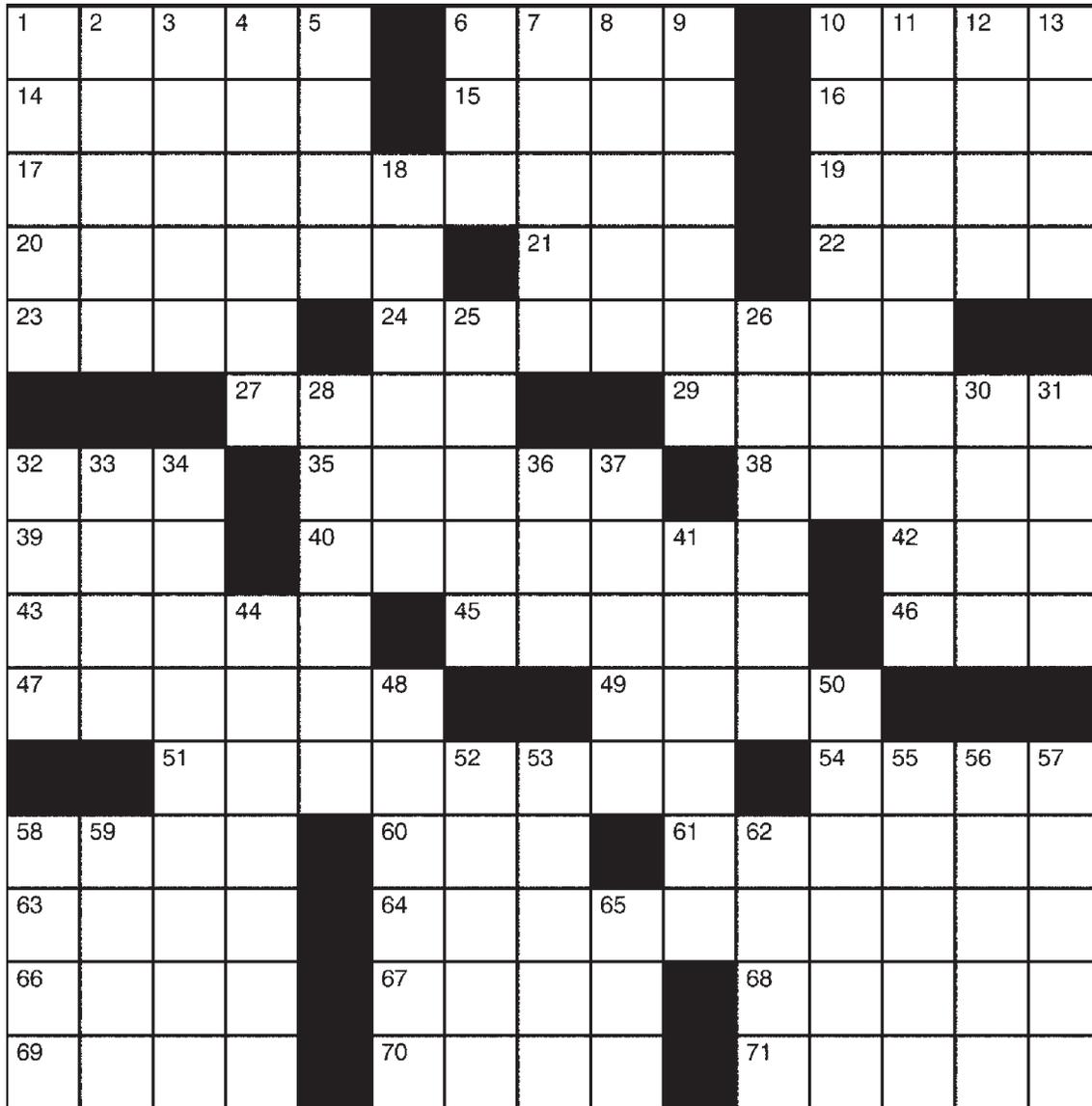
A. As a child we took many trips, but the one I remembered the most was Disneyland, and I loved it for obvious reasons.

Q. What’s the most important thing you’ve learned from your travels?

A. Plan for it and then forget the plan. You gotta be ready to improvise and just go with the flow. I took a trip to Thailand and we were staying in a beautiful five-star hotel, and one night we said, “Let’s just improvise!” and we ended up sleeping aboard a boat, watching the stars in the middle of the night and swimming with the glowing plankton. I don’t think that would’ve happened if we’d stayed at our fancy hotel, not that I don’t like fancy.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.

