



UNSOLVED 75 SHOT, 4 CHARGED

'We're living amongst killers'



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Debra West lost her son, Kendall Brown, 26, in a shooting Aug. 5 in the 4800 block of South Wincheser Avenue in Chicago.

Mothers of the slain keep waiting for call from detectives even for cold cases

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
Chicago Tribune

The detective knows her voice right away.

"This is Debra West," she starts. "I know," he replies. "Hi, Miss West."

She has dialed a number to reach the detective over and over, each time hoping for good news from the man tasked with the investigating the death of her 26-year-old son, Kendall Brown.

On the August weekend he was killed, he was one of at least 75 people shot in the city's most violent weekend in more than two years. Brown is among hundreds

of people who have been killed in Chicago in recent years, with most of those cases going unsolved.

The detective's voice is pleasant and soothing on the phone. The two have never met, but West describes an easy rapport struck up over more than a dozen phone conversations since her son died early in the morning of Aug. 5.

He's been candid with her about the challenges the investigators face in bringing charges in her son's case.

Police believe they know who shot West's son, she told the Tribune, but a witness declined to point the finger at a suspect.

"There's no justice," West said,

breaking down into quiet tears.

It's a familiar story for many Chicago mothers who can feel powerless when investigators come close to solving their children's slayings but hit dead ends.

Yet they have come to play a unique — and effective — role in fighting Chicago's violence. They are often detectives' link to the community and a crucial advocate for young men society may not have sympathy for. As much as they may feel it, they are not powerless. They search Facebook to find leads, they speak to neighbors and they even seek out key

Turn to **Unsolved**, Page 4

BEARS 14, 49ERS 9



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

HOLIDAY SEIZIN'

Linebacker Danny Trevathan's fourth-quarter interception helped the Bears clinch the No. 3 playoff seed in the NFC with a 14-9 win over the 49ers on Sunday in Santa

Clara, Calif. To earn the No. 2 seed and a first-round bye, the Bears need to defeat the Vikings on Sunday and the Rams must lose to the 49ers. See more, **Chicago Sports**.

Trump announces Mattis' early ouster

Names former Boeing exec Patrick Shanahan acting defense secretary effective Jan. 1

By PHILIP RUCKER AND DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Sunday that he is removing Defense Secretary Jim Mattis two months before his planned departure and installing Patrick Shanahan as acting defense secretary.

Shanahan, a former Boeing executive who has been Mattis' deputy at the Pentagon, will assume the top job on an acting capacity on Jan. 1, Trump said.

The president made the decision in reaction to negative news coverage, according to senior administration officials, one of

whom said Trump was eager to retaliate against Mattis and show up the widely respected former general.

Unlike Mattis, Shanahan has not served in the military and has little foreign policy or government experience. Trump plans to conduct a wide-ranging search for a permanent replacement and is interested in candidates from outside the administration, one official said.

Mattis resigned in protest last week after Trump announced the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria over the strong objections of Mattis and others on the national security team. Brett McGurk, the top U.S. envoy to the



JABIN BOTSFORD/WASHINGTON POST

Patrick Shanahan, right, has not served in the military and has little foreign policy or government experience.

international coalition fighting the Islamic State militant group, also resigned in protest over Trump's Syria decision.

In his Thursday resignation letter, Mattis delivered a sharp rebuke of Trump's worldview and cast the president's foreign policy positions as a threat to the

Turn to **Mattis**, Page 8

N.C. chickenpox surge alerts Waldorf schools

At least 36 kids got sick; low vaccination rates under scrutiny

By ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Chicago Tribune

A chickenpox outbreak at a private Waldorf school in North Carolina has prompted concerns locally because some Chicago-area Waldorf schools also had low vaccination rates.

At the same time, the number of children statewide who are claiming religious objections to vaccinations has increased, despite newly tightened rules.

Three Chicago-area Waldorf schools, known for academic creativity and success, had high rates of vaccination waivers, creating a higher risk for communicable diseases, health officials say.

While experts generally recommend a minimum vaccination rate of 90 percent to reduce risks — a threshold met by the vast majority of Chicago-area schools — the local Waldorf schools were notably below that for the 2017-18 school year, according to state

figures, with Chicago Waldorf School at 78 percent, Urban Prairie Waldorf School in Chicago at 84 percent and Da Vinci Waldorf School in Wauconda at 73 percent.

The relatively low vaccination rates at the local Waldorf schools did not apply just to chickenpox but were common for other diseases as well, such as polio and measles. But local Waldorf school officials stress they do not discourage parents from having their children immunized and that they comply with state laws.

Statewide, out of almost 2.2 million students and nearly 5,000 schools, schools reported a protection rate of about 98 percent for polio, measles and chickenpox, but that left about 39,000 unvaccinated for polio and measles, and even more — 46,000 — unprotected against chickenpox.

Of the small number of schools that fell below the 90 percent threshold for the chickenpox vaccine, many were small, private religious institutions, but there also were some large public

Turn to **Waldorf**, Page 6

Tsunami death toll at least 281

At least 281 people were killed as waves smashed the islands of Java and Sumatra on Saturday. More than 1,000 were injured and dozens are missing. **Nation & World**, Page 7

Laughing gas for labor?

Nitrous oxide is making a comeback for use in childbirth, reviving an option offered decades ago that has waned in popularity as more women opted for epidurals. **Business**, Page 10



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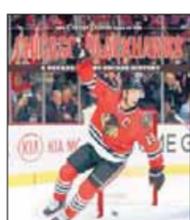
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THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS: 'A DECADE-BY-DECADE HISTORY'



The Blackhawks, one of the NHL's "Original Six," have been building a storied legacy since their founding in 1926. The Hawks have produced dozens of standout stars, from Hall of Fame goaltender Mike Karakas in the '30s to Bobby "The Golden Jet" Hull in the '60s to current team captain Jonathan Toews, who has led the team to a remarkable three championships since 2010. This comprehensive collection includes archival photos, original reporting, player profiles, timelines, statistics, and more—all curated by the Tribune's sports department from the newspaper's vast archives. Available at chicagotribune.com/hawkshistory, and wherever books are sold.

markable three championships since 2010. This comprehensive collection includes archival photos, original reporting, player profiles, timelines, statistics, and more—all curated by the Tribune's sports department from the newspaper's vast archives. Available at chicagotribune.com/hawkshistory, and wherever books are sold.

'THE BEST OF ROYKO'

For more than 30 years, Mike Royko was a part of the daily fabric of Chicagoans' lives, penning often humorous and always honest columns first for the Chicago Daily News, then the Sun-Times, and finally the Tribune. Culled from thousands of his Tribune columns and edited by his son David Royko, this collection offers up his best material from the last stage in his career, which was cut short by his premature death in 1997. Available at chicagotribune.com/printbooks.

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

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MARGARET HOLT, standards editor

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JOHN KASS

Oh, Holy Night

For all the children who should be loved always, but especially on this wondrous night, with our arms around them and a long goodnight kiss on the temple, a kiss more precious than anything wrapped in a box.

And for all the parents standing quietly in the doorways of the bedrooms, watching those small, sleeping shapes.

For all the babies who aren't loved and may grow up with hard crust around their hearts, because someone didn't plant those kisses and give those hugs.

For every couple who adopt a child to save a life. And for every young woman who has given up her child for adoption to save that life inside of her.

For couples who try to have children yet are unable. For those who've lost their children. For the children who've lost their moms and dads.

And for those crazy uncles who'll drink too much tonight, and dance and tell wacky jokes, and then sneak outside to put on that red suit in the cold and pound on a door to surprise the kids.

For the wise aunts who makes sure the coffee is strong, to help those crazy uncles sober up.

For all the men and women in all choirs of the world who've practiced for weeks on weeknights in cold, empty churches.

Because tonight is their night, too, the night they've been waiting for, to lift us with song.

And for their beautiful voices that invite us to humble ourselves, as we ask for help in scraping away any bitterness that has taken root over the year.

For all the good friends and relatives who don't wait for a special night to begin building a family. All year they've been building the family, with their love and time.

They show up on some Thursday afternoon in June, or on a cool morning in November, dropping by just to see if you're OK. And you feel peace at their approach.

So, tonight is for them, and tomorrow, too, because they are family, by friendship, by blood, and by the acts of family.

For all who are far away and can't make it home.

And for those who are near yet distant in so many other ways. They fear they've locked the door behind them, and that at the eleventh hour they worry, hopeless about ever returning home.

But tonight is the night of new hope in the world.

And the door is always open. Just reach for it and see.

For the quiet, shy ones at work who aren't part of the ruling clique yet who would stun you with their grace and talent if they were given a chance.

And for the old guys at the end of the bar nursing drinks, half-watching the TV, men alone and grateful for a warm place to sit, where they can hear the sound of stray laughter.

For the old women alone in their rooms, awake in their beds, staring at the ceiling, remembering such nights past and the laughter of children, when there was so much to do and a house of hungry guests to feed.



JOHN AUSTAD/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 1953

For the parents who are overwhelmed, out of work or underemployed, good people stressed over paying their bills yet who refuse to let their children see their fear.

And for their children, who pretend not to have seen.

For those who've received that call from the doctor, and knew bad news was coming, even before they heard the words.

And for everyone on the night shift tonight, and those who must work tomorrow, and all first responders. For their families, waiting for them to come home.

For everyone in a hospital tonight, praying for dignity and relief, and an end without shame or suffering. For the physicians who care for them.

For the nurses who enter the quiet rooms, pull up a chair and hear quiet confessions.

For the clergy members who have struggled with faith yet find it again and are renewed.

And for every sailor at sea tonight, on watch, staring into cold, black water, remembering brightly lit rooms.

For the members of the U.S. armed forces who protect us with their lives. For the members of the U.S. Foreign Service and intelligence services who work alone in bleak, unknown places, dealing with liars in the shadows, risking themselves for us and our

nation. For America and our people, who never, ever quit.

For the souls lost in the fires, in the hurricanes and from violence on the streets of our great cities.

For Madison, the Anatolian shepherd dog from Paradise, Calif. After the fires, the dog, ever faithful, stayed out there for weeks, alone, guarding what was left of his family's home.

To all whom I've hurt with needless and strident words on my worst days. I'm sorry. And for those of you who visit this column four times a week, Betty and the boys and I can't thank you enough.

For everyone who keeps hold on what is important about this very special night:

It is the message brought to us by that perfect child, born in a manger in Bethlehem so very long ago. He came to light the world.

He is the gift. And it is all about love. And I hope it comes to you, and comforts you, and remains.

Merry Christmas.

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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGOLAND

Why don't more women bike here?

Riding on Chicago streets can be scary, even insiders agree



MARY WISNIEWSKI
Getting Around

Rachell Wallace is a bike messenger who is on Divvy year-round, for both work and fun.

But she does not see a lot of other women out there, and she wishes that would change. Wallace said more women could improve the culture of biking, which sometimes involves hostility between cyclists and motorists.

"I don't see women bicyclists kicking the door of the car that cut them off — at least not as often as you'd see with male cyclists," said Wallace, 32, of Woodlawn. She also thinks seeing more women biking could cause drivers to be more considerate.

In Chicago, bicycling is increasing in popularity, but the activity remains dominated by men. The 2017 U.S. Census American Community Survey found that among Chicago bike commuters, about 30 percent are women. This percentage has actually fallen slightly in the last 10 years, even though biking has become more popular.

Nationally, 28 percent of bike commuters are women, so Chicago is a bit above average. However, it is below some other bike-friendly cities. In Portland, Ore., for example, women represent 35 percent of bike commuters, the census found.

"A lot of cities are doing a lot better," said Taylor Rojek, who edited the "Best Bike Cities" edition of *Bicycling* magazine. The magazine, which put Chicago first in 2016, ranked the Windy City sixth this year, in part because of the low number of women riding.

Rojek and cycling advocates cited a number of possible reasons that fewer women ride.

A big factor appears to be infrastructure — women, and riders of various ages, are more likely to ride in lanes protected from traffic.

"Where they have high-quality, low-stress networks, you see a parity



Tekeyia Harper, 22, uses Divvy bike sharing to commute from her Englewood home to her United Center job. "When I ride, it frees my mind," she said.

CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

between men and women biking," said Jim Merrell, director of advocacy for the Active Transportation Alliance, which advocates for walking, biking and transit. Merrell pointed to Northern Europe as an example.

Wallace said some women may be afraid of riding a bike in traffic. She was, at first.

"I had to force myself to learn how to ride in the streets and not be afraid of cars," she said. She was motivated by the fact that she could make more money as a messenger on a bike than with a car. Better health was also a benefit — she has lost 71 pounds since she started riding daily last April.

Elizabeth Adamczyk, the chair of Women Bike Chicago, a group that works to empower female bikers, agreed that some women may be more risk-averse than men.

"I've had co-workers who only bike on the lakefront path because that's where they feel comfortable," said Adamczyk.

Harassment, physical and verbal, is also a problem. This past September, a

woman cyclist was groped by a man on a motorcycle at a stop light in West Town. The motorcyclist, who also punched the woman's husband, was later arrested.

Another issue that keeps women from bike commuting may be that women feel more pressure to look professional when they arrive at their destinations, Adamczyk said.

"Helmets and hair don't get along really well," said Adamczyk.

Working women with children also tend to have more of a mix of commuting duties than men. In addition to going to work, they may pick up and drop off kids from day care and then shop for groceries. It is hard to do all that on a bike.

"Women are still often in the position where they have to do more errands, and they're forced to rely on a car to do all these trips," said Merrell.

Despite these obstacles, Adamczyk sees more women biking. She said having more protected lanes helps, as do employers who provide showers and well-lit, indoor facilities for storing bikes. She said women feel

more vulnerable having to store their bikes outside, "especially when there are so many hours of darkness."

Also helping is the growing use of electric-assist bikes, which were popular during the recent dockless bike sharing program conducted on the city's South Side.

"It's not cheating!" said Adamczyk, dismissing a complaint heard about electric-assist bikes. "We don't have the hills in Chicago, but we do have the winds, and it's hard if you're schlepping kids." She said electric-assist bikes also help cyclists who do not want to sweat as much, and those who are aging or have disabilities.

Bike sharing programs also are popular with women, who represent more than 35 percent of Divvy users, up from 27 percent in 2013, when the service started. Adamczyk said one reason for this is that the bikes don't require maintenance. "They don't have to go to a bike shop and worry about it," she said.

Bike shops tend to be run by white men and can be a bit intimidating, said Lynda Lopez, 27, of Little Village,

who writes part time for the Streetsblog news site.

"I rarely feel that I'm not being looked down upon," said Lopez.

Lopez said the bike community in general tends to be white and male-dominated, which can put off women and, particularly, women of color.

"The more you see people like yourself, the more it seems like an accessible activity," Lopez said.

Tekeyia Harper, 22, who is African-American, rides every day in all weather, commuting from her home in Englewood to work at the United Center. She said she gets pushback from friends who say it's not safe, but she finds riding therapeutic.

"When I ride, it frees my mind. It's just the best thing in the world for me," Harper said. "The city is so beautiful — I love it."

She said she would tell women who want to ride, "Just try it — don't limit yourself."

Wallace, who is also black, says she tries to encourage friends to ride. A male friend had encouraged her, giving her the push she needed. She said

biking has given her confidence about other things in her life.

"When I'm riding, I feel limitless," Wallace said. She said other women who want to try riding have to face their fears and get out there.

"The best things in life are on the other side of fear," she said, paraphrasing actor Will Smith. "There's nothing to fear, once you get there. It's all beautiful."

Transportation song quiz

■ Last week's song was about a paradise for weary travelers. Among its features are blind railway police. The song is "Big Rock Candy Mountain." Chuck Cercone, of Morton Grove, was first with the right answer.

■ This week's song is about a type of customized car. Want more cowbell? You got it. What's the song, and who originally recorded it? The first person to email or Tweet me the correct answer gets a Tribune bookmark, and glory.

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Dolls part of powerful lesson for 2 young girls



DAHLEEN GLANTON

This Christmas, I wanted to give myself a different kind of present, one that could help me navigate the treacherous twists and turns the new year often brings. So I decided to look at the world through the eyes of two little girls.

As my Christmas gift to you, I'm inviting you to come along with me.

The girls don't know each other, but I have met them both. Lily, 7, is the daughter of a former co-worker. Willa, nearly 4, is the granddaughter of another.

When Lily and Willa look at people, they just see people. They don't judge them based on the part of town they live in, or whether they live in a home headed by a single mom or one with a mom and a dad. Two moms or two dads, either, for that matter.

They don't grumble when the bus is delayed while someone in a wheelchair boards. They don't get irritated when someone speaks a dialect that is hard

to understand.

They are like most children. Their youthful innocence allows them to grant each person equal standing.

So when Lily and Willa ask Santa to leave a doll under their tree, they don't choose them based on the texture of their hair or the color of their skin. Dolls are just dolls, like people are people.

Every child is born with an innate gift of impartiality. They are naively uncolored and naturally inquisitive — traits that leave them open-minded to new ideas, fresh experiences and diverse friendships.

But those traits can be fleeting as children grow older, unless they are cultivated and reinforced, primarily by the parents.

When Lily was 3, her mother came across an interesting article in *The New York Times* about how an African-American animated character, Doc McStuffins, and a Latina, Dora the Explorer, had become crossover dolls, popular among children of all races.

"The kids who are of color see her as an African-American girl, and that's really big for them," Chris Nee, creator of Doc McStuffins, told *The Times*.

"And I think a lot of other kids don't see her

color, and that's wonderful as well."

Lily's mom decided to introduce her daughter to the popular Disney cartoon show. Lily fell in love with the charming little girl who decides to become a doctor like her mom, and uses a magic stethoscope to treat broken toys, bringing them to life.

That Christmas, Lily asked Santa for a Doc McStuffins doll and all of the accessories.

The following year, she donned a doctor's jacket and medicine bag and went as Doc McStuffins for Halloween.

"Kids are filled with a million questions, but it was really wonderful because she didn't bring up skin color," the mother said. "She was much more interested in 'How can I become a doctor and how do I get my toys to come to life?'"

"That character has become one of the central touchstones of my daughter's young years. That will be a character she remembers growing into her adulthood. It taught her about being strong and resourceful."

"And it also happens to be an African-American little girl doing it. That's wonderful because it's about valuing people for people, not how they look,

the color of their hair or what their clothes look like."

It was for that reason Willa's mother bought her two African-American dolls to go along with her collection of white dolls.

"I thought it was problematic for her to have only white dolls," Willa's mother said. "Kids form their ideas about race so early, and it's done unconsciously."

"All the things around them when they are her age help them to decide what's 'normal' and what is not 'normal.' It's important for children to understand that people have different cultural experiences."

Now that black dolls are mass-produced, they increasingly are the toys of choice for African-American girls. For me, it was always that way growing up.

I never owned a white doll. I have no idea how my mother managed to pull it off in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when black dolls were rare, but she made sure the dolls Santa brought to our house looked like me.

Obviously, she understood that self-image, especially for girls, begins forming at a very young age. She knew how important it was for a girl to have black dolls that could do anything the



MARK LENNIHAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS 2008

Kids' openness to ideas, experiences and friendships can be fleeting unless cultivated and reinforced.

white dolls in the television commercials could do.

Maybe she thought if I owned a black doll that could walk when you held her hand or talk when you pulled her string, I would grow up believing that real African-American girls could also do astonishing things.

So on one Christmas morning, I woke up to a black Chatty Cathy that said, "Tell me a story."

Another Christmas morning, a life-size doll with brown skin and black curly hair was sitting on the living room couch.

She was a takeoff of Patti Playpal, which came only in white skin tone at the time. So did Barbie, and I never owned one of those either.

There are obvious rea-

sons for African-American girls to have black dolls. But there is an even greater lesson for white girls who find them under their Christmas tree.

The dolls can teach them to understand that beneath all the layers that appear to make us different, people are just people.

Often, the most enduring lessons of our childhood come at Christmas. The wonderful thing about it is that kids don't even realize that the toys Santa brought are filled with powerful messages.

The lessons aren't just for children, though. Adults, if they pay attention, can learn from them, too.

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ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Debra West said a detective told her that the man who is thought to have killed her son, Kendall Brown, is being held for a different crime.

Mothers of slain keep waiting for call, even in cold cases

Unsolved, from Page 1

witnesses to move cases along.

They show up at vigils to remember the dead sons of other women. And they take to the streets to march, chanting, "We are mothers" and "We want justice," while using bullhorns to urge neighbors to come forward and talk to police.

'We're living amongst killers'

West believes the detective is just as frustrated as she is, but she doesn't see a way forward unless the city can help relocate witnesses, who often are afraid to cooperate. She doesn't blame the witness for not coming forward to identify the shooter.

"I don't expect him to put himself and his family in danger," West said. "If you testify against people, especially people in gangs ... and still live in the same neighborhood, you think they're going to forget about it? They're not."

Gwendolyn Baxter has lived West's story. She has heard it from the dozens of mothers who have joined her support group, The Sisterhood, which she founded for women who have lost children to gun violence.

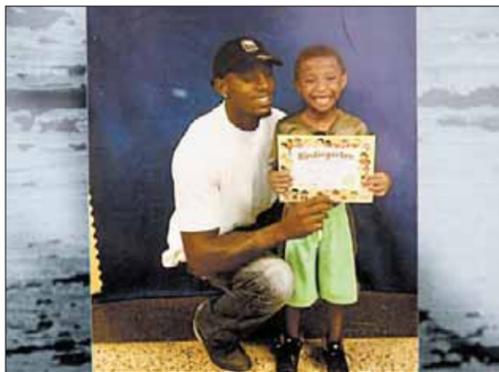
The Sisterhood began in 2015 when six women gathered at Baxter's house. The group grew to more than 70 women. Baxter estimated that about half of them have not seen their child's slaying solved.

Baxter's son, Larry D. Harper Jr., was shot and killed in 2003 near 83rd Street and Creiger Avenue on the South Side. Like West, she called the detectives over and over. She, too, was told that investigators believed they knew who did it, but a witness was not able to identify the suspect. He was either unsure or scared.

Eventually, detectives stopped answering her calls and she grew discouraged. "I felt hopeless," she said. "It's like no one cares." Tracy Lyons feels the same frustration. Her 21-year-old son, Trevon RaShawn Jeffries, was shot and killed in May, the day before Mother's Day, outside a restaurant in the South Shore neighborhood. Detectives told her it would be tough to make a case if the man who was with her son didn't cooperate. But she knows he's not going to talk to police.

Chicago is far worse at clearing shootings and homicides than other big cities in the United States. The city's clearance rate is about 20 points below national averages. The toll of the unsolved slayings weighs heavily on the community, Baxter said.

The shooters stay in their neighborhoods, hang-



FAMILY PHOTO

West said that Brown was a loving father to his son.

Gwendolyn Baxter founded a support group for women who lost children to gun violence. The Sisterhood began in 2015 with 6 women and has grown to more than 70.

ing out on their usual corners, because they know they won't be picked up, Lyons said. Frustrated with the lack of answers from detectives, mothers sometimes investigate on their own, the women say. They put up flyers in neighborhoods begging for information. They examine the social media posts of those involved.

They wonder about men they see around their neighborhoods, whether one of them could have killed their son.

"We're living amongst killers," Baxter said.

Rich Schak, a retired Chicago police sergeant who investigated homicides for more than two decades as a detective, said persistence from mothers — and the prospect of facing them with no news — can make investigators look harder at what they've done.

"It's very, very difficult to meet with family members and explain that you have no leads and little or no information coming forward," said Schak, who now chairs the criminal justice program at National Louis University.

He cited a case on the West Side in which a young man on his way home from work as an apprentice in the trades was fatally shot near Lake Street and Central Avenue in the middle of the night. For years, the victim's mother or sister would call him or another detective once a month, or every two months, checking for updates.

Schak said the case went cold: no witnesses, no physical evidence. He would stop by the victim's home sometimes to talk with the mother and sister, having to tell them he had no new leads.

"We did canvassing. We did everything we could but never came up with anything," he said. "It's just difficult. ... It was just a total

random murder with nobody seeing anything."

The wrong neighborhood

Kendall Brown was one of 13 people killed during the first weekend of August. Mount Sinai Hospital was a scene of carnage and chaos. Debra West arrived to see her son's body and was held back from the emergency room entrance by crowds of people. They were angry and grieving. Gunshot victims had been dropped off in cars and left in the parking lot. She saw people falling out of shot-up cars. There were so many people outside the hospital she had trouble getting near the entrance.

West had tried hard to make sure her son's life did not end in this way.

Brown was West's surprise baby. He arrived in 1991 when she was in her 30s. He grew into a rambunctious child who couldn't sit still. They lived in Back of the Yards, and Brown attended Robert Fulton Elementary School until he and his sister were too afraid to go to school. The children were walking home from school one day, West said, when gunfire erupted all around them.

"They were crying," West said. "They were running and hiding."

After that, she searched for an alternative and enrolled her children in a charter school. Brown began doing better in school. He was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, known as ADHD, and was put on medication. He received individualized help.

But by high school, West said, her son started getting into trouble. She was a single mother who worked full time as a clerk for Cook County. She started getting calls during the workday about her son cutting class.

He didn't like taking his

medication because it made him different. "Mom, why am I the only crazy one in the house?" he once asked her.

"You're not crazy," West replied. "This is just to keep you calm and help you focus on your school work."

Later, it became clear to West that her son needed counseling, but he wouldn't go. Once, when he was about 15, she found him in the house punching holes in the wall. He was crying, "I need help." West admitted him for a five-day hospital stay.

"He needed help, but I didn't know what to do, and he wouldn't talk to me and tell me what was wrong," West said.

He later served two stints in prison, first for burglary and then for having a firearm as a convicted felon, records show. He wrote letters to his mother during his time in prison, telling her he missed her and wanted to do better. Toward the end of his second prison term, he seemed receptive to change.

After his release from prison in 2016, he turned a corner, West said. He worked a steady job laying asphalt and was a loving father to his young son. He often visited his son's kindergarten class, a fact that makes West chuckle, given that she had trouble getting him to stay in school when he was younger.

He grew into a man with a strapping, 6-foot-4 frame. He had an easy smile and was charming when he wanted to be.

This past summer, West's family was doing well. She was planning a family cruise. She wanted her children to see that the world was more than Chicago.

But then her son went into the wrong neighborhood.

A missed call

On the night of Aug. 4, Brown ventured with a friend back into Back of the Yards, the neighborhood where he grew up, to store his car in a lot owned by his girlfriend's father.

West warned her son to stay away from that area, which is plagued by several gang conflicts.

"You can't just go anywhere," she told him.

Then she went to bed. She usually leaves her phone on, but she was particularly tired that night, so she switched it to vibrate.

She was shaken awake in the early morning hours by her partner, who said her daughter was on the phone. Kendall was dead.

West looked at her own cellphone. She didn't hear it vibrating quietly on the nightstand earlier that night. Just before midnight, her son had called

her. Around 12:03 a.m., she received a text from him.

It only said, "Mama." He was killed an hour later, a few minutes after 1 a.m.

West begins crying as she recounts the text message. She'll never know why her son was calling, but she wishes she had answered. She thinks he may have called her for help. Maybe he wanted a ride home to escape the situation he was in.

"I'll always wonder about that," she said.

Elusive justice

As of now, Chicago police detectives have made at least four arrests in the 75 shootings that happened the weekend Brown was killed. Brown's case isn't one of them.

Brown was shot by someone in a white Jeep while he was walking on the sidewalk in the 4800 block of South Winchester Avenue. He was hit in the abdomen and ankle.

The Jeep was set on fire a few blocks away.

Casings from a rifle and a handgun were found at the scene, records show. The neighborhood is divided by several gang conflicts, and gang-related rifle shootings have grown more common there in recent years.

West has pieced together some of what happened on the night her son died, with some information coming from the detective and other bits from people who know her son.

She has spoken with the man who was with her son when he was killed. "I would tell the police what I know," he told her. "I will do that for KB."

But West knew he wouldn't. She understands the potential danger, and the risk for retaliation, that come with cooperating with the police.

When he came in for a lineup, he told investigators he didn't recognize the shooter, though West said friends have sent her his Facebook posts indicating he knows who killed her son.

The detective told West the man they believe killed her son is being held for a different crime.

Federal court records show he is being held on a weapons charge related to a double shooting in February that left one man dead. The suspect is a reputed gang member, the records say.

West takes comfort in the fact that he is off the street.

She doesn't believe she will ever see an arrest made in her son's case. But she still calls the detective.

