



Prosecutors to drop charges against Schock



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock faced charges he used his government and campaign funds as his own piggy bank.

Ex-congressman would have to pay back IRS, \$68K to campaign

BY JASON MEISNER
 Chicago Tribune

Once a rising Republican star, former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock's public fall from grace began with stories of his lavish tastes, including the extravagant remodeling of his Washington office inspired by the British television series "Downton Abbey."

After he resigned in 2015 amid a federal investigation,

Schock, of Peoria, was hit with a sweeping criminal indictment alleging he used his government and campaign funds as a personal piggy bank — with expenditures ranging from private jets and skybox tickets at Soldier Field to handing out exorbitant bonuses and paying for travel to get a haircut.

On Wednesday, however, Schock's story took a stunning turn — one virtually

unheard of in a high-profile corruption case. In a surprise move, federal prosecutors in Chicago announced they had agreed to drop all charges against Schock in what's known as a deferred prosecution.

Under the terms of the deal, Schock, 37, must pay back taxes to the IRS and \$68,000 to his congressional campaign funds. If he does so — and stays out of any new trouble for six months — prosecutors would drop all felony counts against Schock in September, leaving him

with a clean record.

As part of the deal, Schock's campaign committee, Schock for Congress, pleaded guilty Wednesday to a misdemeanor count of failing to properly report expenses.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly approved the deal after prosecutors said they had taken a fresh look at the charges and decided this would be a "fair and just" outcome, especially given that Schock has no criminal record and

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Feds charge Harvey mayor kin

3 relatives, key aide of Kellogg touched by graft probe

BY MEGAN CREPEAU,
 ZAK KOESKE
 AND JASON MEISNER
 Chicago Tribune

A federal probe of south suburban Harvey appeared to be closing in on longtime Mayor Eric Kellogg as three of his relatives as well as a key consultant to Kellogg were charged in what authorities billed as an on-going investigation.

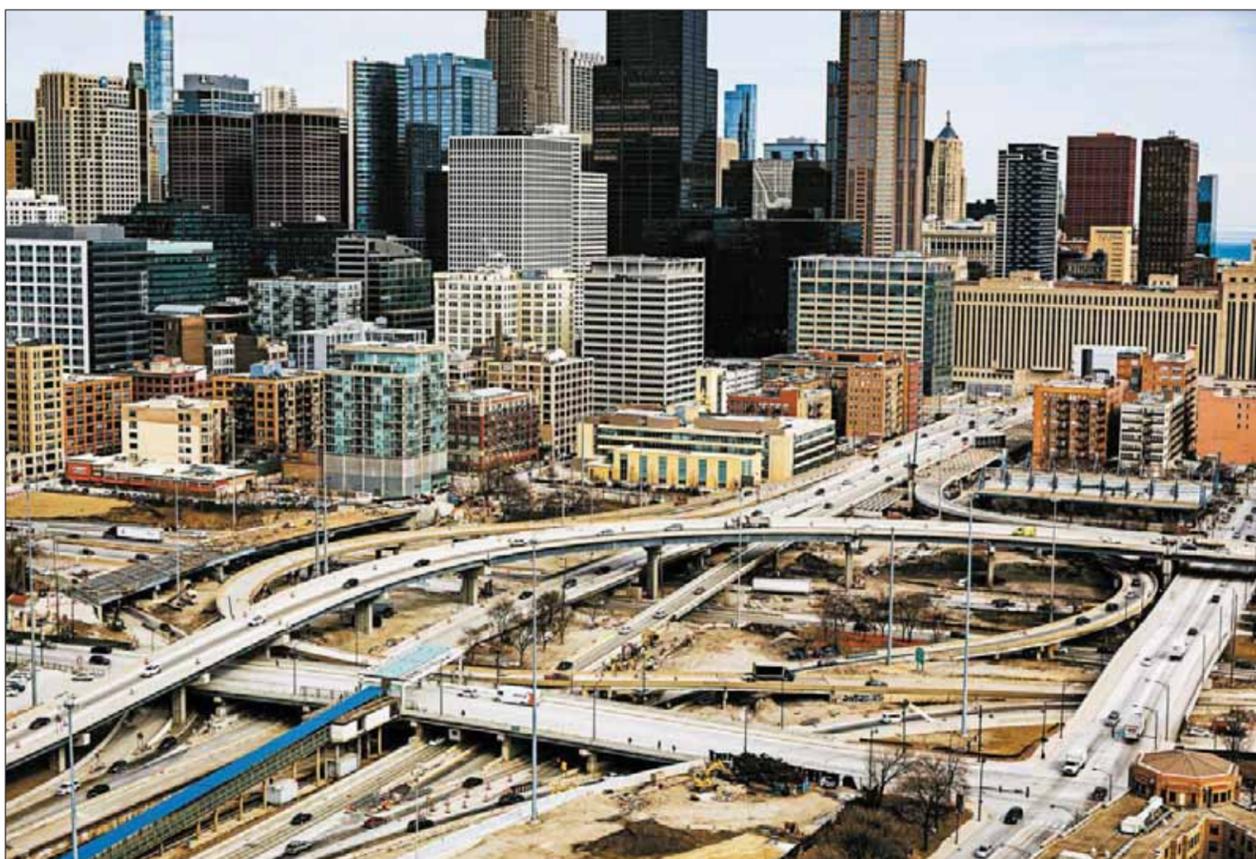
Federal agents seized evidence during raids on both Harvey's municipal building and Police Department.

Among those charged were Kellogg's brother and a cousin for allegedly extorting regular cash payoffs from a Harvey strip club to protect its prostitution activities.

Separate charges accused Donald Luster, a twice-convicted felon and former mayor of Dixmoor, as well as an alleged "bagman" of soliciting bribes from the owner of a towing company in a nearby suburb. Luster was a consultant to the city given influence by Kellogg over economic development and planning matters.

In a third criminal complaint made public Wednesday, two Harvey police officers — including Derrick Muhammad, 70, another brother of the mayor — were charged with falsifying a police report to protect a father and son, both convicted felons, from possibly facing weapons charges.

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BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Construction on the Jane Byrne Circle Interchange will take at least another 3½ years and will cost at least \$170 million more than expected.

What's driving Jane Byrne delay? IDOT files offer hint.

Rerouting of utilities a factor in increased length, cost of repairs

BY JOE MAHR AND
 MARY WISNIEWSKI
 Chicago Tribune

If all had gone as planned, the remake of the Jane Byrne Interchange could have been done by now.

Instead, drivers continue to face snarled traffic,

closed lanes and bountiful construction signs at the juncture of the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Dan Ryan expressways west of the Loop, the effects of a construction project that will take at least another 3½ years and will cost at least \$170 million more than expected.

It wasn't just one problem that caused this to happen, the Tribune found, but a series of issues that contributed to unforeseen delays, conflicts over who was to blame and a price tag that is now \$713 million, a third higher than the original estimate of \$535.5 million.

While drivers are bearing the brunt of it, the problems have extended to the nearby University of

Illinois at Chicago campus where a building had sunk and shifted, state records show.

Records obtained from the Illinois Department of Transportation also show delays due to the rerouting of utilities, with contractors blaming outside utility companies and city of Chicago crews.

State transportation officials also have told the Tribune that the agency

slowed down work on the project while it made urgent repairs to another key highway entry point into the city, I-55 at Lake Shore Drive.

IDOT has a special website for the project but has not provided much information there on the project's timeline and problems causing delays. But that could be changing.

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'Alma Otter' gains traction to be U. of I. face

Push on for new mascot to replace Chief Illiniwek

BY MORGAN GREENE
 Chicago Tribune

Students at the University of Illinois may one day be able to say they're proud of their alma mater and their Alma Otter.

Last month, the Illinois Student Government proposed a referendum ques-

tion asking if Alma Otter should become the school's official symbol. Now, as students prepared to vote Wednesday and Thursday, a campaign to make the river otter the face of the university is going mainstream — and the otter may join other Big Ten mascots from the same animal family.

Anna Sekiguchi, one of the authors of the referendum rallying for the common otter, said she's

hopeful about Alma's chances. Sekiguchi said she'll be handing out flyers on campus — possibly in an otter onesie — with a handful of other pro-Alma organizers over the next few days.

"There's always going to be Chief-forever people," Sekiguchi said. "But I still think there's a lot of traction and a lot of buzz for Alma Otter."

The school's Chief Illiniwek symbol was

dropped in 2007 after the NCAA labeled it "hostile and abusive," but it has remained a campus symbol. Students have continued to dress up as Chief Illiniwek, and a Facebook group dedicated to its preservation has thousands of likes.

"I would say I'm strongly against the Chief and Native American imagery in general being

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ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE

R. Kelly jailed for not paying child support

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Dissension among House Democrats

Vote on resolution condemning anti-Semitism postponed indefinitely.

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Townes, Loyola eyeing a second magical March

Chicago Sports



Tom Skilling's forecast High 30 Low 24

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

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S UNSCRIPTED PRESENTS JACOB TOBIA

Come meet writer, producer and author Jacob Tobia. From interviewing former U.S. Presidents to working with queer and trans youth, Tobia helps others embrace the full complexity of gender and their own truth, even when that truth is messy. Tobia's soon-to-be-released memoir "Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story" follows Tobia's story from the moment a doctor put "male" on the birth certificate through his work today. With fierce honesty, wildly irreverent humor, and wrenching vulnerability, "Sissy" takes readers on an odyssey sure to make you never think about gender — both other people's or your own — the same way again. **When:** 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., March 12, at WeWork, 515 N State Street, 14th Floor, Chicago. To learn more and purchase tickets, go to jacobtobiaunscripted.eventbrite.com.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE BOOKS

"So Social: Tips on Improving Your Social Media Presence for Business and Personal Use." "So Social" is a collection of Tribune articles written by social media experts Amy Guth and Scott Kleinberg. It explores the benefits and dangers of social media from professional and personal standpoints. For anyone interested in growing their social media following, understanding Web marketing, or keeping accounts secure, it is a must read.

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Chicago Tribune (USPS 104-000) is published daily (7 days) at 160 N. Stetson Ave., Chicago, IL 60601; Chicago Tribune Company, LLC, Publisher; periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes to the Chicago Tribune, Mail Subscription Division, 777 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60654.

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JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



JOHN KASS

Kids know the promise of March: Life, on its way

Somewhere there's a kid with a secret knowledge about the month of March.

But he really hasn't given it much thought. He won't write it down. He doesn't care about the science of the thing.

It's just there, in his head, like faith, not to be questioned. And what is on his right hand is not to be questioned, either.

A baseball mitt. The boy's first baseball mitt. His father couldn't afford one until then and the boy was going into the 7th grade. It was a Denny McLain glove, with the magic number 31 on it, the number of games the big Detroit pitcher won the year before.

The boy slams that hard ball into his glove, again and again to make that perfect pocket. I know that boy.

Another kid has a soccer ball. His brother joins him. You can hear it bounce against the garage outside and on the feet that snick that ball up and back again against the wall, first the left, then the right, like a boxer's speed bag but without hands.

The sound is of the seeds of the beautiful game germinating in young hearts. It sounds like this: ta-pocketa-pocketa-pok. Pocketa, pocketa pok. Or basketballs in the alley. Or kids without money or ice time, but with their hockey sticks on the pavement.

Perhaps there's a kid without sports on his or her mind. Life doesn't have to have sports in it.

We were happy just to hang out on the banks of the Sherman Park lagoon, or at the Marquette Park lagoon with our cousins; or Stony Creek out in Oak Lawn, with those creaky houses and bats (yes, bats) flying out of the attics at night.

And later, when it warmed, we'd go garter snake hunting on vacant lots we called "prairies."

What did I love about it?

I loved staring at the softening ice along the banks of those lagoons, wondering about the changes going

on down there, wondering about the fish and the bugs and frogs.

I'll tell you a secret. I'd daydream about riding a dragonfly. It helped me keep my mind off a bully who would punch me in the stomach whenever he found me.

March is the month wedged between winter and the rains of April and it is a month that gets little if any respect.

It's slushy and the snow turns lousy. It's too warm for hockey and too cold for baseball.

But there is a simple promise in March for kids:

It says winter is ending, spring is coming

If you hunker down at a computer and listen to politicians, and spend your time on carpeted corridors, you won't notice it.

And I was all set to write something political, because, well, Chicago is a political town and we're in a political season, and there is a race for mayor between two smart and tough African-American women.

They're determined to demonize each other beyond recognition in the pursuit of power.

But reader Mary Oskielunas wrote me a nice note that had nothing to do with politics, or about power.

It had everything to do with being a kid in Chicago around this time of year.

"Hey John Kass, Had to let you know, I really enjoy your writing when it includes tales of your childhood on the southside of Chicago. I grew up in Marquette Park. We used to walk over to Nabisco and beg workers at the back fence on the loading docks for cookies. Sure enough, a delicious box of some sort of cookie would be tossed over. We also ran to the railroad tracks when trains were spotted and yell for chalk. Like this. CHALK!!!. Railroad men had big pieces of beautiful lemon-yellow chalk. They obliged us more easily and tossed out those coveted chunks. We also snuck into the gas company to

play on and in those gigantic pipes until we were chased out. One of them was set up with a mattress for the naughty older boys and their make-out sessions. That was half the thrill ... the chase.

We also had a crossing guard we called Schultzie, who monitored the railroad tracks. She would go after us if she saw us cutting across the tracks. A vicious cycle of repairing the fence and someone cutting it open always ensued. This saved about a mile off our walk home from Queen of the Universe school. Schultzie always knew who the perps were.

Mary Oskielunas, former southsider"

Thanks Mary. I could see Mary and her brothers walking along the tracks, and Schultzie's angry stare, and the kids brushing past long dried winter weeds as they cut through the broken fence.

And how they stepped into the mud of March. And how the earth smelled.

I look out my back window to the garden that waits for me, though a kind editor reminded me that it was 17 degrees outside Wednesday.

That's reality. And reality also tells us that January doesn't have a smell. Neither does February. Ice and snow have no smell at all.

But March is different. It has a smell.

If you fish for steelhead in a river up north, you know. If you walk a dog in the fields south of here, you know.

You know that smell of March. The skin of the earth is being shed for something new.

March is life, on its way.

Listen to "The Chicago Way" podcast with John Kass and Jeff Carlin — at www.wgnradio.com/category/wgn-plus/thechicagoway.

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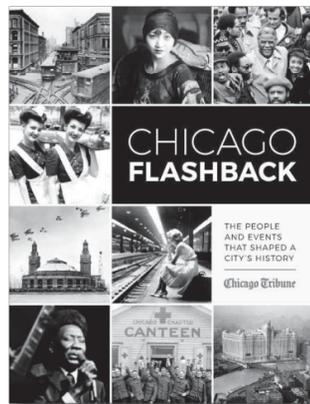
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Chicago Tribune

Mistakes aren't crimes? Tell that to Jackson Jr.



REX W. HUPPKE

I'm going to remember these words from former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, issued in a statement after federal prosecutors suddenly dropped the slew of corruption charges he was facing: "Mistakes are not crimes."

Who knows, those words might come in handy next time I get a ticket from one of Chicago's red light cameras.

"Oh, sorry your honor. I didn't know it was illegal to run that red light. It was just a mistake, you see, not a crime."

Or perhaps I'll do some creative expense account filing and use that money to ornately decorate my home office so it looks like a room from the PBS show "Downton Abbey." Then, when I'm fired and charged with embezzling money from the company, I'll just explain it was an innocent mistake.

No jury would convict a person who made an innocent mistake, right?

Schock, a young Illinois congressman who was once seen as a rising star in the Republican Party, was hit with a 24-count indictment in 2016, with charges ranging from wire fraud to filing false tax returns to theft of government funds. Two of those counts were dropped, but he was set to go to trial in June in Chicago.

The details of his freewheeling handling of taxpayer money were eye-popping, from lavishly decorating his congressional office to look like the dining room from "Downton Abbey" to swanky hotel stays and inflated mileage reimbursement claims.

The charges against Schock echoed the excesses of another former Illinois congressman, Democrat Jesse Jackson Jr., who was convicted of using hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign money on fur capes, a "holistic retreat" in Martha's Vineyard and all manner of luxury items.

But there's now one significant difference between the two men: Jackson served about 22 months in prison while Schock is going to



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, left, appears Wednesday, after his hearing at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago.

I'm not sure I buy Aaron Schock's "mistakes are not crimes" line. I think something in this case went sideways and prosecutors had to settle for what they could get.

walk free.

Wednesday's surprise agreement between the feds and Schock requires him to pay the IRS \$42,000 and reimburse about \$68,000 to his congressional campaign fund. If he does that and behaves himself for six months, all the felony charges will be dropped and his record will be clear.

That's a pretty sweet deal, in

light of the charges Schock was facing. In the agreement, Schock admitted "he had a regular practice as a public officeholder of obtaining event tickets at face value" and then reselling them at a profit. He also copped to inflating mileage reimbursement claims and owing his own campaign \$67,956 for claims that "in whole or in part were unsupported by adequate records."

We'll eventually learn more about how the prosecution of this case fell apart. There were problems along the way and accusations from Schock and his defense team that the prosecutor who brought the charges — Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Bass — was overzealous.

None of that explains away the fancy office chandelier and the taxpayer-funded jet-setting, but I'm no attorney, just a humble newspaper columnist and occasional red-light-camera-ticket recipient.

Jesse Jackson Jr. responded cordially to news of Schock's

good fortune on Facebook: "Before I went to prison, I paid back every cent from my campaign as well, a second mortgage. I paid back every dollar, but I still had to go to prison. It's all good though, I am happy for Aaron."

Schock said in his statement: "I have stated consistently and constantly that mistakes were made in the handling of my campaign and congressional offices, and I have acknowledged responsibility for that — but mistakes are not crimes."

I'm not entirely sure that's correct. Jackson's "mistakes" in using his station as a public servant to elevate his lifestyle were definitely crimes. And he was rightfully punished.

Rosa Maria Ortega, a longtime permanent U.S. resident in Texas, was recently convicted of illegal voting because she was a noncitizen when she cast votes for Republicans in 2012 and 2014. She only obtained a sixth-grade education, and her lawyer argued that she didn't understand the

law. In other words, she made a mistake.

She's now serving an eight-year prison sentence for that mistake and will likely be deported when she's released.