Contact



ACROSS

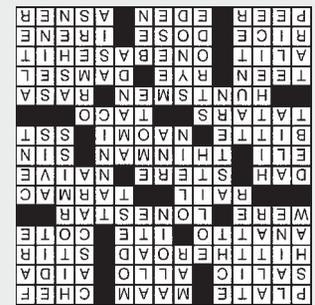
- 1. Blue-__ special
- 6. Term of address
- 10. Cook
- 14. Pertaining to the Franks
- 15. Variation: prefix
- 16. Verdi heroine
- 17. Leave
- 19. Recipe directive
- 20. Reddish-yellow dye
- 21. After Brooklyn or Israel
- 22. Dove shelter
- 23. The Way We __
- 24. __ State
- 27. Sora
- 29. Airport runway
- 32. Morse code dash
- 35. Cubic meter
- 38. Without guile
- 39. Actor Wallach
- 40. Hammet yarn, with The
- 42. Err
- 43. Please, to a Prussian
- 45. Ruth's in-law
- 46. Kennedy sight
- 47. Part of the Golden Horde
- 49. Cantina offering
- 51. Jagers
- 54. Tabula __
- 58. Adolescent
- 60. Cereal grass
- 61. Maiden
- 63. Dismounted
- 64. Single

- 66. Elmer or Donna
- 67. Quantity
- 68. Dunne or Cara
- 69. Look
- 70. Idyllic locale
- 71. TV's Mr. Grant

DOWN

- 1. Exclamation of disgust
- 2. Cleo or Frankie
- 3. Chantry
- 4. Giggle
- 5. Genuine: Ger.
- 6. Deface
- 7. Aloe derivative
- 8. Winged
- 9. Demure
- 10. Buckthorn
- 11. Haphazard
- 12. Redact
- 13. Food
- 18. Stone-Age tool
- 25. Liquid glyceride
- 26. __ acid
- 28. Abaft
- 30. Rara __
- 31. Copper
- 32. IOU, for one
- 33. Inter __
- 34. 1943 Abbott and Costello movie
- 36. Cell material, for short
- 37. Ham it up
- 41. Actress Blake
- 44. Giber
- 48. Walked
- 50. Abalones
- 52. Council
- 53. Reagan Cabinet member
- 55. Pallid
- 56. Trawl
- 57. Transform
- 58. Painter's cover-up, briefly
- 59. Nobelist Wiesel
- 62. Sikkim's continent
- 65. Artist Shahn

SOLUTION



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**Cheesy Cranberry
Pull-Apart Bread, p. 3**

**8 Things You
Didn't Know
About *Elf*, p. 10**



CLUELESS!

Behind the scenes of *Holmes & Watson* with bumbling sleuths
JOHN C. REILLY and **WILL FERRELL**

Personality Parade

Walter Scott Asks

Felicity Jones

The *Rogue One* star, 35, portrays U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in ***On the Basis of Sex*** (in theaters Dec. 25). Inspired by RBC's early life as a struggling attorney, the movie details her first groundbreaking case for gender equality and her romance with husband Marty (Armie Hammer).

Is there a theme to the film beyond gender equality? Yes—unity, everyone working together and creating a better society. Ruth was fighting for equality for women and also equality for men, because men were also being limited by gender stereotypes.

What was it like when you first met her? I was absolutely in awe. I felt like I wanted to curtsy or make a little bow. She cares deeply about the future of America; that came across instantly.

Your next movie is *The Aeronauts*, which is also based on a real-life story. The character is inspired by Sophie Blanchard, an extraordinary aeronaut. She was one of the first women to fly solo in a balloon. She



was a fantastic character who set fireworks off from the basket. She's an inspiration for Amelia Wren, the character I play.

What are you passionate about besides acting? I love home life. I love cooking, but I'm not particularly great at it. My family on my father's side are Italian. So it's a big part of our family culture to get a big group together and eat a load of lovely Italian food.



You Won't Recognize Nicole Kidman

Kidman gets down to the nitty gritty in ***Destroyer*** (in theaters Dec. 25) as Erin Bell, an on-the-skids LAPD detective haunted by secrets. And it shows: The glamorous, Oscar-winning actress, 51, is almost unrecognizable. "Erin is scarred and damaged by her own choices and also by the cards she had been dealt," Kidman says. "I wanted it to be real and accurate."



Christian Bale Plays Dick Cheney

Bale, 44, gained weight and shaved his hairline to morph into Cheney for ***Vice*** (in theaters Dec. 25). The film follows Cheney's transition from D.C. insider to the vice presidency under George W. Bush (Sam Rockwell). Bale's already getting Oscar buzz for his performance in the star-packed film, which also features Steve Carell, Tyler Perry and Amy Adams.



What's her favorite holiday movie? Go to Parade.com/jones to find out.