Chicago Tribune's Jeremy Gornor and Annie Sweeney contributed.

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Plan for pot tax has future in mind

Oak Park targets medicinal use, recreational next

By STEVE SCHERING
Pioneer Press

A tax could be approved on medical marijuana in Oak Park as the village board seeks to grandfather in a cannabis tax, should recreational use of the drug become legal.

During his campaign, Democratic Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker announced his support for legalizing recreational marijuana in Illinois, which he said will help reform the criminal justice system and provide the state with revenue.

To ensure the village's ability to tax recreational marijuana, village staff on Dec. 10 proposed a 6 percent sales tax price per ounce of medical marijuana.

"What I'm recommending now is you establish a legal tax, and if [recreational marijuana] becomes legal in the state of Illinois, it just keeps going at that same rate," village attorney Paul Stephanides said. "It's keeping the same scheme and applying it to that recreational use."

Village manager Cara Pavlicek said creating a tax now could protect the village in the future, as it is unknown how the state legislature could act in legalizing marijuana.

"I think the concern, in the case of Oak Park for example, at some point in time the state outlawed the ability for municipalities with their home-rule authority to tax tobacco sales, but cities that already had [those laws] in place were allowed to keep those taxes," Pavlicek said.

Some on the board, however, were uneasy with establishing a medical marijuana tax at such a large rate.

In 2016, the village board voted against a medical marijuana tax that would have affected patients of Seven Point, the village's lone medical marijuana dispensary, which operates at 1132 Lake St.

"I think, at that time, there was consensus from the board, who did not want to harshly tax the medical use of marijuana," Oak Park Trustee Bob Tucker said. "I know what we're trying to do here. We're trying to look to the future for if and when it becomes [legal for] recreational. I think what we have here is a tricky legal issue."

Some on the board argued for a lower tax of 0.5 percent to 1 percent on medical marijuana, with hopes a separate, higher tax could be placed on recreational marijuana should it become legal.

Staff members, however, are unable to say what state legislature action may look like, and whether having two different tax rates for medical and recreational marijuana may even be possible.

"We don't know what the state legislature may or may not do," Pavlicek said. "Typically, the state legislature will put in either some restrictions on the use of home-rule authority or they're silent on it. We can't really tell you what that looks like [yet]."

At the end of November, Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb first requested village staff to look into the matter, which led to the proposal of a medical marijuana tax.

"What you've seen here is none of us want to tax medical marijuana users, but we don't want to forego the opportunity to tax recreational marijuana in the event it becomes legal," Abu-Taleb said. "We all know we have just elected a governor who ran on a platform to legalize marijuana. It's just a matter of time. We don't want to be in a position where we're not protecting our rights to tax recreational marijuana in the event we don't have an ordinance on our books."

The village board is expected to debate further at a meeting early next year.

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— Mary T.

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— Phil M.

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Using precise, advanced imaging, they gently place an all natural joint lubricant directly inside your knee to replace the lost fluid that's causing your pain. This treatment has proven to have a very high rate of success.

However, it HAS to be done right with advanced imaging . . .

A recent study examined trained



Advanced Digital technology is used to eliminate a HUGE percentage of treatment failures. Every treatment at Joint Relief Institute is pin-pointed to the damaged area inside the knee. The doctors see the medication live as it goes to help the troubled joint.

doctors and surgeons who attempted these injections without using advanced imaging. Instead, they simply felt the knee with their fingers and BLINDLY delivered the replacement fluid.

The study revealed that these doctors missed the target most of the time . . . In fact, 30% of the time, they didn't even



Alternative to the knife for your knee pain? Non-Surgical treatment success rate soars after using new digital technology

place the treatment inside the joint. Yes THIRTY percent. It is not a typo.

Even after missing the target, they had no way of knowing they missed, because they are not SEEING it with advanced imaging.

That means these patients went away thinking they had received a life-changing treatment, and, in fact, did not get any benefit at all. Even worse, many of them went on to have surgery they didn't need.

How did Joint Relief Institute find the Antidote to this MISERABLE failure . . .

The doctors at the Joint Relief Institute are trained in using cutting-edge low dose motion digital imaging. These highly skilled, Board Certified doctors are able to see into the knee joint. They actually watch the medicine, live, as it goes where it needs to be. This technology is so precise, so advanced, and so forefront that it was able to make a whole difference in Non-surgical treatments.

"We've had so many patients tell us they RECEIVED treatments like Synvisc or Orthovisc in the past, and it didn't work. So they were considering surgery, and some even had surgery scheduled. Luckily, we were able to save many of those people from the knife." Said Dr Mike Hana at the Joint Relief Institute.

Joint Relief Institute's proven accuracy and effective treatment is why people are traveling hundreds of miles to get knee pain treatment from their Doctors.

Why did Knee treatments from Joint Relief Institute become the talk of the town?

Many seniors walk out feeling better than they have in years! So as you might imagine, when their friends see them move easier, walk further, sleep better and are happier, they want it also.

Only days after this treatment, people usually notice a decrease in: Pain... Stiffness...Muscle weakness... Swelling... Locked joints... Reduced range of motion... and Cracking sounds.

Most patients who receive the treatment are able to live pain free for up to 6 months, and some even get relief for 3-5 years with NO additional treatments.

How does the treatment help relieve your joint pain...

It's pretty simple, really. You see, when you're young, you have a thick, fluid protein inside your knee joints to lubricate them as you move.

This fluid also acts as a cushion and shock absorber inside your knee. It's called synovial fluid, and it works much like the oil in a car's engine to keep all the parts moving freely, without friction.

However, as you age, this fluid dries out, leaving your bones to painfully rub and grind against each other with every step. And unfortunately, there's no way for the joint to make more.

After years of trusted service in moving you everywhere you need to go, you start to feel a subtle ache in your knees with certain activities like kneeling down, or getting out of the car. With time, it becomes a constant ache. If left

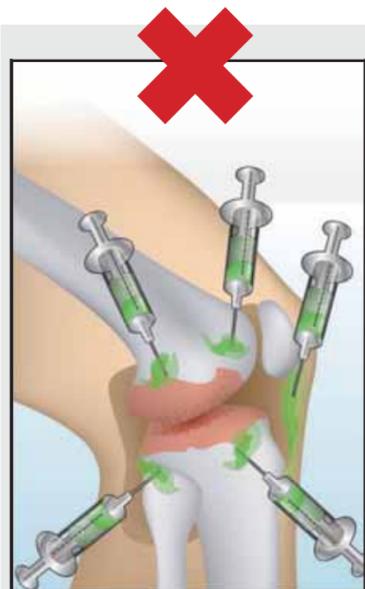
untreated, it can keep you awake at night, and hurt with every step.

The good news is, researchers discovered an almost identical, all natural lubricating fluid called Hyaluronic acid. It has been proven in numerous clinical studies to act as a natural lubricant in your joints.

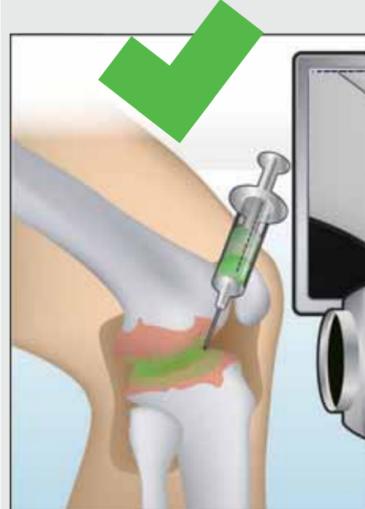
It's FDA approved and is a perfect cushion and shock absorber for your joints. Once it's correctly placed inside your knee, it can make them feel just like new again, eliminate any rubbing and friction, and make your joints glide smoothly.

Are there any side effects to this treatment? Is the treatment painful?

After numbing the skin with a special spray, Joint Relief's imaging technology makes this treatment virtually painless. And because you are getting a supplement for a protein we are all born having, there are NO known after effects.



If you received this kind of treatment in the past, and it didn't relieve your pain, there is a BIG chance the medication landed somewhere around, but not INSIDE, the joint where it can't help you.



JRI Doctors see live into the knee joint. Even you will be able to tell the medicine went where it needs to be. No guess work, no poking around, the medicine cushion lubricate and help heal the damaged knee.

That is right, this is a quick, natural long-lasting, non-invasive, non-surgical treatment with NO known side effects...

Is it true this natural treatment costs NOTHING?...

Yes, more good news, besides the pain relief, is that because this non-surgical program has already proven to help thousands of seniors, Medicare and other insurance plans DO cover the full cost of the treatment.

So there is very likely NO COST to you for this life-changing treatment.

Here is what you need to do if you or a loved one is suffering with knee pain...

Call now for a free screening...

If you or a loved one is suffering with knee pain, this could be the blessed relief you're looking for. You are personally invited to a FREE knee pain screening from the Joint Relief Institute doctors to see if you are a good candidate for this all-natural, highly-precise treatment.

Due to high demand, they can only offer a limited number of FREE screens every month. So if you're interested, Call now (708) 963-0064.

Waiting will not help you feel better...

This ache in your knees could be a sign of serious damage and people who choose to simply "tough it out" will definitely see their knees deteriorate further over time. The one thing we know is: The damage will NEVER undo itself without some help.

Your screening will only take about 20-30 minutes of your time, as one of their doctors sits down with you and answers all the questions you have about your knees.

On the day of your treatment, you'll be able to come in on your own, and be done within 30 minutes or less. No pain. No problem driving yourself home. ■

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NOSOTROS HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

N.C. chickenpox outbreak alerts area schools

Waldorf, from Page 1

schools in the Chicago area, such as Community High School in West Chicago, which had a large cluster of 256 unvaccinated students for a protection rate of 88 percent, and Carpentersville Middle School, at 81 percent. Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields had a 79 percent rate.

Cases of vaccine-preventable diseases have been rare in recent years in Illinois, with just four reported in 2013.

Since then, the annual number has fluctuated between 18 and 33, with nine reported so far this year, the state Department of Health reported. Most were whooping cough, but recent cases of mumps and chickenpox also have been reported. No deaths were reported, and local health departments work with schools to identify cases and try to prevent them from spreading by encouraging vaccinations and disinfecting classrooms.

Some officials emphasized that their schools are doing better this academic year.

At Chicago Waldorf School on the North Side, vaccination rates are significantly higher this year and now stand at 90 percent, school Administrative Director Luke Goodwin said.

"The Chicago Waldorf School is not against vaccination," he said. "The Chicago Waldorf School advises our parents to consider their social and civic responsibility as members of the great Chicago community when making decisions regarding immunizations."

A fourth Waldorf school in the area, the Waldorf School of DuPage in Warrenville, was not on the Illinois State Board of Education list of immunization rates for all reporting schools statewide.

State education board spokeswoman Jaclyn Matthews said all schools, public and private, are re-

quired to report immunization rates to the state. However, the board generally does not enforce immunization requirements; that is left to local schools and districts.

No one from the Waldorf School of DuPage could be reached for comment.

Public health officials warn that vaccination shortfalls can put everyone at higher risk — not just those who don't get their shots. Vaccines aren't always effective, but if enough people get them, it greatly reduces the likelihood that any of them will become infected.

That is particularly important for people who have medical conditions that prevent them from getting vaccinated, such as young infants, children with leukemia, transplant patients and people with weak immune systems, such as those undergoing chemotherapy, said Dr. Nirav Shah, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Shah emphasized, as does the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that the safety and effectiveness of vaccines have been proved through decades of studies. State law does not force someone to get a vaccination if he or she is exempted for religious or medical reasons, he said, but he strongly urges parents to have their children vaccinated. "I know it's a question of rights, but it's also a question of obligations."

In 2016, Illinois tightened the rules for claiming religious exemptions, requiring parents to certify that they met with a health care provider and got information about vaccine benefits. The law no longer allows exemptions based on personal or philosophical beliefs.

Despite the new law, and enrollment numbers that were fairly flat, religious objections to the polio vaccine actually increased to 17,694 last school year, from 15,130 in 2015-16 and about



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Illinois cases of vaccine-preventable diseases have been rare in recent years. Since 2013, the annual number has fluctuated between 18 and 33, with 9 reported this year.

14,000 in 2014-15, the most recent years for which the state has reported results.

"Many times what are listed as 'religious' exemptions are really more of 'personal-belief' exemptions," said Lisa Kritz, director of prevention for the Lake County Health Department. "However, in Illinois only religious and medical exemptions are supposed to be allowable by law."

But the numbers seemingly reflect lingering concerns some parents harbor about immunizations.

One 1998 study of 12 children that suggested vaccinations cause autism was later discredited and withdrawn, but some parents still fear the recommendation for some three dozen vaccination doses by age 18, most of them in infancy.

Critics note that the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has paid out \$4 billion since 1988 to settle claims of harm, though in most cases the

government does not conclude that vaccines caused any injuries.

The CDC estimates the frequency of compensation for adverse reactions is about 1 in 1 million and says immunizations prevent countless more deaths and injuries from diseases like polio and measles.

And much misinformation about vaccines has been distributed on the internet, where a George Washington University study found lies spread by trolls and bots, including some of the same ones linked to Russian-backed attempts to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Diane Peterson of the Immunization Action Coalition said she was not surprised by lower vaccination rates at Waldorf schools. She noted that some states have done away entirely with nonmedical objections.

"There needs to be strict enforcement," she said, "to protect children with com-

promised immune systems who can't receive vaccinations. They depend on a strong herd immunity to protect them."

Founded in the early 1900s, Waldorf schools are independent, but their methods are based on the teachings of Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner. Waldorf schools integrate the arts in all academic disciplines, focus on experiential learning and do not use computers or digital technology in early grades, according to the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America.

Waldorf school officials emphasized that they don't oppose vaccines, that student health is a top priority and that follow state immunization laws but that the decision generally is up to parents and their doctors.

At Da Vinci Waldorf School, Administrator Christine Grafft wrote that the school is 100 percent compliant with state reporting requirements. "The

school is prepared to protect the health and safety of our families and employees, including mandatory exclusion of unvaccinated students during an outbreak."

"Da Vinci Waldorf School states unequivocally that our educational objectives do not include avoidance of, nor resistance to, childhood immunizations," Grafft added.

Urban Prairie Waldorf School officials reported that this year the school has a general protection rate of 85 percent and that, not counting 12 students with religious or medical waivers because of extreme allergies or asthma, the school had a 90 percent compliance rate.

"Urban Prairie Waldorf School is not against vaccination and has never promoted a non-vaccination policy," Director of Community Development Heather Berhalter said. "We advise our parents to consider their social and civic responsibility as members of the great Chicago community when making decisions regarding immunizations."

Still, at least one national nonprofit group keeps trying to raise doubts. The National Vaccine Information Center has called for more research into whether certain children are more vulnerable to vaccine reactions, arguing that stricter enforcement will only encourage more distrust.

Barbara Loe Fisher, co-founder and president of the center, says parents should have the freedom to decide what vaccinations their children get without coercion.

Health officials warn that until there is more compliance, there will be more outbreaks, like the one this fall at Asheville Waldorf School in North Carolina, which sickened at least 36 children with chickenpox and was reportedly the worst outbreak since the vaccine was introduced more than two decades ago.

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Chicago Tribune

NATION & WORLD

Tsunami death toll rises to at least 281

Waves came in the dark, smashing coastal villages

BY NINIEK KARMINI
Associated Press

CARITA BEACH, Indonesia — The deadly tsunami struck in the dark, without warning.

At least 281 people were killed as waves smashed into houses, hotels and other beachside buildings Saturday night along Indonesia's Sunda Strait, in a disaster that followed an eruption and possible landslide on Anak Krakatau, one of the world's most infamous volcanic islands.

More than 800 others were injured and dozens were reported missing after the tsunami hit coastal areas along western Java and southern Sumatra islands at 9:27 p.m. Saturday amid a Christmas holiday weekend, the Disaster Management Agency said. The death toll could increase once authorities hear from all stricken areas.

It was the second deadly tsunami to hit Indonesia this year, but the one that killed more than 2,500 people on the island of Sulawesi on Sept. 28 was accompanied by a powerful earthquake that gave residents a brief warning before the waves struck.

On Saturday night, the ground did not shake beforehand to alert people to the oncoming wave that ripped buildings from their foundations in seconds and swept terrified concertgoers on a popular resort beach into the sea.

Azki Kurniawan, 16, said his first warning about the tsunami was when people



FERDI AWED/GETTY-AFP

Crews look for survivors Sunday in South Lampung on South Sumatra after the tsunami.

burst into the lobby of the Patra Comfort Hotel shouting, "Sea water rising!"

Kurniawan, who was undergoing vocational training with a group of 30 other students, said he was confused because he had not felt a big earthquake. He said he ran to the parking lot to try to reach his motorbike but discovered it was already flooded.

"Suddenly, a 1-meter (3.3-foot) wave hit me," he said, his eyes red and swollen from crying. "I was thrown into the fence of a building about 30 meters (100 feet) from the beach and held onto the fence as strong as I could, trying to resist the

water, which felt like it would drag me back into the sea. I cried in fear 'This is a tsunami?' I was afraid I would die."

Dramatic video posted on social media showed the Indonesian pop band Seventeen performing under a tent on popular Tanjung Lesung beach at a concert for employees of a state-owned electricity company. Dozens of people sat at tables while others swayed to the music near the stage as strobe lights flashed and theatrical smoke was released. A child could also be seen wandering through the crowd.

Seconds later, with the drummer pounding just as

the next song was about to begin, the stage suddenly heaved forward and buckled under the force of the water, tossing the band and its equipment into the audience.

The group released a statement saying their bass player, guitarist and road manager were killed, while two other band members and the wife of one of the performers were missing.

"The tide rose to the surface and dragged all the people on site," the statement said. "Unfortunately, when the current receded, our members were unable to save themselves while some did not find a place to hold on."

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said the latest tolls Monday morning were 281 dead and 1,016 injured.

The worst-affected area was the Pandeglang region of Java's Banten province, which encompasses Ujung Kulon National Park and popular beaches, the agency said.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo expressed his sympathy and ordered government agencies to respond quickly to the disaster.

"My deep condolences to the victims in Banten and Lampung provinces," he said. "Hopefully, those who are left have patience."

At the Vatican, Pope Francis prayed for the dead, the missing and the homeless in Indonesia, telling tourists and pilgrims in St. Peter's Square that his thoughts were with victims "struck by violent natural calamities."

U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted support for Indonesia: "We are praying for recovery and healing. America is with you!"

The U.S. State Department also expressed its support: "Our thoughts and prayers are with all those in Indonesia affected by the natural disaster. We are currently not aware of any U.S. citizens directly affected, but stand ready to assist as needed."

The damage became apparent after daybreak Sunday. Nine hotels and hundreds of homes were heavily damaged by the waves. Broken chunks of concrete and splintered sticks of wood littered hard-hit coastal areas, turning beach getaways popular with Jakarta residents into near ghost towns.

Yellow, orange and black body bags were laid out, and weeping relatives identified the dead.

Scientists, including those from Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics agency, said the tsunami could have been caused by landslides — either above ground or under water — on the steep slope of the erupting Anak Krakatau volcano.

The 1,000-foot-high Anak Krakatau lies on an island in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra. It has been erupting since June and did so again about 24 minutes before the tsunami, the geophysics agency said.



GETTY-AFP

A convoy heads into Syria Saturday night as Turkey sends in military reinforcements.

Turkey masses troops near Syrian border

BY SARAH EL DEEB
AND ZEYNEP BILGINSOY
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Turkey is massing troops near a town in northern Syria held by a U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led force, a war monitor said as Turkish media reported new reinforcements crossing the borders.

The Turkish buildup comes even though Turkey said it would delay a promised offensive in eastern Syria in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops.

Trump tweeted Sunday that he had a "long and productive" call with Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan in which they discussed "the slow & highly coordinated" pull-out of U.S. troops from the area. This is the two leaders' second phone conversation in 10 days. U.S. military officials are scrambling to come up with a schedule for the withdrawal of an estimated 2,000 troops.

A statement from the Turkish presidency said the two leaders agreed to coordinate militarily and diplomatically to ensure the U.S. pullout from Syria does not lead to an "author-

ity vacuum."

Trump's decision, announced last week after a call with Erdogan, surprised his allies and own experts, sparking the resignation of two of his top aides. He had asked for an immediate withdrawal, but experts convinced him that they needed time to work out a timetable.

The Turkish IHA news agency reported that a convoy of Turkish troops — a commando unit — had been sent into Syria overnight.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the reinforcements were sent to the front line at Manbij, where U.S. troops have been based. The Observatory said 50 vehicles crossed into Syria — carrying troops and equipment.

A Turkish military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government protocol, said the military reinforcements were dispatched to the areas administered by Turkey in northern Syria, without elaborating.

The spokesman for the Kurdish-led Manbij Military Council, Sharfan Darwish, said Turkish reinforcements have arrived in the area. "We are taking

necessary measures to defend ourselves if we are attacked," he said without elaborating.

U.S. troops based around Manbij patrolled the town and surrounding area on Sunday and were photographed speaking with the residents.

Turkey has welcomed Trump's decision. Ankara views the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces as an extension of the insurgency within its borders. Erdogan has vowed to dislodge the Kurdish fighters from along its border with Syria.

The U.S. has since 2014 partnered with the Syrian Kurdish militia to drive out the Islamic State group, a partnership that soured relations between Ankara and Washington.

Also Sunday, French President Emmanuel Macron said he "deeply regrets" Trump's decision to pull U.S. troops out of Syria and warned it could have dangerous consequences.

Macron showered praise on U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who quit in the wake of Trump's unexpected move. "An ally should be reliable, coordinate with other allies. Mattis understood this," Macron said.

Mulvaney on shutdown: Ball is in Senate's court

BY LISA MASCARO,
DARLENE SUPERVILLE
AND KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top White House official warned Sunday that it's "very possible" the partial government shutdown stretches into the new year and that how quickly numerous shuttered Cabinet departments and agencies resume doing the people's business is up to Congress.

"The ball is in the Senate's court," acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said.

Senate Democrats, who oppose funding for President Donald Trump's promised border wall, contend government could reopen immediately if Trump drops his demand to extend a physical barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border.

A stalemate over the wall led parts of the government to shut down Saturday after funding for numerous departments and agencies expired.

Mulvaney, who is also director of the White House budget office, said he's awaiting word from Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York after the administration on Saturday presented Schumer with a counteroffer in the long-running dispute over funding the wall.

Mulvaney withheld specifics but placed the offer between Trump's \$5.7 billion request and \$1.3 billion offered by Democrats.

The shutdown was expected to last through Thursday after the House and Senate adjourned until later in the week. Monday and Tuesday, Christmas Eve and Christmas, respectively, are federal holidays, meaning much of the federal government would already be closed.

Wednesday is the first day taxpayers could begin



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY

Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said the government shutdown could stretch into the new year.

to feel the effects of a shutdown, Mulvaney said. But he predicted it could last beyond Thursday, when Congress is next scheduled to come into session.

"It's very possible that this shutdown will go beyond the 28th and into the new Congress," he said.

Democrats held firm Sunday in opposition to paying for a border wall, which was a central promise of Trump's campaign for president.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., said the administration is sitting on most of the money Congress gave Trump last year for border security, excluding a wall.

"If you're not going to spend nine out of 10 dollars on an issue, you obviously don't care about it that much," Merkley said. "This is politics, not policy."

Mulvaney countered that "the president's not going to not accept money for a border wall."

On the second day of the federal closure, Trump tweeted Sunday that what the country needs is "a good old fashioned WALL that works," as opposed to aerial drones and other measures that "are wonderful and lots of fun" but not the right answer to address "drugs, gangs, human trafficking, criminal elements

and much else from coming into" the United States.

From coast to coast, the first day of the shutdown played out in uneven ways. The Statue of Liberty remained open for tours, thanks to money from New York state, and the U.S. Postal Service, an independent agency, was still delivering mail.

Yet the disruption has affected many government operations and the routines of 800,000 federal employees. Roughly 420,000 workers were deemed essential and were expected to work unpaid. An additional 380,000 were to be furloughed, meaning they will stay home without pay. The Senate had already passed legislation ensuring that workers will receive back pay, and the House was likely to follow suit.

With Democrats set to take control of the House on Jan. 3, and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., on his way out, the shutdown was providing a last gasp of the conservative majority before the new Congress.

Schumer and Vice President Mike Pence met Saturday, according to Schumer's office. But the senator's spokesman said they remained "very far apart" on a spending agreement.

Llamas are Andean survival experts

BY CARLOS VALDEZ
Associated Press

SANTIAGO DE MACHACA, Bolivia — Stormy winds, frosty nights and a scorching midday sun make life difficult on the Andean plateau, but the docile, tough-natured llama is one reason indigenous people have been able to survive the harsh conditions for millennia.

With an estimated 3.1 million llamas and alpacas in Bolivia, the South American country counts more of the coarse-haired mammals than any other nation in the world, relying on it to haul goods up steep mountainsides, provide meat, wool and leather.

The llama, which is a relative of the camel, also holds a sacred place in Aymara and Quechua rituals for Pachamama, or Mother Earth. Throughout various regions of the country, herders bury llama fetuses that have not survived birth, hoping to receive rain and good harvests in return. Many local priests also water the earth with llamas' warm, sacrificial blood.

"You have to give (the gods) an offering," said



Genaro Arce is followed by a herd of llamas outside of Santiago de Machaca, Bolivia.

herdsman Francisco Tellez, who lives in the town of Curahuara de Carangas and says that he has a special connection with the animal. "The llama understands me. I whistle and he recognizes me."

But he added: "My son does not like herding; he prefers to be a driver in the city."

It is a sentiment that speaks to the plodding decline of a traditional way of life in Bolivia's wetlands,

where young people have left behind ancestral customs in favor of taking a chance in the cities.

"Now you just see elders and children herding the animals," said Carla Rodas, an anthropologist at the Higher University of San Andres in Bolivia's capital, noting that the llama was once so sacred it was almost considered to be a person.

Friendly and endearing, the llama has wandered across the Bolivian plains in

scattered herds since it was domesticated in South America more than 4,000 years ago. The animal, which belongs to a family that includes the guanaco, alpaca and vicuna, has been partly credited with helping the Incan empire expand to parts of modern-day Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile and Argentina until the Spanish arrived in the 16th century.

As they adapted to living in the Andes mountain

range at altitudes of up to 16,400 feet, the animals also became a crutch for locals navigating steep, craggy terrain with loads of goods such as potatoes, salt, dried meat and quinoa.

On a recent morning, shepherd Genaro Arce left at 5 a.m. in sub-freezing temperatures to round up his eight llamas before taking the males and females to different pastures. Roughly 200 other animals and their young impatiently waited to graze.

His wife, Genoveva Usnayo, worried that foxes and stray dogs might attack their animals at night.

Once a year, she and her husband shear the llamas' wool and sell the threads in markets to make winter clothing.

When she has time, Usnayo spins and weaves her own wear, but says it is nearly impossible to undercut the price of synthetic wool that saturates the market. The laborious, time-consuming process of making traditional clothes involves operating a spinning wheel and stretching fibers.

"It's hard but you have to face it. Without getting your hands dirty you can't live.

Children do not think like that," Arce said, noting that his youngest daughter, Maria Arce, is his only child who currently lives at home.

Her older five siblings migrated to cities to try their luck. Only a few decades ago, most Bolivians lived in the countryside. Now 75 percent live in cities.

For now, many elders still manage to eke out an income by relying on agricultural crops and their earnings from wool.

"The llama taught Andean people to adapt themselves to a cold and arid land, and still today, in spite of climatic and economic changes, it allows them to live," Rodas said.

But Maria Wurzinger, a zoologist at the University of Vienna in Austria who studied camelids in Bolivia and Peru, worries that might not always be the case due to diminishing rainfall.

"There will come a time when there will be no more grass and you will not be able to breed llamas or alpacas," she said, adding that Bolivia's wetlands could eventually become a desert.

Japan emperor marks last birthday on throne

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's Emperor Akihito, marking his 85th birthday — his last before his upcoming abdication — said he feels relieved that his reign is coming to an end without having seen his country at war and that it is important to keep telling younger people about the nation's wartime history.

"It gives me deep comfort that the Heisei era is coming to an end, free of war in Japan," Akihito, said at a news conference at the palace that was recorded and released Sunday. "It is important not to forget that countless lives were lost in World War II and that the peace and prosperity of postwar Japan was built upon the numerous sacri-

fices and tireless efforts made by the Japanese people, and to pass on this history accurately to those born after the war."