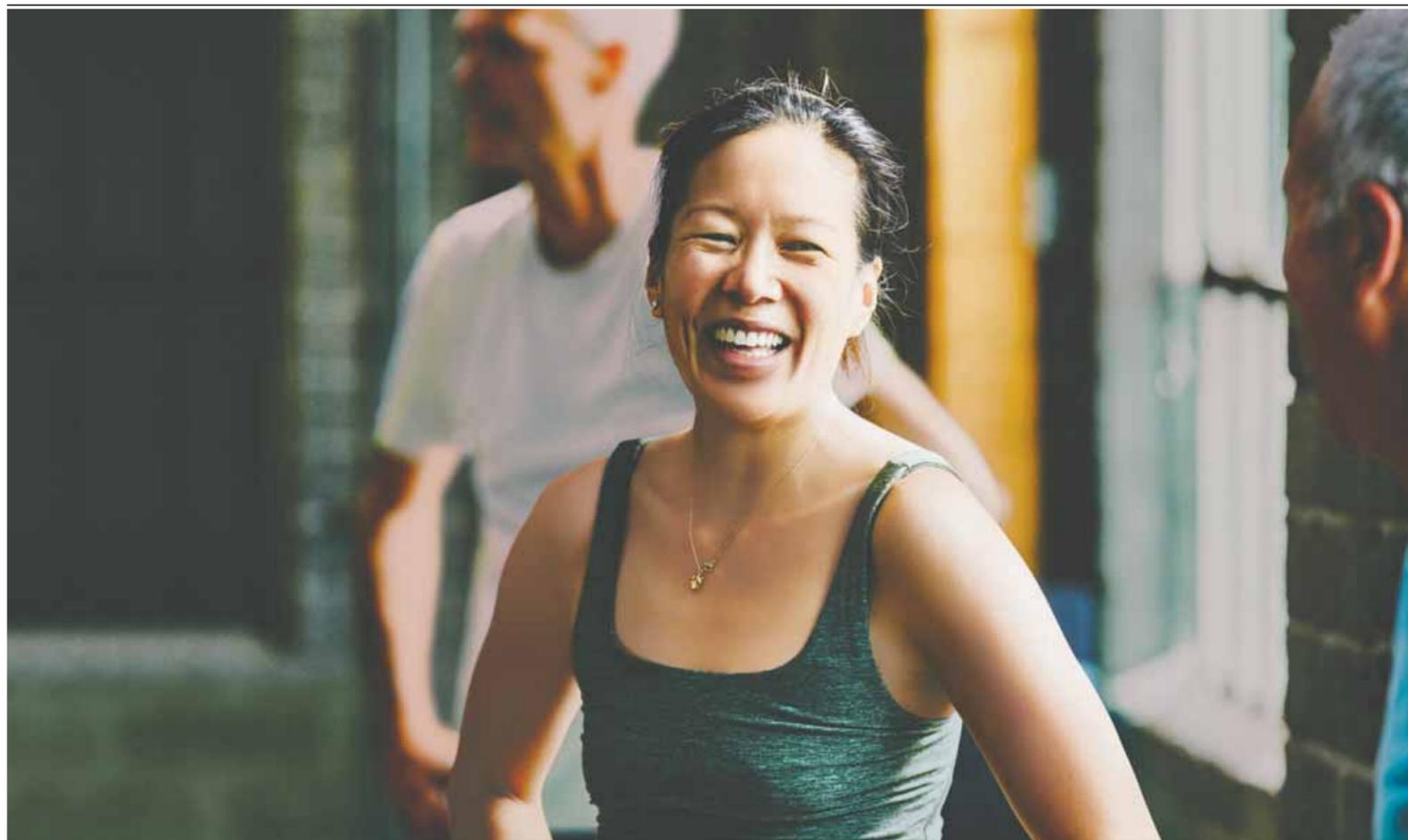
So I'm not sure I buy Schock's "mistakes are not crimes" line. I think something in this case went sideways and prosecutors had to settle for what they could get.

That's to Schock's advantage, to be sure, and if he's a mere innocent mistake-maker who never deserved to be dragged down over his "Downton Abbey" office or his swanky hotel expenditures, then good for him.

If he clears the six months and all the charges are dropped, he might even be able to resurrect his political career.

But if he holds to the belief that his mistakes were not crimes, his former supporters might want to beware. It'd be a shame if they had to pay for the same chandelier twice.

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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGOLAND

Kelly jailed after failing to pay child support

Singer didn't comply with judge's order to pay \$161,000

BY MEGAN CREPEAU AND ROSEMARY SOBEL
Chicago Tribune

Musician R. Kelly was taken into custody Wednesday afternoon after failing to comply with a judge's order that he pay more than \$161,000 in back child support.

Dozens of reporters and photographers crammed a narrow hallway to watch Kelly, sporting black sunglasses and a dark blue suit with a lighter blue dress shirt, as he made his way through security screening before the hearing began.

Kelly, who didn't say anything audible, pulled off the shades as he walked into Judge Lori Rosen's courtroom on the lower level of the Daley Center.

More than an hour after Kelly entered the closed court hearing, he was led away in handcuffs, accompanied by Cook County sheriff's deputies. "He's in our custody," said Sophia Ansari, a spokeswoman for the sheriff's office.

Judge Rosen last month warned Kelly that he faced jail time unless he paid the child support. During Wednesday's hearing, Kelly was found in contempt and ordered into custody, according to Cara Smith, chief policy officer at the sheriff's office. Kelly must pay \$161,663 to be released from jail, she said. His next court date is March 13.

The arrest comes less than two weeks after Kelly put up \$100,000 to be released from custody on



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

R. Kelly, center, and his entourage, including his attorney, Steve Greenberg, left, walk into the Daley Center on Wednesday for a court hearing.

criminal sexual abuse charges.

Records connected to Kelly's divorce case have been kept secret and out of public view. But paperwork on the back child support was made public in Kelly's criminal court file. Kelly and his ex-wife have three children together.

Kelly's publicist, Darryll Johnson, said the musician showed up with \$50,000 or \$60,000, but the judge wanted the full amount paid. "As you know, he hasn't worked in a long time," Johnson said.

When asked how Kelly

can still live in the Trump Tower, he replied that Kelly "has some money."

Kelly was "happy" when he arrived for the hearing, not thinking he would be jailed, Johnson said. But now he is "depressed, deflated and upset." One man heckled Johnson as he spoke to the media.

The woman who posted Kelly's bail after the criminal charges was at the Daley Center on Wednesday but left without speaking to reporters.

Alison Motta, the attorney for Kelly's ex-wife, would only confirm that the

ex-wife did not appear at the hearing.

Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, was in court but did not comment.

Kelly, 52, was indicted last month on 10 counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse. Cook County prosecutors allege he abused four victims, three of them underage girls, over a span of 12 years. Kelly and his attorney have vehemently denied the accusations.

Bond was set at \$1 million on the criminal charges, but Kelly was unable to post the necessary \$100,000 until after he spent a weekend in

custody. Court records indicate a 47-year-old Romeoville woman posted his bail, identifying herself on the bond slip as Kelly's "friend."

Accusations of predatory sexual behavior have dogged the singer for years. Cook County prosecutors charged him in 2002 with child pornography, saying he made a sex tape with his teenage goddaughter, but a jury acquitted him in a sensational trial in 2008.

In the latest charges, prosecutors allege Kelly tried to force oral sex on his 24-year-old hairdresser in

2003 — while he was free on bond on the then-pending child pornography charges.

Prosecutors also alleged that Kelly solicited an underage girl outside his 2008 criminal trial and later sexually abused her; that he carried on a yearlong sexual relationship with a girl he had met in 1998 when she was celebrating her 16th birthday; and that he videotaped himself having sex with a young girl at his home in Olympia Fields in the late 1990s.

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Police seek to make it harder to keep guns after licenses revoked

BY ANNIE SWEENEY AND STACY ST. CLAIR
Chicago Tribune

Nearly three weeks after a mass shooting at an Aurora factory, the Illinois State Police announced a sweeping list of reforms aimed at making it harder for people to keep guns after losing their right to own or carry a firearm.

The changes, described in a four-page plan released Wednesday morning, deal with how firearm owners' identification cards are revoked, how guns are seized and how related records are kept and shared. It calls for greater enforcement of the revocation laws that have long been ignored.

The acting director of the state police, Brendan Kelly, called the proposal "first steps" and stressed that the federal government must do more to address the incomplete FBI databases used to perform background checks on prospective gun buyers.

"The weaknesses of our nation's background check system remain daunting," Kelly said. "We simply cannot do it alone."

The proposed changes — which have the backing of Gov. J.B. Pritzker — would give local law enforcement better access to the list of people whose firearm owners' identification cards have been revoked. Police and sheriff's agencies also will be told the reason a card has been pulled and whether the person has returned it and provided an accounting of his or her weapons, as the law already requires.

State police also will start providing local law enforcement with a list of firearms purchased by people whose cards were later revoked. This specific reform could rattle gun rights advocates, who have long objected to the government keeping tabs on who is purchasing guns.

"I am not for people going through people's personal records," Richard Pearson, executive director

of the Illinois State Rifle Association, told the Tribune last week. "You've got people who would love to get in there and mess with this. And it's none of their business."

It's unclear how long it will take to implement the changes. In the meantime, the state police will "immediately triage" its current list of revocations and will target the "highest risk individuals" to ensure their guns have been turned over, according to the plan.

The reforms come 2½ weeks after Gary Martin opened fire at the Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, killing five co-workers and wounding several officers. Martin died in a shootout with police.

As a convicted felon, Martin never should have been allowed to purchase the handgun used in the mass shooting. He was permitted to do so after a background check using five distinct federal databases failed to show his 1995 aggravated assault conviction in Mississippi, records show.

In 2014, Martin passed an Illinois State Police background check to obtain his FOID card, then again months later passed another background check at the gun dealer where he bought a .40-caliber Smith & Wesson handgun. Martin's criminal history caught up with him later that year when he decided to expedite his application for a concealed carry license and get fingerprinted. His prints flagged his conviction, and the state police denied his concealed carry license and sent him a letter saying his license to own a firearm had been revoked.

The Aurora Police Department also would have been informed of the revocation through a statewide police database. Under the law, Martin should have provided a written account of his firearms to local law enforcement. Instead, he carried the gun for five years until opening fire at Pratt after learning he was

losing his job.

"We must take whatever steps we can, large and small, to strengthen the fabric of these systems because any improvement could be the one that makes the difference," Kelly said. "We must increase sharing of information, the quality and value of information shared, and most importantly, enforcement. Mailed letters are not enough."

The reforms have support from law enforcement agencies across the country, including the Aurora Police Department. A department spokesman said it's "impossible to speculate" whether the proposed changes could have prevented the incident, but there are still lessons to be learned from the tragedy.

"We are glad to see the ISP is taking such swift and appropriate action regarding the revocation and reporting of FOID status to their local law enforcement partners," said Sgt. William Rowley, the department's spokesman. "Anytime there is an incident of such magnitude as the one we just experienced in our community, we know that it is important to learn from those events and seek ways to help make our communities safer."

Under state law, rescinded FOID cards must be returned within 48 hours of receiving the revocation notice, and owners must complete a Firearm Disposition Record detailing where their now-illegal guns went.

In 2018, 10,818 FOID cards were revoked, according to state police. Only 2,616 Firearm Disposition Records were returned, meaning more than 75 percent of those with revoked licenses ignored the order.

There have been only 110 arrests since 2014 for failure to return a FOID card or not submitting the Firearm Disposition Record. There were only 10 arrests statewide — or 0.1 percent of ignored revocations — for the offense in 2018.

Improving FOID revoca-



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Two mourners hug as Aurora police officers enter the Gabel-Dunn Funeral Home in Sheridan last month for Trevor Wehner's wake. Wehner was killed in a mass shooting.

tion response has been a topic of conversation among law enforcement officials since the Aurora shooting, with authorities trying to figure out a way to do more despite already strained resources. The Illinois State Police plan — which includes giving local departments more information about the reasons behind revocations — will help authorities prioritize their response, said Brian Fengel, president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and police chief in Bartonville, in central Illinois.

"The step that Director Kelly has taken is a positive step," Fengel said. "But we're continuing our conversations about it too. Our main goal is to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them."

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, who for five years has dedicated gun teams to follow up on revocation notices, applauded reforms in part because they would make crucial information available electronically. Getting information on firearms purchases is also critical, he said. When his office started following up on the revocations, state police routinely denied requests for the firearms purchasing records unless there was another criminal matter pending against the target such as a warrant, his staff said.

Last week, state police reversed course and provided Cook County with details on 26 people whose cards had been revoked and were targeted for a visit, according to the sheriff's office. Of that group, 14 had purchased guns.

Dart also called for putting some of the reform measures into law. The former state lawmaker said efforts to do this have failed in the past because of pushback from gun rights organizations.

"They feel to their core that we in government are trying to figure out how to confiscate their firearms," Dart said.

In voicing their support for ISP's plan, local law enforcement has expressed concerns that in a rush to address the weaknesses exposed by the Aurora shooting, legislators will create a series of unfunded mandates for already cash-strapped departments.

California, for example, is the only state that keeps a database of firearms purchasers who have since been prohibited from having guns. Some five years ago, the state dedicated \$24 million to hire more agents to address a growing backlog.

"I'm encouraged by these first steps from the Illinois State Police to improve communication and information sharing among agencies and jurisdictions

to better protect the public from gun violence," said Kane County State's Attorney Joseph McMahon, whose jurisdiction includes most of Aurora. "I hope these and future steps include the necessary resources to assure that people who pose a public safety threat do not fall through the cracks, leading to more tragedy."

Law enforcement agencies are not alone in their calls for reform. Last week, Illinois congressmen asked the FBI to address the flawed national databases that allowed Martin to purchase the gun he used to kill his co-workers.

State Sen. Michael Hastings, a Tinley Park Democrat, also plans to file legislation this week that would require the Illinois State Police to confiscate someone's firearm owner's identification card, firearms and ammunition when his or her FOID card is revoked. The state police also would be required to report the person to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System within 15 business days.

"This is the biggest no-brainer," he said.

Chicago Tribune's Dan Petrella contributed.

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Mayoral candidate Toni Preckwinkle, center, makes calls to 27th Ward voters alongside the ward's alderman, Walter Burnett, left, on Wednesday.

Preckwinkle gets nods from White, Burnett in push for black voters

Mayoral campaign adds 2 influential endorsements

BY JUAN PEREZ JR.
Chicago Tribune

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's mayoral bid scored support from Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and 27th Ward Ald. Walter Burnett on Wednesday, adding two influential African-American political leaders to a campaign looking to gain ground on the city's South and West sides.

"Toni Preckwinkle is one who don't just talk about it, as we say in the neighborhood, she's a person who be about it," Burnett said during a news conference at Preckwinkle's campaign headquarters. "She don't just talk about it, she be about it."

"A lot of people talk about it. She's done it," Burnett said.

For the first time in Chicago history, two black women are competing for City Hall's fifth floor offices in a runoff election that could showcase a unique battle for African-American voters.

White is Illinois' longest-serving secretary of state and a popular leader who has been able to win even Republican strongholds such as DuPage County. The youth tumbling team that bears his name is a frequent fixture at civic events.

Burnett's City Council ward includes the West Loop's white-hot real estate market, part of the Near North Side and the East Garfield Park neighborhood. Both men are supporters of departing Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

"We need someone who's going to run the city of Chicago who has experience," White said. "I believe that Toni Preckwinkle has all that is required to run the city of Chicago, which I think is the third-largest city in the United States."

Their endorsements of Preckwinkle's campaign illustrate the push to court African-American communities that have been often frustrated by under-resourced public schools, violence, criminal justice inequities and plunging populations in neighborhoods that still shelter working families and a diverse array of churches and businesses.

"Usually when we stand with folks, we get them over that hump, and they end up being elected," Burnett said about his and White's support for political candidates.

Preckwinkle dominated four predominantly black lakefront wards centered on her South Side Hyde Park base last week but lost high-turnout North Side wards to Lightfoot. Preckwinkle finished second and Lightfoot third in the remaining 14 African-American wards won by businessman Willie Wil-

son.

Wilson's presence still looms over the mayor's race. The self-described humanitarian mounted a charismatic campaign that saw him hand out hundreds of thousands of dollars to residents — legally, according to the state elections board — on his way to securing about 60,000 votes and an overall fourth-place finish in the Feb. 26 election, according to unofficial results.

He has announced plans

"Usually when we stand with folks, we get them over that hump, and they end up being elected."

— Ald. Walter Burnett, about his and Jesse White's support for political candidates.

to endorse one of the two mayoral finalists on Friday.

Also on Wednesday, Lori Lightfoot's campaign announced the endorsement of the Latino Leadership Council, a group co-founded in November by U.S. Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia and the man he replaced in Congress, Luis Gutierrez. It's not clear how many of its members are on board with the endorsement, as some have publicly backed Preckwinkle while others, such as Garcia and Gutierrez, said they haven't made an endorsement.

While Preckwinkle and Lightfoot look to consolidate African-American support, they face a simu-

laneous challenge to make inroads in Latino communities that largely voted for Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza and former Chicago Board of Education President Gery Chico last week.

Neither finalist carries a clear ethnographic advantage in those neighborhoods.

Endorsements from Latino-friendly former candidates could play a decisive role for voters who might elect to stay home April 2 —

that includes one from Garcia, who energized Spanish-speaking wards during his failed 2015 bid to unseat Emanuel.

"As a woman of color, I am committed to building a Chicago where every person in every community has a voice in government," Lightfoot said in a statement. "I look forward to joining with the Latino Leadership Council in this election and beyond to build this more inclusive government and to empower and advocate for Chicago's Latino community. Together, we will leave top-down decision-making in the past and engage with Chicagoans in a new, progressive, inclu-

sive way."

The group's chair, Juan Morado Jr., said in a statement that "Lori's leadership approach and strong character gives our beloved city the best opportunity to move all of Chicago's communities forward."

Chico, Gutierrez and Mendoza have yet to endorse a runoff mayoral candidate.

Preckwinkle on Wednesday said her camp reached out to former contenders, but she didn't directly answer questions about apparent tensions with Garcia.

"He and I worked together for eight years on a variety of measures, particularly around criminal justice and affordable housing, and he was our floor leader. I've tried to not only work with him but to provide him with an opportunity for leadership in the body," Preckwinkle said of her relationship with the former county commissioner.

But would he back her campaign?

"As I understand it, he hasn't made a decision yet," Preckwinkle replied. "But I will just say that we worked hard together for eight years, and I think, accomplished a lot of good reforms both, as I said, in the housing arena and criminal justice reform."

Chicago Tribune's Gregory Pratt contributed.