HO HO HO!

Christmas is coming, and so is Santa! Who was your favorite Hollywood star to play jolly ol' St. Nick?

Edmund Gwenn, *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)

Dan Aykroyd, *Trading Places* (1983)

Tim Allen, *The Santa Clause* (1994)

Jim Belushi, *Jingle All the Way* (1996)

Richard Attenborough, *Miracle on 34th Street* (1994)

Chevy Chase, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)

Ed Asner, *Elf* (2003)

Tom Hanks, *The Polar Express* (2004)

Jim Carrey, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000)

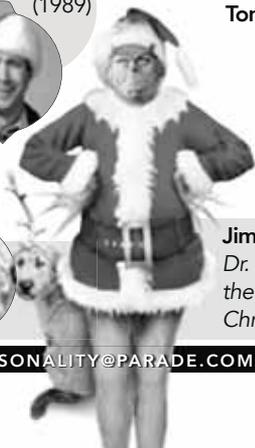
Ben Affleck, *Reindeer Games* (2000)

Paul Giamatti, *Fred Claus* (2007)

John Goodman, *The Year Without a Santa Claus* (2006)

Patton Oswalt, *A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas* (2011)

Kurt Russell, *The Christmas Chronicles* (2018)



What America Eats

TWIST



Savory-Sweet MONKEY BREAD

This cheesy and easy treat is just the thing for a holiday party, or as part of brunch on Christmas or New Year's Day. It's from the new cookbook *Tasty Ultimate* (by the folks behind all those Facebook food videos).

CRANBERRY AND BRIE HOLIDAY PULL-APART BREAD

Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat a 10-cup Bundt pan with cooking spray. Cut 1 lb rind-on Brie into 1-inch cubes. Open 2 (16-oz) cans refrigerated biscuit dough; separate into individual biscuits. Tear each biscuit in half. Flatten a piece of torn dough in your palm; place 1 cube Brie in center. Pinch dough around cheese to enclose; roll into a small ball. Repeat with remaining dough and Brie. Coarsely chop fresh thyme and rosemary to equal 1 tsp each. Open 1 (14-oz) can whole-berry cranberry sauce.

Arrange a layer of cheese-filled dough balls in bottom of prepared pan, spacing them evenly. Sprinkle with one-third of thyme and one-third of rosemary; top with one-third of cranberry sauce. Repeat with remaining ingredients, finishing with cranberry sauce. Bake 40 minutes or until dough is golden brown and sauce is bubbling on top. Transfer to a wire rack; cool 10 minutes. Invert onto a serving plate; serve warm. **Serves 8-12.**

DECEMBER 23, 2018 | 3



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WILL FERRELL and JOHN C. REILLY put a comedic spin on the iconic Victorian super-sleuth and his trusty assistant in *Holmes & Watson*.

By Mara Reinstein

a crime has been committed in Buckingham Palace. Whodunnit? Fear not, Sherlock Holmes and his trusty assistant Dr. Watson are on the case!

In *Holmes & Watson* (in theaters Dec. 25), Will Ferrell, 51, stars as the legendary sleuth, and his real-world sidekick John C. Reilly, 53, plays his No. 2.

Yep, the same duo that delivered belly laughs in *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* and *Step Brothers* is taking on the stuffy Victorian era, and fans of the Ferrell and Reilly tag team will get a healthy dose of their patented physical and endearingly imbecilic humor. "This does feel like a continuation of our other movies," Reilly says, adding that he and Ferrell have a "real comedic kinship."

■ Comedy Comrades

The son of a teacher and a professional musician who toured with the Righteous Brothers, Ferrell hatched his comedy style back in elementary school in Irvine, Calif. "I learned that if you kicked the door and snapped your head back at the same time, it looked like you smacked into the door," he recalls. "I tried it, and it got rave reviews." After

graduation from the University of Southern California, he went into comedy full-time and joined the L.A. improvisational troupe the Groundlings in 1994.

Just one year later, a *Saturday Night Live* producer watched his act and encouraged him to try out for the iconic sketch show. For seven seasons between 1995 and 2002, he was a standout with impressions of President George W. Bush, *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek and baseball announcer Harry Caray. He transitioned easily to the big screen in hit comedies such as *Elf* (2003), *Old School* (2003) and *Daddy's Home* (2015).

Reilly, meanwhile, grew up in working-class Chicago, where his dad ran an industrial linen supply company. His first audience: his five siblings. "I didn't know anyone in show business when I was a kid and never dreamed that's what I would do as a living," he says. After graduating from DePaul University in Chicago, he was hired as an extra in the 1989 drama *Casualties of War*, where he met his wife, producer Alison Dickey, on the set; they now have two college-age sons. Meatier roles in many other films soon followed, including *Boogie Nights*, *The River Wild*, *Magnolia*, *Gangs of New York* and *Kong: Skull Island*.