Akihito's 30-year reign of the Heisei is the only era without war in Japan's modern history. Praying for peace and making amends for a war fought in the name of his father, Hirohito, has become a career mission for Akihito, who succeeded the throne in 1989.

Akihito is set to abdicate on April 30, to be succeeded by his eldest son, Crown Prince Naruhito, on May 1. Sunday's birthday celebration is Akihito's last in his reign.

Well-wishers who gathered at Tokyo's Imperial Palace to celebrate the occasion cheered and waved small rising-sun flags as Akihito and his family ap-

peared on the balcony to greet and thank them.

As emperor, Akihito has made unprecedented visits to the Philippines and other Pacific islands conquered by Japan early in World War II and devastated in fierce fighting as the U.S.-led allies took them back. Though Akihito has avoided a direct apology, he has subtly stepped up his expressions of regret in recent years in carefully scripted statements on the war.

Akihito said he won't forget those trips with his wife, Empress Michiko, and thanked those countries for welcoming them despite their bitter memories of war. "I am grateful to each of those countries for welcoming us with warm hospitality," he said.

At home, Akihito particularly cared about Okinawa.



Japan's Emperor Akihito waves to well-wishers as they appear on the balcony of the Imperial Palace on Sunday.

The small southern island was the only site of ground battle in Japan. Okinawa was under U.S. occupation until 1972, two decades behind the mainland, and is still burdened with American troops stationed in Japan. Okinawans feel they have been sacrificed for the mainland as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's pro-U.S. government is currently forcing a relocation of a disputed Marine Corps air station on Okinawa's eastern coast.

"Okinawa has experienced a long history of hardships, including what happened there during the war," he said. "We are committed to continue to care for the sacrifices that the people of Okinawa have endured over the years, and that commitment will remain unchanged in the future."

Akihito's pacifist image and his compassion for disaster victims, the handicapped and the minorities have gained public support

for him and his family. Experts say Akihito's pacifist views may have come from his childhood wartime experiences.

Akihito is the first emperor enthroned under Japan's postwar pacifist constitution as the symbol with no political power, unlike his father, who was revered as a god until the end of the war. As crown prince and emperor, Akihito has tried to bring the secluded palace close to the people, and thanked everyone including his wife Michiko, a commoner, for understanding his views and supporting his work.

"As I come to the end of my journey as emperor, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart the many people who accepted and continued to support me as the symbol of the state," he said.

"I intend to carry out my duties in that capacity and shall continue to contemplate this question as I perform my day-to-day duties until the day of my abdication."

Trump to oust Mattis early

Mattis, from Page 1

nation. Mattis said in the letter that he would resign his post on Feb. 28, to allow for a smooth transition to the next defense secretary. But Trump decided to hasten the process, announcing Sunday on Twitter that Shanahan would replace Mattis imminently.

"I am pleased to announce that our very talented Deputy Secretary of Defense, Patrick Shanahan, will assume the title of Acting Secretary of Defense starting January 1, 2019," Trump wrote. "Patrick has a long list of accomplishments while serving as Deputy, & previously Boeing. He will be great!"

The announcement caught top officials at the Pentagon off guard.

The news was communicated to Mattis on Sunday morning, one official said. Trump himself has not spoken to Mattis since Thurs-

day, when the secretary resigned, another official said.

"I think it's fair to say that there is a lot of uncertainty about this week," said a defense official who is close to Mattis and spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation. "I think all of this is coming down in the last hour."

Shanahan was traveling away from Washington when Trump tweeted his decision. A spokesman for Shanahan, Army Lt. Col. Joseph Buccino, said Sunday that Shanahan would continue to serve as directed by the president.

A spokeswoman for Mattis, Dana White, said that the outgoing secretary will focus over the next week on ensuring a smooth transition and that the Pentagon remains focused on the defense of the nation.

Mattis was due to give testimony on Capitol Hill regarding the new national



JABIN BOTSFORD/WASHINGTON POST

President Donald Trump made the decision to show Defense Secretary Jim Mattis the door in reaction to negative news coverage, according to senior administration officials.

security strategy, which probably would have resulted in tense questions about his resignation and differences with Trump. While Mattis still could end up testifying after leaving the Pentagon, his early dismissal by Trump reduces that chance.

The abrupt nature of Mattis' departure raises questions about who else may leave the Pentagon in

coming weeks, thrusting the department further into chaos.

Army Secretary Mark Esper, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Navy Secretary Richard Spencer all have characterized their relationships with Mattis as close, and Wilson has said that she chose to serve in the administration specifically at the request of Mattis.

"He told me, 'You're my first choice, and there's big gap between you and my second choice. And I'm not going to talk to anyone else until you tell me whether you will do this if asked,'" Wilson said in an interview last year. "It's one of those moments where you know your draft number has come up, and you're supposed to serve."

Trump initially praised Mattis for serving as defense secretary "with distinction" and achieving "tremendous progress." But as he consumed media coverage in the hours and days that followed Mattis' resignation, Trump vented to advisers about the narrative that took hold of the revered four-star Marine Corps general and military intellectual walking out on Trump because he believed the president's erratic decisions were threatening the world order.

Although Mattis' letter initially annoyed the president, the coverage of it was even more difficult to stomach, according to a senior administration official. Trump told aides that he especially resented the narrative of Mattis as a manager of Trump who served

as a human guardrail against the president's impulses, the official said.

In recent days, Trump told White house aides that he does not need Mattis and that his defense secretary was not as important a figure as others believed, the official said.

In replacing Mattis, at least temporarily, Trump has picked Shanahan, who made his name as an executive at Boeing, where he worked for decades, dealing at times with the aviation behemoth's commercial aircraft and missile defense programs.

Trump had complained to aides that Mattis did not share his enthusiasm for negotiating defense contracts, and he likes that Shanahan took a special interest in such matters, according to a senior administration official.

Since his arrival at the Pentagon, Shanahan has emphasized making the department more efficient and business-friendly and has won plaudits at the White House by pushing through Trump's vision for a space force, against the wishes of many of the building's leaders and uniformed brass.



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NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

British police search for drone pilots after clearing 2 locals

LONDON — London's Gatwick Airport was operating without problems Sunday, but the fugitive drone operators who brought incoming and outgoing flights to a standstill over multiple days remained at large — and a potential threat — after police cleared two local residents who were arrested as suspects.

Sussex Police were hopeful they had halted the disruptive and costly drone incursions during

one of the heaviest travel periods of the year with Friday's arrests of a couple who live near the airport. But they were released Sunday and were no longer suspects.

Tens of thousands of passengers suffered long flight delays or were stranded by cancellations after two drones were reported seen above Gatwick on Wednesday night, prompting an immediate suspension of all air traffic.

Medical researchers worry about return of paralytic illness

DALLAS — Medical researchers fear that more children will develop paralysis from a mysterious polioliike illness that has struck every two years since 2014.

The condition, known as acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, is rare and has reached its peak for 2018. It will likely continue to fade, but many believe it will be back.

"AFM is here, and it doesn't seem to be going

anywhere," said Dr. Benjamin Greenberg, a neurologist at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

When a cluster of children in the U.S. developed unexplained paralysis in 2014, doctors hoped the outbreak was a freak event. Then, in 2016, more people came down with the same set of symptoms. This year, AFM struck a record 165 people, the majority of them previously healthy children.

Afghan leader names hard-line Pakistan opponents to top posts

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani appointed hard-line opponents of neighboring Pakistan to two top security posts on Sunday, potentially complicating U.S. efforts to revive peace talks with the Taliban ahead of next summer's withdrawal of 7,000 American troops.

Ghani announced that Amrullah Saleh will be the next interior minister and Asadullah Khaleed will be

defense minister. Both are former intelligence chiefs who have blamed Pakistan for the Taliban's resurgence in recent years and have even called for it to be declared a state sponsor of terror.

Pakistan, which has influence over the Taliban, is taking part in the latest U.S. effort to revive the peace process. It was Pakistan that helped orchestrate last week's talks in the United Arab Emirates.



A French motorcycle officer points his gun at protesters after being assaulted during Saturday's "yellow vest" protests. Officials defended the officer's action.

French authorities defend aggressive police response

PARIS — French authorities on Sunday defended aggressive police actions to contain violence at yellow vest protests after a policeman was seen briefly brandishing a gun at a surging crowd in Paris.

French President Emmanuel Macron called for "the most severe" legal repercussions against violent protesters. After a sixth straight weekend of demonstrations by the grassroots movement demanding more help for French workers, Macron called for "order, calm and unity" while on a visit to Chad this weekend.

The numbers of protesters were sharply down Saturday from previous weekends, and most of their actions were peaceful. But violence again erupted in Paris, with protesters throwing projectiles and chasing police, who were firing tear gas and water cannon.

A video of the gun-wielding policeman surrounded by protesters near the Champs-Elysees in Paris circulated widely online. He briefly pulled out the weapon after being pushed off his motorcycle and did not fire, but the threat of lethal action shocked many

in France. He and other police then fled the scene.

Many protesters have denounced what they describe as disproportionate actions by police against the protesters, including multiple beatings also captured on video. Hundreds of people have been injured in the clashes, mainly protesters but also police officers and journalists.

Police say they're acting in self-defense.

Sixty people were in custody Sunday after Saturday's violence in the capital, including four minors, according to the Paris prosecutor's office.

Mo. governor opposes redistricting process

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri Gov. Mike Parson says a new constitutional amendment changing Missouri's legislative redistricting process should be repealed.

Parson, a Republican, told The Associated Press that he opposes the "Clean Missouri" initiative ap-

proved by 62 percent of voters in November. He specifically cited concerns about a requirement for a state demographer to draw House and Senate maps to achieve "partisan fairness" and "competitiveness" based on the results of previous elections.

Any effort to repeal the

amendment would require a new measure to be submitted to voters. Clean Missouri campaign director Sean Nicholson said the group would fight any effort to change or repeal it.

Parson said it may also be time to raise the bar for initiatives to appear on the Missouri ballot.

U.N. team lands in Yemen to monitor cease-fire

SANAA, Yemen — A U.N. team led by a Dutch officer arrived Sunday in Hodeida to monitor a cease-fire in the port city where Yemen's civil war rivals have been fighting for months, according to security officials and witnesses.

The team, led by Maj. Gen. Patrick Cammaert, had earlier flown into Sanaa, Yemen's capital, from Aden, the home-in-exile of Yemen's internationally recognized government.

The witnesses and officials said the convoy of the U.N. team arrived in Hodeida amid heavy security provided by the anti-government Shiite rebels. Both Hodeida and Sanaa are under rebel control.

Cammaert's first task in Hodeida will be to assess the military and security situation on the ground and estimate the number of monitors that will be required in the near future, said the officials.

In Ohio: A car smashed through a church wall in Ohio during Sunday morning services, injuring six people and shattering stained glass.

Firefighters say the six injured at Crossroads United Methodist Church in Columbus were treated for cuts and other injuries. About 100 people were inside.

In New York: A man pulled his young daughter out of her car seat and to safety just as a commercial sign fell on top of their vehicle. Newsday reports Brian Pullan was taking 2-year-old Layla out of his pickup truck Saturday in Sayville, when he heard a noise. He says he looked up to see the large store sign falling.

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Laughing gas for childbirth?

More hospitals offering nitrous oxide to women in labor

BY LISA SCHENCKER
Chicago Tribune

Nitrous oxide, more commonly known as laughing gas, has long been used in dental procedures as a way of relaxing patients.

Now it's making a comeback for use in childbirth, bringing back an option that was offered decades ago but waned in popularity as more women opted for epidurals.

Rush University Medical Center plans to start offering nitrous oxide soon, and Northwestern Medicine Prentice Women's Hospital also hopes to add it in coming months. University of Illinois Hospital and NorthShore University HealthSystem are considering adding it.

Both Swedish Covenant and Saint Anthony Hospital, on the city's west side, began offering the gas within the last two years.

When Laura Moldovan arrived at Swedish Covenant to give birth to her second child earlier this month, she didn't plan to take anything for the pain.

But she also didn't plan to be induced, spend 12 hours in labor or struggle to push out a 9-pound baby. "At the last minute, they said, 'Have you heard about laughing gas?'" she said. "I was like, 'No, but I'll take it.'"

Staff at Swedish Covenant Hospital gave her a mask that she held over her face. She inhaled a mixture of nitrous oxide and oxygen with each contraction. The gas didn't eliminate the gripping pain, but it took the edge off.

"It helped tremendously," said Moldovan. "I don't know how I would have handled the last two hours of contractions without it."

The American College of Nurse-Midwives calls the odorless, tasteless gas a "reasonably safe" option for women in childbirth. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists doesn't have an official position on its use during labor. However, the organization notes that it has long been in use in other countries and has benefits that include quickly leaving a woman's system when she stops using it, rapidly leaving a baby's system once the baby is born and starts breathing, and it doesn't require additional monitoring. Nitrous oxide's long-term effects on babies delivered to mothers using the gas haven't been extensively studied.

Unlike epidurals, which involves the delivery of medication through the back, inhaling the gas doesn't eliminate pain, but instead helps a patient within seconds to relax and/or disassociate from the aches of contractions. It can make some women feel dizzy or nauseated, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Nitrous oxide does cross the placenta, but is quickly eliminated once the baby begins breathing, according to studies.

One of the largest manufacturers of nitrous oxide equipment for labor and delivery, Porter Instrument, a unit of Parker Hannifin Corp., has nitrous oxide delivery systems in about 1,000 U.S. hospitals and birthing centers, specifically for use in childbirth, up from just a handful of hospitals in 2013, said sales manager Mike Civitello.

Laughing gas is also relatively cheap — a fact that doesn't hurt as cash-strapped hospitals continuously look for ways to attract patients and improve their bottom lines. Swedish Covenant paid about \$11,500 for two of the systems, including training costs, said Allison Manko, a nurse midwife with



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Wendy Brito, 22, feeds her two-week-old daughter Arianna at her home in Chicago. She used nitrous oxide during childbirth.

Swedish Covenant Health. Cylinders of the gas cost the hospital about \$12 each and can be used for multiple patients, she said.

That's a pittance in the world of hospitals. Insurance companies typically don't cover the gas, Citivello said. He said many hospitals don't charge women out-of-pocket for the gas, instead using it as more of a marketing tool to attract patients.

"This is such an effective, wonderful option for women for such a cheap cost," said Manko, who estimated about one-fourth of the women who give birth at Swedish try it.

That includes women, like Moldovan, who don't want to use epidurals or medication but want a little help with pain late in labor. It also includes women who want to delay when an epidural is administered. Labor epidurals typically numb women from the waist-down, confining them to bed.

Sometimes women who've already given birth use nitrous oxide to dull the feeling of getting lacerations repaired post-delivery, said Dr. Michele Bucciero, Saint Anthony director of perinatal services.

Bucciero estimates that at least 40 percent of Saint Anthony's obstetrical patients use the gas at some point during their labor.

Wendy Brito, of Little Village, said the gas helped her relax as she labored with her first child at Saint Anthony in November.

She knew she didn't want an epidural, after hearing about a family member's complications from one. But as a first-time mom, she also worried about whether she'd be able to stand the pain of childbirth. Her doula told her about nitrous oxide.

She said her 11-hour labor was still very painful. But the gas distracted her, and she liked that it didn't make her feel light-headed or affect her baby girl.

"When I would get contractions, and I kept breathing through the gas mask, I felt my body relaxing," she said.

At Prentice, some women have asked if the gas is available, said Dr. Nicole Higgins, section chief and medical director of obstetric anesthesiology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Until now, she's had to say no, though she hopes it will be approved for use within the next six months.

Word of the gas has spread quickly in recent years as moms and moms-to-be swap information in mom groups on social media, she said.

Her own mother used nitrous oxide to deliver her in the early 1970s.

"She said, '(They) slapped something on my face and everything was good, and then they put you in my arms,'" Higgins said.

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Chassis plant plans layoffs after losing Ford

BY ROBERT CHANNICK
Chicago Tribune

A chassis plant on Chicago's Southeast Side is laying off 261 workers and closing in March after losing a contract to supply the nearby Ford Chicago Assembly Plant.

ZF Chassis Systems Chicago notified the state last month that the plant is closing permanently. The German manufacturer of chassis parts and technology opened the facility at 3400 E. 126th Place — less than a mile from the Ford plant — in 2004. In Chicago, the company supplied suspension modules to Ford.

The Torrence Avenue plant, Ford's oldest in continuous operation, is ending production of Taurus sedans in March and shifting exclusively to SUVs, including a new vehicle — the 2020 Lincoln Aviator SUV — and an all-new Ford Explorer.

"We didn't get the new business, unfortunately," ZF Chassis spokesman Tony Sapienza said. "As a result, there's no need for that plant to be there."

The company found out about a year ago that it would no longer be supplying parts to the Chicago Assembly Plant.

Sapienza said many of the workers have found jobs with the new supplier, which he declined to identify. Some other employees went to work for Ford or at other ZF facilities, he said.

The Illinois Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act requires businesses with 75 or more employees to provide the state with 60 days advance notice of pending plant closures or mass layoffs.

rchannick@chicagotribune.com

Crossword

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 - 42 Lake near Reno
 - 43 Fastened with a rope
 - 45 Bricklayers
 - 46 "___ to a Nightingale"
- DOWN**
- 1 Tic-___-toe
 - 2 Feels queasy
 - 3 Hold on to tightly
 - 4 Strut about
 - 5 Modify
 - 6 Winter garment
 - 7 Make a sweater
 - 8 Residue
 - 9 Academy
 - 10 Reason to say "Ouch!"
 - 11 Bad guy
 - 12 Casual shirts, for short
 - 14 Reached from end to end
 - 21 Acquires
 - 25 Lawn tree
 - 26 Water balloon's sound

- Solutions**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| T | S | P | O | | S | A | C | K | S | | | | T |
- 27 Actor Michael
 - 28 Representative
 - 29 Epic by Homer
 - 30 Quayle & Marino
 - 31 Washington's neighbor
 - 32 Beautician's place
 - 33 Small children
 - 35 Rectangular piece of glass
 - 38 Timberlands expert
 - 39 More delicious
 - 41 Elly May Clampett's pa
 - 42 Chore
 - 44 Is a pack rat
 - 45 Fireplace shelf
 - 47 Scenic view
 - 48 Encyc. volume, perhaps
 - 49 Slender
 - 50 Make money
 - 52 Opening
 - 53 Parade spoiler
 - 54 Negatives
 - 55 Flying insect
 - 59 Devious

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EDITORIALS

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrating the core values of Christmas

In recent weeks we have heard that some radio stations refused to play the classic holiday standard “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” because aggrieved listeners found it too sexually suggestive. A principal in Nebraska who felt that the “J” shape represented Jesus banned candy canes from public school. A Minnesota college professor criticized God for impregnating Mary without permission.

These opinions seem detached from logic and intrude on long-respected traditions. Their viewpoints are provocative and likely are intended to be such. Our task is to turn these provocations into inspirations. Especially at this time of year, we are better served by attuning to a timelier and arguably similarly illogical phenomenon: the Christmas season. It changes us, if only for a short time, in mysterious and inexplicable ways.

The Christmas season is a time of sounds unique to the season. Somewhere between the magnificence of the “Hallelujah Chorus” and the tinkling bell that accompanies the red pail of the Salvation Army, there lies a range of sounds that begs hearing. Laughter and music are everywhere.

The Christmas season is a time of lights. Somewhere between spectacular synchronized light shows and a simple candle in the window, illumination beckons our attention. Inspired effort has made familiar landscapes brighter and more festive. Somehow we feel brighter.

Christmas is a time of feeling. Handshakes, high-fives, fist-bumps and hugs abound. Embraces are yours for the taking and giving. Memories become more vivid as our reminiscing peaks, and we feel the tug to rejoice in and renew our relationships with family and friends. We find that the lump in our throat and the tear in our eye arise more readily than at any other time of the year. Magically we become more aware of helping others. We measure the abundance in our lives and find greater awareness of the less fortunate. Giving replaces taking.

The Christmas season is finite, but its effects do not have to be fleeting. As it slips away into the new year, what will be your response? Did you hear it? Did you see it? Did you feel it? Remember, Christmas comes but once a year, and when it comes there are lights to see, feelings to grasp and sounds to hear. Don’t miss it!

— Ron Bearwald, Northbrook

Origins of ‘Silent Night’

I found the article on “Silent Night” by Gregor Thuswaldner (“As ‘Silent Night’ turns 200, its Austrian home cracks down on immigrants,” Dec. 16) to be both enlightening and disturbing. I always enjoy reading more about my favorite Christmas song and the small church, which I visited a number of years ago, in the village of Oberndorf where it was composed. The author pointed out many interesting facts about the history of “Silent Night” that had previously escaped me.

But I was disappointed when the last third of the article devolved into an attack on Austria’s current government over its immigration policies. The Austrian people elected this government largely in response to the EU’s attempts to force them against their will to accept waves of migrants from the Middle East. This is called democracy in action.

I also found ludicrous the author’s suggestion that the Holy Family were somehow “refugees.” They belonged to the Roman province of Palestine and were responding to a demand by Rome to register for the census in their hometown. Kind of like going from Chicago to Springfield, without a car. Let’s keep the politics out of the Christmas story.

— Daniel Costello, Clarendon Hills

Turkey and Kurds

Your editorial on Dec. 21, “Trump’s foolish decision to leave Syria,” alleges utterly baseless and inappropriate claims against my country.

The U.S. media continue to lump all Kurds in with terrorist groups. The groups that you simply refer to as “Kurds” are PYD/YPG in Syria, offshoots of the PKK, listed by the U.S. as a terrorist organization. PKK and PYD/YPG activities are coordinated by the same leadership and from the same headquarters. They all follow a violent Marxist ideology and do not share American values.

For years, American people have been led to believe that a 70-nation international coalition, including Turkey, the U.S. and other NATO allies, could not defeat ISIS, but PKK/PYD/YPG, sugarcoated as Syrian Democratic Forces, could. This is a downright falsehood, and unfortunately, media and some pundits played a significant role in spreading this wrong premise.

So far, Turkey has been the only NATO member country fighting Islamic State with boots on the ground. With the operation Euphrates Shield two years ago, Turkish armed forces eliminated some 4,000 ISIS militants and cleared a large area.

Millions of people with Kurdish origin live and work as equal citizens in Turkey. More than 300,000 Syrian Kurds who fled ISIS and Syrian leader Bashar Assad found safety in my country. Misrepresenting Turkey as “archenemy of Kurds” is irresponsible.

We welcome the withdrawal decision by President Donald Trump. We also believe that ISIS has been defeated, but vigilance is needed because remnants of ISIS and other radical groups are still on the ground.

— Umut Acar, consul general of Turkey



FRANK HANES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The 16-story towers of the Robert Taylor homes are bordered by railroad tracks and the Dan Ryan Expressway in 1984.

Race, poverty and fair housing: Chicago’s landmark Gautreaux case winds down

A federal judge, several lawyers and representatives of the Chicago Housing Authority on Friday formalized a special date: July 31, 2024. If all goes as planned, that last Wednesday of July more than five years from now will close out one of the nation’s longest and most impactful housing discrimination cases.

Dorothy Gautreaux, an Altgeld Gardens resident and lead plaintiff when the case was filed in 1966, died two years later at age 41. But her activism had helped launch a movement extending beyond the landmark legal battle that originated in Chicago: Her cause, housing fairness, also had broadened the goals of the civil rights movement. The anti-discrimination marches of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. had come to embrace equal access to housing as a national cause.

For more than 40 years and with countless twists and turns, CHA has been trying to reverse what the U.S. Supreme Court determined in its 1976 Gautreaux ruling: Federal and local housing authorities in Chicago were violating the constitutional and civil rights of public housing tenants by concentrating and isolating them in low-income neighborhoods.

Over time, the court’s ruling slowed the purposeful crowding of black tenants in concentrated high-rise developments and accelerated the distribution of housing vouchers to integrate black families into communities throughout the city and suburbs. That remains the case today.

The Supreme Court decision also spurred CHA to build and renovate thousands of units and scatter them in more prosperous areas of Chicago. And it nudged a housing revolution, led by former Mayor Richard M. Daley, that included the teardown of the notorious Cabrini-Green public housing complex and others comparable to it.

The wind-down of the long-standing court case does not mean public housing, poverty and segregation are fixed in Chicago. But it does demonstrate that CHA has made confident strides in that direction and can continue its mission with less court interference. Between now and the 2024 release date, CHA has to complete the mixed-income developments currently under way, commit to building new units in areas of the city that present opportunity, strengthen the housing voucher program and expand

early learning programs for children in public housing.

If those requirements are met and the case formally settles, CHA will have reached a monumental milestone. The watchdogs in the case believe and trust CHA can do it.

Fifty years ago, public housing tenants had no choices. They were marched into projects that perpetuated the cycle of poverty. Today, public housing stock “is in much better condition and in better neighborhoods” than it was when Gautreaux and other plaintiffs filed their lawsuit. The leadership of CHA’s CEO, Eugene Jones Jr., also contributed to the plaintiffs’ willingness to ease up on oversight, said Hoy McConnell, executive director of BPI, the public interest and policy group that has steered the case on behalf of CHA residents almost since its inception.

“The real promise is ending inter-generational poverty,” McConnell said. “It’s giving a chance to young kids. It’s a more hopeful picture today. It’s not going to end all the issues we face in this city, but it’s really making a difference.”

Onward to 2024 and the final steps on one journey toward justice.



MIKE LUCKOVICH/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION



TATUM MANGUS/ANNAPURNA PICTURES

Stephan James and KiKi Layne star in "If Beale Street Could Talk," adapted from the 1974 novel by James Baldwin.

'IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK' ★★★ 1/2

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS
 Chicago Tribune

The first thing we see in "If Beale Street Could Talk" emerges as text on a black screen, a quotation from author James Baldwin. "Beale Street," he wrote, "is a street in New Orleans, where my father, where Louis Armstrong and the jazz were born. Every black person born in America was born on Beale Street, whether in Jackson, Mississippi, or in Harlem, New York. Beale Street is our legacy."

The street, the metaphor, is wide enough to accommodate all sorts of travelers. With his seriously gorgeous adaptation of the 1974 Baldwin novel, writer-director

Can love survive in hateful world?

Barry Jenkins has responded to Baldwin's lyrical anguish by creating a world of warmth and possibility amid everyday callousness. Jenkins' first film since the pearl that was the Academy Award-winning "Moonlight"

resembles the novel in some ways. In others, it's very much its own creation. It's as if Baldwin had met Jenkins on the boulevard, shaken his hand and said: "It's all yours now."

This is the first English-lan-

guage theatrical release based on a Baldwin novel, which is pretty astonishing. The French-language "Where the Heart is," from 1998, represented a very loose adaptation, and there have been other Baldwin projects on film

and television, most recently the fabulous Raoul Peck documentary "I Am Not Your Negro."

The first time we see Alonzo, known as Fonny, and Clementine, known as Tish, they're strolling down by the river. Composer Nicholas Britell's insinuating, supple music (a film highlight of 2018) seems to be setting the scene for a momentous occasion.

Tish is 19; Fonny is 22. At this point in "Beale Street" they're plainly in love and, as it happens, on the verge of making love for the first time. Friends since childhood, their attraction has grown naturally. KiKi Layne, in a formidable big-screen debut, makes

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MATT KENNEDY/ANNAPURNA PICTURES

Christian Bale as Dick Cheney and Amy Adams as his wife, Lynne.

'VICE' ★★

A Cheney biopic chock full of ... itself

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS
 Chicago Tribune

Adam McKay's restless Dick Cheney lament, "Vice," belongs to a subgenre of recent political biopics one might characterize as "The Important, the Powerful and the Generally Pathetic," with the subjects embodying all three traits.

Oliver Stone's sneakily sympathetic George W. Bush inquiry "W." (2008, released while Bush was still in office) and Jay Roach's HBO teleplay "Game Change" (2012, with Julianne Moore as Sarah Palin) belong on that list. These movies are dialectical exercises, their makers unafraid to make their subjects look pretty shallow, or a little

lost, at least. Stone's "Nixon" biopic qualifies as well, though watching that movie I had no idea what Stone thought of his subject, other than: "Complicated! And generally pathetic."

"Vice," by contrast, suggests George W. Bush's two-time vice president is not an especially complex figure. "Scarily powerful" is another matter. What "Vice" says, and how it says it, will have half its audience nodding in angry, contemptuous agreement and the other half calling it a liberal smear.