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Group rallies against legal pot

Some lawmakers seek to slow down effort to allow sales

BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Chicago Tribune

Alarmed by the movement to legalize recreational marijuana in Illinois, high school students, law enforcement officials and lawmakers rallied against pot in Springfield Wednesday.

A coalition of about 40 lawmakers, led by Democratic state Rep. Marty Moylan of Des Plaines and House Republican leader Jim Durkin of Western Springs, also is sponsoring a resolution to slow down the effort to allow sales and taxation of cannabis.

The resolution, supported primarily by suburban and downstate lawmakers, calls for delaying legalization so that lawmakers and stakeholders may consider the societal costs and examine data from other states.

To show their opposition to legalization, about 90 students from Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Mundelein High School, and Kankakee High School rallied in the Capitol rotunda and met with lawmakers, according to Jamie Epstein, adult co-sponsor of Stevenson's Catalyst Club.

Carson Ezell, a member of the Catalyst Club at Stevenson, cited studies that found those who start using marijuana when they are young are more likely to become addicted, and that heavy marijuana use at a young age can lower one's IQ.

"As a teen, I feel the industry is really targeting us, with a lot of edibles in candy and fruit flavors," he said. "It's really scary to me."

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police also took part in the rally, citing data from Colorado showing more traffic accidents, fatalities and overall hospitalizations involving people with signs of marijuana use in their bodies.

A spokesman for the Illinois branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Robert Moore, predicted that blacks will again be victimized by legalization through greater addiction, increased law enforcement penalties for drugged driving, and loss of jobs and public housing due to zero-tolerance drug policies. He also was skeptical of claims that the tax money will go to minority communities.

"We don't need an additional substance that's going to impair our youth and citizens," he said. "This is just bad legislation — bad for our community and bad for the nation."

But the lead sponsors of allowing adult use, state Sen. Heather Steans and Rep. Kelly Cassidy, both Chicago Democrats, say that prohibition simply doesn't work. They say many people are using cannabis already, supporting gangs, and that the war on drugs has disproportionately imprisoned and hurt hiring opportunities for minority populations. They argue that legalization will restore minority communities, undercut the black market, ensure the safety of what's in cannabis and fund drug abuse prevention and treatment, all while generating tax revenue.

More broadly, advocates argue that the federal prohibition on marijuana is hypocritical, since use of the plant is less addictive than alcohol and other drugs and cannot kill users like prescription opioids.

Tim McAnarney, speaking for the rally sponsor, the privately funded nonprofit Smart Approaches to Marijuana, called for legalization to be held off beyond the spring legislative session.

"Let's not rush to judgment," he said. "Let's stop and look at the impact it's having in places that have already passed it. More people will have second thoughts on whether we need to legalize this."

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Bill would up penalties for understaffed nursing homes

Proposal comes amid reports 6K patients had sepsis

BY JOE MAHR
Chicago Tribune

A state lawmaker and a major advocacy group are pushing stiffer penalties for short-staffed nursing homes as a way to limit deadly sepsis infections and boost overall care.

"You would think that anytime you put your loved one in a nursing home, the care would be there, because it's supposed to be regulated, but we find that's not the case," said state Sen. Jacqueline Collins, D-Chicago, who introduced reform legislation this week.

Collins and AARP Illinois are supporting the legislation partly in response to the findings of an investigation published in September by Kaiser Health News and the Chicago Tribune. The investigation found that about 6,000 Illinois nursing home patients a year who were hospitalized had sepsis, with roughly 1 in 5 dying.

Sepsis is a bloodstream infection that can develop in bedridden patients with pneumonia, urinary tract infections and other conditions, such as pressure sores. Regulators and patient advocates blame much of the problem on low staffing to monitor everything from falls to bedsores and infections that can develop into sepsis, putting a patient's life in danger.

The investigation found staffing levels for nurses and aides in Illinois nursing homes were among the lowest in the country. In the six-county Chicago area, 78 percent of the facilities' staffing levels fell below the national average.

There is little agreement on how many caregivers should be employed by nursing homes, nor any federal regulations setting a rate per-resident. A recommendation from a 2001 federal study suggested 4.1 hours of total nursing time per resident.

Illinois, like most states, has a lower legal standard: requiring at least 2.5 hours of direct care daily for residents. Yet, the joint KHN Tribune investiga-

tion found that at least a fourth of Chicago-area nursing home residents live in facilities that aren't consistently providing that much care.

Collins' bill wouldn't change that standard. But it would require state regulators to obtain detailed Medicaid payroll data submitted by each facility, along with each facility's own data, and then calculate each quarter if the homes met that standard. It is similar to how the KHN Tribune investigation studied staffing.

Those homes that failed would be fined at least twice the money saved by not staffing properly. Plus those homes would have to post at all doorways a notice alerting the public that, in the previous quarter, the homes had failed to provide proper staffing.

The bill also would make it harder for homes to administer psychotropic medicine to residents without their consent or that of their families. Collins said she believes the issues are connected, with understaffed homes turning to these powerful drugs to sedate residents instead of



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

State Sen. Jacqueline Collins, shown in 2018, introduced nursing home reform legislation this week.

properly caring for them.

AARP Illinois' associate state director, Lori Hendren, told the Tribune that her group has increasingly received complaints across the state of horror stories of people struggling with inadequate care in understaffed homes.

"People are living these stories, and we recognize that enforcement of the minimum standards of staffing is a step in the right direction," Hendren said.

Shantonia Jackson said she knows first-hand the struggles with staffing. As a certified nursing assistant, she said she's had shifts in nursing homes where she's been responsible for 15 Alzheimer's patients at a time.

"I'm not giving them

proper care that I need to give. ... I can't do that if I have 15 residents at one time," she said at a Wednesday news conference to promote the legislation.

Jackson said understaffed homes too often push the use of drugs in place of proper attention.

The Illinois Health Care Association, which represents more than 500 nursing homes, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the proposed legislation. It has previously acknowledged low staffing is a problem but blamed the state's low Medicaid payment rates, which make up the bulk of homes' revenue.

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Pimp convicted of sex trafficking girl who client killed

Chicago man could get life as accused killer awaits trial

BY JASON MEISNER AND MEGAN CREPEAU
Chicago Tribune

A Chicago pimp was convicted Wednesday of federal sex trafficking charges stemming from the killing of an underage girl on Christmas Eve 2016 at the hands of a client.

Joseph Hazley faces up to life in prison after a federal jury convicted him on charges of sex trafficking conspiracy, sex trafficking a minor and transporting victims of sex trafficking across state lines. The jury deliberated for about four hours.

Hazley was found guilty of trafficking 16-year-old Desiree Robinson, who authorities say was killed by a man who had answered a sex ad posted by Hazley on the now-shuttered site Backpage.com. He was also convicted of pimping two other girls on Backpage as well as taking one of them to Ohio and Indiana to have sex for money.

As the verdict was read in court, Robinson's mother, Yvonne Ambrose, linked arms with a relative and shook as she stifled sobs. Seated at the defense table across the courtroom, Hazley, dressed in a brown suit and with his hair pulled back into a braided ponytail, looked on without expression.

In a statement after the verdict, Ambrose said Hazley's conviction "closes the first chapter" in the ongoing fight for justice.

"Our family continues to struggle daily with the loss of Desiree, a loving daughter and friend who became victimized by people, a business and a system with

no regard for young lives," Ambrose said.

Prosecutors have said Hazley drove Robinson to an appointment in south suburban Markham on Christmas Eve 2016 and waited in the car. When she didn't return, he went looking and found her body, they said. She'd been beaten, strangled and had her throat slit.

Hazley, however, was not charged with Robinson's killing. As a result, U.S. District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman limited at trial what prosecutors could say about the circumstances of her death.

Jurors heard that Hazley deleted photos of her from his computer and threw her clothing and other possessions in the trash.

Prosecutors read into the record the grand jury testimony of one of Hazley's associates, Raphael McClinton, who was staying at Hazley's house on Chicago's South Side and was one of the last people to see Robinson alive. A day earlier, McClinton had taken the witness stand at trial and claimed he couldn't remember anything about Hazley or Robinson.

He told the grand jury in 2017, however, that he remembered Robinson being brought to the house by one of Hazley's friends and that she claimed to be 19. Her demeanor, however, led him to believe she was a minor, he testified.

Later that morning, Hazley returned to the house and said he was going to take Robinson back to a customer who had paid to have sex with her and "wanted to see her again," according to McClinton's testimony. Hazley was gone for hours, and when he came back, he told McClinton he'd been at the Markham police station.



ZAK KOESKE/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Desiree Robinson, 16, was found dead in 2016 allegedly at the hands of a man who contracted her via Backpage.com.

"He told me everything that had happened," McClinton testified before the grand jury.

McClinton said Hazley then deleted all photos of Robinson and other girls he was trafficking from his computer. He also asked McClinton to help him remove Robinson's belongings from the house.

"I grabbed like a dress and a couple pairs of boots and put them in a bag," he said.

Hazley stuffed other items in a bag and "put it in the garbage across the street in the alley," McClinton testified before the grand jury.

In additional testimony last week, Robinson's friend, Tobijah Burks, testified that he reached out to the teen in December 2016 and was met with a chilling response: "I'm in a bad situation," she texted.

Robinson told Burks she was being "pimped" by a man who was holding her against her will. In a series of brief texts, she said she was being held at a house on the South Side. She didn't have any money and didn't think her bus card worked.

"I don't have anywhere else to go," wrote Robinson. "I came here for a party. ... He told me he was going to take me home, but now he won't let me leave."

Burks, now 21, testified he never saw Robinson again.

Jurors also heard from a 20-year-old woman who took the stand last week to say she was one of Hazley's victims. The woman, identified only by her first name,

Shiane, said she worked for Hazley for about four months in 2016.

Shiane said she went on as many as six "dates" a day at Chicago-area hotels and other locations. Hazley drove her to the appointments and usually stayed outside, waiting for a text from her "to make sure I was still alive," she said.

"He was my pimp," Shiane said in a matter-of-fact tone. "I called him 'Daddy.'"

Shiane later testified that she grew jealous that Hazley was treating Robinson better than her and left the house in early December 2016. After Robinson's death, Hazley called her and asked her to come back.

"He said money is getting tight now that Desiree is gone," she testified. "I said no."

The man accused of killing Robinson, Antonio Rosales, of Chicago, is awaiting trial on charges of first-degree murder and aggravated sexual abuse.

Robinson's slaying, meanwhile, has become a focal point in a recent effort to hold websites such as Backpage accountable for alleged criminal use of ad space. After her daughter's death, Robinson's mother filed a lawsuit against the website alleging the company knowingly facilitated sex traffickers. She also testified before Congress.

Backpage was shut down last year, and several of its former executives are facing criminal charges of human trafficking conspiracy.

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Man fatally crushed in garbage truck after Rosemont night out

Toxicology results pending, but foul play not suspected

BY ELVIA MALAGON
Chicago Tribune

A night out to celebrate a birthday in the entertainment district of Rosemont ended with a 31-year-old man being crushed to death in a garbage truck, according to officials.

Diego Mata, of the 3800 block of West 58th Place in the city's West Elsdon neighborhood, was pronounced dead Monday after he was found in a garbage facility, according to officials. An autopsy Tuesday determined he died from multiple injuries caused by compression in a garbage truck at a sanitation facility, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Mata was first reported missing Sunday morning by his brother, who last saw him early Saturday, said Sgt. Joe Balogh, a spokesman for the Rosemont Police Department. The brothers and another relative had a hotel booked in Rosemont and had gone out from Friday night to early Saturday to the entertainment district, which is filled with restaurants and bars, Balogh said.

At some point during the night, the brother lost track of Mata. The brother and relative weren't sure where Mata had gone, but they didn't think too much of it at the time because their hotel was nearby, Balogh said.

But village-owned camera video reviewed by police after Mata was reported missing showed that about 4:15 a.m. Saturday, Mata walked behind a restaurant at 5500 Park Place, in the entertainment district, and got

into a dumpster, Balogh said.

The video showed Mata was by himself at the time.

The video then shows a garbage truck picking up the dumpster about 5:25 a.m. Saturday and discarding the contents into the truck, Balogh said.

No one was seen walking in the area from the time Mata got into the dumpster to the time the garbage truck picked it up, he said.

After reviewing the video, officers went to the sanitation facility in suburban Wheeling where the garbage is taken and searched for Mata or his body. Semitrailer trucks filled with loads of garbage that already had left the facility were brought back to Wheeling so officers could sift through the refuse for the body, Balogh said.

Mata was found Monday afternoon and was pronounced dead at the facility, officials said. His death was ruled an accident by the medical examiner's office.

Balogh said detectives are awaiting toxicology reports but do not think foul play was involved in the death.

"It's sort of just a sad situation that happened," Balogh said.

It's the second unusual death in recent years in Rosemont's entertainment district. In 2017, Kenneka Jenkins was found dead in a walk-in freezer at the Crowne Plaza O'Hare hotel in Rosemont, across the road from the district.

Theories about how the Chicago 19-year-old died circulated the internet for months, but officials concluded her death was an accident.

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“Look at the history of major construction projects in this country. There’s always something that turns up that you didn’t expect.”

— P.S. Sriraj, director of UIC’s urban transportation center

Public hearing may illuminate delays

IDOT, from Page 1

To discuss the project, IDOT officials have scheduled a public hearing from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the UIC Forum and a media briefing. It’s part of a bigger communications push from IDOT that includes a new Facebook page and a Twitter account.

IDOT spokesman Guy Tridgell said the project is “coming to a juncture, with more work shifting onto the actual expressways.”

Delays on a project of this magnitude are not entirely unexpected, said P.S. Sriraj, director of UIC’s urban transportation center. He said it’s a major project made even tougher because traffic had to keep flowing through it.

“Look at the history of major construction projects in this country,” he said. “There’s always something that turns up that you didn’t expect.”

Along with delays came heavy costs, and differing figures.

In December, IDOT officials told the Tribune that the project was expected to cost \$600 million. But, by then, IDOT had already told federal officials the project cost had increased to \$713 million.

Tridgell said the higher figure at the time was just an estimate, not yet approved by federal authorities overseeing the project. He also said that the lower figure was publicized at the time to reflect the “mostly hard construction” costs without counting items such as preliminary engineering, in keeping with IDOT custom.

Records show the tab has risen in all categories, with engineering and land purchase costs collectively nearly doubling. That’s a big deal for Illinois taxpayers, because the state is on the hook to pay those costs, according to reports submitted by IDOT to federal authorities.

According to IDOT records, the state’s expected costs for the project have risen from \$122 million to \$200.5 million. The federal share has risen from \$413.5 million to \$512.5 million.

The junction — renamed from Circle Interchange but also known unofficially as the “spaghetti bowl” — has been rated as the biggest bottleneck for truck drivers in the nation by the Federal Highway Administration.

Even before beginning, engineers knew the project would be complicated because it was jammed into such a tight space and lanes had to remain open to keep



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Workers walk over the Van Buren Street bridge as construction continues on the Jane Byrne Interchange on Wednesday.



Near the Jane Byrne Interchange, a wall between the Eisenhower Expressway and UIC’s CUPPA Hall, 412 S. Peoria St., had to be redesigned and triggered other delays.

traffic moving. They offered detailed plans designed to keep the interchange flowing while it was being built.

The project started on time, in late 2013. Then, major problems emerged, according to IDOT records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

The lengthening project completion dates were documented in periodic reports IDOT sent to federal officials but not disclosed on the project’s website.

The IDOT records show

some of the first problems occurred on the north end of the UIC campus, across the Eisenhower, at the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs building, known by its acronym, CUPPA Hall.

In January 2015 — just over a year into construction — university workers noticed the building had been sinking and shifting, leaving cracks in the foundation and making it impossible to shut some doors and windows, according to

court records.

Sriraj, who works in that building, said it had to be evacuated for a year after it was deemed unsafe.

“The building was tilting over very perceptibly. If you dropped a ball, it would roll over to the south side of the building. It was a serious situation,” he said.

UIC filed a lawsuit against a construction firm, alleging the firm’s improper digging was to blame for \$4 million in damages. UIC declined comment except

to say the case is pending.

Over the next 1½ years, IDOT blamed engineering firms it had hired for missing the poor soil conditions that contributed to the problem. That led to a redesign of a key retaining wall that boosted costs by \$12.5 million and dragged out that part of the project at least 18 more months.

IDOT told the Tribune it kept the engineering firms on because it would be difficult to switch midproject. IDOT has not decided whether to impose any fines on the firms; the agency said such decisions usually aren’t made until the end of a project. In defending their performance, the firms have told IDOT they were working with incomplete information, records show.

IDOT’s Tridgell gave the Tribune a list of other reasons for delays. Among them: The city was leery of shutting down ramps and lanes on many weekends because of festivals and other events. And other local agencies required extra permits and reviews for work.

He said some of the factors that contributed to the delay were known ahead of time but became more of an issue as the project went on.

By mid-2016, records show, the Jane Byrne’s completion date had been

pushed back twice by IDOT, from June 2018 to December 2021.

Tridgell said IDOT has referenced the 2021 date for a “couple of years,” though this date could not be found on news releases posted on the project website. IDOT told the Tribune about the 2021 completion date in late 2017.

In September, with delays cascading, IDOT told federal officials the completion date would be pushed back another 11 months, to November 2022. Again, there was no announcement of the timing push-back on the project’s website. The Tribune reported it in December after learning it from interviews of IDOT officials.

The Federal Highway Administration in a letter last week said it had approved an updated financial plan, listing an Oct. 1, 2022, completion date and a cost of \$713 million. On Wednesday, after the Tribune raised questions about the level of public outreach, IDOT posted on the project website its September report to federal officials that lays out details of the delays and increased costs.

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Push is on to make otter the U. of I. mascot

Otter, from Page 1

used for profit and then furthermore essentially as a racist caricature,” Sekiguchi said.

Students for Chief Illiniwek, a student group that aims to keep the banned symbol on campus, urged their supporters to campaign against the referendum.

“Please help us preserve the rich culture and history of Illinois, and stand with us to say NO NEW MASCOT!” the group said in a Facebook post last week.

But a Change.org petition in support of Alma as mascot has garnered more than 600 signatures. One comment posted on the petition addressed to Chancellor Robert J. Jones says, “The chief is racist and otters are dope.”

“Otters are the mascots we deserve,” says another.

Alma Otter, whose name is a riff on the welcoming U. of I. campus statue, Lorado Taft, first appeared last year as a meme. A picture of an otter wearing Illini orange and blue, rising up from the water, furry paws in the air, burrowed into students’ social media.