Ferrell and Reilly met in 1999 and became almost instant friends. But it wasn't until 2006 that they first collaborated onscreen, in the NASCAR spoof *Talladega Nights*. Two years later, in *Step Brothers*, they caused hijinks as bickering blended-family rivals who become best buds. The two stars have also stayed close



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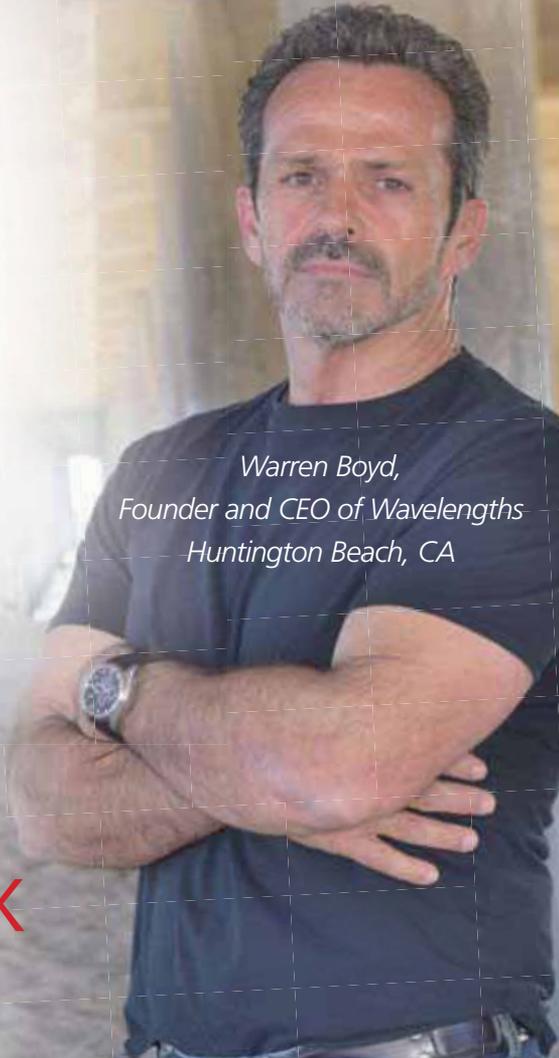
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over the years, as Ferrell notes that Reilly and Dickey are regulars at his family's annual Swedish Christmas party.

■ Sherlock Rocks

For *Holmes & Watson* to stay true to Sherlock's roots, they shot on location in London—a first for Ferrell, who had never filmed outside the United States or Canada. Working on the set—with co-stars Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall, Kelly Macdonald and Steve

Coogan—they were intent on adhering to the essence of their characters, down to reciting some of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's original prose. "I didn't want to change the language," Ferrell says. "I memorized a lot of long passages. At times, it was limiting because it hampered my improv brain."

Both actors insist, however, that *Holmes & Watson* is not a slapstick, Victorian-era *Step Brothers*. "This is not a case of two lost souls combining their strange superpowers to do nothing," Ferrell explains. "Sherlock has this superhuman ability to decipher all this information in a way that will always be forever cool." Beat. "And his hat is pretty awesome."

■ Funny Matters

In conversation, Ferrell and Reilly both circle back to the same topic: the wondrous joy of making people laugh. "I have a special affection for comedies," Reilly says. "I always get asked, 'Do people come up to you [and ask you] about *Step Brothers* all the time?' And I say, 'Only when I'm in public.' They appreciate it. It's not lost on me."

Ferrell admits that he still has pinch-me moments about his comedy career. "Up until seven or eight years ago, my

wife and I still joked that if it all fell apart, what could we possibly do? Maybe open a business of kenneling dogs or be UPS drivers. We finally stopped thinking of plan Bs."

Ferrell and his wife, art auctioneer and actress Viveca Paulin, who wed in 2000, have three boys—Magnus, 14; Mattias, 11; and Axel, 8—and he proudly says they all have inherited his funny bone. His oldest, a high school freshman, recently posed for his class photo wearing his friend's eyeglasses and a serious expression. "He asked me if he was in trouble and I told him, 'Magnus, that is totally my sense of humor.'" Still, his sons don't necessarily huddle around the TV this time of year to catch his Christmas comedy classic *Elf* (see "Everyone's Favorite Elf," page 10). "We've never forced them to watch my stuff," he says. "My sixth-grader just got into *Saturday Night Live*, so he's been watching a few things on YouTube and asking me about it."