McKay's film paints Cheney as the chief instigator of the Iraq invasion and the millions dead as a result of that invasion. He's

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IN PERFORMANCE 'La Ruta' ★★★

Honoring the women of Juarez, murdered on their way to work

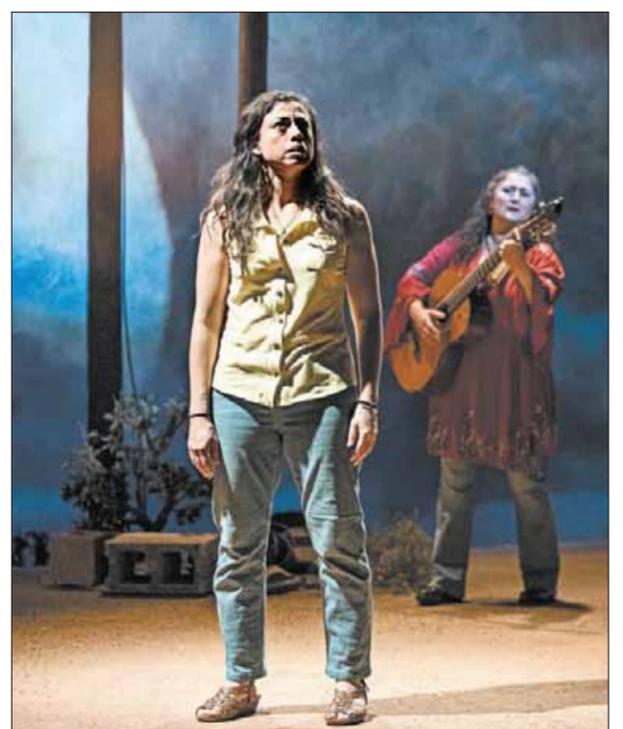
BY CHRIS JONES
 Chicago Tribune

Isaac Gomez wrote "La Ruta" for the women of Ciudad Juarez.

There is work yet to do on this talented 27-year-old writer's new drama with music, which I saw Friday night at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and Sandra Marquez's world-premiere production suggested a need for more rehearsal time to fully cohere. But Gomez, who grew up in El Paso, Tex., clearly wanted to do right by those women, many of whom were his sources, and who trusted him with their stories. He fulfilled his promise. He honors them with every word. Alive or dead, you feel them in the bones of his young play.

I remember encountering a group of Juarez women in Mexico City some years ago; I have not forgotten faces that have stood guard over a long-standing atrocity. The women surely would have great respect for this piece, because, under like some other salacious tellings of their collective story (they have been used by, among others, Roberto Bolano in "2666," and the cosmetics firm MAC) it has such respect for them.

If you don't know the story of gendered abuse in a border city, it is a shocker. Amidst a backdrop of gang-related killings — there have been some 10,000 murders in Juarez since 2008, according to Texas Monthly — hundreds, if not thousands, of



MICHAEL BROSILOW PHOTO

Sandra Delgado and Laura Crotte star in the harrowing "La Ruta."

young women have, over the past decade, disappeared without trace. Most of these women, and girls, were working in the *maquiladoras*, the infamous factories that sprouted in the city after the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement, allowing U.S. manufactur-

ers to pay labor rates as low as \$5 or \$10 a day, despite a physical location astride the U.S. border (and, for the record, despite a pretty high cost of living in Juarez). The workers needed for those factories had to be bused

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CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services



JASIN BOLAND/WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Amber Heard, left, and Jason Momoa in "Aquaman."

'Aquaman' outswims 'Poppins' in theaters

In a flood of new releases, "Aquaman" easily swam past "Mary Poppins Returns" and "Bumblebee" to lead the busy pre-Christmas weekend with an estimated \$674 million over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Without a "Star Wars" film on the December schedule for the first time in four years, a crowded slate of films sought to capitalize on the lucrative holiday period in theaters.

The DC Comics superhero film "Aquaman," which cost Warner Bros. \$200 million to make, arrived already a juggernaut overseas, where it has grossed more than \$400 million in three weeks of release.

Returns were more modest for Disney's "Mary Poppins" sequel and Paramount's "Transformers" spinoff, though each had reason to expect strong business through the holidays.

"Mary Poppins Returns," starring Emily Blunt and directed by Rob Marshall, debuted with \$22.2 million over the weekend and \$31 million since opening Wednesday. That was on the low side of expectations for the musical, which cost \$130 million to make.

"Poppins" still narrowly edged "Bumblebee," which opened with \$21 million. That, too, is a soft beginning for a film that cost about \$135 million to make after tax credits. It's also far off the pace of the "Transformers" films, the last of which ("Transformers: The Last Knight") debuted with \$44.7 million in summer 2017.

— Associated Press

Box office

1. "Aquaman," \$67.4 million
2. "Mary Poppins Returns," \$22.2 million.
3. "Bumblebee," \$21 million
4. "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," \$16.7 million
5. "The Mule," \$9.3 million
6. "The Grinch," \$8.2 million
7. "Second Act," \$6.5 million
8. "Ralph Breaks the Internet," \$4.6 million
9. "Welcome to Marwen," \$2.4 million
10. "Mary Queen of Scots," \$2.2 million

SOURCE: Associated Press
Estimated sales,
Friday-Sunday



ANDER GILLENEA/GETTY-AFP

Actress, drummer engaged: Actress Debby Ryan and Twenty One Pilots drummer Josh Dun are engaged. Both Ryan and Dun announced their engagement on social media Saturday. The 30-year-old Dun proposed to the 25-year-old Ryan in a treehouse in New Zealand. Dun posted a photo of himself proposing on one knee before Ryan. He called her his "dude for life." Ryan, star of the Netflix series "Insatiable," said on Twitter that she said yes. Ryan added she "technically said 'no way' twice but I meant yes."

Dec. 24 birthdays: Actress Sharon Farrell is 78. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 63. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 62. Actor Anil Kapoor is 62. Singer Mary Ramsey is 55. Actor Diedrich Bader is 52. Singer Ricky Martin is 47. "Twilight" series author Stephenie Meyer is 45. TV host Ryan Seacrest is 44. Actor Austin Stowell is 34. Singer Louis Tomlinson is 27.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Friend's 'break' could inflict pain

Dear Amy: My roommate and friend, "Rand," recently decided to take a break from his girlfriend of three years. He has been seeing other people and has had casual sex with a few women in the short time since his breakup.

He asked me if I or my girlfriend had any friends we could set him up with, and my girlfriend jumped at the idea to set him up with her friend. The four of us went out for drinks and the pair hit it off. They slept together and have since been exchanging texts and making plans to hang out in the future.

He does not want this to be anything more than a short fling; he sees himself getting back together with his longtime girlfriend and is moving to Boston for a new job in two months. However, he did make it clear he wants to see her often before he goes (though this is most likely primarily for sex).

Although she understood he was just on a break with his girlfriend, she believes there may be a deeper connection. She does not know that he will continue to see other girls.

My girlfriend and I feel responsible for this because we set them up; we see a heartbreak waiting to happen, and we feel guilty that we didn't fully disclose the extent of his promiscuity before setting them up.

We're thinking of telling her but aren't sure what to say. We'd like to preserve our friendship with her. What should we do?
— Worried Pal

Dear Worried: Let your girlfriend handle this. She may have strong feelings — guided by friendship, as

well as the somewhat undefinable dictates of "girl code." At the very least, your girlfriend must convey to her friend that "Rand" played the field with impunity just before they met, and — if his pattern holds true — he will continue to be sexually active with various women now. Condoms, people!

Whatever love delusions she may harbor, however, are her business. Presumably she knows that Randy Rand is moving soon. If she wants to hear some hang-over lies, she can ask him.

Surely Rand realizes that because you and he room together, you have an awareness of his behavior. But you are not responsible for his behavior (or its consequences). He is.

Dear Amy: For eight months now I have been taking an 87-year-old friend to ALL of her medical appointments. We used to work together and have stayed friends for years. She has a daughter and granddaughter in our town who "can't" take her anywhere because they work. I am essentially her Uber.

Frankly, I am tired, depressed and want out of this responsibility. There are transportation alternatives, which she does not want to use. I am 75, and my husband passed away barely a year ago. I can't imagine I will ever get over his loss.

I don't want to end the friendship with my friend, and I feel guilty about deserting her. On the other hand, if I were not available, would someone else step up? What should I do?
— Exhausted

Dear Exhausted: My late

mother had a blunt (revealing) statement she used to make when she didn't want to do something/lend something/pick up someone's dry cleaning: "Pretend I'm dead."

If you weren't there to be so responsible for your friend, what would happen? She would have to find another way. You could preserve your energy and the friendship by drawing a firm boundary around what you are willing/able to do. Don't abandon her abruptly, but wear her toward alternatives.

You should pick the appointments you are willing to drive to, and tell her: "I'm only able to take you to your appointment on the 20th — no others this month." She will have to call her family members.

Dear Amy: I was the distant son described in the letter from "Wayward Dad," the older man who realized he had missed his son's childhood because he was always working.

If I had received a letter like the one you suggested Wayward Dad write, I would have bawled my eyes out and hurried to his side.

Fortunately, my dad and I grew close in my middle years and I was there for him in his declining years and his passing. I wouldn't trade any of that time for anything.
— Fortunate Son

Dear Son: There is simply no substitute for spending time together.

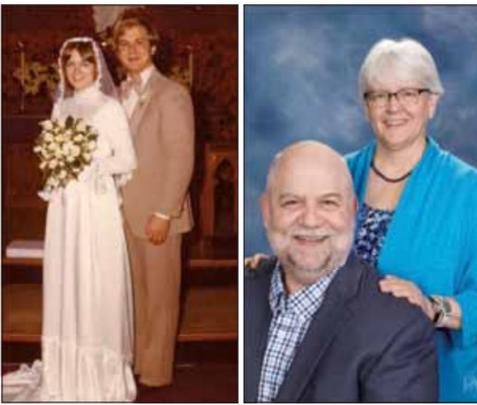
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ANNIVERSARY



David and Sarah Fodor 40th Wedding Anniversary

David and Sarah (Owen) Fodor celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on December 23, 2018. They were married in 1978 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Skokie, IL. They have two sons, Mark (b.1984) and Tim (b.1987) & Daughter-in-Law Bonnie (O'Malley) Fodor. David has one brother, Michael Fodor of Marengo, IL. Sarah has a brother, Reuel Owen (Kathy) of Galesburg, IL, a half-brother, John Balsley of Arlington, VA, step sisters Janice Chmela (Bill) of Dallas, and Dee Dee Jaderholm (Ron) of Wheaton, IL, and step brother Jim Haut (Jeanne) of Libertyville, IL. David and Sarah Fodor have lived in Herscher, IL (1978-1982), Macomb, IL (1982-1988), and in Skokie/Evanston, IL (1988 to present).

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Chew on,
CHICAGO

'Beale'

Continued from Page 13

this young woman naive and vulnerable, but not credulous, or simple. Stephan James' Fonny matches her step for step; he's a forcefully charismatic embodiment of a soul mate who has found a soul mate.

Fonny, a short-order cook sometimes, a sculptor and a woodworker full-time, has plenty going against him as a black man in America. Baldwin's story is that story: What happens to Fonny, when he's wrongly accused of rape, doesn't feel like it belongs to 1974. Or only 1974, certainly. On movie screens this year, in so many strong films, variations on the grim theme of wrongful incarceration, of African-Americans dying at the hands of those charged to protect the innocent, have floated through "The Hate U Give," "Widows" and others like a poison gas.

"Beale Street" is not new in that regard, but it's also far more than the sum of its narrative adversities. Through the story of Tish

and Fonny, and their intimately entwined families working to get him out of prison, many more characters take the stage. Regina King excels as Tish's mother, Sharon, a marvel of intuition and strength. She leads a matchless ensemble including Coleman Domingo's relaxed, loving husband, Joseph. Brian Tyree Henry strides into the film as an old friend of Fonny's, recently sprung from prison. He's like a harbinger of Fonny's own fate, and their single, fantastically fluid encounter, at Fonny's downtown studio, is a marvel of interaction.

"Beale Street" isn't all gold, it must be said. Baldwin risks some obviousness in his depiction of Fonny's family, particularly that of his fierce church-going pill of a mother (Aunjanue L. Ellis). But a key early scene, where Tish announces her pregnancy, hums with dramatic electricity, some unexpectedly sharp zingers and, crucially, an understanding of clashing points of view.

We get to know these faces in enclosed spaces, mostly, and when Tish and Fonny fall slowly into Fon-

MPAA rating: R (for language and some sexual content)

Running time: 1:56

ny's bed, the director and his frequent collaborator and cinematographer, James Laxton, bathe the actors in exquisite light and shadow. Theirs is a supremely tender rendezvous, and Jenkins doesn't squander the opportunity.

Many of the key scenes in "Beale Street" unfold in extended takes; elsewhere, in a style familiar to moviegoers from Jenkins' previous "Moonlight" and "Medicine for Melancholy," the actors speak directly to the camera, Ozu "Tokyo Story" style. It's especially striking in the scenes when Tish and Fonny converse with a thick pane of glass between them, at the prison.

The story travels to Puerto Rico, as Tish's mother tracks down the fleeing accuser of her son. But most of "Beale Street" stays within a dreamy, violent, cruel, beautiful vision of 1970s New York. Baldwin's descriptions in

the novel include passages such as this one, narrated by Tish, describing a moment in her loving home with a Ray Charles song on the record player. "I listened to the music and the sounds from the streets and Daddy's hand rested lightly on my hair. And everything seemed connected — the street sounds, and Ray's voice and his piano and my Daddy's hand and sister's silhouette and the sound and the light coming from the kitchen."

That's pure cinema. What Baldwin does with words, Jenkins does visually. It's what Blanche DuBois says in "A Streetcar Named Desire": "I don't want realism. I want magic!" In "Beale Street" that magic can be crushing, and soul-stirring, sometimes simultaneously. Jenkins' epilogue, not found in the novel, may go a little far in its embrace of the affirmative. But that's hardly the worst thing you can say about any film, let alone one as lovely as this.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

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'Vice'

Continued from Page 13

a sloppy, vomiting mess as a young man (the film opens with a drunken-driving arrest in 1963 Wyoming) and then, increasingly, a better-behaved cipher of a politician, fixated on personal power. Cheney's humanizing trait is his love for his family. Then, in collusion with his politically astute wife, Lynne, he sells out one daughter for the political advantage of the other.

Christian Bale plays Cheney. It's quite a technical feat. The prostheses, the latex, the makeup, the weight gain and the crafty actor beneath the exterior make-over combine for a consistently purposeful performance. Amy Adams goes to town as Lynne Cheney, the down-home,

brass-knuckles Lady Macbeth to her watchful, muttering husband. Steve Carell's mentor-turned-victim Donald Rumsfeld, Sam Rockwell's George W. Bush — both have fun with their familiar real-life subjects, though they seem to be rolling in from an adjacent movie set, where a funnier, sharper Cheney biopic is being filmed.

We skip back and forth through the decades, and Cheney's five heart attacks. The unnamed man addressing the camera and serving as narrator (Jesse Plemons) eventually reveals his hidden connection to the hollow man at the center of "Vice." McKay's popular and well-liked previous feature, "The Big Short," did a lot of what "Vice" does, which is to say: anything and everything to keep the exposition and the summary judgments as lively as

MPAA rating: R (for language and some violent images)

Running time: 2:12

possible.

Clever as he is, something in McKay's sense of humor, when applied to nonfiction topics he's seriously angry about, provokes a passive sort of despair, and a clichéd sense of liberal helplessness.

McKay wanted to make "Vice" because he found Cheney's influence on modern American geopolitics to be astonishing in its far-reaching destruction. You can agree or disagree. But the move throws in cheap visual metaphors via stock footage — a puma taking down a gazelle, for example, when Cheney and Antonin Scalia chortle over customary notions of the limits of executive

power.

Is it just too soon? If "Vice" came along 10 years from now, would a deeply skeptical look at this sphinx of a bear of a man play differently? Maybe.

But in both "The Big Short" and this film, the momentary diversions accumulate into a pile of: *Nothing to be done. We'll never learn.* Watching an excoriating full-on political satire such as "The Death of Stalin," on the other hand, feels very different. Without missing a step, the movie chills the blood. I'm not equating Cheney with Stalin, but "Vice" left me not with the bitter truth of recent American history but with a tonally uncertain docudrama encased in latex and snark.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

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WATCH THIS: MONDAY



Peter Billingsley

"A Christmas Story" (7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m., 1 a.m., 3 a.m., 5 a.m., TBS): TBS begins its annual 24-hour yuletide marathon — also airing on sister channel TNT — of this holiday favorite from 1983 starring Peter Billingsley as Ralphie, the little boy who yearns to find a Red Ryder BB gun under the Christmas tree. Not just a Christmas story, it's about parents, little brothers, bullies, decoder rings, double dog dares and most of all, the workings of a youthful mind.

"White Christmas" (7 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:45 p.m., 11:30 p.m., 2:15 a.m., SUN): Some purists may sniff that 1942's "Holiday Inn," of which this 1954 musical is a partial remake, is a superior piece of work. The fact remains that this latter vehicle for Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen has become a compulsory part of the yuletide celebration for millions around the world. The classic title tune is just one of several memorable Irving Berlin melodies performed here with style, heart and panache.

"It's a Wonderful Life" (7 p.m., NBC): Small-town guy George Bailey (James Stewart) defers one big dream after another to stay home, marry a local girl (Donna Reed) and run the family business. Facing financial ruin, he's pulled from suicidal despair by angel Clarence (Henry Travers), who shows him how terrible the world would have been if he'd never lived. Lionel Barrymore also stars in director Frank Capra's 1946 classic, a Christmas Eve television tradition.

"Beauty and the Beast" (7 p.m., ABC): One of the most beloved of modern Disney animated features, this 1991 fantasy puts its own spins on the familiar saga of a young woman (voice of Paige O'Hara) unexpectedly involved with a beastly creature (voice of Robby Benson). He's actually an accursed prince who needs true love to return to his former self. Angela Lansbury and Jerry Orbach also supply voices. The Oscar-winning score includes the title song and "Be Our Guest."

"Elf" (7:30 p.m., AMC): Surprisingly sweeter than you might expect from the premise and the casting, this 2003 comedy stars Will Ferrell as Buddy, a human who was adopted by elves as an infant and grows up thinking he's just a large version of his adoptive father (Bob Newhart). When Buddy finds out the truth about his parentage, he is crushed and goes out into the real world to find his birth father (James Caan), who has his own family and isn't interested in rehashing the past.

"A Bold New Love: A Christmas Eve With Middle Collegiate Church" (10:35 p.m., CBS): Tituss Burgess conducts the Art & Soul Chorus in a performance of "Grateful" and "You're My Joy," two gospel songs he composed, during this one-hour celebration of Christmas Eve from Middle Collegiate Church, a large, multi-racial congregation in the East Village neighborhood of Manhattan. The program also features the participation of three other choirs, two dance companies and a spoken word artist. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, offers the sermon.

TALK SHOWS

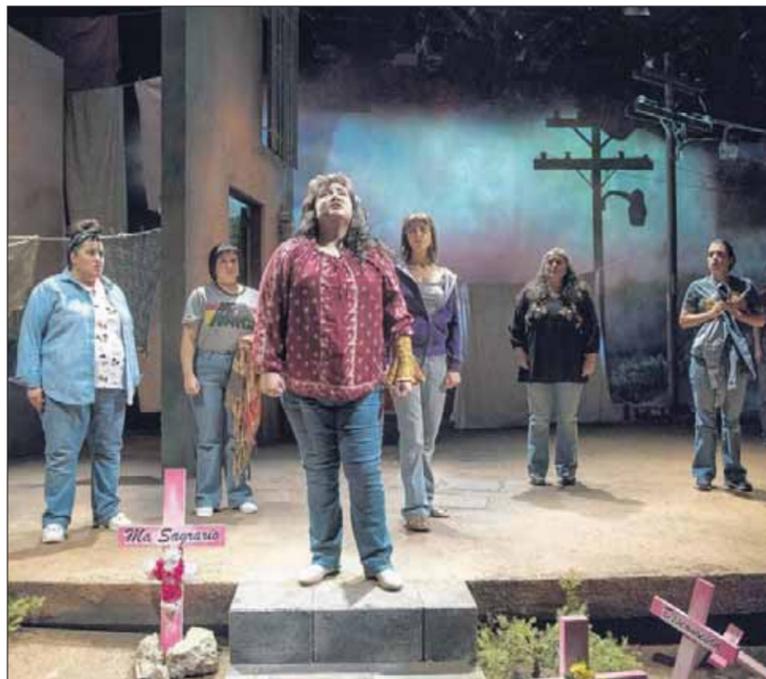
"Jimmy Kimmel Live" (10:35 p.m., ABC): Celebrity guests and comedy skits.*

* Subject to change

Hey, TV lovers: Looking for detailed show listings? TV Weekly is an ideal companion. To subscribe, go to www.tvweekly.com or call 1-877-580-4159

MONDAY EVENING, DEC. 24

	PM	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00
BROADCAST	CBS 2	The Neighborhood ©	The Neighborhood ©	God Friended Me: "Heavenly Taco Truck." ©		Bull: "Absolution." ©		News (N) ▶
	NBC 5	It's a Wonderful Life (PG,46) **** James Stewart, Donna Reed. An angel saves a distraught businessman from suicide. ©						NBC 5 News (N) ▶
	ABC 7	Beauty and the Beast (G,91) **** Voices of Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson. ©				The Good Doctor: "Middle Ground." ©		News at 10pm (N) ▶
	WGN 9	blackish ©	blackish ©	Last Man Standing ©	Last Man Standing ©	WGN News at Nine (N) ©		WGN News at Ten (N)
	Antenna 9.2	Bunker	Alice ©	Alice ©	B. Miller	Coach ©	Coach ©	Murphy
	This TV 9.3	12 Days of Christmas Eve (PG,04) ★ Steven Weber.				The Bishop's Wife (NR,47) ★ ★ ★ ★		
	PBS 11	Antiques Roadshow: "Greatest Gifts." ©		Making a New American Nutcracker ©		Christmas With the Mormon Tabernacle		Prince of Peace ▶
	The U 26.1	7 Eyewitness News (N)	The Game	Engagement	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Hogan Hero	Seinfeld ©
	MeTV 26.3	Andy Griffith Andy Griffith	Gomer Pyle	WKRP Cincinnati				C. Burnett
	H&I 26.4	Star Trek ©	Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9			Star Trek ▶
	Bounce 26.5	Scandal: "It's Handled."	Family Time	Family Time		Daddy Day Care (PG,03) ★ ★ ★		
	FOX 32	MasterChef Junior: Celebrity Showdown ©				Fox 32 News at Nine (N)		Modern Family ©
	Ion 38	★ (6) Christmas Belle ('13)	A Cinderella Christmas (NR,16) Emma Rigby. ©					Christmas ▶
	TeleM 44	★ Ice Age 3: dawn	2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13,03) ★ ★ Paul Walker. ©					Chicago (N)
	CW 50	Arrow: "Due Process." ©	DC's Legends			Law Order: CI		Chicago ▶
UniMas 60	★ (6) Hugo (PG,11) ★ ★ Ben Kingsley.	Deck the Halls (PG,06) ★			Danny DeVito.			
WJYS 62	J. Savelle	K. Hagin	Joyce Meyer	Robison	Blakeman	Paid Prog.	Monument	
Univ 66	Celebrando en Nochebuena							Noticias (N)
CABLE	AE	★ (6) Ocean's Eleven (PG-13,01) ★ ★		Ocean's Thirteen (PG-13,07) ★ ★ George Clooney. ▶				
	AMC	★ Santa Claus Elf (PG,03) ★ ★ Will Ferrell, James Caan. ©		Nat'l-Christmas ▶				
	ANIM	Tanked: "Tanks N' Roses." Tanked ©		Tanked ©		Tanked ▶		
	BBCA	Doctor Who: "A Christmas Carol." ©		(8:20) Doctor Who ©		(9:40) Doctor Who ©		
	BET	★ (5) Think Like a Man ★ ★		Meet the Browns (PG-13,08) ★ ★ Tyler Perry, Angela Bassett. ©				
	BIGTEN	Campus	Penn State		Campus	Big Ten Elite ©		Campus
	BRAVO	Vanderpump Rules ©		Vanderpump Rules ©		Unanchored (N) ©		Bride ▶
	CLTV	News at 7	News (N)	News at 8	News (N)	SportsFeed ©		Politics
	CNBC	Shark Tank ©		Shark Tank ©		Shark Tank ©		Shark ▶
	CNN	Pope: Most Powerful Man		Pope: Most Powerful Man		Pope: Most Powerful Man		Anthony ▶
	COM	The Office		The Office		The Office		The Office
	DISC	Fast N' Loud ©						Fast-Loud ▶
	DISN	Coop	Bizaardvark	K.C. Under.	K.C. Under.	Good Luck	Hannah	Hannah
	E!	★ Pirates of the Caribbean		Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13,06) ★ ★ ©				
	ESPN	(7:15) NFL Football: Denver		Broncos at Oakland Raiders. (N) (Live)		SportsC. (N)		
	ESPN2	★ Basketball: A Love Story		Basketball: A Love Story ©		Basketball ▶		
	FNC	OBJECTified: "Dr. Phil."		OBJECTified ©		OBJECTified ©		Bret Baier ▶
	FOOD	Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking (N)		Christmas Cookie		Ginger. ▶
	FREE	★ Dr. Seuss' How-Grinch		(7:55) The Santa Clause (PG,94) ★ ★ Tim Allen. ©		700 Club ▶		
	FX	★ The Secret Life of Pets		Despicable Me 2 (PG,13) ★ ★ Voices of Steve Carell.		Christmas ▶		
	HALL	★ A Shoe Addict's Christmas (NR,18)		Christmas at Pemberley Manor ('18)		Entertain ▶		
	HGTV	Love It or List It ©		Love It or List It ©		Love It or List It ©		Love-List ▶
	HIST	Ancient Aliens: Declassified (N) ©						
	HLN	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
	IFC	Jaws (PG,75) ★ ★ ★ Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw. ©				(9:45) Jaws 2 ('78) ★ ★		
	LIFE	A Christmas in Tennessee (NR,18) Rachel Boston.				(9:03) The Christmas Contract ('18) ★		
	MSNBC	All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word (N)		11th Hour (N)
	MTV	Teen Mom OG ©		Teen Mom OG (N) ©		Ex on the Beach ©		Ridiculous.
	NBCSCH	Premier League Soccer (Tape)				Beer Money		Inside Look
	NICK	★ Christmas SpongeBob		SpongeBob		SpongeBob		Friends ©
OVATION	★ (6) Apollo 13 (PG,95) ★ ★ Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton.				The Da Vinci Code (PG-13,06) ★ ★			
OWN	Dateline on OWN ©		Dateline on OWN ©		Deadline: Crime		Dateline ▶	
OXY	Homicide for the Holidays		Homicide for the Holidays		Homicide for the Holidays		Homicide ▶	
PARMT	★ (6) Creed (PG-13,15) ★ ★ Michael B. Jordan. ©				Rocky II (PG,79) ★ ★ Talia Shire ©			
SYFY	The 12 Disasters of Christmas (NR,12) ★ ★ Ed Quinn.				Christmas Icatastrophe (NR,14) ©			
TBS	A Christmas Story (PG,83) ★ ★ ★ Peter Billingsley.				A Christmas Story (PG,83) ★ ★ ★			
TCM	The Bishop's Wife (NR,47) ★ ★ Cary Grant. ©				A Christmas Carol (NR,38) ★ ★			
TLC	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	
TLN	Supernatural	Humanit	Christmas	Pastor Greg	Robison	Billy Graham	Humanit ▶	
TNT	(5:45) The Wizard of Oz		A Christmas Story (PG,83) ★ ★ ★ Peter Billingsley.		Christmas ▶			
TOON	Gumball	Gumball	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Burgers	Burgers	Fam. Guy ▶	
TRAV	Expedition Unknown ©		Expedition Unknown: "X Marks the Spot." (N) ©		Legends (N)			
TVL	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Two Men	Two Men	King	
USA	WWE Monday Night RAW (N) (Live) ©						Fast ▶	
VH1	Love & Hip Hop (N) ©		Love & Hip Hop ©		Black Ink Crew ©		Hip Hop ▶	
WE	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (G,71) ★ ★ Gene Wilder.				Willy Wonka ▶			
WGN America	★ (6) Shrek the Third ★ ★		Horton Hears a Who! (G,08) ★ ★ Steve Carell ©		Bad Santa ▶			
PREMIUM	HBO	Surviving Christmas (PG-13,04) ★ ©		(8:35) The Greatest Showman (PG,17) ★ ★				
	HBO2	Ready Player One (PG-13,18) ★ ★ Tye Sheridan. ©				Sally4Ever		Rampage ▶
	MAX	Shakespeare in Love (R,98) ★ ★ Joseph Fiennes.				(9:05) Erin Brockovich (R,00) ★ ★		
	SHO	★ (6) Quantum of Solace		Escape at Dannemora		Baby Driver (R,17) ★ ★ Ansel Elgort. ▶		
	STARZ	Counterpart ©		(8:01) Shock and Awe (R,17) ★ ★ ©		(9:35) Outlander ©		
STZNC	Scrooged (PG-13,88) ★ ★ Bill Murray.		(8:43) Scrooged (PG-13,88) ★ ★ Bill Murray.					