Picking up on the “viral quality” of Alma, Sekiguchi became excited about its symbolic possibility. Even if students don’t vote to approve Alma Otter as an official symbol, Sekiguchi said she would like to see Alma merchandise. Alice Zheng, also a co-author of the referendum, said maybe a plush otter could be produced.

“We’ve seen constant memes about it since the first post came out,” Sekiguchi said.

“I think students just kind of picked up on it,” Zheng said. “They thought it was cute, they thought it was funny, it got shared widely and now it’s one of the hot topics of this election season.”

Along with being cute and likable, river otters have other desirable qualities for a school mascot, said Chris Anchor, an alum of U. of I. and a senior wildlife biologist who tracks otters with the Cook County Forest Preserve District.

Otters, like others in the mustelids family, are quick-tempered fighters, Anchor said. They’re good predators, and they’re adaptable.

“You’ve got the pugnacious Wisconsin badger,

you’ve got the Michigan wolverine, and now you’ll have the devious, or the playful, otter,” Anchor said. “You’ll have the unholy trinity of three mustelids all together in the Lake Michigan basin.”

At the turn of the last century, river otters were basically wiped out, Anchor said. But starting in the ’80s, a few states including Illinois contracted with trappers and brought otters back. The referendum notes that otters made a “resilient comeback” and are now found in every county in Illinois, “transcending rural and urban boundaries.”

“We saw our first otter in Cook County in ’92, and since then, they’ve rebounded rather well,” Anchor said. “The population is rather robust and quite healthy.”

But even if students vote for Alma, the proposal may not glide through the administration. The administration is waiting on recommendations from the Native Imagery: Healing and Reconciliation commission, put together by the university chancellor. Student referenda are advisory only, said spokeswoman Robin Kaler



JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

A campaign to make the river otter the face of the University of Illinois is currently underway.

in an email. And the commission “continues to explore ways the Illinois family can move forward together to remember our history, explore new traditions and partner with Native Nations. That charge does not mandate the creation of a mascot, and the Commission is not expected to conclude its work until later this semester.”

There’s also another mascot option in play from sophomore Mike Skibski, who looked into the history behind the “Fighting Illini” and found the term surfaced in the 1920s as Memorial Stadium was built to

honor fallen soldiers. Skibski designed Champ, a World War I doughboy, as another mascot option. He submitted an application for a public comment to the board of trustees and plans to speak with them about Champ on March 14.

“I think Champ is the best transition from what we had before for the future,” Skibski said.

But Skibski and Sekiguchi said they are willing to work together. Skibski said a “great compromise” could be Champ serving as the athletic symbol and Alma as the academic mascot. But he’s not sure

what the outcome of the vote on Alma will be.

“I think it’s definitely a cute mascot that anyone can like. But I don’t think that it’s historically relevant to the university,” Skibski said.

Zheng said she hopes the mascot search ends with “something fun that we can all have some spirit around.”

“With these new mascots that people are coming up with, it would be a good opportunity for people to finally move past the Chief,” Zheng said.

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Schock to see charges against him dropped

Schock, from Page 1

resigned from public office.

Dressed in a dark suit and sporting a trimmed beard, Schock showed little expression in court as he reviewed the terms of the agreement with the judge. After court, he told reporters in the lobby of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse he was happy to have the weight of the prosecution lifted from his shoulders.

But he also accused the lead prosecutor who originally brought the charges in Springfield — Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Bass — of pursuing the case to advance his own career.

"I do feel like I've been wronged in this process by a prosecutor who saw me as his ticket to stardom and who was allowed to go unchecked for many years at great expense to me personally, my family and friends, and, yes, the taxpayers," Schock said. "I think it's unfortunate that he has not been held to account, and I think the question it begs is how did this go on for so long?"

Calls to Bass on Wednesday were directed to a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Springfield, who declined to comment.

The abrupt resolution came six months after Schock — in a stroke of luck — had his case transferred out of Springfield because the judge overseeing the matter was accused of having improper contact with the prosecutors' office in an unrelated case. Schock had been scheduled to go to trial June 10 in Chicago.

Schock's attorney, George Terwilliger, said Wednesday he offered to speak to prosecutors under U.S. Attorney John Lausch almost as soon as they took over the case last summer.

"We felt all along that if some reasonable prosecutor would sit down and objectively look at the facts here, they would come to the same conclusions that we did — that is, that mistakes are not crimes," Terwilliger said.

The case "began with a bang, and that bang turned out to be a blank," he said. "And now it's ending with a whimper."

The news of the agree-



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock accused the lead prosecutor who originally brought the charges in Springfield of pursuing the case to advance his career.



BEN TERRIS/WASHINGTON POST

The office of Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Ill., in 2015 was designed to resemble a dining room from "Downton Abbey."

ment drew reaction from at least one of Schock's former colleagues in Congress — one who also faced federal charges alleging he used campaign funds to furnish a lavish lifestyle.

"Before I went to prison, I paid back every cent from my campaign as well, a second mortgage," former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., who pleaded guilty to wire fraud and was sentenced to 2½ years in prison, posted on Facebook. "I paid back every dollar, but I still had to

go to prison. It's all good though, I am happy for Aaron. He was great to serve with."

The deferred prosecution could mean that Schock's once-promising political career isn't necessarily over since he avoided a felony conviction.

Schock first entered public life at 19 when he won a write-in campaign to be elected to the Peoria school board. Elected to Congress in 2009 at age 27, he was seen as a darling of the

Republican Party and had taken on crucial political fundraising roles when federal investigators began to look into his use of his campaign funds and House allowance to pay personal expenses.

He was charged in a 24-count indictment in November 2016 with wire fraud, mail fraud, theft of government funds, making false statements, filing false reports with federal election officials and filing false tax returns. A judge later dismissed two of those counts.

The 52-page indictment portrayed Schock as treating government and campaign funds as a personal piggy bank — opulently decorating his office, buying a staffer a new car, handing out excessive bonuses and flying on a private airplane to attend a Bears game.

Shock also had an appetite for buying and reselling tickets to sporting events, according to the indictment. From 2009 through 2013, the government noted that Schock bought and sold 46 World Series tickets and eight Super Bowl tickets, earning a total profit of \$22,425.

Before Wednesday's bombshell development, Schock's lawyers had tried unsuccessfully to get the indictment thrown out, saying the charges were based on ambiguous House rules in violation of separation-of-power clauses in the Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court recently declined to take up his appeal.

In his six-page agreement with prosecutors, Schock acknowledged he had a "regular practice as a public officeholder" of obtaining event tickets at face value and later selling them for a big profit. He admitted that through this side practice, he failed to report \$42,375 in income to the IRS over his six years in office.

Schock also admitted overbilling the House of Representatives for mileage as he drove around his district for both official and campaign purposes.

Terwilliger, Schock's lawyer, said after court that the mileage issue amounted to an administrative mistake.

"But those kinds of mistakes aren't crimes," Terwilliger said. "I mean, God help us in this country if

every time any of us made a mistake in some administrative matter it was the basis for a felony prosecution."

Terwilliger also said he hoped officials within the U.S. Department of Justice will take a "hard look" at what happened with Schock's case.

"The original prosecutor in the case was openly seeking appointment to higher office," he said. "You do the math in terms of what that might mean as to why this case was pursued. ... If you investigate anybody long enough and hard enough, you'll probably find something that you could cobble together to charge them with. I think that's what happened here."

Schock, meanwhile, would not say whether he intends to ever seek public office again.

"I don't know what the future holds, but I'm looking forward to being able to resume some semblance of a private life and looking for ways to contribute to society," he said before leaving the courthouse.

Schock, meanwhile, would not say whether he intends to ever seek public office again.

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Feds charge Harvey mayor's relatives in corruption probe

Harvey, from Page 1

All but one of the six defendants — Kellogg's brother Rommell Kellogg — made initial appearances in federal court and were then each released on their own recognizance. A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office said Rommell Kellogg had not been arrested as of Wednesday afternoon.

Mayor Kellogg was not charged, but the criminal complaint against his brother Rommell Kellogg and cousin Corey Johnson implicated the mayor in the yearslong extortion of the strip club.

Kellogg is in the final weeks of his 16-year run as mayor, barred from seeking re-election April 2 by a term-limits ordinance pushed by his critics.

His tenure at the top of the beleaguered city has been marred by at least a dozen years of federal, state and county investigations of his police department and city administration.

During one FBI investigation, an undercover agent posing as a strip club manager pumped \$140,000 into a campaign committee for Kellogg, helping him get re-elected in 2007, the Chicago Tribune has reported.

In a 2014 deposition in a fraud lawsuit, Kellogg invoked his constitutional right to not incriminate himself when asked about alleged corruption, as well as an older allegation that he framed an innocent man with a gun charge over a dispute about cocaine.

Last March, the Tribune reported that the FBI was investigating a separate kickback scheme involving ex-Dixmoor mayor Luster, who was caught on a series of undercover recordings demanding kickbacks from local developers. The re-

Eric Kellogg's tenure in the beleaguered city has been marred by at least a dozen years of federal, state and county investigations of his police department and city administration.

cordings were made by Joseph Letke — Harvey's former comptroller who wore a wire for the FBI before committing suicide in 2016.

According to the complaint against Rommell Kellogg, a longtime manager of the unidentified strip club told authorities in 2017 that he had made payoffs to Johnson about every two weeks for several years.

The manager told authorities that in about 2003, the club's then-operator told him Mayor Kellogg had demanded a payoff of \$3,000 a month to allow prostitution to continue.

Johnson was also hired at the time by the club to work security on orders of the mayor, according to the complaint.

Over the next five years, the manager told authorities, the club's then-operator complained several times about the alleged monthly payments to Kellogg. Then in 2007 or 2008, the then-operator said that the mayor had demanded that the payoffs be doubled to \$6,000 a month, the manager told authorities.

The then-operator refused to pay up, and Harvey police shut down the business three separate times over the next week, the manager told authorities.

"Tell your boss to just pay the man," a Harvey cop said during the third visit, or words to that effect, according to the complaint.

After that, the then-operator caved and agreed to pay \$6,000 a month in bribes, the manager told authorities.

After agreeing to cooperate with law enforcement in 2017, the strip club manager wore a hidden wire as he made his payoffs to Johnson between October 2017 and May 2018, the charges alleged. While wearing the wire, the manager also handed a payoff to Rommell Kellogg, the complaint said.

Employees would use code words such as "pizza" and "rent" money to refer to the regular payoffs, authorities alleged.

In 2017, when the club was briefly shuttered after a law enforcement raid, Johnson told the manager that they would no longer have to pay — so long as the prostitution ended, according to the complaint.

About a week later, the club reopened without the prostitution, but Johnson and the others soon began demanding payments again, the charges alleged.

Rommell Kellogg also advised the manager that the club's dancers needed to be more subtle in advertising their sex work, according to the complaint. He was surprised that the dancers had been so brazen with him on one of his visits.

"Girl didn't know me from nowhere, you know what I mean?" Rommell Kellogg said in a recorded conversation. "And I tell her, 'This is not the way you



WARREN SKALSKI/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

FBI investigators walk out of the Harvey Municipal Building with boxes of evidence on Wednesday. Federal agents also seized evidence during raid on the police department.

approach'."

In a separate complaint, Luster, the former Dixmoor mayor, 55, and Will Wiley, 56, the alleged bagman, were accused of hitting up the tow company owner for bribes. The businessman was secretly working undercover for federal agents.

In September 2017, federal authorities instructed the businessman to try to lease some city-owned land he ostensibly needed to open a new branch, according to the charges.

Wiley told the businessman that Luster wanted a payoff in exchange for the lease, authorities alleged. In December 2017, the businessman handed over \$5,000 to Wiley — an exchange partly caught on video, the complaint said.

Later, Wiley called the businessman to say Luster and "Individual B" — clearly Muhammad, the mayor's brother, from details in the complaint — wanted another \$7,000, the charges alleged.

Wiley also promised that the additional payoff would enable Individual B to steer city towing work to the

businessman.

Last January, the businessman wore a hidden video camera as he attempted to hand a bribe to Luster at a back area of a restaurant owned by the former mayor, authorities said. But Luster brushed him off, telling him instead to place the cash-filled envelope on his desk, according to the complaint.

"Just, just lay it down so, you know," Luster was quoted as saying by authorities. "... (Anyone) in a position to do something, I'm in a position to bless them."

In a separate complaint, Muhammad and Harvey police Detective Derrick Moore, 48, were accused of falsifying a police report to protect two acquaintances, both felons, from being charged with firearms offenses.

In March 2018, the operator of a towing company notified Muhammad that a handgun was found inside a stolen car that police had ordered towed from nearby Calumet City.

The vehicle had recently been used by the two acquaintances, but Muhammad and Moore schemed to

conceal the firearm's connection to the pair, the charges alleged.

Moore prepared a police report saying the weapon was discovered in some brush near the towing company, authorities alleged.

In a recorded phone call with Moore, Muhammad said they would find a way to ensure the gun "ain't come back on nobody," the complaint said.

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Chicago Tribune

NATION & WORLD

Dissension among Democrats

House delays vote on anti-Semitism resolution

BY LAURIE KELLMAN AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats on Wednesday postponed indefinitely a vote on a resolution condemning anti-Semitism after a contentious meeting in which some new members confronted leaders over their push to rebuke Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota.

In the party's weekly closed meeting, Democrats protested the way Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other leaders tried to rush out a resolution this week responding to Omar's latest remark about Israel. Omar last week suggested the Jewish state's supporters are pushing lawmakers to pledge "allegiance" to a foreign country.

That forced Democratic leaders to respond, but their draft of the resolution condemning anti-Semitism angered Omar's fellow freshmen and their liberal supporters. Pelosi had already said the measure would be broadened to decry anti-Muslim bias. But that didn't quiet the ranks, and the party's first major dissension broke out in an uncomfortable confrontation, according to three officials familiar with the episode, who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private matters.

The upheaval prompted Democrats, who regularly celebrate their diversity, to push off a decision about the resolution.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Fellow freshman Democrats and liberal supporters came to the defense of Rep. Ilhan Omar, above center, which in part prompted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, left, to postpone action on a resolution condemning anti-Semitism.



MANDEL NGAN/GETTY-AFP

"It is shameful that House Democrats won't take a stronger stand against Anti-Semitism in their conference," President Donald Trump tweeted. "Anti-Semitism has fueled atrocities throughout history and it's inconceivable they will not act to condemn it!"

Rep. Jahana Hayes of Connecticut complained that Pelosi left Democrats out of the loop on the resolution's details.

"My comments were about the process we are

using when concerns arise," Hayes said in a statement. "As a member of Congress I should not get important information from cable news."

Two people with knowledge of the situation said Hayes was engaged in conversation with a colleague when Pelosi asked her a question. The congresswoman did not respond because she did not hear the speaker address her, these people say. Most lawmakers had left the room at the time.

Then Pelosi said, "If you're not going to listen to me, I'm done talking," according to a person in the room.

A senior Democratic aide said Pelosi had earlier ac-

knowledge of the issues and said the resolution was not final. One person in the room quoted the speaker as saying the leaders had tried to increase communication so that members stay united and have "a clearer understanding of what our purpose is as a caucus, how we proceed."

Some Democrats hugged Omar, one of two Muslim women in Congress, during the meeting, according to other officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity. She's also received powerful boosts from fellow Democratic freshmen Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

Opposition to the resolution came from the most

junior ranks of Democrats to the most senior and spanned some of the party's caucuses.

Rep. Katie Hill, D-Calif., said she spoke up in a leadership meeting earlier this week about the original draft being "reactionary" to Omar's most recent comment. The dissension over the issue, Hill said, "has been building for a while."

House budget committee chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., suggested Omar and her comments about the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a lobbying group, will loom over any such measure.

"Whatever we do it's going to look like we're responding specifically to her and to AIPAC and so

I'm leaning against," he said.

Many have pointed to the fact that Omar was the target of an anti-Muslim poster that appeared last week at the West Virginia Capitol in Charleston, with her picture over an image of the World Trade Center's burning towers.

"We're very concerned about that and we want that paid attention to," said Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif. "Many members of the D caucus are concerned and concerned over the general rise in hatred that we have seen. And so we want to make clear that we make a stand against all forms of bigotry and hatred."

There was also dissension among the Democrats on whether a resolution condemning anti-Semitism was even necessary, given that the House voted on a similar measure already.

"I'm not sure we need to continue to do this every single time," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal.

The upheaval was a striking change from the heady first days of Democratic control, which installed Pelosi as speaker for the second time. Omar is among the most prominent freshmen, as evidenced by her appearance on the cover of Rolling Stone's March issue with Pelosi, Hayes and Ocasio-Cortez. The resolution has created friction among Pelosi and all three of the women in the photo.

Omar, one of two Muslim women in Congress, has declined to comment, but Pelosi, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel and other Democrats condemned Omar's remarks about divided loyalties.

Facebook makes pivot toward more privacy

Zuckerberg announces moves amid falling trust in company's app

BY ELIZABETH DWOSKIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg announced sweeping changes to Facebook's services Wednesday, saying in a blog post that he would spend the next several years reorienting the company's apps toward encryption and privacy.

The moves — outlined in broad strokes rather than as a set of specific product changes — would shift the company's focus from a social network in which people broadcast information to large groups of people to one in which people communicate with smaller groups and their content disappears after a short period of time, Zuckerberg said.

Facebook's core social network is structured around public conversation, but it also owns private messaging services WhatsApp and Messenger, which are closed networks. Instagram, Facebook's photo-sharing platform, has also seen huge growth thanks to ephemeral messaging.

The announcement, in

the midst of a crisis that Facebook is facing over the loss of public trust and declining growth, comes with risks and is likely to be treated skeptically. Zuckerberg has promised to protect privacy before, but the company has landed itself in controversy after controversy.

Many governments also oppose encryption, and Facebook may end up getting blocked in some foreign countries as a result of the move, a risk Zuckerberg acknowledged in his post. The changes may also make it harder for Facebook to detect misinformation and other abuse of the company's platform.

Describing the changes using the metaphor of transforming Facebook from a town square into a living room, Zuckerberg wrote: "As I think about the future of the internet, I believe a privacy-focused communications platform will become even more important than today's open platforms. Privacy gives people the freedom to be themselves and connect more naturally, which is why we build social net-

works."

Public trust in Facebook is at record lows, according to studies, the result of privacy controversies last year as well as the misuse of user data that extend back more than a decade. In a reputation score of 100 highly visible public companies, Facebook last year dropped from 51st to 94th, according to a Harris Poll published Wednesday in conjunction with the news organization Axios. In a Pew Research Center study from September, a quarter of the Facebook users polled said they deleted the app from their smartphones last year, and more than half said they adjusted their privacy settings.