The key to making people laugh? "You have to get over any kind of shame—and it's an unnatural thing for us to do as human beings," Ferrell says. "My kids are like, 'Dad, how did you do that? Isn't that embarrassing?' You do look stupid but you have to have fun."

And when you do, the rewards are priceless. "The whole point of making movies and being actors is to move people and have stuff resonate," Reilly says. "That gratitude that people have when you give them laughter is different than the gratitude people have for an action movie or a dramatic movie.

"There's something special about alleviating people's suffering with laughter."

As Sherlock would say, that's elementary, my dear Watson.

Super Sherlocks

Do you remember these other actors' takes on Holmes?

Basil Rathbone The 1986 Disney movie *The Great Mouse Detective* featured the voice of the iconic British actor as Holmes—even though he hadn't played him since the 1950s and had been dead for nearly 20 years!

Christopher Lee In *Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace* (1962), Lee's sleuth fights Professor Moriarty for a jewel from Cleopatra's tomb.



Christopher Plummer Sherlock versus Jack the Ripper? Yes, please—in *Murder by Decree* (1979).

Peter O'Toole Ever prolific, he was Sherlock onstage, voiced him in cartoons and played author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in a 1997 film.



Jeremy Brett He played Sherlock on multiple BBC miniseries between 1984 and 1994.

Jonny Lee Miller *Elementary*, my dear! He's been Sherlock—a modern-day workaholic NYPD adviser and case buster—on the CBS drama since 2012.

Benedict Cumberbatch He won a 2014 Emmy award for his portrayal as the brilliant Scotland Yard consultant in the hit contemporary-set BBC series *Sherlock*.



Ian McKellen In the 2015 mystery *Mr. Holmes*, McKellen's detective is retired and losing his memory. But he still manages to outsmart 'em all.

Johnny Depp He provided the voice of the titular character in the 2018 animated hit *Sherlock Gnomes*. Of course he solved the case of the missing London garden gnomes.



Robert Downey Jr. The American movie star was a punch-throwing quipster in two action-packed *Sherlock Holmes* films. The third installment is due in 2020.



Everyone's Favorite

ELF

By Neil Pond

Since its release in 2003, *Elf*—in which Will Ferrell played Buddy, a man raised as an elf at the North Pole—has become a ho-ho-holiday TV-movie staple. Here are some fun facts about the evergreen Christmas comedy, which also starred James Caan, Bob Newhart, Ed Asner (as Santa!), Mary Steenburgen and Zoey Deschanel.

■ Ferrell suffered from sugar-induced headaches throughout the filming due to Buddy the Elf's preferred diet of candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup.



■ Peter Billingsley—who famously starred as a child in another Christmas-classic movie, *A Christmas Story*—appears briefly in the beginning of the movie as an elf named Ming Ming.

■ Director **Jon Favreau** appears as a doctor administering a paternity test to determine the true identity of Buddy's father (**James Caan**).



■ Leon Redbone provides the voice of Leon the Snowman and sings "Baby, It's Cold Out-

side" with Zoey Deschanel over the closing credits.

■ A scene with a Christmas tree too big for the living room is a nod to *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989), in which **Clark Griswold** (Chevy Chase) brings home an enormous tree that will barely fit into his house.



■ Buddy's 12-second belch was supplied by voice actor Maurice LaMarche, best known for his cartoon character the Brain from the Emmy-winning 1990s series *Pinky and the Brain*.

■ Filming a scene of Ferrell in his elf costume walking through traffic in Manhattan's Lincoln Tunnel distracted drivers and caused several fender benders.



■ When Buddy munches on big wads of cotton in the doctor's office, they're actually undyed tufts of cotton candy.

Go to Parade.com/elf to find out who was originally slated to star in the blockbuster film.

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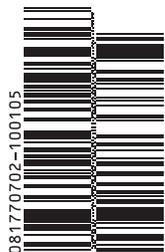
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Ask Marilyn

By Marilyn vos Savant

Say a man buys his wife a ring for \$60, then changes his mind and sells it for \$70, then changes his mind again and buys it back for \$80, then changes his mind again and sells it for \$90. What is his profit, if any?

—Stephen Schultz,
Middle River, Md.

For good mental exercise, solve this in your heads, readers. The answer appears at the end of the column.

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Answer:

His profit is \$20. Say the man has \$200 in his pocket, for example. He spends \$60 for the ring, which leaves him with \$140. Then he sells it for \$70, so he has \$210. Then he buys it back for \$80, leaving him with \$130. And then he sells it for \$90, so now he has \$220. That's \$20 more than he had when he started.

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