MICHAEL BROSILOW PHOTO

Karen Rodriguez, front, and the cast of "La Ruta" at Steppenwolf Theatre.

'La Ruta' honors women

Women, from Page 13

in from poor, rural communities in Mexico, and this provided opportunity for assailants, especially since the women often had to walk across dark fields to get to what they called *La Ruta*.

Who is responsible? At various points in Gomez's play, fingers are pointed at narcotics traffickers, sex traffickers, opportunist rapists, gang members, the media, the police and the owners of the *maquiladoras*. That reflects the history, although there now is some evidence that attacking these women was used as a specific gang initiation rite.

"La Ruta," which uses an ensemble cast made up of Charin Alvarez, Cher Alvarez, Laura Crotte, Sandra Delgado, Mari Marroquin, Karen Rodriguez, Alice da Cunha and Isabella Gerasole, depicts the experience of both the disappeared and those desperate try to find them. It uses a complex narrative struc-

When: Through Jan. 27

Where: Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 1635 N. Halsted St.

Running time: 1 hour, 40 minutes

Tickets: \$20-\$89 at 312-335-1650 or Steppenwolf.org

ture of flashbacks, a strategy that makes the piece difficult to follow in places, and challenges the usual empathetic response.

I suspect Gomez wanted to avoid the traditionally tense crime narrative and good for him. What he now needs to do is find the right replacement, which means better exploring the world of work, revealing more of the women's lives beyond their disappearance and mourning, and moving more of the reactive and repetitive dialogic scenes into real dramatic time and action. The piece would be aided by a production richer in contrasts in pace and intensity, with

more more urgency and more moments of quiet, quotidian agony. And hope.

The mostly Mexican music in the piece, which is beautifully performed live by a cast well stocked with legit singers, is one of the show's great strengths. And Regina Garcia's organic design makes up a beautiful collage that needs only better sculpted fusion with the human souls who make up the rest of the picture.

"La Ruta" is certainly anything but holiday escapism; it concerns women who have heard too many excuses for political inaction. A large majority of immigrant Chicagoans of Latinx descent have roots in provincial Mexico; most know already of this story, but, in producing this show, Steppenwolf now is morally obligated to help them find this deeply committed telling.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

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Chicago Shakespeare switches gears

By CHRIS JONES
Chicago Tribune

Chicago Shakespeare Theater said Thursday it is postponing its planned summer production of a new musical adaptation of the 1971 Disney movie "Bedknobs and Broomsticks" and will instead stage the U.S. premiere of "Six the Musical," a raucous and anachronistic new rock musical from London's West End about the six wives of Henry VIII.

CST executive director Criss Henderson said that "Bedknobs and Broomsticks" needed to go back into workshops, following the death of stage director Rachel Rockwell early this year. Rockwell had been heading up the creative team. Henderson said that it was still the theater's intent to produce the show, but at a later date.

In its place at The Yard,



CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER PHOTO

Chicago Shakespeare Theater will stage the U.S. premiere of "Six the Musical," about the six wives of Henry VIII.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater will move forward the planned production of "Six the Musical." Penned by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, the show has the tag-line: "Divorced. Beheaded. Live in Concert."

The U.S. premiere in Chicago, produced in collaboration with the original British producers and with the Broadway producer Kevin McCollum, looks much like a pre-Broadway

tryout. It promises to remix "five hundred years of historical heartbreak into a 75-minute celebration of 21st century girl power." "Six" will run from May 14 to June 30 in The Yard on Navy Pier. Tickets go on sale Jan. 15 and casting has yet to be determined.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

cjones5@chicagotribune.com

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"AVENUE Q IS A HIT!"
- Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

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CHICAGOLAND THEATRE DIRECTORY

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (Dec. 24): Your team wins this year. Provide dedication and leadership for new heights. Romance catches you by surprise. Enjoy the spotlight this winter, before a twist unfurls with family finances. Partnership flowers next summer, leading to a shift with personal priorities.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 7. Think things over before jumping into action. Keep things simple to avoid stress. Back up intuition with facts. Relax and enjoy time with people you love.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 7. Focus on home, family and domestic projects. Cook, clean and create works of beauty and delicious flavors. Play your favorite games together.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 7. Use your persuasive arts. Creative projects can be fun. Don't get distracted by fantasies or time-sucking phone apps. Connect with your peeps.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 9. Track your budget today and tomorrow. Find ways to save money. Unexpected expenses may arise. Plan your finances to accommodate new personal directions.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 9. Keep your objective in mind. Advance your personal agenda. Keep secrets and confidences. Don't reveal unfinished work yet. Fantasy and reality clash.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 6. Look to the past for insight on the road ahead. Indulge nostalgia and retrospection. Remember ancestors and history. Spiritual reflection and ritual satisfies.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 8. Social events and gatherings sparkle with connection. Together, you're a powerful force. Work out your team strategy. Collaborate for shared gain. Contribute for common good.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 8. There are plenty of distractions to interrupt your focus with a professional challenge. Don't fall for a trick. Watch out for spills. Stay in communication.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 7. Travel delays and chaos could alter your original plans. Stay connected, and accept assistance when needed. Avoid risk or speculation.

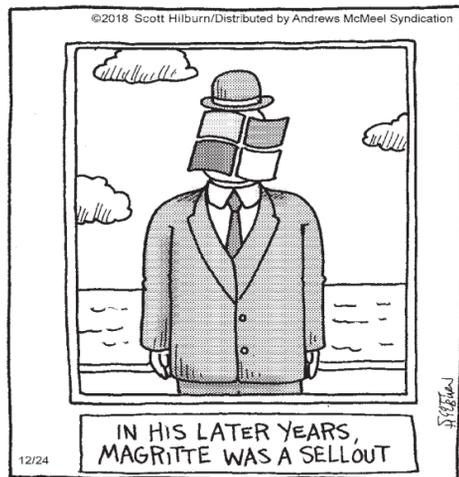
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 8. Take care of financial matters over the next few days. Mistakes could get expensive. Avoid overspending on unnecessary stuff. Stick to simplicity and connection.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 8. Provide mutual support to your partner. Collaborate to manage shared responsibilities. Relax your expectations, and roll with any surprises.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 7. Take extra care with health and wellness. Don't bother with fad diets or tricks. Feed your heart and spirit with loving connection.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn



Bliss By Harry Bliss



Bridge

Here are the answers to the weekly quiz:

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 6 5 4 ♥ K 6 ♦ A K 10 9 ♣ 9 7 5

Partner opens 2H, weak. What call would you make?

A.1—When partner pre-empted in your shortest suit, stay out of the auction unless you have a strong no trump or the equivalent. This hand is close. Pass.

Q.2—North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 10 8 7 6 ♥ A J 10 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ 9 6 3

North **East** **South** **West**

1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass

2♠ Pass ?

What call would you make?

A.2—This hand is worth an invitational bid. You've already told your spade story once, so bid 2NT.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 10 8 ♥ K Q 8 4 ♦ A 3 ♣ K Q J 9 2

As dealer, what call would you make?

A.3—Should you open 1C and partner responds 1S, you will have an ugly rebid problem. Avoid that by opening 1NT.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

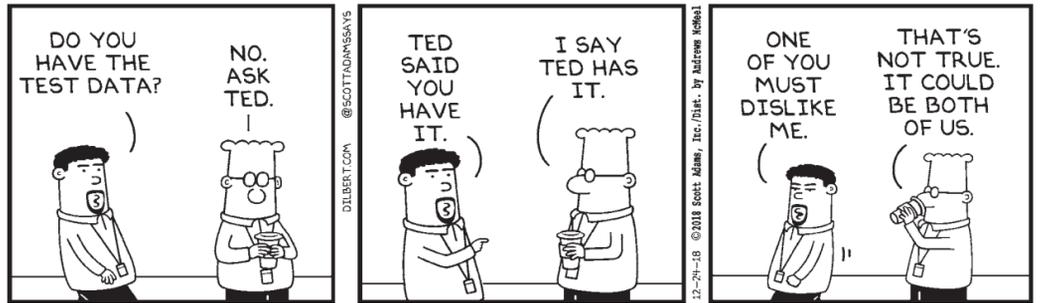
♠ K 7 3 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ A K ♣ J 10 6 4 2

Partner opens 1D and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

A.4—In the modern game, most play that a jump to 2NT over one of a minor is invitational, 11-12 points. That's better than a 2-over-1 response in a weak suit. Bid 2NT.

— Bob Jones
tcaeditors@tribpub.com

Dilbert By Scott Adams



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



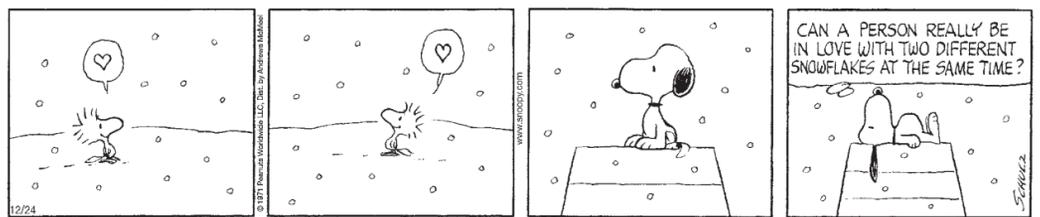
Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin



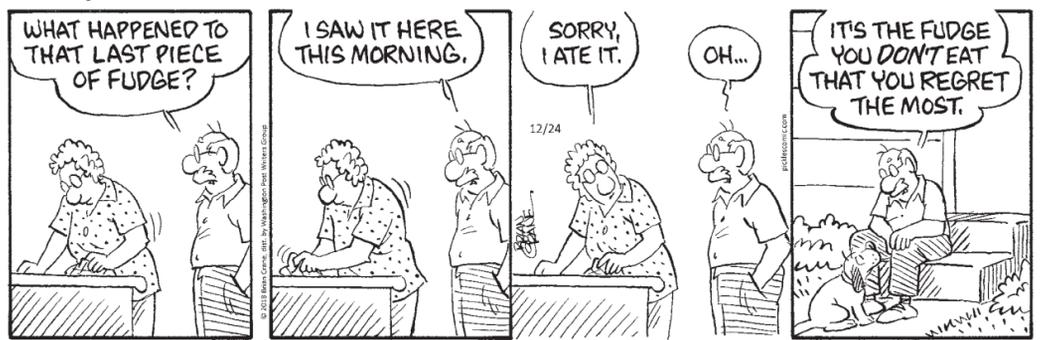
Frazz By Jef Mallett



Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz



Pickles By Brian Crane



Dick Tracy By Joe Staton and Mike Curtis



Animal Crackers By Mike Osburn



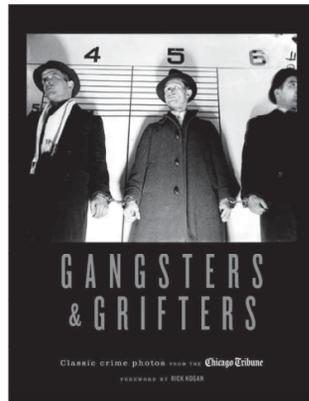
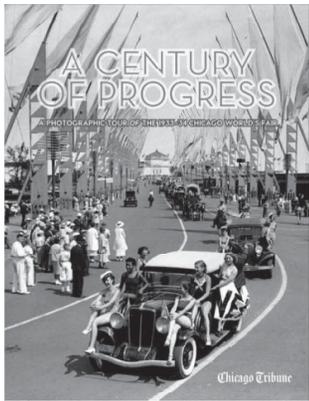
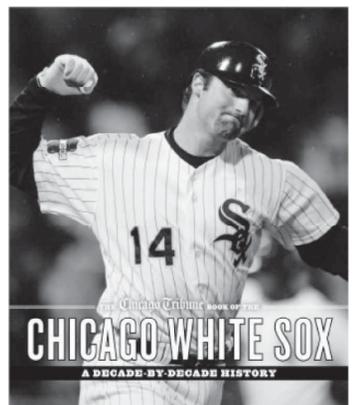
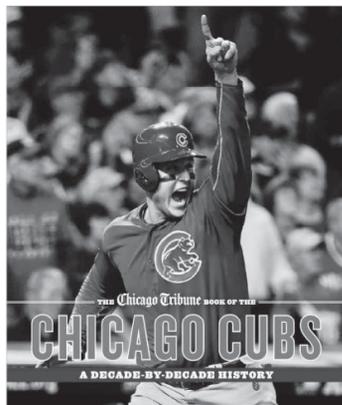
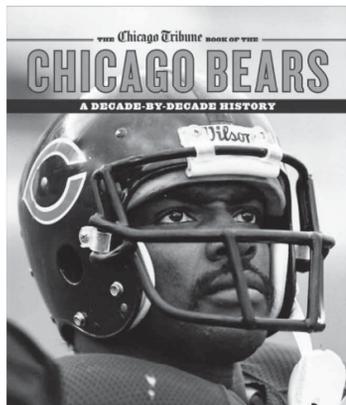
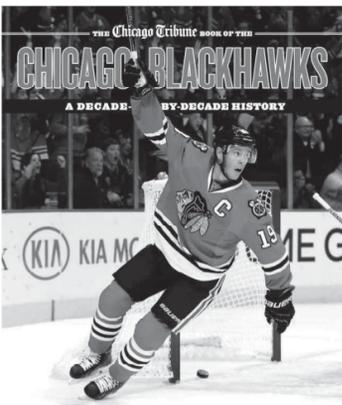
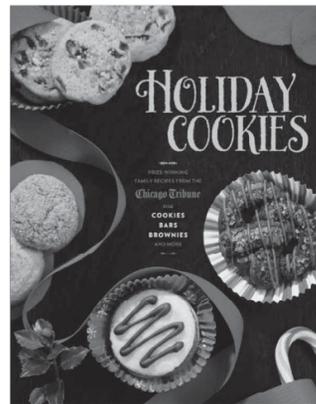
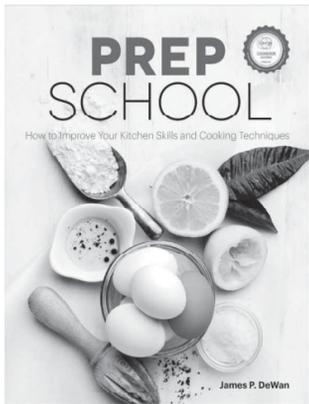
Prickly City By Scott Stantis



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Chicago Tribune

PANTHERS 6, BLACKHAWKS 3

Hawks sag in the middle, give up 3 second-period goals as 3-game winning streak ends at United Center. [Page 7](#)

BULLS 112, CAVALIERS 92

Markkanen hits 5 3-pointers, scores 31 points, as Bulls win consecutive games for 1st time this season. [Page 7](#)

Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears linebacker Roquan Smith (58) sacks 49ers quarterback Nick Mullens in the third quarter of Sunday's game in Santa Clara, Calif. With the win, the Bears remained third in the NFC.

BEARS 14, 49ERS 9

SANTA CLAWS

It's better to take than give: Defense gives Bears gift of No. 3 seed in NFC



RICH CAMPBELL
On the Bears

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Nowhere in the NFL's 89-page rule book does it state the Bears defense must intercept a pass during a game. But at some point in this championship season, it became law.

So there was an unmistakable sense of inevitability Sunday as the Bears protected a five-point lead midway through the fourth quarter and still hadn't taken the ball away.

As the 49ers marched to the Bears' 20-yard line, the takeaway-countdown clock was deafening. Tick ... tick ... tick.

And then boom: Interception, Danny Trevathan.

Threat averted. Box checked. Ho-hum. Tell us something we don't know, Bears.

Their NFL-leading 27th interception helped seal a 14-9 victory and clinch at least the third seed in the NFC playoffs.

"We always know we have the game in control," Trevathan said. "That's why we're

NFC PLAYOFF PICTURE

The Bears have clinched at least the No. 3 seed. To earn the No. 2 seed and a first-round bye, they need a win against the Vikings and a Rams home loss to the 49ers. Here's a look at the top six, with Week 17 opponents:

1	2	3	4	5	6
NO	LAR	CHI	DAL	SEA	MIN
13-2	12-3	11-4	9-6	9-6	8-6-1
CAR	SF	@MIN	@NYG	ARI	CHI

In the hunt: 7. Eagles 8-7, @WAS.

playing so well right now. We have that brotherhood. When we're on the field, let's go take it upon our shoulders."

Once again, those broad shoulders propped up an offense that didn't find its rhythm until the second half. By keeping

Turn to **Campbell, Page 5**

Bears 'D' makes Club Dub rock, but offense a no-show at the party



BRAD BIGGS
On the Bears

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — With disco lights bouncing off the walls and music blaring, running back Tarik Cohen stood in front of the wide-open double doors to Club Dub.

Playing the role of a bouncer, Cohen said admission was \$100 and then referred to assistant coaches and teammates filing past him as VIPs.

The party was on Sunday night at Levi's Stadium after the Bears edged the 49ers 14-9 for their eighth win in nine games. They improved to 11-4 in this remarkable turnaround season and kept the pressure on the Rams entering the final week of the regular season with a No. 2 seed and a first-round bye in the NFC playoffs at stake.

No one will be asked to apologize for an ugly victory, but that's precisely what this was, and the Bears are going to need a more complete effort if they hope to make a deep playoff run next month.

MORE COVERAGE

- Two Bears ejected in fight after late hit on Trubisky. [Page 3](#)
- Wiederer: Trubisky completes passes, stays in rhythm in second half. [Page 5](#)
- Robinson grateful to gritty defense after late-game fumble. [Page 5](#)

UP NEXT
Bears at Vikings
 3:25 p.m. Sunday, FOX-32

"Any way you get a victory, you always take them," coach Matt Nagy said.

Once again, the defense led the way as all the 49ers (4-11) mustered was three field goals by former Bear Robbie Gould. The Niners went 0-for-3 in the red zone, and that doesn't include Danny Trevathan's interception of undrafted second-year quarterback Nick Mullens in the fourth quarter on a play that began at the Bears 20-yard line.

The Bears defense has allowed oppo-

Turn to **Biggs, Page 2**

TOP OF THE SECOND

COMMENTARY

Eagles live to fight one more day

By **BOB FORD** | Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — So, let's do it again next week. Once more, let's study the percentages and cue up the tension and put the Eagles on the field to save their season for a third straight time with Nick Foles at quarterback.

Haven't we watched this movie before? In consecutive weeks, the Eagles survived games against the Rams and the Texans. Now they have to beat the Redskins on the road in the regular-season finale to make the postseason — and they'll still need some help.

Whatever happens, it would be difficult to top the finish of Sunday's 32-30 win over the Texans as Foles came back from a crushing hit that removed him from the game for a play, to lead a last-minute drive to the winning field goal.

The Legend of Nick wiped away what would have been a crushing, season-ending loss for the Eagles after their defense surrendered a 13-point lead in the last five minutes of the fourth quarter. They did what they had to do, even if they cut it close once again.

All they could control Sunday, however, was their own game, in what was their last home appearance of the season at Lincoln Financial Field. They trailed by a field goal at the half and opened the second half with a Foles interception, but the Eagles didn't let up and Foles didn't let them down.

Even though the rest of the news on the scoreboard wasn't good, the Eagles did what they had to do. In that regard, the day started well and ended well, with a few twists and turns in between. The afternoon began with the Eagles taking an early lead and the scoreboard showing that both the Vikings and Cowboys were trailing in their games. For most of the first half, however, the scoreboard was easier to watch than what was taking place on the field for the Eagles as they struggled to gain traction against the Texans. The offense fumbled away the ball once, and the defense kept the Texans' drives going with penalties. Either on the field or on the scoreboard, nothing was certain.

Entering the day, there were a number of permutations that would affect whether the Eagles could back their way into the postseason, but only one way in which they could be effectively eliminated. If they lost to the Texans, then the weight of probab-



YONG KIM/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Eagles quarterback Nick Foles reacts after throwing a fourth-quarter touchdown pass to tight end Zach Ertz on Sunday. It was one of four touchdown passes for Foles.

ity would crush them.

So, while it was interesting to keep track of how the Vikings were doing in Detroit, and how the Cowboys were doing at home against the Buccaneers, the Eagles still had most of fate in their own hands against the Texans.

As they have done often this season, the Eagles waited until late in the day to get going at home. Three of their four previous wins were thanks to fourth-quarter comebacks. It wasn't quite that late this time when they made their move, but there was only a little more than two minutes remaining in the third period when Nick Foles found Nelson Agholor for an 83-yard touchdown reception that broke a 16-16 tie and put the Eagles ahead.

After defensive end Chris Long forced a fumble with a sack on the next series, the Eagles were able to drive down and seemed to secure the win with a touchdown pass to Zach Ertz. But Jake Elliott, who eventually finished off the heroics, missed the extra point and the Eagles led by 13 points. It was plenty until the Texans rallied behind elusive quarterback Deshaun Watson to score two touchdowns in less than a three-minute span and appear

to extinguish the Eagles' hopes.

Foles kept that from happening, however. Once more.

There is still the small matter of who will play quarterback for the Eagles in Landover, Md. next Sunday. Carson Wentz is still on the active roster and the team has not ruled him out of further action this season as he deals with a stress fracture in his back. If the medical staff clears him to play if the pain is tolerable and doesn't restrict his motion, what would coach Doug Pederson do? Wentz is 4-6 in his starts this season. Foles, the hero of the Super Bowl, is 4-1.

Pederson has consistently said that Wentz is the team's first option, and that when he is able to play, he will return as the starter. But in this situation?

It could be a moot point. Various sources have indicated Wentz is done for the season, but the organization doesn't want to announce that yet. Maybe, but as Crash Davis, said, you have to respect the streak. Either way, Nick Foles is on a streak.

Not coincidentally, so are the Eagles. Maybe the streak is only two games, but if they can walk the ledge one more week, there could be much more to come.

NFC NORTH

Vikings win, edge closer to playoffs

Associated Press

Kirk Cousins took a shotgun snap, rolled slightly to his right, stepped up and heaved a pass from near midfield into the end zone.

Kyle Rudolph leaped to make a go-ahead touchdown catch.

Cousins' 44-yard Hail Mary to Rudolph as time expired in the first half put the Vikings ahead and they beat the Lions 27-9 Sunday, moving a step closer to playing in the postseason.

"It was a big way to gain some momentum going into the half after a slow start," Cousins said. "They were calling it a Hail Rudy after it happened."

The Vikings could have clinched a spot in the playoffs with a win and losses by the Redskins and Eagles this weekend. The Redskins lost to the Titans on Saturday, and shortly after the Vikings walked into their locker room at Ford Field, the Eagles beat the Texans on a game-ending field goal.

The Vikings (8-6-1) can still earn a spot in the postseason by closing the regular season with a win against the NFC North champion Bears at home or by having wild-card hopefuls lose.

"We don't want to leave it up to anyone else," Rudolph said.

The Vikings overcame an awful start offensively, scoring two touchdowns on Cousins' passes over the last 1:32 of the second quarter, and relied on their defense to stymie the Lions (5-10).

Cousins finished 21 of 28 for 253 yards with three touchdowns, matching his career high with 29 set in 2015 with the Redskins. Rudolph had a career-high 122 yards receiving, tied a career high with two touchdown receptions, and had a season-high nine receptions.

Packers 44, Jets 38: Aaron Rodgers threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams with 6:23 left in overtime in East Rutherford, N.J.

The victory was the Packers' first on the road this season and prevented them from becoming the first Green Bay squad since 1958 to go an entire season without a win away from home.

Rodgers threw for 442 yards and two touchdowns and ran for two scores for the Packers (6-8-1).

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Defense makes Club Dub rock — but offense no-show at party

Biggs, from Page 1

nents only two touchdowns in 11 red-zone possessions over the last four games. The defense was forced to make a final stand Sunday after Tarvarius Moore stripped Allen Robinson from behind after the wide receiver had gotten a first down on third-and-3 that would have iced the game had he given himself up and gone down. Running for more yardage, Robinson lost the ball and the Niners recovered, getting one final drive before turning the ball over on downs.

It's the second time in three weeks the Bears have kept the opponent out of the end zone, but when's the last time you felt good about the offense? Pre-shoulder injury for quarterback Mitch Trubisky?

He completed 25 of 29 passes (86.2 percent), making it the second-most accurate game in Bears history behind Bob Williams, who was 13 of 15 (86.7) against the Cowboys on Oct. 12, 1952. But it was mostly underneath throws against a lot of zone coverage, and Trubisky's day included a poor decision to lateral to Cohen, which turned into a fumble in the second quarter. A holding call against linebacker Fred Warner, a penalty the Niners disputed, negated an interception in the end zone by K'Waun Williams on the next possession. Three plays later, Trubisky connected with Anthony Miller for a 4-yard touchdown. Jordan Howard barreled in on a 2-yard run in the third quarter for the other score, but the running game was only decent, not dominant.

The Bears rode the defense to the victory and they can earn the No. 2 seed in the NFC with a win in Minnesota coupled with a 49ers victory over the Rams in Los Angeles. In that regard, the Bears didn't help themselves as they knocked four 49ers out of the game — running back Matt Breida, wide receiver Marquise Goodwin, tight end Garrett Celek and Williams. That left an injury-ravaged team even more beaten up when the Bears need a win from the Niners.

So, odds are the Bears wind up the No. 3 seed, which would give them a home playoff game on wild-card weekend before they would travel back to the West Coast to face the Rams. They've proved they can beat the Rams, but the Bears have been clearly better at Soldier Field, where they're 7-1, than they have been on the road. How else do you explain going down to the wire against Mullens, who was 22 of 38 for 241 yards with the one pick on a bad ball for Goodwin?

"I was getting ready to make the tackle, knock him out, make the ball pop up in the air," Trevathan said. "That was huge for us, especially the way the momentum was going. Defense stood up, bowed their



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears running back Tarik Cohen had just 19 yards from scrimmage Sunday as the Bears offense sputtered.

necks up. We bent, but we didn't break.

"It was odd. Those games you have to believe in yourselves and have each other's backs. It's never going to be pretty, games like this against a team where guys are playing for their livelihood, playing for pride. This team won its last two games and they thought they had it going on."

The Bears aren't going to face a team on the road like the 49ers again. They travel to Minnesota, where the Vikings are battling for a wild-card berth. Then, it would likely be on the road in the divisional round of the playoffs, where the opposing offense will look a lot more imposing than what the 49ers offered.

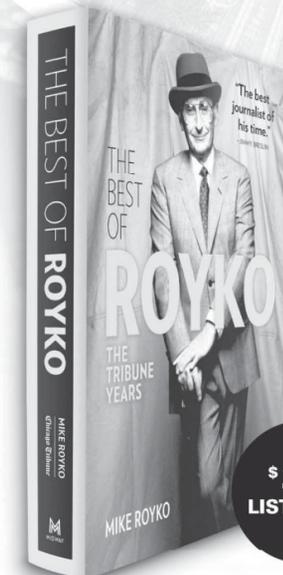
"Defense wins championships," Trevathan said. "Offense is going to give us their best. They had some big plays. We had to put on our big-boy pads and make some plays."

Said defensive end Akiem Hicks, credited with three pass deflections: "We knuckled up when they got down there and we took care of business. It goes both ways. There have been times during the season where (the offense has) put up a bunch of points and we're letting that team get in the end zone. We've got to fight together. Our offense has grown so much this season. I think when we need it and we're in that situation where there have to be points on the board, they come through."

That might be necessary to keep the club hopping.

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CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The 49ers' Marcell Harris lays a late hit on Mitch Trubisky in the fourth quarter of Sunday's Bears win. The hit led to a fight in which Anthony Miller and Josh Bellamy were ejected.