Zuckerberg acknowledged the trust deficit in his post.

"I understand that many people don't think Facebook can or would even want to build this kind of privacy-focused platform — because frankly we don't currently have a strong reputation for building privacy protective services, and we've historically focused on tools for more open sharing," he wrote.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP 2018

CEO Mark Zuckerberg posted Wednesday that Facebook will make structural changes to the way the apps work.

"But we've repeatedly shown that we can evolve to build the services that people really want, including in private messaging and stories."

But the moves also appear to be prompted by business considerations. Facebook has grown from a single social network — Facebook — to what Zuckerberg refers to as a "family" of four apps, with Messenger, Instagram, and WhatsApp. Facebook was long the star, but last year WhatsApp surpassed it in the number of people who use it on a monthly basis, according to industry reports.

Zuckerberg recently began emphasizing the number of people who use at least one of its products once a month — 2.7 billion people — rather than the 2.3 billion monthly users for Facebook alone. Users log onto messaging apps more frequently than the core social network, whose growth has flattened in the U.S. and Europe.

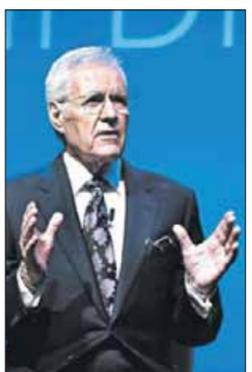
In Zuckerberg's blog, he set out a vision for "interoperability," meaning that the changes would not only make messaging more private, they would allow people to message and communicate with one another across the company's apps.

Zuckerberg has routinely reaffirmed Facebook's commitment to privacy. But the difference in Wednesday's announcement were the structural changes Zuckerberg said he intends to make to Facebook's array of services — changes he hopes will ensure that Facebook has a place in the future of social media.

He said the company would start with its messaging functionality. While WhatsApp has been end-to-end encrypted for years — meaning the data is scrambled so that outsiders, and even Facebook itself, cannot read the content of messages — Facebook's stand-alone Messenger app is not. Messaging within Facebook's Instagram app is also not encrypted.

Privacy advocates said Zuckerberg needs to go beyond touting encryption to provide concrete information about whether less data will be collected and used for Facebook's profits.

"Why does it always sound like we are witnessing a digital version of Ground Hog Day when Facebook yet again promises — when it's in a crisis — that it will do better," said Jeff Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, a nonprofit privacy advocacy group in Washington. "Will it actually bring a change to how Facebook continually gathers data on its users in order to drive big profits?"



MATT ROURKE/AP 2018

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek, 78, said Wednesday that he has stage 4 cancer.

'Jeopardy!' host reveals diagnosis of pancreatic cancer

BY KATE FELDMAN
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Alex Trebek, the longtime host of the TV game show "Jeopardy," announced Wednesday that he has been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

"I have some news to share with all of you and it's in keeping with my long-time policy of being open and transparent with our Jeopardy! fan base," Trebek, 78, said in a video message recorded in front

of the iconic set. "I also wanted to prevent you from reading or hearing some overblown or inaccurate reports regarding my health. So therefore, I wanted to be the one to pass along this information."

Trebek, a native of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, has been host of the syndicated quiz show since 1984. He and his wife, Jean Currivan, have two children.

He's among 50,000 other Americans who receive such a diagnosis each year, Trebek said. He has stage 4

cancer.

Normally, the "prognosis for this is not very encouraging, but I'm going to fight this, and I'm going to keep working."

Trebek said he plans to beat the disease's low survival rate with the love and support of family and friends and with prayers from viewers.

He lightened the difficult message with humor: He said he must beat the odds because his "Jeopardy!" contract requires he host the quiz show for three

more years.

"So help me. Keep the faith and we'll win. We'll get it done," he said, his voice calm and steady.

According to the American Cancer Society, the lifetime risk of pancreatic cancer for men is about 1 in 63. Stage 4 means the cancer "has spread to distant sites such as the liver, peritoneum (the lining of the abdominal cavity), lungs or bones."

The five-year survival rate for similar diagnoses is 3 percent, according to the

American Cancer Society.

Last year, Trebek went on medical leave from "Jeopardy!" after a fall that left him with blood clots in his brain.

In 2007, he was hospitalized for about a week after suffering what was described as a minor heart attack.

He's won five Emmys as best game show host and received a lifetime achievement award from the TV academy in 2011.

Associated Press contributed.

Cohen returns to Capitol Hill for fourth day of testimony

BY KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen has given the House intelligence committee documents purportedly illustrating how the president's lawyers edited Cohen's congressional testimony in 2017, statements that Cohen has admitted were false, according to people familiar with the matter.

Lawmakers had requested that Cohen turn over the documents after his public testimony last week, when he alleged before a separate House panel that Trump's lawyer, Jay Sekulow, had made a change to Cohen's 2017 testimony about "the length of time that the Trump Tower Moscow project stayed and remained alive." Sekulow has denied Cohen's assertion.

According to people familiar with the documents, the changes were plentiful. But one of these people said that the changes were not substantive and that there had been no direct changes made to Cohen's original assertions about the timeline along which Trump pursued the real estate project in Russia. The timeline is significant because if Trump continued to pursue his Moscow tower project until at least June 2016 instead of January of that year, as Cohen originally told lawmakers, it means he did so after it was clear that he had won enough delegates to secure the Republican nomination for the presidency.

The documents come as Cohen returned to Capitol Hill on Wednesday for his fourth interview in recent days with congressional panels seeking answers about hush-money payments, the lies he says he told to shield Trump's alleged Russia contacts, and pardons.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Michael Cohen departs after a full day of closed-door testimony before the House intelligence committee.

Cohen spoke for a second time privately with the House intelligence committee, which first met with him last week, following another closed-door session with the Senate intelligence committee and a public hearing with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

During the course of those interviews, both House and Senate investigators expressed a keen interest in the subject of pardons, which Cohen claims Trump's representatives dangled before him, according to people familiar with the matter. But others familiar with the matter said it was Cohen's lawyers who raised the pardon issue.

The dispute is the latest in a politically-charged controversy surrounding Cohen's testimony and credibility.

Cohen will soon start a three-year prison term for lies he told to Congress in 2017.

GOP lawmakers have ar-

gued that Cohen's past pattern of lying makes his current testimony suspect. In recent days, leading Republicans have also accused intelligence committee Chairman Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., of coaching Cohen through his testimony.

Earlier this week, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., suggested as much on Fox News, asking whether Schiff tried to "tamper" or "direct" Cohen to answer certain questions in a certain way. On Wednesday, intelligence panel member Rep. Michael Turner, R-Ohio, sent a letter to Cohen, asking him to disclose the number and nature of his contacts with Schiff, and saying that those contacts raised questions about "witness tampering, obstruction of justice, or collusion."

A spokesman for Schiff characterized his pre-interview contacts with Cohen as "proffer sessions," deeming them "completely appropriate."

Senator reveals she was raped by superior while in Air Force

BY COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Martha McSally, the first female Air Force fighter pilot to fly in combat, said Wednesday that she was sexually assaulted by a superior officer, and later, when she tried to talk about it to military officials, she "felt like the system was raping me all over again."

The Arizona Republican, a 26-year military veteran, made the disclosure at a Senate hearing on the military's efforts to prevent sexual assaults and improve the response when they occur. Lawmakers also heard from other service members who spoke of being sexually assaulted and humiliated while serving their country.

McSally said she did not report being raped because she did not trust the system, and she said she was ashamed and confused. She said she was impressed and grateful to the survivors who came forward to help change the system. She was in the ninth class at the Air Force Academy to allow women, and said sexual harassment and assault were prevalent. Victims mostly suffered in silence, she said.

McSally read from a statement and choked up at one point. She referred to "perpetrators" who had sexually assaulted her, an indication that she had been attacked more than once.

She did not say whether her assaults happened at the academy or during active duty. She didn't mention any names.

She said she stayed silent for years. But later, as she watched the military grapple with how to handle sexual assaults, she felt like she should speak out.

"I was horrified at how my attempt to share generally my experiences was handled," she said. She almost left the Air Force after



MARK WILSON/GETTY

Sen. Martha McSally served in the Air Force from 1988 until 2010 and rose to the rank of colonel.

18 years.

"Like many victims, I felt like the system was raping me all over again."

McSally's revelation comes not long after Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, detailed her own abuse and assault, and at a time of increased awareness over the problem of harassment and assault in the armed forces and the larger #MeToo movement.

Reports of sexual assaults across the military jumped nearly 10 percent in 2017 — a year that also saw an online nude-photo sharing scandal rock the Defense Department. Reporting for 2018 is not yet available. Reports of sexual assaults were also up at the military academies, most at West Point.

McSally said she shares in the disgust of the failures of the military system and many commanders who haven't addressed the problems of sexual misconduct. She said the public must demand that higher-ranking officials be part of the solution, setting the tone for their officers.

"We have come a long way to stop military sexual assault, but we still have a long way to go," she said. "It took many years and too many lives ruined."

Her colleagues on the

committee lauded her for coming forward.

"I'm deeply affected by that testimony," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.

McSally told The Wall Street Journal last year that she had been sexually abused as a teenager by her high school track coach. She said the coach took advantage of her through "emotional manipulation" because her father had died. He denied the allegations.

McSally served in the Air Force from 1988 until 2010 and rose to the rank of colonel before entering politics.

In 2001, McSally sued the military so she would not be required to wear a head covering while she was stationed in the Middle East. McSally, who had worked as a national security aide for Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., was elected to the House in 2014 and served two terms.

She was appointed by Gov. Doug Ducey, R-Ariz., in December to replace the late GOP Sen. John McCain after she narrowly lost last year's race for Arizona's other Senate seat to Democrat Kyrsten Sinema.

McSally had been critical of Donald Trump in 2016 but embraced a tough stance on immigration and praised the president during last year's midterm election. She will serve until 2020, when voters will elect someone to finish the final two years of McCain's term.

Defense officials have argued that an increase in reported assaults reflects a greater willingness to report attacks, rather than indicating assaults are rising. Sexual assaults are a highly underreported crime, both in the military and across society as a whole. Greater reporting, they argue, shows there is more confidence in the reporting system and greater comfort with the support for victims.

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'Back to square one worrying again'

Border fence threatens burial ground, history

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE
Los Angeles Times

PHARR, Texas — When Ramiro Ramirez was a boy, his grandmother would bring him to visit the family cemeteries tucked amid vegetable and sugarcane fields here just north of the Rio Grande. He would carry a small bucket of water to help her plant red roses next to the wooden cross marking the grave of his great-great-grandfather, Nathaniel Jackson, who died in 1865.

Growing up, he heard rumors about his father's black roots and how they almost foiled his parents' marriage. But only last year — after being contacted by a historian studying the area's role in the Civil War — did he learn the full truth about his ancestors and their involvement in the Underground Railroad.

"They kept it a secret," said Ramirez, now 70. "They didn't pass it on to us."

Now that history might offer the best hope for saving the family burial grounds.

Last year, the Trump administration started preparations to build a border fence through the cemeteries. Homeland Security Department officials waived laws designed to protect sacred sites, flouting the age-old prohibition against disturbing the dead. Contractors arrived this month in the nearby woods with brush-clearing equipment.

Ramirez and his family have joined forces with local activists to oppose the project, as federal officials send mixed signals about how it will proceed. The plan calls for the fence to be built along a levee that sits about a mile north of the meandering river that divides the U.S. and Mexico, cutting off parts of the cemeteries.



CAROLYN COLE/LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Jackson Ranch Church near Pharr, Texas, could be affected if President Donald Trump's border fence becomes reality.

Ramirez and his relatives are worried: How will their children visit them behind a fence? Will their forebears be exhumed? If so, where will they be moved?

The family is also concerned about losing a piece of American history. The Texas Republic wasn't just shaped by Stephen Austin and Sam Houston — both slave owners — but by Jackson.

Nathaniel Jackson was born in 1798, the scion of an Alabama plantation family.

He fell in love with a slave named Matilda Hicks; they married and started a family. But with the Civil War brewing, threats mounted against the couple and their children.

New laws empowered slave catchers to round up even slaves who had been freed. So Jackson and his

family abandoned the Deep South for Texas, stopping their covered wagons at the Rio Grande, where they could easily flee to Mexico, which had abolished slavery.

Jackson bought a ranch and turned it into a stop on the southern branch of the Underground Railroad, helping slaves on the run. He was never caught.

When he died, he was buried in a family plot. His son Eli was laid to rest nearby in 1911. Two years later, Jackson's younger son Martin was buried down the road, spawning a second cemetery, Jackson Ranch. Successive generations maintained the cemeteries' chicken-wire fences, trimmed encroaching briars, and protected monuments to descendants who served in World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

The South was still segregated, and some Tejano families who suspected the Jacksons' black ancestry balked at allowing their daughters to marry into the family. Over time, suspicions faded.

Jacksons married and became Longorias and Ramirez. Census rolls no longer listed them as mulatto but as white. Ramiro Ramirez and his siblings tended the Jackson Ranch cemetery over the decades, erecting a cross fashioned from mesquite, mowing the grass and restoring the one-room Methodist chapel that was built in 1874.

In 2012, unaware of their kin's involvement in the Underground Railroad, family members allowed the Daughters of the Confederacy to place a headstone to one of the cemeteries to

honor an ancestor who fought for the South in the Civil War.

Since learning about plans for the border fence, Jackson descendants have been unearthing their history, meeting to share faded black-and-white photographs and other records as they fight the government to save the cemeteries.

Some even contacted a genealogy service to have their DNA tested. Ramirez's wife's results came back first. It turned out the blond, blue-eyed Dallas native who married into the family also has black ancestors.

"Some of the sisters and brothers don't want to hear that part of the story," Melinda Ramirez said. "Too bad. It's the truth. Most people in his family know and are fascinated by it."

Even 67-year-old Noemi

Jackson, a supporter of President Donald Trump, wants the fence rerouted away from the cemeteries.

"I believe in the wall," she said. "I just don't like it on our land."

Last fall, the family found an attorney, who sent the Border Patrol a letter insisting construction shouldn't start until experts analyze its effects on the cemeteries. Instead, Border Patrol officials waived laws designed to protect historic sites, citing the immediate need to protect the border, and moved ahead with brush clearing.

The attorney, Patrick Reznik, argues that any damage to the cemetery would hurt the region because of its historic value.

This month, the local Carrizo Comecrudo tribe drew volunteers from across the country to occupy the cemeteries, which they say sit on sacred native lands. Ramirez and his relatives gave the group permission to stay and donated water and other supplies.

In February, Ramirez and his family met with staff members of several Texas congressmen, one of whom is married to a Jackson descendant. The staffers told them that Congress hadn't yet set aside money to build the fence.

Ramiro Ramirez's 67-year-old sister, Sylvia, said she left the meeting thinking, "OK, we have a little breathing room."

The next day, Trump signed a spending bill that includes \$1.375 billion for about 55 miles of fencing in the Rio Grande Valley and declared a national emergency to fund what he has long promised will be a wall along most of the southern border.

Congress included a provision in the spending bill to ensure that a border fence does not cut off parks and a historic church — but not the cemeteries.

"We're back to square one worrying again," Sylvia Ramirez said.

Nielsen defends Trump statement on border apprehensions

BY JENNIFER HABERKORN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen sparred with House Democrats over President Donald Trump's immigration policies Wednesday, defending his recent statement that border apprehensions were at an all-time high.

Nielsen called on Congress to address what she described as a growing emergency along the southern border even as Democrats pressed her to explain administration policies they condemned as inhumane and ineffective.

Nielsen defended Trump's statement that there were "never so many apprehensions ever in history" at the U.S.-Mexico border. Apprehensions in the mid-2000s routinely reached more than 1 million migrants a year. In the fiscal year that ended in Septem-

ber, 521,090 people were apprehended or stopped at the border. She said the nation is on track this year for a total of 900,000 apprehensions at the border.

Nielsen refused to contradict the president, saying that in "some categories, we have had record-breaking apprehensions," such as in the category of families.

Nielsen's testimony came during a hearing in the House Committee on Homeland Security, the highest-profile clash between the Trump administration and the House panel since Democrats took control of the chamber.

Several heated exchanges between Nielsen and Democrats boiled down to a debate over semantics.

Rep. Kathleen Rice, D-N.Y., said the practice of separating children from their parents was an administration "policy," while Nielsen called it "law."

Committee Chairman



JIM WATSON/GETTY-APP

Kirstjen Nielsen is sworn in Wednesday before testifying before the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said detained children were put in "cages," while Nielsen said they were put in areas "carved out for their safety and protection."

Nielsen implored Congress to take seriously the administration's emergency declaration to build a wall, warning that the border is at a "breaking point." She cited the more than 76,000 peo-

ple who crossed the border in February — a 12-year high.

"Illegal immigration is simply spiraling out of control, threatening public safety and national security," she said. "We have tens of thousands of illegal aliens arriving at our doorstep every month. We have drugs, criminals and violence spilling into our country every week."

Before the hearing, Democrats suggested that a goal of the hearing was to get the administration on the record on its policy of prosecuting adults who arrive at the border, resulting in the separation of children and their parents.

In response to questions from Democrats, Nielsen told lawmakers, "There was no parent deported, to my knowledge, without multiple opportunities to take their children with them," she said.

But Democrats expressed deep frustration

with the administration on the issue and warned that the hearing was unlikely to end their investigations.

"When it comes to border security, what the American people have heard from the Trump administration is misleading at best," Thompson said.

He demanded documents related to the border wall and asylum seekers that he said DHS has been lax in providing.

"Let me be clear, I'm prepared to use the tools at the committee's disposal to obtain the information if the secretary fails to comply," he said.

Rep. Nanette Barragan, D-Calif., questioned Nielsen's statement that asylum seekers are not being turned away at the border, saying she personally witnessed that happen on two occasions.

"Either you're lying to this committee or you don't know what's happening at the border," Barragan said.

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Lost sisters, 8 and 5, survive 44 hours

By KATIE METTLER
The Washington Post

The Carrico sisters were getting impatient.

After days of heavy rain in Humboldt County, Calif., the sky was finally clear Friday afternoon. Leia, 8, and Caroline, 5, were eager to play outside and hike through the woods that border Richardson Grove State Park by their Northern California home.

But their mom, Misty Carrico, wasn't quite ready, so she asked them to wait as she finished up chores, she later told authorities.

Leia and Caroline started the hike anyway.