'It's like dirty football'

Miller, Bellamy ejected after late hit on Trubisky leads to fight on sideline

BY COLLEEN KANE | Chicago Tribune

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — When Bears rookie wide receiver Anthony Miller saw Mitch Trubisky take the hit, his immediate reaction was to swoop in to defend the Bears quarterback.

It was late in the fourth quarter of the Bears' 14-9 victory over the 49ers at Levi's Stadium, and Trubisky slid to complete a 7-yard run for what would have been a first down near the Bears sideline.

49ers safety Marcell Harris dived on top of Trubisky late, and Miller rushed toward Harris and pushed him.

With a swarm of Bears standing right in front of the play, a fight broke out. 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman surged into the scrum to throw some punches. Bears receiver Josh Bellamy lunged forward to fight off Sherman. Injured Bears offensive lineman Kyle Long, looking like a giant bouncer in his street clothes, stepped in to try to make peace.

After several minutes' delay, Miller, Sherman and Bellamy were ejected, sent to the locker room while the game's tense final five minutes played out.

"I just saw Mitch's head hit the ground real hard, and I knew it was an unnecessary hit, so nobody had to tell me nothing to go in there, because that's my quarterback," Miller said. "He already missed a couple of games because of a late hit, so when I see that, it's like dirty football. I don't support that."

It remains to be seen if Miller or Bellamy will face further consequences from the



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A skirmish breaks out along the sideline after a late hit on Bears QB Mitch Trubisky.

NFL.

Bears coach Matt Nagy said he didn't think the play and the resulting skirmish were intentional.

"Guys are just playing hard," Nagy said. "And then guys want to defend each other. You always want to defend your quarterback. And then those guys are going to want to defend their teammates. So it's a bunch of big, grown men going at it. You just want to

be able to let that shut down and then move on to the next play."

Harris said he was trying to pull back from hitting Trubisky because "I wasn't trying to give my team a big penalty in that moment of the game."

He was called for a personal foul for unnecessary roughness, but it was offset with Bears left tackle Charles Leno Jr.'s holding penalty. The Bears replayed the

down and eventually got the first down on Trubisky's 2-yard sneak on fourth-and-1.

The memory of Trubisky injuring his right shoulder on a late hit by Vikings safety Harrison Smith on Nov. 18 was on several Bears players' minds as they talked about standing up for Trubisky. He missed two games as he recovered from that injury.

"(We were thinking) to get the guy," running back Jordan Howard said. "It's definitely a sore spot because he got hurt on a late hit, same kind of play. I feel like they're just trying to take the quarterback out, so we definitely have to step up."

Miller said nothing happened earlier in the game to cause tensions to be higher than usual, but he said he would do the same thing again under the same circumstances.

Bellamy, in his seventh season and fourth with the Bears, was more careful with how he framed their reaction.

"It's a little pressure point with everybody," Bellamy said. "We're always going to have our guy's back, but unfortunately it happened that way. We just have to learn to control our emotions."

Bellamy and Miller hadn't spoken with Nagy yet. Nagy said he had to watch the film to see what they did before addressing it with them.

"We're just kind of looking like little kids right now," Bellamy said.

Miller said he and Bellamy watched the end of the game on TV from the locker room, first as Bears receiver Allen Robinson lost a fumble and then as the Bears defense came up with a big stop.

"We turned the TV on and watched the boys win," Miller said. "We knew they'd pull it out. When the defense got on the field, I knew they'd get the stop."

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3 KEYS

The Bears won their 11th game Sunday, downing the 49ers 14-9 behind another stingy defensive effort. It wasn't the team's prettiest win. But it kept the Bears alive in their quest for a first-round bye in the NFC playoffs. That would require a victory over the Vikings on Sunday and a Rams home loss to the 49ers. Here's a recap of our three keys for Sunday's game.

1. Cover Kittle.

1 *Postgame recap:* The Bears did a wonderful job limiting Pro Bowl tight end George Kittle's damage in the first half, holding him to 14 yards on two catches. Bears safety Adrian Amos had a pass break-up on a throw to Kittle in the end zone in the second quarter. Kittle finished with seven catches and 74 yards on 11 targets. Most of that damage was done during the 49ers' first drive of the fourth quarter when Kittle had catches for 5, 6 and 35 yards within a four-play span. But beyond that, the defense took care of business. The 49ers went without a touchdown and were scoreless in the second half.

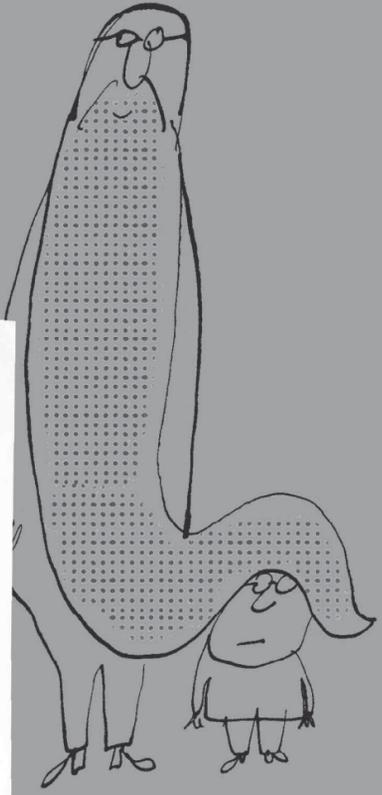
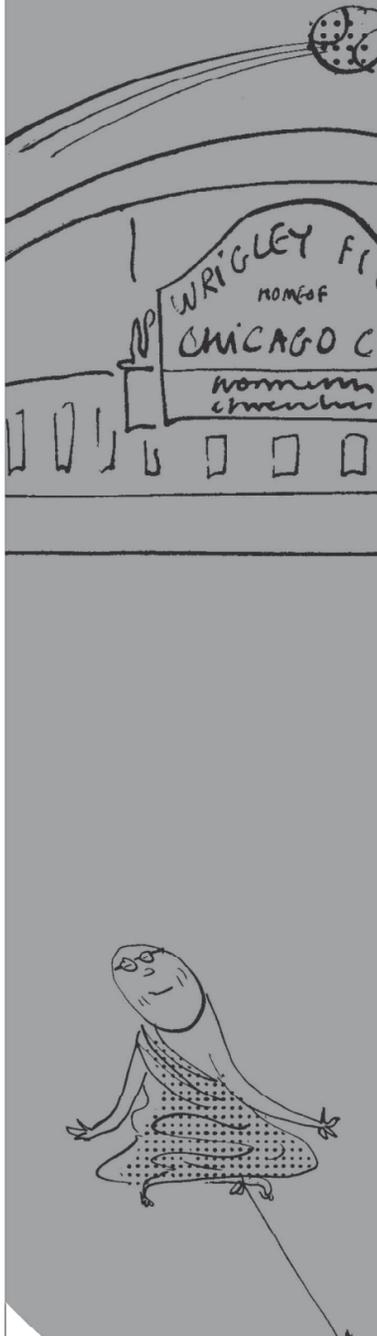
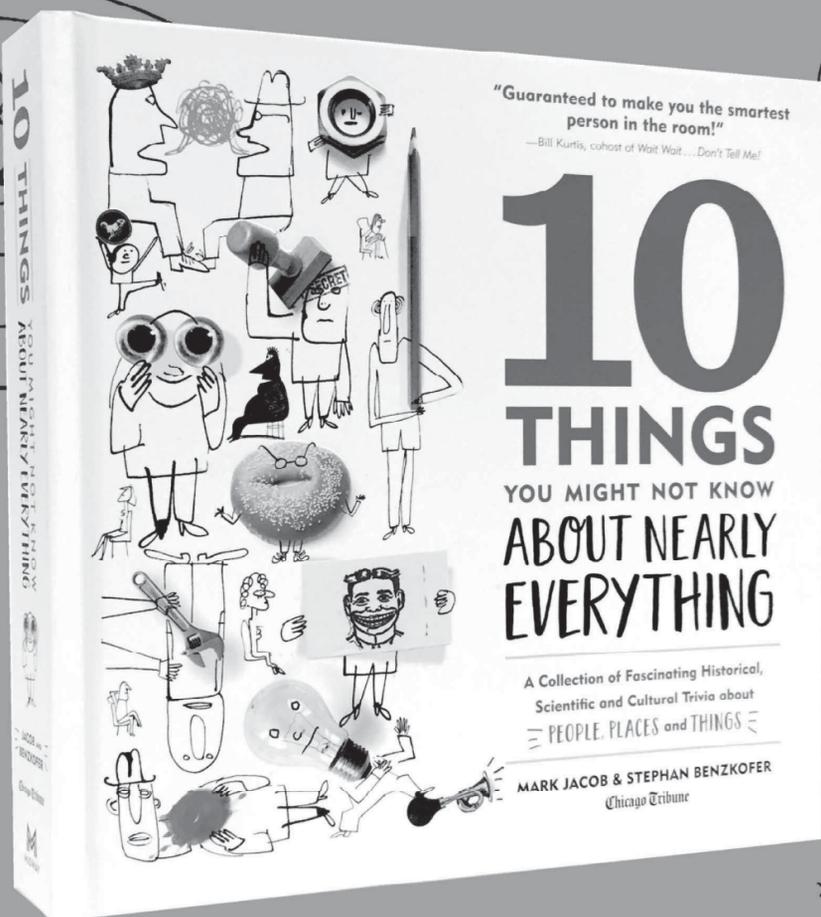
2. Stay aggressive.

2 *Postgame recap:* Mitch Trubisky's numbers (25-for-29, 246 yards, one touchdown, no interceptions and a rating of 113.5) are representative of a day in which he did an admirable job, for the most part, staying within himself. Trubisky's only TD pass was a 4-yard dart to Anthony Miller late in the first half, a go-ahead score that came three plays after his interception in the end zone was negated by a defensive holding penalty. Trubisky completed 16 of his 17 passes after halftime for 109 yards. His longest completion came on his first pass — a 43-yard bomb to Allen Robinson.

3. Feet of strength.

3 *Postgame recap:* Only an eternal optimist could look to January without feeling at least some worry about the Bears' place-kicking situation. Kicker Cody Parkey missed wide receiver from 37 yards away on a first-quarter field-goal attempt Sunday. He has missed seven field goals and two extra points. Former Bear Robbie Gould, meanwhile, made field goals from 33, 30 and 23 yards. That boosted his accuracy on field goals this season to 97 percent. In the 49ers' last two meetings with the Bears, Gould has scored all 24 of the team's points.
— Dan Wiederer

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BEARS



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears quarterback Mitch Trubisky throws a pass in the fourth quarter against the 49ers. He completed 16 of 17 passes in the second half.

Dink 'n' dunk a winner

After too many early mistakes, Trubisky adopts 'a completion mentality' to help Bears edge 49ers

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The groove started Sunday afternoon with a 9-yard completion. Nothing fancy. Nothing extraordinary. Just Mitch Trubisky slinging a pass to his right to Allen Robinson and setting the Bears up with second-and-short.

It was early in the third quarter at Levi's Stadium, the Bears were behind 9-7 and it was obvious this was going to be a grinder's game. The 49ers were showing more zone coverage than Trubisky and the Bears had anticipated. So adjustments were needed. And adjustments were made.

For Trubisky, quite simply, it was about adopting what he calls "a completion mentality."

"We had to dink and dunk a little bit just to move the ball up the field," he said.

Thus two plays after he hit Robinson for 9 yards, Trubisky found Trey Burton for 6. Then Tarik Cohen made a 7-yard grab.

Bite by bite, the Bears went down the field. Little by little, they chewed up 90 yards. Over 12 plays. On a drive that took up more than half the third quarter.

And with 4 minutes 14 seconds remaining in the third, Jordan Howard punched in a 2-yard touchdown run that provided the final points in the Bears' 14-9 sleeper-hold win.

Nothing fancy. Nothing extraordinary. Just victory No. 11,



DAN WIEDERER
On the Bears

the Bears' eighth in the last nine games and the perfect teaching tape for Matt Nagy to reinforce as the playoffs close in.

"I know that Mitch threw a lot of completions," Nagy said afterward, thrilled with his quarterback's resolve.

"Anytime you throw completions in this game, you give yourself a chance to win because you stay ahead of the sticks. And you don't get into third-and-long situations. He did that."

Added Trubisky: "They wanted to take away the deep ball and the explosive plays. And they did a good job with that. So we just had to spread them out. Dink and dunk. Take what they give us. Create a rhythm."

The 24-year-old quarterback was perfect on that go-ahead scoring drive — 7-for-7 for 49 yards. After halftime, he was 16-for-17 for 109 yards. Sure, that's a mere 6.8 yards per completion with a long gain of 10. But for Sunday's purposes that was also a winning formula. So be it.

"You have to continue to be smart," Trubisky said.

Chicago can launch into a loud and contentious debate about what the Bears ultimately will need to squeeze out of Trubisky if they are going to sustain this season's surprise success for the next half-decade or longer. Trubisky's loudest critics have a valid point in saying that an NFL franchise shouldn't go all-in to

draft a franchise quarterback with the No. 2 overall pick with the intent of turning him into a steady game manager.

But that discussion doesn't need to be had right now. Not in the final days of 2018. Not in the first month of the new year either. For now, all that matters is finding Trubisky's sweet spot, continuing to remind him just how darn good his defense is and emphasizing that he doesn't have to press to make big plays.

Trubisky had two ugly plays Sunday afternoon, two head-spinning decisions he owned up to immediately after the game. The first came in the second quarter on a discombobulated read-option play on which the quarterback first kept the ball but then panicked and fired an ill-advised pass 3 yards backward to Tarik Cohen. The ball crossed Cohen up, then fell to the grass and the 49ers recovered for their first takeaway since October. Seriously.

The Niners converted that into a 14-yard field goal drive and a 6-0 lead and, well, Trubisky knew he had screwed up. "Just one of those plays where I'm trying to do too much," he said. "I should have just pulled it and got down right away."

On the Bears' next series, Trubisky escaped pressure, rolled to his right and tried forcing a pass into the end zone to Anthony Miller. It was an easy interception for K'Waun Williams and another mystifying mistake.

Fortunately, a defensive holding call against linebacker Fred Warner bailed Trubisky out of that jam.

"Really lucky that got negated," he said. "I was just scrambling around doing too much. I probably could have just ran and got out of bounds, looking back on it. And the ball didn't come out the right way. It was just lucky that got negated."

Lucky indeed. It also allowed Trubisky to exhale and reset.

Three plays later he drilled a 4-yard touchdown pass to Miller on a comeback route, starting a streak of 11 consecutive completions that lasted until the fourth quarter.

One timely defensive holding call provided a seven-point swing. In a five-point win. Another Trubisky free fall into a giant bed of feathers. Another easy lesson.

The Bears quarterback acknowledged after the game that his 26-yard completion to Taquan "Smoke" Mizell earlier on that drive on a similar scramble-drill play probably tempted him to get a bit greedy.

"I felt like I could have done it again," Trubisky said. "But that definitely brought me back to reality. Just stay within the offense. Do my job. Sometimes I'm going to have to make plays like I did on that one to Smoke. And then sometimes it just gets away from you a little bit. So you have to continue to play within this offense."

More often than not, calm and composed will get Trubisky and the Bears the results they want. Sometimes dink and dunk is all it takes. Right now, at this stage of this season, it's OK to accept that.

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BEARS NOTES

Robinson thankful 'D' saves his bacon

BY COLLEEN KANE
Chicago Tribune

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Bears wide receiver Allen Robinson said it will be a little easier to move on from his big late-game mistake Sunday because the Bears still beat the 49ers 14-9 at Levi's Stadium.

But he knew he put the Bears defense in a bad spot when he fumbled after a 10-yard, first-down catch with 1 minute, 52 seconds to play. 49ers cornerback Tarvarius Moore knocked the ball out of Robinson's hands, and Greg Mabin recovered it to give the 49ers another shot at a winning drive. The defense came up with the stop as needed.

"You can't put it in our defense's hands like that," Robinson said. "There's no reason why our defense should have to go back out on the field. So that's on me. I definitely appreciate those guys."

Moore said he was "very surprised" Robinson didn't try to get down after he crossed the first-down marker and said he realized Robinson didn't know he was behind him.

"He made a good play, came around my body and was able to punch the ball out," Robinson said. "That's on me. I've got to know the situation. I know the down and distance and everything like that."

Robinson had a productive day otherwise, totaling a team-high six catches for 85 yards. That included a diving 43-yard catch from quarterback Mitch Trubisky in the first quarter.

Robinson was injured on the play and headed to the locker room, but he returned in the second quarter.

"I don't know if I landed on the ball or my elbow," Robinson said. "I got the wind knocked out of me for a bit, so once I got my wind, I was able to go back out there."

Gould standard: Robbie Gould didn't have the revenge game he had the last time he faced the Bears in 2017, but the former Bears kicker did outperform the current Bears kicker.

Gould, who made five field goals in the 49ers' 15-14 victory over the Bears last year, was 3-for-3 on field goals Sunday. All three field goals — from 33, 30 and 23 yards — came in the second quarter.

Bears kicker Cody Parkey missed his only attempt, kicking a 37-yarder wide right on the Bears' second drive of the game. But he made both extra-point attempts after the Bears' touchdowns.

Gould has now made 32 of 33 field-goal attempts this season. Parkey has made 22 of 29 attempts.

New time: The Bears' Week 17 game against the Vikings, originally scheduled for noon, was moved to 3:25 p.m. Central. That's the same time as the Rams game against the 49ers, which will determine who gets the No. 2 seed in the NFC and a first-round playoff bye.

The Bears' game will air on FOX-32.

Inactives: Bears safety Eddie Jackson and outside linebacker Aaron Lynch didn't travel to San Francisco and sat out Sunday's game. Jackson sprained his right ankle and Lynch sprained his right elbow in the Week 15 victory over the Packers. ... Quarterback Tyler Bray, wide receivers Kevin White and Javon Wims, offensive lineman Rashaad Coward and defensive lineman Nick Williams were healthy scratches.



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Allen Robinson loses the ball in the fourth quarter after it was knocked out of his grasp by 49ers defensive back Tarvarius Moore.

Defense gives Bears gift of No. 3 seed in NFC

Campbell, from Page 1

the undermanned 49ers out of the end zone, they have held two of their last three opponents without a touchdown.

Most importantly, with the postseason two weeks away, it's clear the Bears can count on their defense to take away the ball anywhere. Chicago. Los Angeles. New Orleans. Even Atlanta.

"If we don't get the ball, we're kind of disappointed," cornerback Prince Amukamara said. "It's a standard. It's almost a must for us."

The Bears have an interception in every game except one. Coincidentally, they didn't get one Oct. 28 against Jets quarterback Sam Darnold, whose 15 interceptions are tied for most in the NFL.

Basically, though, they've become a sure thing. And despite that predictability, it's also incredible, considering the Bears had only eight interceptions in each of the last three seasons.

But this group has evolved. The

talent level has increased, and there's even more to it than that. Take it from safety Adrian Amos, who arrived in 2015 when the interceptions drought began.

"Everybody just enjoys being around each other," Amos said. "I feel like it's night and day from my rookie year in the locker room, as far as personalities ... and how people interact with each other. It's a complete change."

That enhances the team concept, which Trevathan's interception perfectly exemplified.

On first-and-10, receiver Marquise Goodwin ran a shallow cross from a tight split on the right.

He took one step before outside linebacker Khalil Mack jammed him with both hands.

It was only a detail, but Mack delivered enough of a jolt to disrupt Goodwin's timing with quarterback Nick Mullens.

"It's just taking in the coaching, man, and understanding situational football," Mack said. "Knowing what they wanted to

do, which was get the ball out quick. So why not get a press on a guy? Especially No. 11 (Goodwin). He's fast as (lightning)."

On the other side of the play, Trevathan was in single coverage against Pro Bowl tight end George Kittle on an out route. But in Trevathan's peripheral vision, he saw Mullens intend to pass back toward the middle of the field.

With Roquan Smith trailing Goodwin in close coverage, Trevathan sagged off Kittle, putting himself in position to catch the deflection when the ball bounced off Goodwin's outstretched fingers.

"I tried to be in the area where I could make a play or make a big hit," Trevathan said. "The ball tipped right into my hands. I held onto it like it was my baby."

Just like that, the fire was extinguished. And if it felt familiar, it might be because the memory of Eddie Jackson's fourth-quarter, end-zone interception last Sunday of Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is still fresh.

"It says we're tough," Amukamara said. "It says we're resilient. It says that we don't quit. These are real games, but they're also practice reps for us because we know there's going to be a time in the playoffs where ... it's great that we've been there before and it's not foreign to us."

It's no longer foreign to the rest of the NFL, either. By now, we're accustomed to seeing the Bears celebrate like they did after Trevathan's pick. Although, that's where things fell apart.

Trevathan said the defense had an idea to do "A Charlie Brown Christmas" celebration, with the players dancing like Charlie and his crew from the 1965 classic. What a Christmas gift that would have been.

But it wasn't coordinated, so it morphed into a run-of-the-mill team picture pose.

Oh, well. They specialize in taking, anyway.

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NFL WEEK 16

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
y-New England	10	5	0	.667	398	322	7-0-0	3-5-0	7-4-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
Miami	7	8	0	.467	302	391	6-2-0	1-6-0	6-5-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Buffalo	5	10	0	.333	227	357	3-4-0	2-6-0	3-8-0	2-2-0	1-4-0
N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	.267	330	403	2-6-0	2-5-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	1-4-0

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Houston	10	5	0	.667	382	313	5-2-0	5-3-0	8-3-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	400	327	6-2-0	3-4-0	6-5-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
Tennessee	9	6	0	.600	293	270	6-1-0	3-5-0	5-6-0	4-0-0	3-2-0
Jacksonville	5	10	0	.333	242	296	3-5-0	2-5-0	4-7-0	1-3-0	1-4-0

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	363	263	5-2-0	4-4-0	7-4-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
Pittsburgh	8	6	1	.567	412	347	4-3-0	4-3-1	5-5-1	3-1-0	3-1-1
Cleveland	7	7	1	.500	335	366	5-2-1	2-5-0	5-5-1	2-2-0	3-1-1
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	355	439	4-4-0	2-5-0	4-7-0	2-2-0	1-4-0

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
x-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	530	418	6-1-0	5-3-0	9-2-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
x-L.A. Chargers	11	4	0	.733	405	320	5-3-0	6-1-0	8-3-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
Denver	6	8	0	.429	306	299	3-4-0	3-4-0	4-6-0	2-2-0	2-2-0
Oakland	3	11	0	.214	260	418	2-5-0	1-6-0	2-8-0	1-3-0	0-4-0

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	NFC	AFC	DIV
y-Dallas	9	6	0	.600	303	289	7-1-0	2-5-0	8-3-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Philadelphia	8	7	0	.533	343	348	5-3-0	3-4-0	5-6-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
Washington	7	8	0	.467	281	335	3-4-0	4-4-0	6-5-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
N.Y. Giants	5	10	0	.333	334	376	2-5-0	3-5-0	4-7-0	1-3-0	1-4-0

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	NFC	AFC	DIV
y-New Orleans	13	2	0	.867	490	320	6-1-0	7-1-0	9-2-0	4-0-0	4-1-0
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	380	391	4-4-0	2-5-0	6-5-0	0-4-0	3-2-0
Carolina	6	9	0	.400	343	368	5-3-0	1-6-0	4-7-0	2-2-0	1-4-0
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	.333	364	430	4-3-0	1-7-0	4-7-0	1-3-0	2-3-0

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	NFC	AFC	DIV
y-Chicago	11	4	0	.733	397	273	7-1-0	4-3-0	9-2-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
Minnesota	8	6	1	.567	350	317	5-2-0	3-4-1	6-4-1	2-2-0	3-1-1
Green Bay	6	8	1	.433	376	369	5-1-1	1-7-0	3-7-1	3-1-0	1-3-1
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	293	360	3-5-0	2-5-0	3-8-0	2-2-0	1-4-0

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	NFC	AFC	DIV
y-L.A. Rams	12	3	0	.800	479	352	6-1-0	6-2-0	8-3-0	4-0-0	5-0-0
Seattle	9	6	0	.600	401	323	5-2-0	4-4-0	7-4-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
San Francisco	4	11	0	.267	310	387	4-4-0	0-7-0	2-9-0	2-2-0	1-4-0
Arizona	3	12	0	.200	201	398	1-7-0	2-5-0	3-8-0	0-4-0	2-3-0

x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched division

WEEK'S RESULTS

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 26, Cincinnati 18
Jacksonville 17, Miami 7
Indianapolis 28, N.Y. Giants 27
Dallas 27, Tampa Bay 20
New England 24, Buffalo 12
Atlanta 24, Carolina 10
Minnesota 27, Detroit 9
Philadelphia 32, Houston 30
Green Bay 44, N.Y. Jets 38 (OT)
L.A. Rams 31, Arizona 9
Chicago 14, San Francisco 9
New Orleans 31, Pittsburgh 28
Seattle 38, Kansas City 31

SAURDAY'S RESULTS

Tennessee 25, Washington 16
Baltimore 22, L.A. Chargers 10

MONDAY'S SCHEDULE

Denver at Oakland, 8:15 p.m.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DEC. 30

Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 1 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.

ROUNDUP

Brees, Saints rally, clinch NFC top seed

Associated Press

Drew Brees capped a 326-yard passing performance with 2-yard touchdown to Michael Thomas with 1:25 left, and the Saints clinched the top seed in the NFC playoffs with a 31-28 victory over the Steelers.

Alvin Kamara ran for two touchdowns for the Saints (13-2), who rallied for the lead after two defensive stops in the fourth quarter, including one by narrowly thwarting a fake punt.

The Steelers (8-6-1) fell into second in the AFC North behind the Ravens and out of playoff position.

Cowboys 27, Buccaneers 20: The Cowboys wrapped up the NFC East title when Dak Prescott accounted for two touchdowns and Jaylon Smith returned a fumble 69 yards for a score.

Eagles 32, Texans 30: Jake Elliott kicked a 35-yard field goal as time expired, and the Eagles kept their playoff hopes alive. Filling in for the injured Carson Wentz, Nick Foles threw for a franchise-record 471 yards and four touchdowns.

Patriots 24, Bills 12: The Patriots earned their 10th straight AFC East title with Sony Michel running for 116 yards and a touchdown. They became the first franchise to earn playoff berths in 10 straight seasons.

Colts 28, Giants 27: Andrew Luck hooked up with Chester Rogers for



SEAN GARDNER/GETTY

Michael Thomas, who caught the go-ahead touchdown, pulls in one of his 11 catches for the Saints.

a 1-yard touchdown pass with 55 seconds left to give the Colts their only lead of the game. The Colts have won their last six home games after starting 0-2.

Browns 26, Bengals 18: Baker Mayfield threw three touchdown passes to give him 24 this season, third most in history by a rookie, trailing only Peyton Manning and Russell Wilson, who both had 26.

Vikings 27, Lions 9: Kirk Cousins threw a 44-yard Hail Mary to Kyle Rudolph as time expired in the first half as the Vikings scored two touchdowns on Cousins passes in the last 1:32 of the second quarter.

AROUND THE NFL

Browns: No awkward hug. No cold handshake. Baker Mayfield's only interaction with former coach Hue Jackson was an icy stare. After Mayfield connected with tight end David Njoku for 66 yards just before the two-minute warning, the quarterback jogged past Jackson and stared at his former coach, whom he called "fake" after their matchup last month in Cincinnati. Mayfield playfully denied he was showing up Jackson, saying, "I have no idea what you're talking about." Told that the exchange was blowing up on social media, Mayfield said, "That's all right. We won."

Bills: RB LeSean McCoy had a rocky return from injury, both on and off the field. After missing one game with a hamstring injury, McCoy managed only nine yards on six carries and 10 yards on three catches in a 24-12 loss to the Patriots. He was benched for the Bills' first series of the game because of a disagreement with coach Sean McDermott on Saturday night. "We had a situation. And he was totally right. And it was a private situation," McCoy said after the game. "I'm a captain. I gotta be more accountable. It's as simple as that. He checked me. Put me in my place. That's it." The Bills were outgained 273-72 on the ground.

Cardinals: Larry Fitzgerald added another highlight as Arizona fans celebrated what could be the final home

game of his storied 15-year career. The Cardinals' all-time leading receiver took a backward pass from Josh Rosen and threw to running back David Johnson for a 32-yard touchdown in the second quarter. He also caught six passes for 62 yards, extending his streak of games with a catch to 226 straight. Fitzgerald hasn't decided if he will return for a 16th NFL season.