The sisters wandered into the forest, a heavily-wooded area with a steep terrain. Leia wore a hooded, long sleeve shirt and purple rain boots. Caroline had pulled on a maroon rain jacket with a white horses print. Her boots were hot pink.

In the woods, they followed a trail they knew well, which branched to one they didn't, authorities said. From there, they followed a path made by animals — until they realized nothing looked familiar anymore.

This, the sisters later told authorities, is when their survival training kicked in.

For 44 hours, through



Leia Carrico, 8, left, and her sister Caroline Carrico, 5, relied on previous wilderness training in order to survive.

two cold, wet nights as hundreds of people searched for them in the steep and tree-dense forest, the sisters stayed together, huddling for warmth beneath a bush they called their "huckle-

berry home" and drinking fresh water droplets from the leaves. In their first interview since their harrowing time, Caroline and Leia told ABC News that they used the younger sister's rain jacket to stay dry.

Most importantly, the girls applied this most vital survival tip — when they realized they were lost, Caroline and Leia stopped walking and waited for help.

That decision, informed by their local 4-H Club's wilderness education class, on family camping trips and in movies about lost people, is what eventually helped rescuers find the sisters Sunday morning.

"They reacted right to what they were supposed to do," Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsal told The Post. "That's the biggest story of all, having parents talk to their kids."

Wilderness classes teach simple but critical tips for

surviving outside: If you get lost, stop and wait. Find dry ground at the base of a tree or bush. Crawl underneath and make yourself as small as possible.

"That's exactly what they did," Honsal said, of Caroline and Leia.

As they applied their wilderness skills, a frantic rescue mission was already underway.

About 30 minutes after their hike conversation, Caroline and Leia's mother realized they weren't playing in the yard. Over the next couple hours, their parents formed their own search party, authorities said, calling neighbors and scouring the area around their house for clues.

At about 6 p.m. Friday, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department was notified that the girls were missing. A search party was dispatched with people from at least 10 agencies, including nearby sheriff's departments, volunteer fire departments, the National Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The first night, as many as 20 people searched the woods until 2:30 a.m., when authorities decided to pause the mission until daylight could provide a more clear path, Honsal said.

The Carrico family, though, never stopped searching.

They knew what the girls faced: cold, damp conditions and predatory ani-

mals. "There was a lot of desperation at that point," Honsal said.

It had been raining off and on, thick fog lingered in the trees, and the temperatures had fallen overnight to the mid-40s, authorities said. If the girls had gotten wet, they were at risk for hypothermia. Mountains lions, black bears and bobcats all live in the woods.

"I wasn't hopeful after the first night," Carrico told ABC News. "I constantly heard my kids screaming for help in my head."

By Saturday morning, the search party had grown to 60 people and six dog teams. They looked by land and air, authorities said, using ATVs and moving in a strategic, circular pattern.

As the sun set for a second night, they still hadn't found the girls. All but a dozen people were pulled off the mountain, Honsal said. In the dark, those who remained drove along dirt roads and ATV trails, screaming for Caroline and Leia and hoping for feedback that did not come.

In the woods, the sisters were screaming, too — but nobody was answering. Still beneath their "huckleberry home," the bush and brambles had kept them dry from the rain and hidden from predators, but it couldn't keep out the fear.

In the darkness, Leia told ABC News, her little sister "cried the whole night." She

encouraged Caroline to think "happy thoughts" about their family.

"I thought of going to the park with mommy and daddy. I thought of going to the ocean. I thought of everything," Caroline told ABC News. "But it didn't work."

Caroline slept some, Leia said, but as the big sister, it was her to job to keep watch.

Leia collected brush to make a fire — another skill she learned during wilderness training, family camping trips and movies about lost people, she told ABC News. She abandoned her mission when the warm sun came out.

As the sun rose Sunday morning, the search party had more than quadrupled in size. There were two helicopters, a small plane, a heat-sensing drone, a dozen dog teams and 270 people. They had 12 hours before the temperature was predicted to plummet to the mid 30s, and the girls would be exposed to dangerous cold.

"This was our day," Honsal said. "Sunday had to be the day."

As volunteers fanned out across the mountain, two firefighters from Piercy, California, headed to the southern perimeter where there had been reports of footprints.

Fire Chief Delbert Crumley and firefighter Abram Hill drove to the area and found a trail with shoe tracks that appeared fresh, authorities said. The men began tracking them through the thick forest. They called out for the girls.

"We heard crackling, and we thought we heard somebody say, 'Dad,'" Crumley told ABC News. "And we called their names again, and they said, 'We're right here.'"

The men had to cut through brambles to reach the girls who were cold, tired and dehydrated — but not wet.

Authorities drove them down the hill for an emotional reunion with their parents. During their 44 hours in the wild, Caroline and Leia yelled so much they lost their voices for a while.

"They saved each other," Carrico told ABC News. "I'm the proud mom. I raised super heroes."

The sisters were given warm blankets and admitted to a hospital for a full evaluation.

There, they shared a bed — and a pizza.

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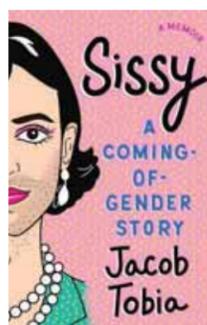
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AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH Jacob Tobia

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Oregon man had snow, taco sauce to survive

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — An Oregon man who was rescued after five days stuck in deep snow with his dog is grateful to his rescuers and embarrassed to have caused so much trouble, his aunt said.

Jeremy Taylor's 4-wheel-drive vehicle got stuck Feb. 24 in snow on a U.S. Forest Service road as he headed to do some off-road driving in the wilderness outside the central Oregon city of Bend.

As night fell, Taylor, 36, decided to sleep in his car with his Australian shepherd, Ally, and hike out the next day, his aunt, Denise Tremaine said in a telephone interview.

Taylor fashioned some snowshoes from pieces of the roof rack he uses for his kayak and started off Feb. 25. But after a mile, Taylor had to turn around because the dog was sinking in the deep snow and could not continue.

Taylor carried Ally back to the car and the two hunkered down there, sharing a sleeping bag to keep warm. Taylor had a full tank of gas and was able to blast the heat briefly when it got unbearably cold and ate a few packets of taco sauce he had with him, she said.

He and the dog drank melted ice, but she said she does not think Taylor fed the dog hot sauce.

"That's his world right there, that dog. She goes



This photo shows the scene where a man whose car was stranded for 5 days survived by eating taco sauce packets.

everywhere with him," Tremaine said of the dog. "He would never, ever leave that dog in the car."

Eventually, Tremaine said, heavy snow from more snowstorms made it impossible for Taylor to open his vehicle's door.

At one point, he saw an airplane overhead and raced to push the snow off the car's roof so rescuers might see him, but it did not work. He did not have a cellphone with him or any emergency supplies, she added.

"He didn't take the provisions he should have. I gave him a little of that talk and I'm just glad he's alive," she said.

What Taylor did not know is that by Feb. 27, his friends had realized that the self-employed building contractor was missing and reached out to authorities.

Search and rescue crews combed the forests outside

Bend by snowmobile, airplane and drone and as word spread on social media, friends and acquaintances searched on their own using snowmobiles.

Last Friday, a snowmobile found Taylor, and he and his dog were brought out of the woods on a snowcat, a type of snow tractor, and they were reunited with family and friends.

He returned home to find his roof was damaged from heavy snow and his water pipes were frozen, Tremaine said.

On Monday, he headed back to work and ignored interview requests from TV bookers and messages to talk with public relations representatives for Taco Bell, among others, she said.

"Jeremy is very, very quiet and he doesn't want the limelight. He is just incredibly sorry and slightly embarrassed," Tremaine said.

Conservatives raise their voices

Complaints prompt proposed campus speech order

BY KEVIN FREKING AND COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's proposed executive order to protect free speech on college campuses follows a growing chorus of complaints from conservatives that the nation's universities are attempting to silence their voices when they're heckled, disinvited or their presence on campus is otherwise discouraged.

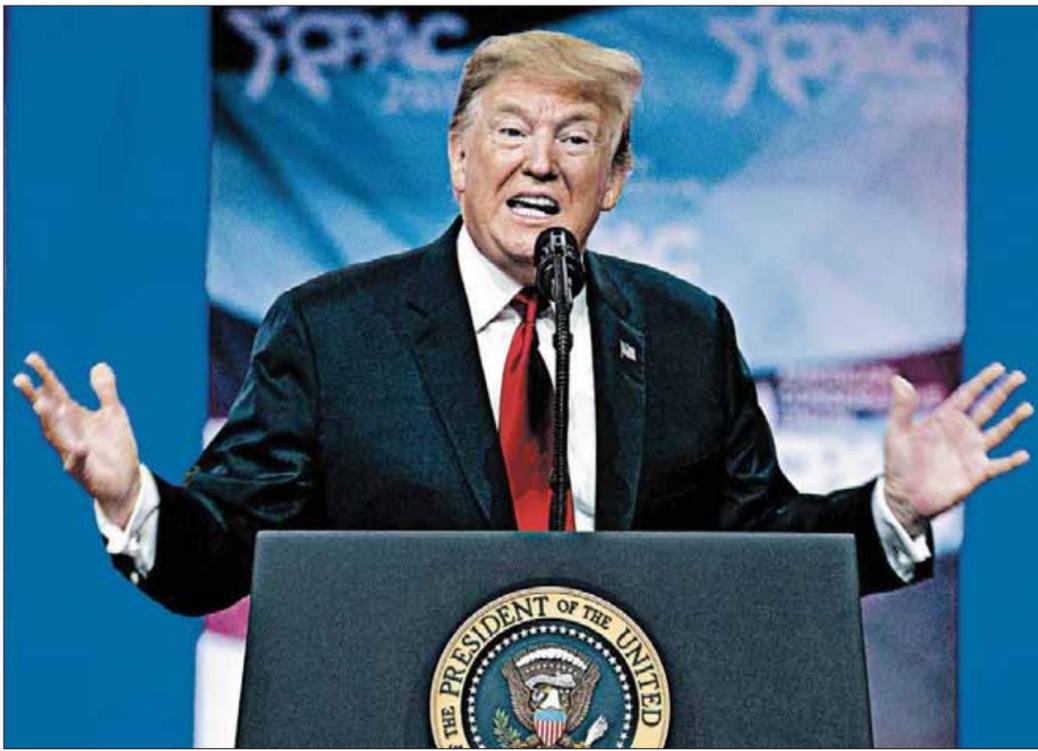
Critics counter that conservatives are turning the shared goal of protecting free speech into a partisan fight.

It's unclear what Trump's order will contain, but the administration has been laying the groundwork for it for months.

The Justice Department has filed statements in various lawsuits siding with students who allege that schools have infringed on their right to freedom of speech. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions said at a forum last fall that the issue had reached a pivotal point, saying "it is time to stand up to the bullies on campus and in our culture."

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos made a similar assessment, saying "administrators too often attempt to shield students from ideas they subjectively decide are hateful or offensive or injurious, or ones they just don't like."

Trump's proposed executive order, unveiled during a speech to conservative activists, has drawn criticism from some higher education leaders including President Robert Zimmer of the University of Chicago, a frequent champion of free speech. In a campus email, Zimmer said new regulation would be "a grave error" and would give federal officials dangerous authority to interfere in



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

President Trump spoke about protecting free speech at college campuses at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

campus speech issues.

"This opens the door to any number of troubling policies over time that the federal government, whatever the political party involved, might adopt on such matters," he said. "It makes the government, with all its power and authority, a party to defining the very nature of discussion on campus."

In his speech, Trump highlighted the case of Hayden Williams, who was recruited on Feb. 19 at the University of California, Berkeley, for the conservative group Talking Points USA when two men approached and one punched Williams during a confrontation captured on student cellphones. Neither Williams nor the man arrested for the attack are affiliated with UC Berkeley.

Trump told the conservatives in the audience that Williams "took a hard punch in the face for all of us."

"If they want our dollars,

and we give it to them by the billions, they've got to allow people like Hayden and many other great young people, and old people, to speak," Trump said. "And if they don't, it will be very costly."

The University of California system issued a statement this week calling Trump's proposal "misguided and unnecessary."

"Free speech is a fundamental value of the University of California and we already have strong policies in place that protect the free expression of ideas, regardless of political persuasion," said Janet Napolitano, the system's president. "We do not need the federal government to mandate free speech on college campuses — that tradition is alive and thriving."

There were multiple hearings on campus free speech during the past two years when Republicans were in control of both chambers of Congress,

though an attempt to legislate on the matter made little headway. A bill from former Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, that would have banned universities from restricting students' political speeches to certain outdoor areas on campus if that activity is lawful, did not make it through committee.

The hearings followed conservative commentator Ann Coulter canceling a speech at the University of California, Berkeley, amid fears of violent student protests. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, also canceled a speech after opposition from students at a historically black university.

Democratic lawmakers have said free speech infringement is just as likely to come from the political right as from the political left. Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., encouraged the administration during a congressional hearing last fall to take action on what he

called a troubling rise in hate speech on campuses.

"We have seen active investigation of claims of campus free speech violations at public universities brought by conservative activists, but nothing investigating the explosion in incidences of racially motivated hate speech or actions on campus," Scott said.

Terry Hartle, senior vice president at the American Council on Education, called the proposed order a "solution in search of a problem," adding that free speech is already a core value in American higher education.

"I understand it's sort of a red meat issue for conservative political organizations, but in the real world it's not as big a deal as they would like to believe," he said.

Hartle worries an executive order would empower provocateurs who seek to roil campus audiences, and if campus events threaten to become violent, it could

force schools to choose between preserving their federal funding and ensuring campus safety.

Debates over free speech have flared up at colleges across the country in recent years, often sparked by speakers with widely polarizing views. Protesters have shut down events featuring conservative speakers at schools including Berkeley, Middlebury College and several others.

In some cases, schools have canceled events over fears of violence. Several took that step following a 2017 white supremacist rally that started at the University of Virginia and later became violent. Days later, Texas A&M canceled a campus event billed as a follow-up to the Virginia march.

Danny Pugh, Texas A&M's vice president for student affairs, said the school is "in good shape" to handle any executive order, but he added that safety will continue to be a priority when weighing free-speech questions. Still, he noted that the majority of campus events, even those featuring controversial speakers, go smoothly.

"We sort of get blinded by the provocative piece," he said. "For every one of those, there are thousands plus on our campus that happen without fanfare."

Some observers have raised concerns that an executive order could force religious institutions to host speakers with views that run counter to the school's values. But some prominent religious colleges said they support Trump's proposal, including leaders at Liberty University, a Christian school in Virginia.

"Not only do we encourage speakers with views conflicting universities to come, we pester them to come," said Scott Lamb, vice president at the school, adding that recent speakers have included former Democratic President Jimmy Carter and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, an independent.

Pressure put on N.Y. academy to hide Trump's school files

BY MARC FISHER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In 2011, days after Donald Trump challenged President Barack Obama to "show his records" to prove that he hadn't been a "terrible student," the headmaster at New York Military Academy got an order from his boss: Find Trump's academic records and help bury them.

The superintendent of the private school "came to me in a panic because he had been accosted by prominent, wealthy alumni of the school who were Mr. Trump's friends" and who wanted to keep his records secret, recalled Evan Jones, the headmaster at the time. "He said, 'You need to go grab that record and deliver it to me because I need to deliver it to them.'"

The superintendent, Jeffrey Coverdale, confirmed this week that members of the school's board of trustees initially wanted him to hand over Trump's records to them, but Coverdale said he refused.

"I was given directives, part of which I could follow but part of which I could not, and that was handing them over to the trustees," he said. "I moved them elsewhere on campus, where they could not be released. It's the only time I ever moved an alumnus' records."

The former NYMA officials' recollections add new details to one of the allegations that Michael Cohen, the president's longtime personal lawyer, made before Congress last week. Cohen, who told the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that part of his job was to attack Trump's critics and defend his reputation, said Trump ordered him "to threaten his high school, his colleges and the College Board to never release his grades or SAT scores."



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Donald Trump said while running for president he "became one of the top guys" at New York Military Academy.

Trump has frequently boasted that he was a stellar student, but he declined throughout the 2016 campaign to release any of his academic records, telling The Washington Post then, "I'm not letting you look at anything."

Last year, he said he "heard I was first in my class" at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton business program, where he finished his undergraduate degree, but Trump's name does not appear on the school's dean's list or on the list of students who received academic honors in his class of 1968.

Trump spent five years at the military academy, starting in fall 1959, after his father — having concluded that his son, then in seventh grade, needed a more discipline-focused setting — removed him from his Queens private school and sent him to NYMA.

At the academy, which modeled its strict code of conduct after the nearby U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Trump loved competing to win contests for cleanest room or best-made bed. Although not known as an academic standout, he was a baseball player and was well-known on campus for bringing women there and showing them around. Despite getting a series of Vietnam

War medical deferments for bone spurs in his feet, Trump has said his military academy background provided "more training militarily than a lot of the guys that go into the military."

Trump said during the 2016 campaign that he "did very well under the military system. I became one of the top guys at the whole school."

Those who were aware of the 2011 effort to conceal Trump's records said the request set off a frenzy at the military academy.

The boarding school had no formal archive at the time. Jones said he combed through the basement of Scarborough Hall on the academy's campus 60 miles north of New York and found the real estate mogul's transcript in file cabinets containing student records.

"I don't know if we should be doing this," Jones recalled telling his boss.

Coverdale declined to say where he hid Trump's records or to identify the people who ordered him to pull them out of the school's files.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment. Leaders of the academy's board from that time also did not respond to requests for comment. Nor did the school's current superintendent, Jie Zhang,

Democrats flex power, take aim at money in politics

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Flexing their new majority, Democrats are moving to push through the House a comprehensive elections and ethics reform package they say will reduce the role of big money in politics, ensure fair elections and restore ethics and integrity to Washington.

The legislation, called H.R. 1 to signify its importance, would make it easier to register and vote, tighten election security and require presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns.

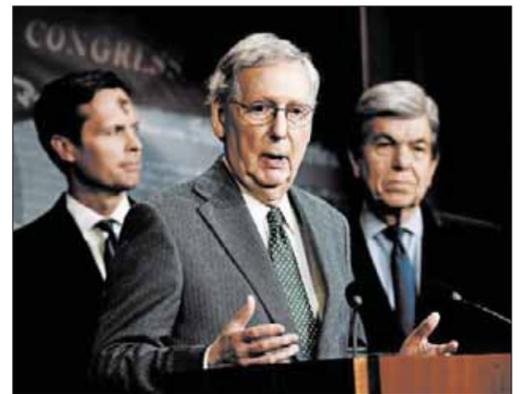
The sweeping, 570-page bill also would make Election Day a holiday for federal workers and require "dark money" political groups to make their donors public. And it would create a public financing system for congressional campaigns that Democrats say will cut down on corruption and reduce the power of lobbyists and other special interests.