Notable injuries: Cowboys DL Tyrone Crawford (neck); Patriots WR Cordarrelle Patterson (knee); Bills LB Julian Stanford (ankle), WR Deonte Thompson (toe); Saints LT Terron Armstead (chest); Eagles LT Jason Peters (quad); Texans WR Demaryius Thomas (right leg), CBs Kareem Jackson (knee), Kayvon Webster (thigh), Johnathan Joseph (neck); Colts C Ryan Kelly (neck), TE Eric Ebron (concussion); Giants DE Mario Edwards (calf), TE Rhett Ellison (concussion); Vikings CBs Marcus Sherels (foot), Xavier Rhodes (groin), FB C.J. Ham (elbow); Lions TE Luke Willson (concussion); DT A'Shawn Robinson (knee), CB DeShawn Shead (knee); Packers LG Lane Taylor (knee), CB Jaire Alexander (groin); Dolphins DT Ziggy Hood (hamstring); Jaguars T Josh Wells (concussion); Bengals LB Vontaze Burfict (concussion), CB Dre Kirkpatrick (right shoulder); Browns CB Denzel Ward (shoulder).

SUMMARIES

FALCONS 24, PANTHERS 10

Atlanta 7 3 14 0-24
Carolina 7 3 0 0-17

First quarter ATL: 73,722.
Car: Thomas 1 pass from Heinicke (Catanzaro kick), 6:57.

ATL: J.Jones 1 pass from Ryan (Bryant kick), 3:38.

Second quarter
Car: FG Catanzaro 50, 7:40.

ATL: FG Bryant 39, 5:31.

Third quarter
ATL: Ridley 75 pass from Ryan (Bryant kick), 14:51.

ATL: Sanu 44 pass from Ryan (Bryant kick), 4:36.

TEAM STATS ATL CAR

First downs 16 29

Total net yards 427 436

Rushes-yards 21-194 25-141

Passing 233 295

Punt returns 1-9 2-16

Kickoff returns 1-10 4-109

Int. returns 3-8 0-0

Comp.-att-int 15-26-0 37-57-3

Sacked-yds lost 1-2 1-17

Punts 5-47.0 3-42.7

Fumbles-lost 2-2 2-1

Penalties-yards 4-41 10-86

Possession time 22:31 37:29

Rushing: ATL, Hill 5-15, Coleman 4-26, Sanu 2-23, Ryan 1-1 (minus 1).

Car, McCaffrey 21-101, Heinicke 3-33, Artis-Payne 1-7.

Passing: ATL, Ryan 15-26-0-239, Heinicke 35-53-2-274, Azzan 4-4-0-38.

Receiving: ATL, Sanu 5-81, Jones 4-28, Ridley 2-30, Hooper 2-36, O'Connell 1-4, Car, McCaffrey 12-77, Wright 7-69, Samuel 7-41, Thomas 4-48, Funchess 2-23, Moore 2-19, T.Smith 1-19, Artis-Payne 1-13, Carter 1-3.

Missed field goals: None.

EAGLES 32, TEXANS 30

Houston 0 16 0 14-30
Philadelphia 7 6 10 9-32

First quarter A: 69,696.

PHI: Sprioles 37 pass from Foles (Elliott kick), 6:32.

Second quarter
HOU: FG Fairbairn 30, 14:52.

HOU: Watson 5 run (kick failed), 10:23.

PHI: Ertz 1 pass from Foles (pass failed), 3:08.

HOU: Watson 6 run (Fairbairn kick), 11:17.

Third quarter
PHI: FG Elliott 47, 5:31.

PHI: Agholor 63 pass from Foles (Elliott kick), 21:8.

Fourth quarter
PHI: Ertz 23 pass from Foles (kick failed), 10:21.

HOU: Foreman 20 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 4:41.

HOU: Smith 35 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 2:04.

PHI: FG Elliott 35, 10:00.

TEAM STATS HOU PHI

First downs 25 25

Total net yards 371 519

Rushes-yards 19-62 22-57

Passing 309 462

Comp.-att-int 29-40-0 35-50-1

Punts 4-40.3 2-48.0

Fumbles-lost 1-1 0-0

Penalties-yards 10-61 11-105

Possession time 26:15 33:45

Rushing: HOU, Watson 8-49, Blue 4-14, Foreman 7 (minus 1), PHI, Sprioles 9-32, Adams 11-21, Smallwood 1-3, Foles 1-3.

Passing: HOU, Watson 29-40-0-339, PHI, Foles 35-49-1-471, Sudfield 0-1-0-0.

Receiving: HOU, Hopkins 9-104, Carter 6-61, Blue 4-26, DThomas 3-37, Akins 2-33, Foreman 2-28, Griffin 2-15, Smith 1-35, PHI, Ertz 12-10, Agholor 5-16, Smallwood 4-24, Jeffery 3-32, Sprioles 3-76, Goedert 3-30, Matthews 2-13, Tate 2-13, Rodgers 1-7.

COLTS 28, GIANTS 27

New York 14 3 7 3-27
Indianapolis 0 7 14 7-28

First quarter A: 61,782.

NYJ: Barkley 1 run (Rosas kick), 8:11.

NYG: Simonson 3 pass from Manning (Rosas kick), 1:41.

NYJ: Kumerow 49 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 5:06.

NYJ: A. Roberts 99 kickoff return (Myers kick), 4:54.

NYJ: Williams 7 run (Crosby kick), 1:33.

GB: FG Crosby 42, 0:27.

Third quarter
NYJ: FG Crosby 29, 8:17.

NYJ: Herndon 5 pass from Darnold (Myers kick), 4:21.

NYJ: McGuire 20 pass from Darnold (Myers kick), 2:50.

Fourth quarter
GB: FG Crosby 38, 11:45.

GB: Rodgers 1 run (Crosby kick), 6:22.

GB: Rodgers 1 run (Rodgers run), 1:12.

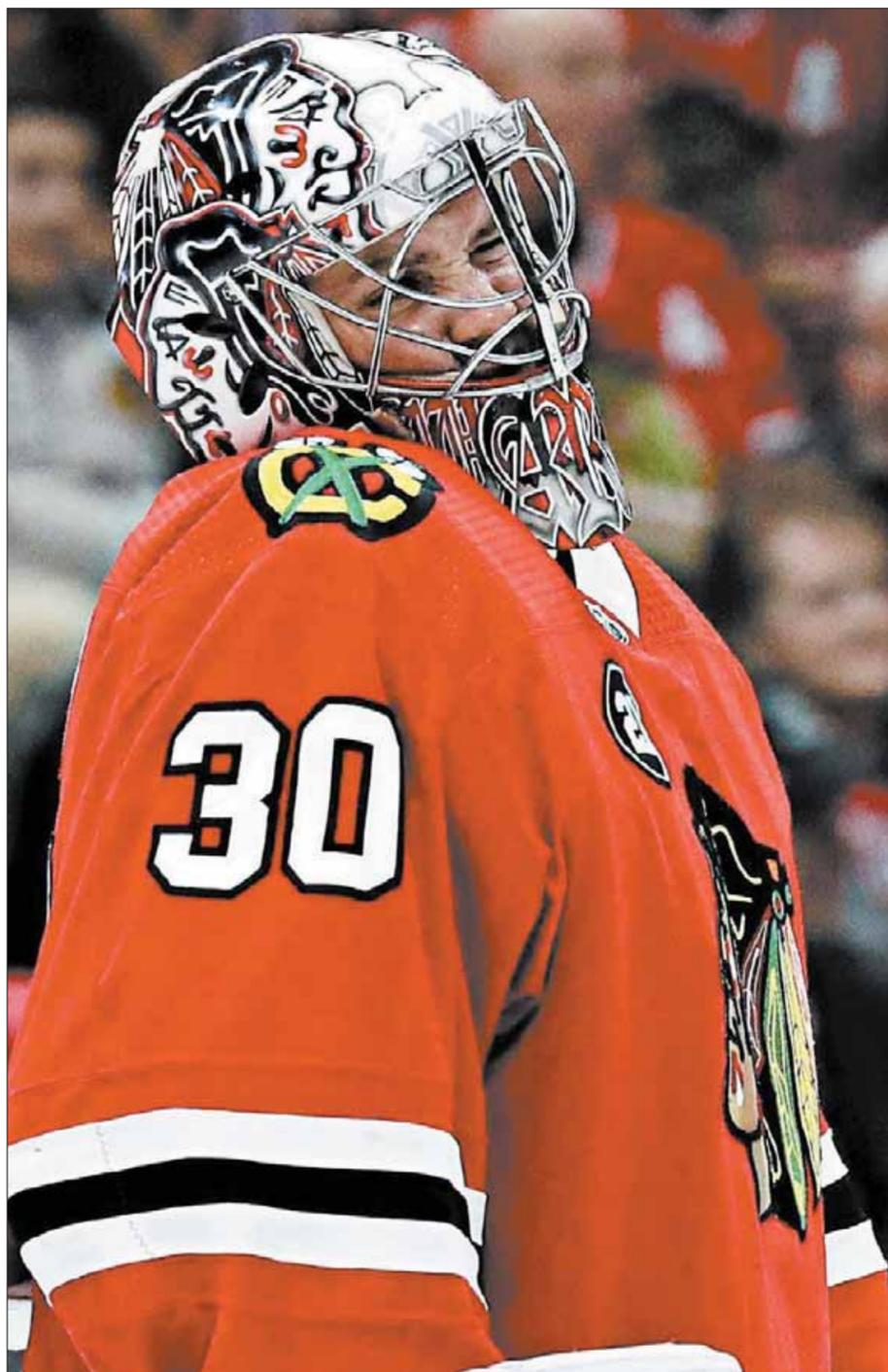
NYJ: FG Myers 33, 1:17.

GB: Adams 16 pass from Rodgers, 6:23.

TEAM STATS GB NYJ

First downs 35 2

BLACKHAWKS



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Blackhawks goalie Cam Ward can feel the pain as the Panthers score three goals in the second period.

PANTHERS 6, BLACKHAWKS 3

A roll reversal

Blackhawks finally run out of gas, see win streak end at 3

BY JIMMY GREENFIELD
Chicago Tribune

Because life is logical, the Blackhawks were a shoo-in to beat the Panthers on Sunday night at the United Center.

Here's how that was supposed to play out: The Hawks won consecutive road games against the playoff-contending Stars and Avalanche before coming home rested and ready to take on a Panthers team weary from playing the night before.

And how did that work out? Well, turns out life isn't logical at all.

The Panthers scored three second-period goals, including a pair 31 seconds apart, to beat the Hawks 6-3 and end their season-best three-game winning streak. Still, the Hawks go into the NHL's three-day holiday break with a 4-1-2 record in their last seven games.

"We just didn't have enough to push to our top level tonight," Hawks defenseman Connor Murphy said. "We definitely (need to) use these few days to think back on what works."

It seemed like luck would be

UP NEXT
Wild at Blackhawks
7:30 p.m. Thursday, NBCSCH

on the Hawks' side. During the first period, the Panthers' Evgeni Dadonov and Aleksander Barkov each hit a post in a matter of four seconds.

In the second period, the Hawks tied the score 2-2 when a puck hit off a post before deflecting to Alex DeBrincat, who scored his 17th goal of the season.

But the Panthers shrugged those off and snapped the tie on a power-play goal by Mike Hoffman, followed by Jared McCann's sixth goal 31 seconds later to take control.

"That third and fourth goal really quick killed us," said the Hawks' Dylan Strome, who had a goal and two assists for the first three-point game of his career. "It's unfortunate we couldn't come back."

After Murphy's first goal of the season gave the Hawks a 1-0 lead, Panthers rookie Jayce Hawryluk made Carl Dahlstrom and Hawks goalie Cam Ward look silly to score the his first NHL goal.

Hawryluk poked the puck away from Dahlstrom just over the Hawks' blue line and went around him, which prompted Ward to come out to play the puck. But Hawryluk beat Ward to

it and easily went around him before shooting into an open net.

"I thought after the first goal against we sagged a little bit," Hawks coach Jeremy Colliton said. "I didn't mind our start. It wasn't perfect but I thought we were starting to play in their end and create some things. After the goal, we weren't as good, and it carried over to the second period."

DeBrincat's second-period power-play goal came after his initial pass into the slot bounced off the skates of Strome and the Panthers' Mike Matheson before hitting the post and completing the circle back to DeBrincat, who made it 2-2.

Even with Sunday's loss, the Hawks have appeared capable of turning around their season. They'll use the break to try to recapture what allowed them to play their best hockey of the season.

"The challenge is to leave this kind of effort where it belongs — behind us — and pick up where we left off," Colliton said. "Certainly not happy with how we played and how it ended up, but we got to use the days to rest, mentally and physically, and be ready to go when we come back." Sounds logical.

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BLACKHAWKS NOTES

'That's a positive': Crawford at UC

BY JIMMY GREENFIELD
Chicago Tribune

Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford was at the United Center on Sunday during the team's morning skate, but there was no information on whether he's working out yet or how close he is to returning from a concussion suffered last week.

Crawford, who struck the back of his head on a goal post against the Sharks on Dec. 16, will be eligible to come off injured reserve Dec. 27 after the NHL's three-day holiday break.

"I haven't seen him this morning, as far as I know he's still in the protocol," Hawks coach Jeremy Colliton said. "I think he is here, so that's a positive."

Cam Ward and Collin Delia

have been excelling in Crawford's absence. They've allowed a combined four goals in three games, all victories. Ward started the first two games after Crawford's injury and Colliton said he would start Sunday against the Panthers.

Colliton said he is deciding which goalie starts on a game-by-game basis.

"I don't think we have a (plan)," he said. "Performance will dictate. Both guys have been good lately and hopefully that keeps going."

In and out: After Colliton took over the Hawks in early November, the players who were healthy scratches rotated in and out on a consistent basis.

Over the last two weeks, how-

ever, forward Chris Kunitz and defenseman Brandon Manning have been consistently watching games from the press box.

Kunitz was a healthy scratch for six straight games until getting into the lineup against the Panthers. Manning remained out, sitting for his sixth straight game.

"I don't like scratching anyone," Colliton said. "It's hard to have those conversations, but it's necessary. We have a full roster, so three guys are out every night. Hopefully they understand we're trying to do what's best for the team. (I) communicate the reasons why."

"They're not always going to agree, but hopefully they understand we're doing what we think is right."

BULLS

BULLS 112, CAVALIERS 92

Can this be? Bulls on winning streak

Markkanen, Dunn help spark 2nd straight victory

BY K.C. JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

UP NEXT
Timberwolves at Bulls
7 p.m. Wednesday, NBCSCH

CLEVELAND — Jim Boylen is a positive person. But his theme leading up to Sunday's tipoff centered on negativity.

Over and over he challenged his players with the fact that the Bulls were 0-7 following victories this season.

Make that 1-7.

Riding a hot Lauri Markkanen and an efficient Kris Dunn for the second straight game and tightening the defensive screws after halftime, the Bulls defeated the Cavaliers 112-92. It was their largest margin of victory this season, and it marked the first time they have won consecutive games.

Given that the Bulls and Cavs entered tied with the Suns for the league's worst record, the tanking, er, draft lottery positioning enthusiasts won't be pleased. But don't tell that to the Bulls, who are now 4-6 under Boylen and cracked 100 points for just the second time in that stretch.

"We're direct and honest every day," Boylen said. "We've kept our message consistent of what we believe in and what I hope we can become. You have to give the guys credit."

Markkanen and Dunn should get the most.

Markkanen scored 31 points with five 3-pointers, posting back-to-back 30-point games for the first time in his career. The second-year forward nearly outscored the Cavaliers alone during a dominant third quarter, when he scored 14 points, including a four-point play as the Bulls doubled up with a 30-15 advantage.

Dunn added 17 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and just one turnover in 29 minutes.

The Bulls outscored the Cavaliers 58-33 in the second half.

"I'm getting my conditioning back," Markkanen said. "I don't get tired as quickly. That way, I got more fire in my legs when I shoot. It just helps my game."

Boylen said it's more than that and pointed to Markkanen's mere six-shot game last Wednesday as

an example of the second-year player's growth. Markkanen was 11-for-18 Sunday.

"He's learned something in the last 10 days about how he controls more of the force and energy he plays with and toughness and grit than we do," Boylen said. "With all the talent he has, he has to do that. And he's done it."

As for Dunn, he has two one-turnover games in the five he has started since returning from his left knee injury. Dunn came off the bench his first two games back.

"We keep talking about being more efficient and consistent. He's developing right in front of our eyes," Boylen said. "From my perspective, he has a poise and a patience to him that's like a veteran. He has his head up. He sees what's going on. He's not going too fast or too slow."

Dunn assisted on Markkanen's final hoop that pushed Markkanen over the 30-point threshold, an alley-oop as Markkanen rolled to the rim.

Markkanen now has four career 30-point games. The two times he posted them last season, he followed with 11 points and 19 points. Back-to-back 30-point games is something to build on.

And the same can be said for the Bulls, who are just two weeks removed from creating national headlines with talk of a practice boycott and two hours of team meetings. The Bulls are 3-4 since those meetings.

"That brought us a little more together," Markkanen said. "And we're having fun playing basketball."

On the initial group text exchange that mentioned boycotting practice, Markkanen was essential in steering the Bulls toward taking a professional approach and at least showing up. Now he's leading with his play as well.

No wonder Boylen is so positive these days.

kcjohnson@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @kcjhoop



PHIL LONG/AP

Lauri Markkanen drives around the Cavaliers' Larry Nance Jr. during the first half of the Bulls' victory Sunday in Cleveland.

BULLS NOTES

Parker returns to active status — but not rotation

BY K.C. JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

CLEVELAND — Jabari Parker returned to active status after missing three games because of a stomach illness but didn't play for the fifth straight game Sunday against the Cavaliers.

Two games Parker missed were by coach's decision, and one came when Parker didn't feel he had regained enough strength and conditioning to dress following his illness. It's fair to wonder if Parker, who is being shopped, has played his last game as a Bull.

"From my seat, he needs to lock into practicing hard, playing hard and honoring the values of the team, which I've set forth," coach Jim Boylen said. "Every day is an opportunity to do that. Every day, that's a conscious decision to support what the team is doing — every day, by everybody. Every guy has to do that, just not him. We got a lot of guys doing that right now."

Parker ranks third on the team with 15.2 points and 6.9 rebounds per game.

"He knows what my expectations are, and he needs to be available when called upon," Boylen said. "I have to continue with my message for this team. Everybody has choices, and they can make those choices if they

want. But what we hope is that he improves, that he works, that he grows, and that he locks in to maybe the things he can do better and things that help the team."

Familiar face: Coincidentally, David Nwaba played for the Cavaliers. Nwaba is one of the players the Bulls let walk to sign Parker, rescinding his qualifying offer.

Nwaba proved he can be a rotational player with the Bulls last season, when he averaged 7.9 points in 70 games. The 6-foot-4 guard is averaging 5.9 points for the Cavaliers this season. He left the game with an ankle injury in the fourth quarter.

"As a staff, we talk about David," Boylen said. "He's got the heart of a lion. He's a warrior. He's coachable, teachable and he became reliable for us last year. I'm so happy with his deal in Cleveland, wish him nothing but the best. It just proves tough, competitive guys can make it in the league. And he's making it."

Layups: Cameron Payne was active after missing one game with a strained right calf. ... Zach LaVine is hopeful to play Wednesday against his former Timberwolves team. That's one day shy of two weeks since he sprained his right ankle.

OBITUARIES

AUDREY GEISEL 1921-2018

Widow of Dr. Seuss,
expanded story empireBY BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As Dr. Seuss neared the end of his life, the children's author told his wife that she would have to look after the Cat in the Hat, the Lorax, the Grinch and all the beloved characters he created.

It was a mission Audrey Geisel embraced for more than a quarter-century. As overseer of Dr. Seuss' prolific and lucrative literary estate, she carefully guarded the whimsical works of the writer and illustrator less known as Theodor Geisel and expanded the Seuss legacy. She promoted a highly profitable multimedia brand, from books and films to theme park rides and the Broadway show "Seussical."

Audrey Geisel, 97, died Wednesday at her home in the La Jolla section of San Diego, Random House Children's Books announced.

Geisel, who founded Dr. Seuss Enterprises, said she took to heart the responsibility her husband left her when he died in 1991.

"You keep a firm control as if they really were your children," Geisel told The Associated Press in 1998. "I don't want the Cat in a bad part of town, so to speak."

But she went far beyond keeping a tight grip on the empire. She broadly expanded it beyond what her husband cared to do while creating his 47 children's stories.

And, oh, the places she went with it.

More than 10 million Dr. Seuss books sell each year and new works are coming out, such as last spring's "Dr. Seuss's First 100 words," according to Random House.

The 2000 live-action film version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," starring Jim Carrey, was a box-office smash. But Audrey Geisel and critics despised the 2003 live-action adaptation of "The Cat in the Hat" that starred Mike Myers of "Austin Powers" fame.

"I never saw 'Austin Powers,' but I knew 'Yeah, baby!' and I didn't want 'Yeah, baby!' at all," she told the AP in 2004.

Geisel is credited as executive producer of the ani-



LENNY IGNELZI/AP
Audrey Geisel, widow of Dr. Seuss creator Theodor Geisel, appears during an interview in 2004.

mated film "The Grinch," which was released last month and tapped Benedict Cumberbatch to voice the title character.

A poll conducted by AP-NORC earlier this month put "The Grinch" just behind "It's a Wonderful Life" of favorite holiday films or television. It didn't specify if it was the Carrey version or the animated 1966 classic produced by Chuck Jones and narrated by Boris Karloff.

The movies have been lucrative, with the recent "Grinch" production earning \$245 million at the box office, according to Comscore. Animated film versions of "The Lorax" raked in \$214 million and "Horton Hears a Who" made \$154 million.

While Geisel has kept a tight rein on productions and merchandising, some of those efforts may have departed from Seuss' spirit, said Philip Nel, an English professor at Kansas State University, who wrote "Dr. Seuss: American Icon."

A group of books, for example, that use the Cat in the Hat as a conventional educator stray from the character's rebellious roots, Nel said. Another book titled "Seuss-isms for Success" takes Seuss quotes out of context to apply to business situations.

"There's been some pretty great stuff too," Nel said. "The animated Horton film was really thoughtfully done and understood the Seuss universe really well."

Geisel was a Chicago native and former nursing student at Indiana University.

She and Theodor Geisel, who was 17 years older, were both married to other people when they began an affair in the 1960s. His first wife, Helen, killed herself.

Audrey Geisel sent the two daughters she had with her first husband to boarding school after the Geisels married in 1968. The couple had no children together — Seuss was not particularly fond of kids, she said.

"He was afraid of children to a degree," Audrey Geisel told AP.

Geisel said she understood the gravity of what she was undertaking when her husband died but said she was surprised how much work it was to oversee the business and philanthropy of the Dr. Seuss Foundation.

She toiled around tony La Jolla in a Cadillac with a license plate that read: GRINCH. And she showed up at events that celebrated her late husband.

In 2002, Geisel helped unveil bronze sculptures of Seuss and some of his most beloved characters at The Seuss Memorial in his hometown of Springfield, Mass. The works were created by her daughter, Lark Grey Dimond-Cates.

When Audrey Geisel unveiled the sculpture of her late husband seated at his desk, her light blue eyes brimmed with tears as she bent down and kissed it.

Despite any anxiety her husband may have had around children, she wanted kids to crawl on the sturdy works.

"I'd like certain parts of it to get real shiny," she said, "because they have been rubbed so many times by little grubby hands."

In addition to being Seuss' protector and promoter, she also influenced his work.

When Seuss was writing the book that became "The Lorax," he got writer's block and she suggested they take a trip to get unstuck, Nel said. They traveled to Kenya, where workers cutting down acacia trees sparked an idea.

"He thought, 'They can't cut down my Dr. Seuss trees' — which he renamed truffula trees — and invented the Lorax to protect them," Nel said.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON DECEMBER 24 ...

In 1809 frontiersman Kit Carson was born Christopher Carson in Madison County, Ky.

In 1814 the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

In 1851 fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865 several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871 Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1905 Howard Hughes, the wealthy manufacturer, aviator and film producer known later in life for his

reclusive tendencies, was born in Houston.

In 1906 Canadian physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to broadcast a music program over radio, from Brant Rock, Mass.

In 1920 Enrico Caruso gave his last public performance, singing in Jacques Halevy's "La Juive" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

In 1922 actress Ava Gardner was born outside Smithfield, N.C.

In 1943 President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1951 Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was first broadcast by NBC TV.

In 1968 the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve television broadcast.

In 1980 Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds — one second for each day of captivity.

In 1989 ousted Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega, who had succeeded in eluding U.S. forces, took refuge at the Vatican's diplomatic mission in Panama City.

In 1992 President George H.W. Bush pardoned former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger and five others in the Iran-contra scandal.

In 1994 armed Islamic fundamentalists hijacked an Air France Airbus A-300 carrying 227 passengers at the Algiers airport; three passengers were killed during the siege before the hijackers were killed by French commandos in Marseille two days later.

In 2002 Laci Peterson was reported missing from her Modesto, Calif., home, by her husband, Scott, who was later convicted of murdering her and their unborn son.

In 2011 McGlother "Mac" Irvin, a club basketball pioneer known as the "Godfather" of Chicago basketball, who helped hundreds of children earn college scholarships, died; he was 74.

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS
Dec. 23
Pick 3 midday 043 / 4
Pick 4 midday 6337 / 7
Lucky Day Lotto midday
01 15 20 39 45
Pick 3 evening 987 / 8
Pick 4 evening 0795 / 3
Lucky Day Lotto evening
09 13 20 36 44

Dec. 24 Lotto: \$4.25M
Dec. 25 Mega Millions: \$321M
Dec. 26 Powerball: \$294M

WISCONSIN
Dec. 23
Pick 3 552
Pick 4 2623
Badger 5 01 21 28 29 30
SuperCash 20 21 24 27 31 32

INDIANA
Dec. 23
Daily 3 midday 480 / 8
Daily 4 midday 8403 / 8
Daily 3 evening 632 / 4
Daily 4 evening 9292 / 4
Cash 5 03 06 24 27 41

MICHIGAN
Dec. 23
Daily 3 midday 284
Daily 4 midday 1355
Daily 3 evening 579
Daily 4 evening 0890
Fantasy 5 01 19 22 29 37
Keno 09 10 16 20 24 25
27 31 34 35 38 40 44 45
47 52 64 67 72 75 78 79

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Chicago Tribune
Death Notices

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Death Notices

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 Friday, December 28th 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
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries



Durkin, Francis J.

Francis J. Durkin, age 86; beloved husband of the late Patricia; loving father of Barbara English, Kevin (Karen), Diane (Robert) Springer and Karen (Ronald) Solowsky; cherished grandfather of 8; dear brother of John (Kathy), Patricia (Al) Sumoski, James (Verena), the late Thomas (Judy) Durkin; fond uncle and great uncle to many. Fran was a member of The Pipe Fitters Local 597 for many years. Visitation Wednesday 3-9 P.M. Funeral Thursday 9:15 A.M. from **Lawn Funeral Home** 7732 W. 159th St. Orland Park to St. Julie Billiard Church Mass 10 A.M. Interment Private. Funeral info: 708-429-3200

Lawn
Funeral Home

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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 Kientong (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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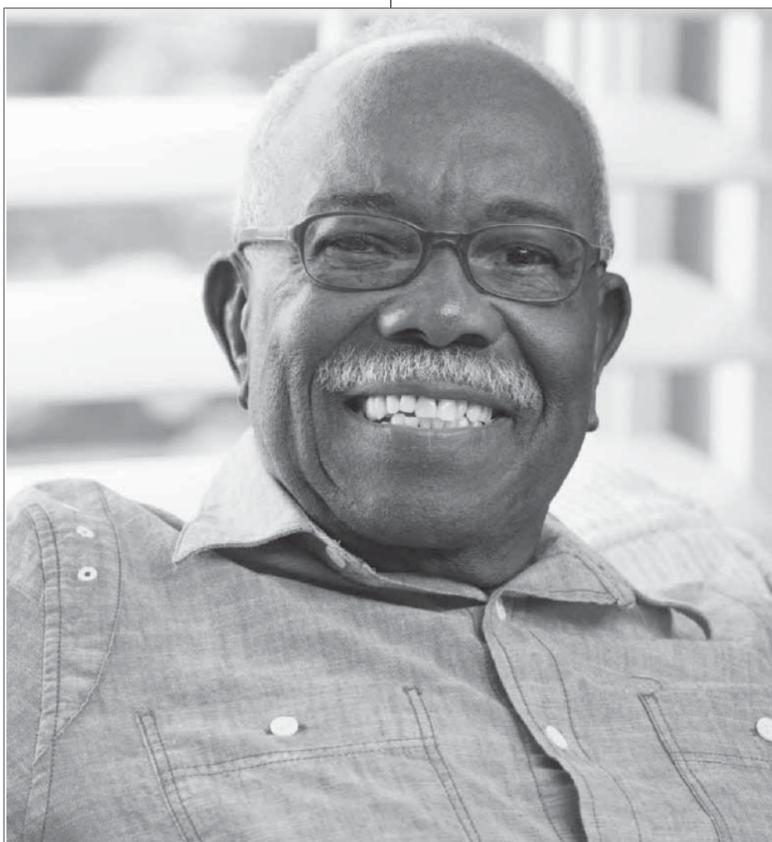
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eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

During a game in 2016 with the Nets, former No. 1 overall draft pick Anthony Bennett shoots over Clippers forward Blake Griffin.

For Bennett, once a No. 1 pick, it's still NBA or bust

BY DAN WOIKE
Los Angeles Times

LAS VEGAS — The men and women who help decide the future of NBA hopefuls sit behind tables and desks inside the massive halls at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center.

They see how wide players' shoulders are, how they almost take up two seats. They see how players bound up from the bench when the coach shouts their name, signaling for them to get into the game. They see how the ball leaves a shooter's hand from behind the 3-point arc, the way his feet move (or don't) on defense.

It's up to them — unless you're Anthony Bennett. Then, it's kind of up to you.

The No. 1 pick in the 2013 NBA draft is trying to save his career in the NBA's G League, playing this week in the Winter Showcase for the Agua Caliente Clippers of Ontario. He has as much talent as anyone in town. He just has to prove to the people watching that he's not the player who floundered with five different teams since the Cleveland Cavaliers took him first.

Bennett, 25, is averaging 14.1 points while making nearly half of his 3-point shots this season. Clippers coaches and executives have been surprised with his work ethic — a red flag that had gotten attached to him early in his NBA career.

He was more than a disappointment as a pro, never averaging more than 5.2 points per game. Cleveland could've taken All-Stars Victor Oladipo (picked second) or Giannis Antetokounmpo (picked 15th) or future stalwart centers in Steven Adams or Rudy Gobert.

Instead, they selected Bennett, whom they traded to Minnesota after one season. It was another in a series of moves over five years for the Toronto native, who had already relocated to Beckley, W.Va., as a junior in high school to play at Mountain State Academy, which closed the next year. He transferred to Findlay Prep in Henderson, Nev., for his senior year and would become a one-and-done player at UNLV.

He developed a reputation. It's one of the first things that comes up when scouts and front-office folks talk about Bennett. "Does he love basketball? Does he love to work?" they ask. There are stories about locker room naps and bad diets.



JOSHUA C. CRUEY/ORLANDO SENTINEL

During a preseason game in 2013, Bennett, left, struggles with the Magic's Andrew Nicholson.

There has to be a reason why a former No. 1 pick didn't pan out.

The people who have worked with him in Ontario say they've seen no signs of laziness. They see a player who wants to work, who wants to get better. The stories have either been exaggerated or

Bennett has changed.

He's still fighting to get back. He's not pouting about being out of the NBA. He's not blaming anything on his asthma, or injuries, or instability that comes from being traded and waived and signed by his third team before his

23rd birthday.

"It's life. It's just the way the ball rolls," Bennett told the Los Angeles Times. "How do I say this? I've just tried to play the hand I've been dealt. Every year has been a struggle. Every year has been a challenge. Something new has

always come up. But every year, I've been able to stick with it. I think that says a lot about me. A lot of people in my shoes would've quit."

He showed his value on opening night of the Winter Showcase, a four-day event where the G League teams gather for 27 games. Bennett got hot in the second half to finish with 16 points on just eight shots in 22 minutes.

His shooting from deep has him on the radar of multiple NBA teams, according to sources not authorized to speak publicly. Teams have been asking questions about him, trying to gauge how it's gone in his first season with the Clippers. Because he's not on the Clippers' NBA roster or designated as one of their two two-way players, Bennett can be signed by any team.

"I know a lot of people are talking, especially about my shooting," he said. "At the same time, I try not to let that get the best of me or change the way I play."

In his final game at the Winter Showcase, Bennett struggled. He looked bothered by a couple of questionable calls. He left a pair of 3-point shots well short, failing to even hit the rim.

"That's Anthony Bennett," one Eastern Conference scout texted during the game.

He's undoubtedly flawed. NBA folks might wish he was a little taller or a little slimmer, hope he was a more consistent and versatile defender.

But that's everyone in the G League, a place filled with players who have shortcomings. Ask the men and women sitting at those tables who they've really liked and who is available, and you probably won't get the same answer.

If a team is looking for a power forward who can spread the floor, maybe they'll look past some of Bennett's flaws and give the former No. 1 overall pick another shot — maybe his last — to prove he's an NBA player.

If it's all weighing on Bennett's shoulders, he's not acting like it. He said he's happy to be playing, even if it means a life of connecting commercial flights to smaller cities, worse hotels and smaller games with fewer fans.

"I'm playing ball. That's most important to me. I'm playing basketball," he said.

"You just have to make the best of it. It really shows the grind you have to go through to pretty much see yourself get back on top."

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— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —



Georgetown freshmen James Akinjo, left, Josh LeBlanc and Mac McClung

#MACKINJO

JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Talented freshmen McClung, Akinjo are putting Georgetown back on the map

BY AVA WALLACE
The Washington Post

There is a hashtag that crops up online after games like the one Georgetown played Saturday.

It's a popular portmanteau among certain Hoyas faithful, deployed most commonly when, say, starting freshman shooting guard Mac McClung drops 38 points in an overtime win against Arkansas-Little Rock and starting freshman point guard James Akinjo adds 25, as they did Saturday at Capital One Arena.

It happened after Georgetown won a thrilling game at Illinois earlier this season, too, when Akinjo scored a team-high 19 points and his backcourt partner added 12. Head online, and there it is, accompanied by a smiley-face emoji, a GIF or a highlight from the game: #Mackinjo.

"It becomes really fun," Akinjo said Saturday, when asked what it feels like to play basketball when he and McClung are hot, a hint of a smile appearing on the ultraserious freshman's face for the first time all afternoon.

"You get the crowd involved. He's making shots. I'm making a couple of plays here and there. You know, it's really fun playing with him. He makes it easy for me, and our team as well."

#Mackinjo has been getting quite a bit of play so far this young season, and for good reason. The pair entered Georgetown as perhaps the most buzzed-about freshman backcourt since 2007, when McDonald's All-Americans Chris Wright and Austin Freeman signed with the Hoyas. More broadly, the duo is part of Georgetown's most exciting freshman class in years alongside four-star forward Josh LeBlanc.

Akinjo is Georgetown's second-leading scorer behind senior center Jessie Govan, averaging 14.6 points per game; McClung is right behind him in third, averaging 12.3; and LeBlanc is fourth, averaging 8.8 points and a team-high 7.8 rebounds per game off the bench. The forward had his breakout game last week with his second double-double of the season, a 10-point, 10-rebound performance that earned him a start when forward Trey Mourning was out with an injury Saturday. Akinjo has led the team in scoring in three different games this season, and he and McClung have earned Big East freshman of the week honors — Akinjo after the Illinois game and McClung on Sunday.

"They're still growing" is coach Patrick Ewing's careful response whenever he is asked whether his freshmen are living up to expectations, or whether they are where they should be in their development, or what they mean to the program.

But while Akinjo, McClung and LeBlanc are still developing and the Hoyas are far from perfect



Akinjo guards Oshae Brissett of the Syracuse during a game Dec. 8 in Syracuse, N.Y.



McClung drives to the basket against Syracuse's Bourama Sidibe during a game Dec. 8 in Syracuse, N.Y.

with one game against Howard left before conference play starts Jan. 2, the three standouts of a five-man freshman class that includes guard Jaden Robinson and forward Grayson Carter have put Georgetown (9-3) on the right path — when it comes to earning on-court victories as well as national relevance. LeBlanc was ranked in ESPN's top 100 recruits when he signed with Georgetown, and McClung piqued national interest with highlights of his high school dunks that went viral.

"Those guys, it's great that they're able to play a lot this year," Govan said in an interview Friday. "Next year, they'll probably be the leaders. They'll be more experienced. They'll be able to show the next freshman class. The program's in great hands — and they're going to keep improving."

Above all else, the Hoyas' three key freshmen are bonded by a desire to restart something at Georgetown.

Ewing and assistant coach Robert Kirby were on the team plane headed to a tournament in Kansas when news came through that Connecticut had released Akinjo from his national letter of intent after coach Kevin Ollie's firing.

Ewing had the pilot change course so he could land in Richmond, California, and be waiting in Akinjo's high school basketball coach's office after school. Akinjo got a lot of calls and texts from coaches that day, but only Ewing was there in person.

The second-year coach put in the legwork to recruit McClung, too, folding his 7-foot frame into vehicles for six-hour drives down

to remote Gate City, Virginia.

But as much as Akinjo and McClung responded to Ewing's effort, connected with his vision and appreciated his honesty, LeBlanc deserves some recruiting credit as well. The forward from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, committed first, in October 2017, then nudged McClung to do the same when he met the Virginian on McClung's unofficial visit. McClung committed two days later, and LeBlanc set to work on Akinjo.

The point guard admits that LeBlanc helped sway his decision to Georgetown and away from Virginia, Arizona and Wichita State.

"I wanted to come in and be able to compete," Akinjo, who committed in April, said Friday after practice. "You don't want to

be the only good guy that's committed, so knowing that Josh and Mac and the other freshmen had committed made me want to come here more."

They were united by their desire to return the program to greatness, and deep friendships developed along the way.

LeBlanc is the glue guy in the group. At 6-foot-7, he is the most gregarious of the trio, which fits with his role as the Hoyas' energizer as well. He gives the laid-back Govan a hype-up speech before every game. Off the court, he has a permanent smile on his face so wide it shows off his braces — a sunny disposition he adopted after his mother survived breast cancer when LeBlanc was in middle school.

LeBlanc and McClung became fast friends after deciding to live together, but LeBlanc and Akinjo didn't form a deep bond until after LeBlanc's friend Wayne Sims was shot and killed in September at the start of Sims' sophomore season at Louisiana State. LeBlanc needed someone who understood what he was going through.

LeBlanc and Akinjo, who grew up in Oakland, California, come from similar backgrounds. Akinjo's mother died when he was 4, and he lost his brother when he was 13. Both can't wait to go home for the holidays but are glad they will only be there for a few days.

"Longer than that, something is bound to happen in Baton Rouge," LeBlanc said, and Akinjo agreed about his hometown.

Akinjo and McClung, on the other hand, grew close on the court. The viral YouTube sensation and the point guard without a single social media account developed a mutual respect in the gym this summer when they competed every day, about everything. "Who can get to the gym first, who's lifting harder. We literally pushed each other," McClung said.

LeBlanc calls Akinjo "grimy" — Ewing prefers the term "sourpuss" — because of how intense he is on the court. Akinjo is the team's best trash talker, and the most competitive on the roster, according to Govan.

Akinjo and McClung want to prove people wrong — people who think Georgetown won't do anything in the Big East and people who think of Georgetown solely as a program for big men.

But of the freshman trio, McClung and Akinjo are the quiet ones, so they mostly talk of their goals among themselves and the team and let LeBlanc take care of the grand gestures.

"Josh, he loves this class. He loves this new era. He named it the new wave," Akinjo said. "That's what it is. We want to not change the culture, but get Georgetown back to where it should be, on top in the Big East. That's what we're going to do. We talk in practice every day about setting the tone. We know. It's always on our mind."

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUCTION Gun Auction 900+ Firearms Tuesday, Jan. 1st - 9AM 2601 Lake Land Blvd, Mattoon, IL Preview: Mon., Dec. 31st 5-8PM Hand Guns, Rifles, Shotguns. More! www.baierauction.com (217) 259-5956

LEGAL SERVICES NEED LEGAL HELP? Get a FREE referral to an attorney! Call the Illinois State Bar Association Illinois Lawyer Finder. The advice you need <https://www.isba.org/public/illinoislawyerfinder/> or 877-270-3855

STUFF FOR SALE

Bears PSL Marketplace Buy/Sell PSLs & Tickets! PSLsource.com - 800-252-8055

MANTENO ANTIQUE MALL 35 E. Third St. Manteno, IL Open NEW YEARS DAY 12:00 to 4:00

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. Y18000044 on the Date: 12/6/2018 Under the Assumed Name of: **LOCO TOWING AND ROADSIDE SERVICE** with the business located at: 3047 N. MAJOR CHICAGO, Illinois, 60634 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **DANNY MARTINEZ, SR** 3047 N. MAJOR CHICAGO, Illinois, 60634

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Arshawn Hartison AKA Ar'shawn Hartison

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Alaceca Hartison (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 15JA00957

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Alaceca Hartison (Mother)**, and **Mark Smith (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **August 13, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Robert Balanoff** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/15/2019**, at **9:30 AM** in CALENDAR **12 COURTROOM L**, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS December 24, 2018

NOTICE TO ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS KAREN A. YARBROUGH, COOK COUNTY CLERK

OFFICIAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the Consolidated Primary Election, to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 in election precincts under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Clerk, touch screen voting machines with audio ballot units will be available to any voter who has difficulty reading or vision impairment. Formal assistance will be given to those voters who qualify after the appropriate affidavits have been completed. In addition, any disabled voter who is unable to enter his or her polling place may have the judges of election bring an optical scan ballot outside to the voter. Applications for this service are available from the Cook County Clerk's office by calling (312) 603-0929 or by emailing Accessibility.Info@cookcountyil.gov. Visit cookcountyclerk.com for additional information.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that voters may vote early from Monday, February 11 through Monday, February 25 at any one of the Early Voting locations in suburban Cook County or at the Cook County Clerk's downtown Chicago office, 69 W. Washington St. For more information on the locations of the Early Voting sites visit cookcountyclerk.com or call (312) 603-0906.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any voter who wishes to vote by mail may do so. A voter can complete an online mail ballot application by visiting cookcountyclerk.com. An application for a mail ballot may be obtained by downloading the form from cookcountyclerk.com, calling the Election Department at (312) 603-0906 or by writing to: Cook County Clerk's Office, Election Unit 69 West Washington, Room 500 Chicago, IL 60602 Attn: Mail Voting Unit KAREN A. YARBROUGH Cook County Clerk cookcountyclerk.com 6048017 12/24/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Joakim Cannon

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Lane Roberts (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 18JA00336

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Joseph Cannon (Father)**, **Unknown (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **April 10, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Nicholas Geanopoulos** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/15/2019**, at **11:30 AM** in CALENDAR **17 COURTROOM K**, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS December 24, 2018



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Chicago Tribune

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Jose Guadalupe Diego-Patino

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Maria Del Carmen Patino-Salmeron (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 18JA00873

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Jose Guadalupe Diego-Rojas (Father)**, and **Maria Del Carmen Patino-Salmeron (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **September 7, 2018**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Robert Balanoff** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/15/2019**, at **10:30 AM** in CALENDAR **12 COURTROOM L**, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS December 24, 2018

PROVISO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC HEARING CALL AND NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PROVISO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS DISTRICT 209 BOARD OF EDUCATION PLEASE TAKE NOTICE A Public Hearing of the Proviso Township High Schools District 209, Cook County, Illinois, Board of Education will be held as follows: MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 MEETING TIME: 7:30 PM MEETING PLACE: Proviso West High School 4701 West Harrison Hillside, IL 60162 The purpose of which is for: Hear public comment on a proposed waiver application, which, if approved, would allow the district to excuse students in grades 11 and 12 from the physical education requirement in order to take courses required for completion of an International Baccalaureate diploma or leading to early college credit, with prior approval of the superintendent. Nathan "Ned" Wagner, President Board of Education Proviso Township High Schools District 209, Cook County, Illinois December 21, 2018

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLICATION NOTICE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR MERGER OF BANK HOLDING COMPANIES AND NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR MERGER OF BANKS

First Midwest Bancorp, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to acquire another bank holding company, Bridgeview Bancorp, Inc., Bridgeview, Illinois. We intend to acquire control of Bridgeview Bank Group, Bridgeview, Illinois.

As part of this transaction, First Midwest Bank, Chicago, Illinois also intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to merge with Bridgeview Bank Group, Bridgeview, Illinois ("Bridgeview Bank") and thereby establish branches at each of the following Bridgeview Bank locations: 11411 West Wadsworth Road, Beach Park, IL 60009; 7940 South Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview, IL 60455; 1058 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660; 1970 North Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60614; 19031 Old LaGrange Road, Mokena, IL 60448; 6041 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60660; 4605 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625; 2760 US-34, Oswego, IL 60543; 3540 Hobson Road, Woodridge, IL 60517; 7300 West 87th Street, Bridgeview, IL 60455; 6366 South Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638; 4753 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60640, and 1175 Corporate Woods Parkway, #100, Vernon Hills, IL 60061. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve these applications, including the record of performance of the banks we own in helping to meet local credit needs.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on these applications to Colette A. Fried, Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60604. The comment period will not end before January 16, 2018. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262. Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the applications, contact Alicia Williams, Vice President of Community Development and Policy Studies, at (312) 322-5910; to request a copy of an application, contact Colette A. Fried at (312) 322-6846. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the applications if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period. First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. First Midwest Bank December 17, 2018

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Chicago Tribune LIFE+STYLE Sunday

CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

chicagoweathercenter.com | BY TOM SKILLING AND WGN9



MONDAY, DEC. 24 NORMAL HIGH: 33° NORMAL LOW: 19° RECORD HIGH: 64° (1889) RECORD LOW: -25° (1983)

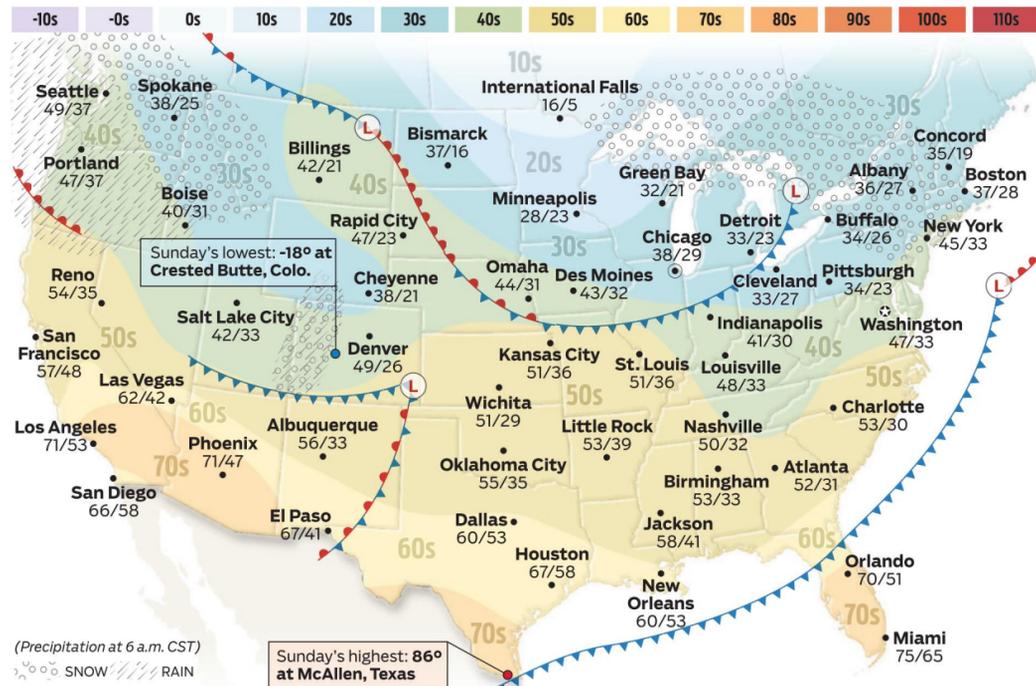
Weather likely to deteriorate through the week

LOCAL FORECAST

HIGH 38 **LOW** 29

- Ridge of high pressure passes, making for a tranquil, dry Christmas eve.
- Chilly early. The day opens with temps from the mid 20s, to near 30°.
- Sunshine, filtered at times by high clouds, dominates the day.
- Light W winds become SW-S around 10 mph in the afternoon.
- Little change in temps. Highs again reach the mid-upper 30s.
- Clouds begin to increase late in the day.
- Clouds thicken overnight. Temps dip to around 30, then hold about steady.

NATIONAL FORECAST



Ample sunshine, light winds and temperatures near 40 degrees are atypical for late December, but high pressure drifting across the Midwest on Monday will bring these tranquil conditions to the region for Christmas Eve travelers and eleventh-hour shoppers.

Forecasts have come into general agreement in bringing a brief period of snow across the area Christmas morning.

Though amounts vary, this will be a minimal event, as forecasts range from only a trace to as much as an inch. Temperatures are expected to be at, or just above, freezing Tuesday morning, so accumulations, if any, will be slushy. Forecasters are more focused on a significantly stronger storm due to reach Southern California on Tuesday before intensifying over the southern Plains midweek.

TUESDAY, DEC. 25

HIGH 39 **LOW** 30

Weak weather system brings a period of morning snow. Slushy accumulations up to an inch possible in spots. Partial sun emerges in the afternoon sending temps to near 40 degrees. SE-S winds 10 mph.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26

HIGH 40 **LOW** 36

Peeks of sun early, then clouds thicken. Temps climb to around 40 as SE winds build to 10-20 mph. Patchy light rain/drizzle develops during the evening, probably beginning as a rain/snow/sleet mix.

THURSDAY, DEC. 27

HIGH 52 **LOW** 44

Very windy and unseasonably mild. Temps slowly climb to the 50s by late day. Periods of rain, heavy at times. Thunder possible. Rain diminishes to patchy drizzle in the evening. SE-S winds 25-35 mph and gusty.

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

HIGH 45 **LOW** 29

Blustery and trending colder. Occasional light rain/drizzle mixes with snow late as temps fall from mid 40s early, to mid 30s by evening. SW winds 20-30 mph. Chance of flurries overnight.

SATURDAY, DEC. 29

HIGH 32 **LOW** 22

Clouds linger as colder air sweeps into the region. A few flurries likely. Daytime temps rise little, peaking in the low 30s. W winds 15-25 mph become NW. Partial clearing at night with diminishing winds.

SUNDAY, DEC. 30

HIGH 31 **LOW** 20

Weather improves under partly sunny skies. Seasonably cold with high temps near freezing. NW winds diminish to 10-15 mph and turn NE. Fair and a little colder overnight.

ASK TOM

Dear Tom,
By how many minutes and/or seconds per day does the amount of daylight increase in the Chicago area in the week after the winter solstice?
— Jon Kartman, Mundelein

Dear John,
The United States Naval Observatory annual daylight table for Chicago shows minimum daylight of nine hours and eight minutes spanning from Dec. 18-24, decreasing daily by 12 seconds or less before the solstice and increasing by a similar amount after it. From Dec. 25-27, daylight increases to nine hours and nine minutes and then to nine hours and 11 minutes by Dec. 31. Beyond Jan. 11, the increase accelerates to two minutes a day and then to three minutes a day by mid-February. In May, the increase slows to two minutes a day and then to a minute a day as the June summer solstice approaches, finally peaking at 15 hours and 13 minutes.

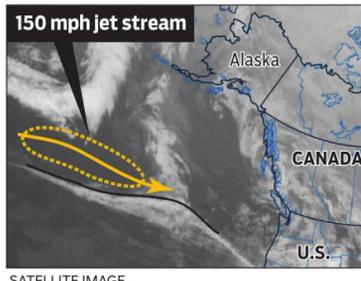
Write to: ASK TOM
2501 W. Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60618
asktomwhy@wgnv.com

WGN-TV meteorologists Steve Kahn, Richard Koeman, 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.

Next big weather maker to bring rain and wind to Chicago

NEXT STORM ALREADY TAKING SHAPE OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN
System to become a major storm over the Central U.S. by Thursday
Infra-red satellite imagery of the North Pacific late Sunday showed a streak of clouds associated with a 150 mph jet stream. This feature is forecast to amplify as it moves to the Southwest U.S. by Tuesday

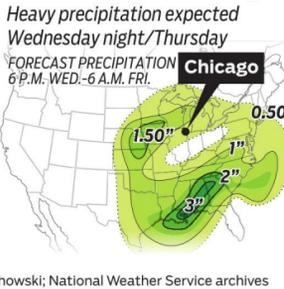


SOURCES: European Ensemble Forecast Model; Frank Wachowski; National Weather Service archives

Thursday (Noon snapshot)



South in for another soaking



Storm to buffet Chicago with howling south winds



2018 FORECAST TO END WITH SEASONABLE CHILL



MIDWEST CITIES

MON./TUES.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Illinois	pc	50	35	pc	49	34
Carbondale	pc	41	31	pc	43	30
Champaign	pc	40	34	pc	44	31
Decatur	pc	42	34	pc	42	33
Moline	pc	48	36	pc	46	36
Peoria	pc	44	33	pc	43	32
Quincy	pc	44	33	pc	44	32
Rockford	pc	36	28	pc	38	30
Springfield	pc	44	33	pc	44	32
Sterling	pc	36	28	pc	38	30
Indiana	pc	44	32	pc	44	30
Bloomington	pc	48	34	pc	47	32
Evansville	pc	42	30	pc	42	28
Fort Wayne	pc	37	28	pc	43	28
Indianapolis	pc	37	28	pc	43	28
Lafayette	pc	31	23	pc	36	29
South Bend	pc	31	23	pc	36	29
Wisconsin	pc	32	21	pc	33	24
Green Bay	pc	33	24	pc	38	30
Kenosha	pc	31	25	pc	34	27
La Crosse	pc	31	25	pc	34	27
Madison	pc	31	22	pc	36	28
Milwaukee	pc	31	23	pc	36	29
Wausau	pc	26	17	pc	29	19
Michigan	pc	33	23	pc	35	29
Detroit	pc	32	24	pc	36	31
Grand Rapids	pc	29	20	pc	31	21
Marquette	pc	29	22	pc	31	21
St. Ste. Marie	pc	33	24	pc	31	21
Traverse City	pc	33	24	pc	31	21
Iowa	pc	40	31	pc	40	28
Ames	pc	37	30	pc	39	30
Cedar Rapids	pc	37	30	pc	39	30
Des Moines	pc	43	32	pc	42	30
Dubuque	pc	36	27	pc	39	30

OTHER U.S. CITIES

MON./TUES.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Albany	su	63	42	cl	61	55
Albuquerque	su	56	33	pc	55	36
Amarillo	pc	65	29	cl	54	39
Anchorage	pc	16	14	sh	23	32
Asheville	pc	44	27	pc	50	34
Aspen	sh	29	16	cl	37	22
Atlanta	su	52	31	pc	56	38
Atlantic City	pc	46	29	pc	42	30
Austin	pc	61	55	sh	71	61
Baltimore	pc	45	32	cl	42	32
Billings	cl	42	21	cl	33	23
Birmingham	su	53	33	pc	58	44
Bismarck	pc	37	16	pc	22	12
Burlington	sh	40	31	ss	38	23
Boston	ss	37	28	pc	37	27
Brownsville	sh	77	63	cl	78	67
Buffalo	sh	34	26	sh	33	28
Austin	pc	61	55	sh	71	61
Baltimore	pc	45	32	cl	42	32
Billings	cl	42	21	cl	33	23
Birmingham	su	53	33	pc	58	44
Bismarck	pc	37	16	pc	22	12
Burlington	sh	40	31	ss	38	23
Boston	ss	37	28	pc	37	27
Brownsville	sh	77	63	cl	78	67
Buffalo	sh	34	26	sh	33	28
Austin	pc	61	55	sh	71	61
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Baltimore	pc	45	32	cl	42	32
Billings	cl	42	21	cl	33	23
Birmingham	su	53	33	pc	58	44
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Burlington	sh	40	31	ss	38	23
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Brownsville	sh	77	63	cl	78	67
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Burlington	sh	40	31	ss	38	23
Boston	ss	37	28	pc	37	27
Brownsville	sh	77	63	cl	78	67
Buffalo	sh	34	26	sh	33	28
Austin	pc	6				