"The public is smart enough to know that where you get your money, that's where you get your marching orders," said Rep. John Sarbanes, a Maryland Democrat who is the bill's main author.

"The public is saying, 'Build a system of financing campaigns that we own and we're in charge of; not the insiders and the lobbyists,'" Sarbanes said. "We want to set it up so the public gives us our marching orders."

Lawmakers began debate on the bill Wednesday, with passage expected Friday.

Republicans call the bill a thinly disguised power grab that would expand government and use billions in taxpayer money to pay for congressional cam-



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Sen. Mitch McConnell, center, with fellow Republicans Rep. Rodney Davis, left, and Sen. Roy Blunt, is opposed to H.R. 1, which tackles campaign finance reforms.

aigns. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has pronounced the measure dead on arrival in the Senate, while the White House says President Donald Trump would veto it if it ever reached his desk.

"This is a terrible bill," said Rep. Rodney Davis of

Illinois, the top Republican on the Committee on House Administration. "Who in the world is asking for taxpayer dollars to go into congressional campaigns? That's what Democrats are trying to hide in this bill."

Democrats deny that and say money for political campaigns would come from a surcharge on federal settlements made with banks and corporations that run afoul of the law.

"A lot of interests that pay for campaigns now are the same ones that lean on the policy-making machine in Washington," Sarbanes said. "If they do something wrong, then that's the perfect place to go for money to empower everyday Americans to construct a new system that gets out from under their influence."

This bill allows "everyday Americans to become

power brokers" with small contributions of \$50 or \$75 that will be matched at a 6-to-1 rate by the government, he said.

Republicans warn that the price tag could run into the billions and say the legislation amounts to a federal takeover of elections.

The bill would create automatic national voter registration while expanding access to early and online registration. It also prohibits voter roll purges like those seen in Georgia, Ohio and other states, restores voting rights for ex-prisoners and increases federal support for state voter systems, including paper ballots to prevent fraud.

"This new House Democrat majority's top priority is apparently assigning themselves an unprecedented level of control over how they get elected to Washington, D.C., along with what American citizens are allowed to say about it," McConnell said.

The Kentucky Republican, a longtime foe of public financing, mocked the bill as the "Democrat Politician Protection Act" and said Democrats were "intent on fixing our elections, even though they aren't broken."

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Group: Iraq is torturing kids to confess they are in Islamic State

BEIRUT — Iraq and the Kurdish regional government have charged hundreds of children with terrorism for alleged affiliation with the Islamic State group, often using torture to coerce confessions, Human Rights Watch said Wednesday. In a report, the New York-based group estimated that Iraqi and Kurdish authorities were holding approximately 1,500 children for alleged IS affiliation at the end of

2018. It said the prosecutions are often based on dubious accusations and forced confessions obtained through torture. The children are then sentenced to prison in unfair trials, HRW said. Maj. Gen. Saad Maan, a spokesman for Iraq's Ministry of Interior, denied the HRW accusations, saying authorities in Baghdad are holding around 500 IS women, and some of those have their children with them.

DNC rejects Fox News as host for debates, citing magazine

WASHINGTON — The Democratic National Committee has decided to exclude Fox News Channel from televising any of its candidate debates during the 2019-2020 cycle as a result of published revelations detailing the cable network's close ties to the Trump administration. In a statement Wednesday, DNC Chairman Tom Perez cited a story in The New Yorker magazine this week that detailed how

Fox has promoted President Donald Trump's agenda. The article, entitled "The Making of the Fox News White House," suggested that the news network had become a propaganda vehicle for Trump. Numerous networks, including Fox, have submitted proposals to the DNC to televise at least one of the 12 scheduled debates, which will start in June.

Judge: Citizenship question on census is a threat to democracy

SAN FRANCISCO — The Trump administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census "threatens the very foundation of our democratic system" because it would cause a significant undercount of immigrants and Latinos that could distort the distribution of congressional seats, a U.S. judge said Wednesday. Judge Richard Seeborg in San Francisco said the

commerce secretary's decision to add the question was arbitrary and capricious and would violate a constitutional requirement that the census accurately count the U.S. population. He became the second judge to declare the move illegal, so the effect of his decision is limited. The U.S. Supreme Court last month agreed to review the decision by a federal judge in New York.



Hindu devotees participate in a tradition known as Fire War on Wednesday in preparation for a major holiday on Thursday, the Day of Silence, which marks the first day of the Saka Lunar calendar. MOH EL SASAKY/GETTY-AFP

North Korea thought to have begun rebuilding at rocket site

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea is restoring facilities at a long-range rocket launch site that it dismantled last year as part of disarmament steps, according to foreign experts and a South Korean lawmaker who was briefed by Seoul's spy service. The finding follows a high-stakes nuclear summit last week between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump that ended without any agreement. South Korea's National Intelligence Service provided the assessment about the North's Tongchang-ri

launch site to lawmakers during a private briefing Tuesday. North Korea didn't immediately respond in its state media. "I would be very disappointed if that were happening," Trump told reporters, adding that he would be "very, very disappointed in Chairman Kim." He said it was "a very early report" and that "we'll see what happens. We'll take a look. It will ultimately get solved." An article from 38 North, a website specializing in North Korea studies, cited commercial satellite imagery as indicating that

efforts to rebuild some structures at the site started sometime between Feb. 16 and March 2. Dismantling parts of its long-range rocket launch facility was among several steps the North took last year when it entered nuclear talks with the United States and South Korea. It wasn't immediately clear how the report might affect nuclear diplomacy. The Trump-Kim summit fell apart because of differences over how much sanction relief North Korea could win in return for closing its aging main nuclear complex.

2 charged in GoFundMe scheme plead guilty

CAMDEN, N.J. — A homeless man and a woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to federal charges in a GoFundMe scheme that prosecutors say netted \$400,000 with a phony story about him coming to her aid. Johnny Bobbitt, 36, of Philadelphia, pleaded

guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering, and Katelyn McClure, 28, of Bordentown, N.J., pleaded to a charge of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Bobbitt conspired with McClure and her then-boyfriend Mark D'Amico to make up a story in 2017 about Bobbitt giving Mc-

Clure cash for gas when she was stranded on a highway, according to prosecutors. The three eventually squabbled over money. All three still face charges in state court. D'Amico's attorney says his client denies wrongdoing and has not been charged by federal authorities.

Venezuela tells diplomat from Germany to leave country

CARACAS, Venezuela — The Venezuelan government on Wednesday ordered the German ambassador to leave the country after he expressed support for Juan Guaido, escalating a diplomatic standoff with a group of about 50 nations that recognize the opposition leader as the country's interim president. Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza tweeted a statement saying Ambassador Daniel Kriener interfered in Venezuela's internal affairs and allied himself with "extremist sectors" of the opposition. Venezuela considers it unacceptable that a foreign diplomat would take on a role akin "to that of a political leader," the statement said. Kriener and other diplomats greeted Guaido when he returned to Venezuela on Monday to renew efforts to topple President Nicolas Maduro's government.

In Yemen: American and British-made bombs may have killed or injured nearly 1,000 Yemeni civilians, including women and children, since the beginning of the country's civil war, according to a report released Wednesday by human rights groups. The report by the U.S.-based University Network for Human Rights and a Yemeni rights group, Mwatana, comes as lawmakers in both countries have mounted efforts to stop arms sales and end their respective countries' involvement in the 4-year-old conflict. The U.S., in particular, has sold billions of dollars in weaponry to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the leaders of regional coalition fighting rebels known as Houthis.

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Chicago Tribune

Founded June 10, 1847

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EDITORIALS

The downfall of Aaron Schock: Greed and ego

In a case that began with a curious Washington Post reporter and an office tour, federal prosecutors have agreed to drop corruption charges against former Illinois Rep. Aaron Schock if he pays fines and back taxes.

Indicted in November 2016 on 24 charges alleging he grossly misspent campaign and taxpayer money, Schock resigned from his seat in Congress but insisted errors on his paperwork were honest mistakes, not criminal conduct. Prosecutors seemed to bend in that direction on Wednesday. They agreed to drop the remaining criminal counts against Schock — a judge previously had dismissed two counts — if he pays back taxes to the Internal Revenue Service and \$68,000 to his campaign funds.

The downgrading of the criminal case is a head-scratcher. Repaying the IRS and his campaign fund seem to be admissions Schock misspent money and violated tax laws. Federal law forbids taxpayer money and campaign money from being spent for personal use. That's also what tripped up former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. Remember the elk heads and the Michael Jackson memorabilia bought with campaign money? For that, Jackson and his wife, former Chicago Ald. Sandi Jackson, each spent time in federal prison.

Prosecutors had alleged Schock misspent campaign and government money by buying so-called campaign vehicles and reimbursing himself improperly for years for mileage reports and fuel costs. The mileage he reported exceeded the mileage on the vehicles by 150,000 miles, prosecutors alleged. They also accused him of spending about \$29,000 on camera equipment for his personal photographer with taxpayer funds, and paying for a charter flight and hotel rooms for a Bears game.

The greed that caught up with him, though, was the office renovation. Schock's elaborate "Downton Abbey"-themed congressional office exceeded the "necessary and ordinary" expenses allowable for taxpayer-funded office expenses. Red walls, gold-framed art, leather pin-cushion sofas, feather bouquets — it was eye-catching to be sure. A Post reporter got a tour of the office in February 2015 and wrote about it. Then ego intervened: Schock was irritated by the attention the Post's coverage drew.

So reporters dug a little deeper. Who paid for the interior decorating? What else had Schock been charging to taxpayers and his campaign accounts?

That digging perked the attention of federal prosecutors, who indicted him nearly two years after the initial Post story. The case has inexplicably dragged since then. We don't know why the allegations in the indictment didn't hold up, or didn't hold up enough to warrant either continued prosecution or more punishment. Under the deal announced Wednesday, Schock essentially walks away after writing checks.

What is clear is this: Cars used for personal use are not campaign expenses. Tickets to Bears games are not eligible for reimbursement by the taxpayer. A gaudy office renovation reflects an abominable decision by an elected official whose job is to protect taxpayers, not abuse them.

These rules aren't hard to follow. Why so many politicians continue to break them is an embarrassment.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

When Amazon pulled out of New York, the loss of 25,000 future jobs made headlines. What isn't making headlines are the thousands of jobs being destroyed right now thanks to the city's new \$15 minimum wage.

Over the past four years, the minimum wage for New York City restaurants that employ more than 10 workers went from \$10.50 an hour to \$15. ... By the end of last year, there were fewer restaurant workers in the city than in November 2016. Even though overall employment climbed by more than 163,000. ... The Hospitality Alliance survey found that more than three quarters of New York restaurants cut worker hours in 2018 to offset that year's wage hike. ...

This is all in keeping with numerous economic studies that have documented the ill effects of mandatory wage hikes. ... A study by the American Action Forum concluded that minimum-wage hikes that went into effect in cities and states around the country this year will kill 261,000 jobs right away, and 1.7 million jobs over the long term.

Yet advocates for a \$15 minimum wage press on. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a bill to raise that state's minimum wage to \$15 over the next six years. "Today is a victory for the cause of economic justice," Pritzker said.

Pritzker should go to New York. And then try to explain the wonders of "economic justice" to the thousands of people who lost their jobs because of it.

Investor's Business Daily



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A free lesson for Lightfoot and Preckwinkle: Why City Hall now should approve Lincoln Yards

"Dull, inert cities," urban affairs icon Jane Jacobs wrote, "contain the seeds of their own destruction and little else. But lively, diverse, intense cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration ..."

Jacobs was right. A static city dies. Cities need to evolve, build, grow. The question for people who govern them has always been, how to get bigger and better — not just bigger.

On April 2, Chicagoans will finish electing a new City Council, and will choose Lori Lightfoot or Toni Preckwinkle as their mayor. Will a revamped City Hall suddenly embrace community activists with NIMBY and other motivations, and grind growth in Chicago to a screeching halt? Or will City Hall keep striving for balanced policies that nurture growth and jobs while assuring that neighborhoods affected by bold endeavors help shape those projects?

Chicago may well take a step toward getting bigger Thursday, when the council's Zoning Committee takes up the massive, \$6 billion Lincoln Yards project straddling Lincoln Park and Bucktown along the Chicago River. The scale of the development is game-changing for the area: 14.5 million square feet of hotel, office, retail and residential space; 6,000 residential units; 595-foot-tall skyscrapers.

The story of Lincoln Yards offers a great lesson for Mayor Next. Owing to the improvements in the project since its inception, we hope the Zoning Committee approves it and sends it to the full council.

We always have recognized the project's upside, which includes 23,000 new jobs, a revamp of the nightmarish Elston-Armitage-Ashland intersection and an estimated yearly economic output of \$4.5 billion. From the start, though, we urged that developer Sterling Bay and Mayor Rahm Emanuel's City Hall connect with surrounding communities worried about

the project's scale, and collaborate with them on fixes.

On several sticking points, Sterling Bay did relent, and that's good. Residents in this part of Chicago opposed original plans for a 20,000-seat soccer stadium and a large entertainment district that would have undercut the viability of local music clubs. Sterling Bay removed those elements. Residents also wanted more open space and got it, in the form of an 11.2-acre park where the stadium would have been built.

Then, this week, Sterling Bay and the city agreed to a major concession by the developer — doubling the amount of affordable housing envisioned for Lincoln Yards, from 300 to 600 units. The Zoning Committee's new chairman, Ald. James Cappleman, 46th, had wanted the added affordable housing. As we noted in a Wednesday editorial opposing calls for legalizing price controls on rent in Illinois, this is just the sort of negotiation that can produce more affordable housing in Chicago without resorting to government mandates sure to deliver unintended — and unfortunate — consequences.

If the Zoning Committee approves the project Thursday as we recommend, Lincoln Yards likely will be fast-tracked for a City Council vote well before Emanuel steps down in May. We had been dubious about that. But the proposal City Hall should approve is a better plan than the initial one that gave us pause.

We should note, as Emanuel prepares to exit, that he's done a good job of assuring insurance companies, pension funds and other institutional investors who provide the capital for megaprojects that they can have faith in Chicago: City Hall has encouraged these megaprojects that bring billions of dollars, and thousands of jobs, to Chicago rather than to such aggressive competitors as Denver, Atlanta,

Seattle, Dallas, Miami ...

If Chicago ever squanders its reputation as a reliable place to invest, then those billions of dollars and those jobs will find other homes in other American cities.

Thanks in part to that current willingness of institutional investors to back projects in Chicago, Lightfoot or Preckwinkle should inherit an already approved Lincoln Yards plan. But over the next four years, more proposals for developments big and not-so-big will reach the new mayor, and she can glean much from the Lincoln Yards experience.

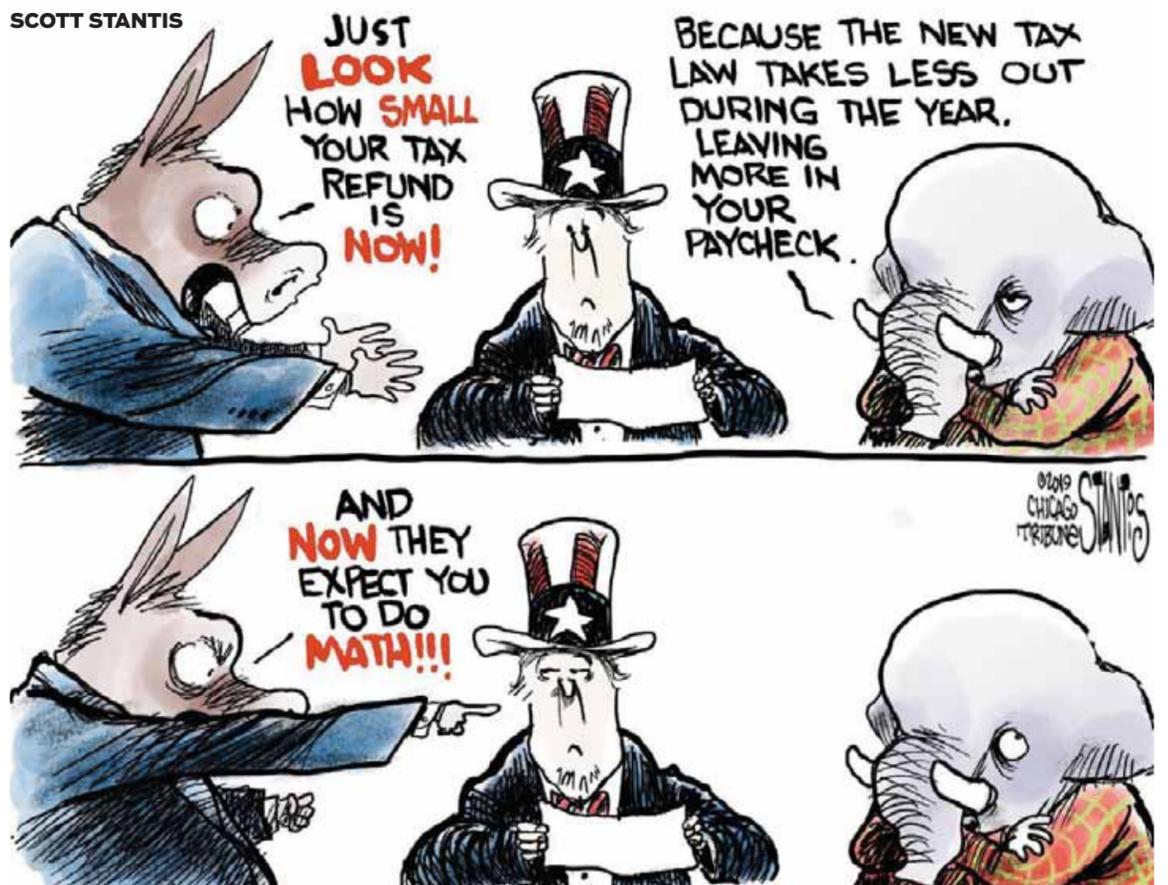
First, improvements that now make the Lincoln Yards plan acceptable happened because the community insisted on those changes, and Sterling Bay and City Hall responded. Growth always works best when it's girded by the symbiosis of developer, city and community.

Second, stewarding growth also means making sure a mayor encourages it rather than stifles it. Emanuel relentlessly encouraged. When future megaprojects arrive, who will have the next mayor's ear?

New York's loss of Amazon's HQ2 is a potent reminder to the next mayor that too many constraints on incoming investment encourage that capital to vamoose. New York lost the prospect of 25,000 new jobs and the economic heft that Amazon's HQ2 would have brought, largely because of anti-business opposition from some city and state officials. They listened to the loudest voices, not the smartest.

Chicago is a global city precisely because it has always thought big. We look forward to seeing Lincoln Yards enhance Chicago. Just as we hope more megaprojects help give Chicago a prosperous future. The next mayor and City Council have to find the right balance between growth and community buy-in. Let Lincoln Yards be a guide.

SCOTT STANTIS



Chicago Tribune PERSPECTIVE



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., speaks Tuesday in Washington at a Senate committee hearing focused on preventable disease outbreaks. He opposes mandatory vaccination.

Paul's weak case against mandatory vaccines hurts measles outbreak efforts



STEVE CHAPMAN

The middle of a measles outbreak may not seem like the best time to stand up for the eccentric preferences of the people who caused it. But Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is a libertarian, which means he is used to challenging conventional wisdom. His thoughts on mandatory vaccinations, however, only confirm that conventional wisdom is sometimes genuine wisdom.

At a hearing Tuesday, Paul made two points in opposition to requiring measles inoculations for children. The first: "For myself and my children I believe that the benefits of vaccines greatly outweigh the risks, but I still don't favor giving up on liberty for a false sense of security."

The second: "There doesn't seem to be enough evidence" that "parents who refuse to vaccinate their children risk spreading these diseases to the immunocompromised community."

These were in keeping with his past statements.

In 2015, he rejected mandatory vaccinations on the ground that "the state doesn't own your children," while claiming "many tragic cases of walking, talking normal children who wound up with profound mental disorders after vaccines" — though he

later said, somewhat implausibly, that he didn't mean to suggest vaccines caused the disorders.

All states require children to be vaccinated against various communicable diseases to enroll in public schools. But most let parents refuse if they have religious objections — and some let them decline for any reason. That turns out to be dangerous.

Paul is wrong on the issue of freedom vs. public health, as many prominent libertarian thinkers agree. Individuals do have rights, and they include the right to decide what risks to take with their own lives and property. But they aren't free to subject others to deadly harms.

Before a vaccine was invented, 450 to 500 Americans died each year of measles. By 2000, it had been eradicated in this country. But with the spread of anti-vaccine propaganda and state exemptions, the disease has made a comeback, infecting 159 people this year.

Some legislatures are now considering abolishing virtually all exemptions, as California, Mississippi and West Virginia have done.

Many so-called public health measures are really about private health — preventing people from harming themselves, say through smoking or drinking sugary sodas. Libertarians have good reason to oppose them. But mandatory vaccinations are about protecting people from the dangerous practices of their fellow citizens.

Parents have no right to expose other people — notably those too

Some legislatures are now considering abolishing virtually all exemptions, as California, Mississippi and West Virginia have done.

young or too sick to be inoculated — to a serious contagion by refusing to vaccinate their children. For that matter, they have no right to expose even their own kids to measles. The government doesn't own them, but it is entitled to intervene to shield them from harm, even at the hands of their parents.

Libertarians look back fondly on the days when government was far less intrusive. But even then, mandatory immunizations were upheld by the Supreme Court.

In 1905, the court ruled in favor of such requirements, reasoning that "in every well-ordered society charged with the duty of conserving the safety of its members the rights of the individual in respect of his liberty may at times, under the pressure of great dangers, be subjected to such restraint, to be enforced by reasonable regulations, as the safety of the general public may demand."

Critics claim that vaccines are unreasonably dangerous to recipients, causing autism and other ailments.

But all the evidence is against them.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says: "Vaccines are safe. Vaccines are effective. Vaccines save lives. Claims that vaccines are linked to autism, or are unsafe when administered according to the recommended schedule, have been disproven by a robust body of medical literature."

After seeing Paul's suggestion that unvaccinated kids are no threat to people with weakened immunity, I emailed his office asking for documentation. An aide got back to me, but offered no evidence.

But Paul is wrong. Dr. Sean O'Leary, a spokesman for the AAP, told me that measles "is certainly potentially deadly, especially among the immunocompromised, and we now relatively have a much larger group of immunocompromised people in the U.S. thanks to new disease-modifying medications, better cancer treatments, etc. Many of the deaths from varicella (chickenpox) in the U.S. prior to the varicella vaccine were in immunocompromised patients."

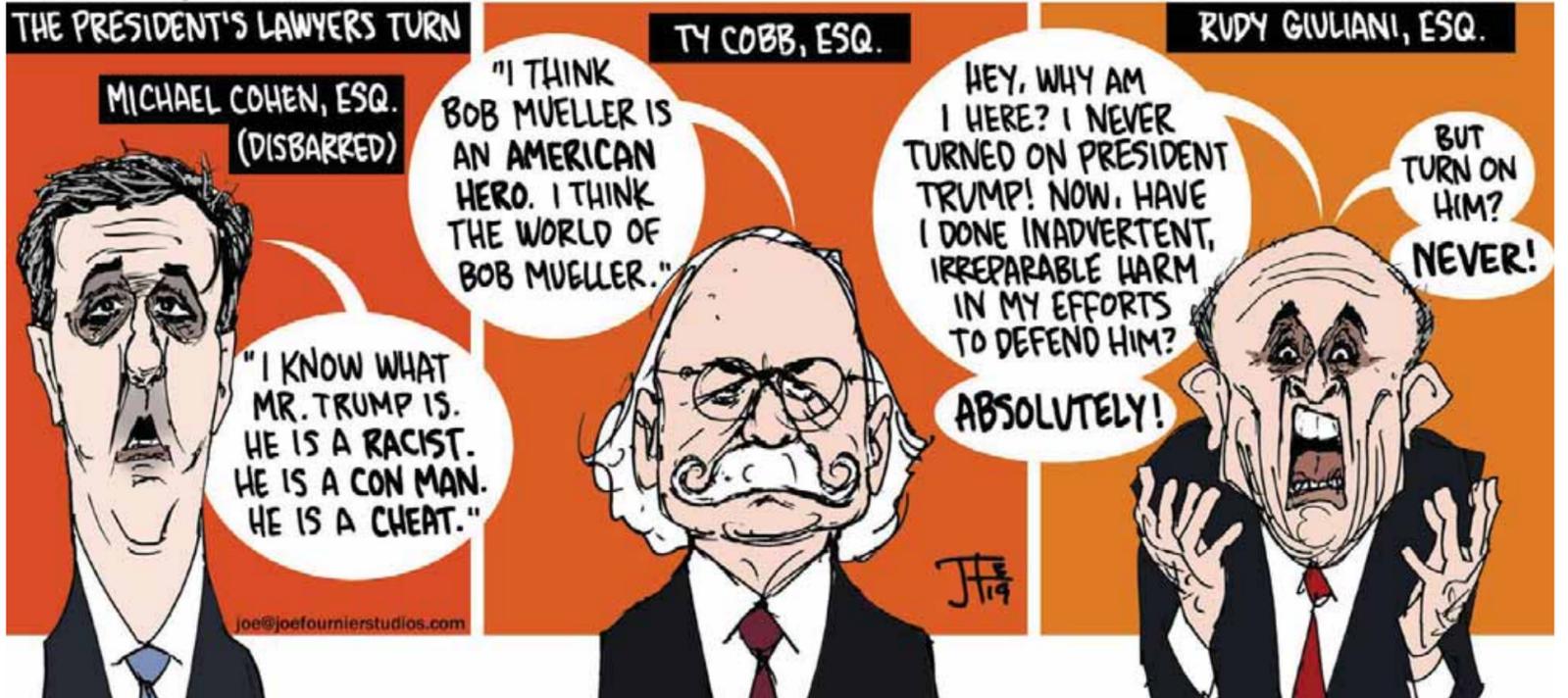
The familiar criticism of libertarians is that they have a selfish obsession with their own rights and no regard for how their exercise of those rights injures others. Paul is not refuting that charge.

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

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OP-ART JOE FOURNIER

WHEN LAWYERS TURN BY JOE "WITH LAWYERS LIKE THESE..." FOURNIER



PERSPECTIVE



ANJANA RAJBHANDARY PHOTO

Nepal-born Anjana Rajbhandary, a resident of Chicago's Logan Square community, fields lots of questions rooted in stereotypes.

What it's like to be a Nepali woman living in Chicago

BY ANJANA RAJBHANDARY

I am from Nepal, and I have a good life. I didn't grow up around a lot of violence. My parents provided me with food, the safety of a home, financial security and the privilege of education, so I cannot say I struggled hard as a child. I lived in a bubble: I grew up around people who looked like me and belonged to a similar socio-economic background.

When I first integrated into a different community with people of many races, I was excited and nervous because my knowledge until then had come from shows on television, which I must say *does not* depict the real American. Everything on American television is so dramatic.

After pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies in Maine, I moved to Logan Square in Chicago, and even though I'm used to being scrutinized — in Nepal I was judged for my skin tone and size — here I feel examined for every detail of my physical appearance and what comes with it.

Most people cannot guess what I am because I don't fit the stereotypical ideas of an Asian-looking person. (Though I have been asked a few times if I am half Korean.)

When I say my name is Anjana, I often get these questions: Where is that from? What does it mean? Is it a common name in your country? I usually have all my answers ready. If I'm speaking to someone from India, I might hear that actually my name is Indian, to which I politely respond, "Anjana is a Hindu name." (Hinduism is practiced throughout Southeast Asia.)

After people find out I am from Nepal, I am often asked if I have ever climbed Mount Everest. I wish I could answer

yes, but I think my fitness standards would take me only to Everest base camp. Most people do not know much about Nepal, so I do not get a ton of follow-up questions. But strangely, if someone has been to Nepal's capital of Kathmandu, we end up knowing someone in common.

When I gained a lot of weight during college in Maine, people did not really refer to it because Americans are aware that it is rude to publicly comment on someone's weight — but it is equally rude to ask questions about why someone looks the way he or she does. I understand the curiosity, but some questions are plain ignorant and rude.

When people first meet me, they try to speak slowly and clearly so that I can understand, and when I speak English, they are amazed at my skill. I am very proud to be trilingual, but honestly, how would I get around in this country without English since I do not speak any Spanish?

"Exotic," a term I use for carpets, is how many people describe me. The assumption is that I should be flattered, even though it is degrading to be seen as just an object. I am not asking people to feel sorry for me; I am just describing a very common experience. Stereotyping happens, no matter which race you belong to. People's preconceived notions are not always their fault — it is how the mind works.

Sometimes I play along with people's stereotypical ideas about Asians, with my pretend broken English, my supposed genius math abilities and the belief my family eats rice every day — because it is exhausting having to explain yourself to every person who has a question about how you look and ideas about how you should be.

I once had a white male boss who said he respected Asian culture and how Asian women were more reserved and uncomplicated and better cooks compared with white women. I have been asked whether Asian women date white men so they can provide for them. The families I've known in this country have questioned my religion and political opinions.

Some people introduce me to others as the Asian friend they are proud to have — and I wonder if I make them look like they are inclusive. I know people categorize me the moment they see me. I do enjoy the attention at times (I am human), but most of the time, it just reminds me that I am an outsider.

The reality is that after experiencing these things — and I have not even experienced the worst of it — you learn to accept certain inequalities and not allow certain reactions to get to you. It is draining to have to justify and defend yourself to people. As long as I live, I will probably have to answer the same questions about my race.

I am proud to be an Asian woman who supports herself and has a good life. My race doesn't determine my personality, my abilities and my feelings (though I am a pretty darn good cook, so I suppose that particular stereotype is true). I wish more people understood that.

When you meet an Asian person, before you start asking questions, be aware that many have asked the same questions. And there are polite ways to find out more.

Anjana Rajbhandary is a writer and editor who has written for the Nepali Times newspaper and youth culture digital magazine Thought Catalog, among other media outlets.

Chicago wants rent control — will our officials listen?

BY MORGAN STEWART

In the recent Chicago municipal election, 18 precincts included a referendum question on their ballots asking if the state of Illinois should support rent control. In all 18, voters said yes. In 2018, wards across Chicago were asked similar questions and overwhelmingly answered yes. The message is clear to our next mayor and City Council: Chicago wants rent control.

Rent control, also known as rent stabilization, increases housing tenure and stability. Simply put, it keeps people in their homes. Over half of Chicagoans are rent burdened, meaning they spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent. What's more, displacement has become common in Chicago. Residents are forced out due to sudden, unexpected rent hikes, only to find luxury condos being built in place of their childhood homes.

As a member of the Lift the Ban Coalition, I am fighting for rent control policy. Rent control ties to inflation the amount rates can go up per lease cycle. It is not an overall cap or freeze, and landlords set rates and have mechanisms for increasing rent by waiver. What it does not allow is what we see over and over in this city: sharp, unjustifiable rental increases resulting in displacement.

In 1997, the American Legislative Exchange Council and the real estate industry spent a ton of money to help pass the Rent Control Preemption Act, which makes it illegal to pass any form of rent control in Illinois. Lift the Ban is

currently pushing to reverse this bill and institute rent control policy.

The debate against rent control often focuses not on direct impacts on tenants, but on potential indirect effects or unintended consequences. The real estate industry has spent years, and millions of dollars, influencing this debate. Unsurprisingly, it has already begun in earnest here.

One of the most prevalent arguments against is that rent control may hurt new construction and supply. Yet, two of New York's greatest housing construction booms in the 20th century occurred during periods when strict rent control policies were in effect. The first was from 1921 to 1928, when more than 665,000 units were added, and again from 1947 through 1965, when more than 676,000 units were added. A change in the city's zoning laws caused a sharp decline in new construction in the late 1960s.

Additionally, the opposition often states that economists are uniformly against rent control. This view seems to stem from a survey in which economists were asked, among other things, if they agreed that a ceiling on rent reduces housing supply. Of those who responded, 77 percent stated they generally agreed. Yet, while the same in name, rent control of old is not the rent control that Lift the Ban Coalition is fighting for now. Today's rent control is not about imposing an overall price ceiling.

If we are talking about economic theory and potential results, economist Gary Painter points out an equally valid theory that in rental markets where

developers and landlords have market power, rent control can increase supply. If housing developers cannot generate extra profit through rent increases, it creates an incentive to build more units. In fact, evidence suggests this is currently the case in California where overall production is low, but cities with rental protections are building more apartments than those without.

The opposition also argues that we don't need rent control, we just need more affordable housing. Hey, no argument here. Let's work together to make this happen, on top of protections for renters.

There are plenty of landlords who already informally follow a rent control policy by simply not raising rents unfairly. For those who don't, who target neighborhoods as playgrounds for investment by buying up homes and pricing families out in order to build luxury condos, any curb on this ability to dominate the market is predictably unwelcome. But exploitative consumer practices like this should be illegal for any place concerned with engendering equity, which is the kind of Chicago I want to live in.

Chicagoans sent a clear message Feb. 26 and in 2018: We want rent control, and we want it now. The question is, will the politicians we elected to serve us, including our next mayor, listen to their constituents?

Morgan Stewart is an organizer for the Lift the Ban Coalition and a housing and civil rights advocate.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Be prepared for the worst

The Fox Metro Water Reclamation District was saddened by the tragic events in Aurora last month. We share an obligation to the communities we serve to keep the water systems safe and our employees protected in the event of a situation such as what happened to the employees at Henry Pratt.

To this end, we turned to the Kendall County sheriff's office. Sheriff Dwight Baird responded immediately and provided a team that trained our staff should we face a problem in the future. He and his deputies are our local first responders and invaluable partners in safety.

If you are a business or governmental body serving the residents of Kendall County, I highly recommend you also contact the sheriff's office, at 630-553-7500, to set up the same type of training. Sheriff Baird has a team of experts who will collaborate with you to create a plan for your staff. It is well worth the phone call.

— Patrick J. Divine, Human resources coordinator, Fox Metro Water Reclamation District

Preckwinkle ready to truly lead?

At her election night speech last week, I noticed that Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle was reading her speech. It reminded me of the mayoral candidate forums — Preckwinkle also looked down at what I assume were her notes when the moderator was getting to the next question. When she was asked a question by the moderator, she rarely answered it directly; instead, she used her time to speak her campaign talking points on that or a closely related topic.

In the Sunday Tribune, columnist Eric Zorn writes about her fundraiser at the Burkes' home under the heading "Preckwinkle's Theatrical Dodge." It seems she can't answer pointed questions outside of forums either.

Preckwinkle was a teacher for 10 years and is supported by the Chicago Teachers Union, so with that in mind, when you go to vote April 2, ask yourself one question: Which side of the bargaining table will Preckwinkle be sitting on the next time it comes to renegotiating the teachers contract? On the side representing you the taxpayer or on the side of her supporters, the teachers union?

— Gene Stehno, Downers Grove

Stop burdening city taxpayers

Our city has become a piggy bank. Consider former Cook County Assessor Joe Berrios who overtaxed homeowners, some of them struggling families barely making their mortgage payments.

The pension crisis has created a burden of debt. A casino and marijuana sales are being considered, along with a progressive tax, to supposedly alleviate the crisis. Our elected officials repeatedly find new ways to raise revenue on the backs of hardworking families. Many choose to just give up and move out of our state for cities with lower taxes.

Give us better trade schools and job creation via promoting the business community. Most important, make our city affordable to working families.

— Esteban Burgoa, Chicago

Some real-life slapstick

The Amtrak and Metra systems were shut down last week because a worker fell on a circuit board? Which worker? Moe, Larry or Curly?

— Tom Lynch, Oak Park

Judging police from sidelines

Police make split-second decisions. It's so easy for the rest of us to be Monday morning quarterbacks. So let's do this: The police can draw their weapon only after they've been shot.

— Larry Augustyn, Justice

Democratic socialism bad?

If democratic socialism is so bad, how come people in Nordic countries (Finland and Scandinavian nations) have a higher standard of living, more individual freedoms, not to mention a more functioning democracy and society, than we Americans in this country?

— Lanlan Hoo, Wheaton

Are babies not as precious?

I have noticed quite a few commercials by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals showing abandoned animals that need good homes. There is a lot of concern regarding these poor, helpless animals. I can't help but compare the concern for these animals to the lack of concern for babies who survive abortions. According to many laws that states are passing, the lives of these helpless babies mean nothing. No one is obligated to fight to keep them alive if the mother and doctor say "no." Are not these human beings as precious and even more deserving of life than an animal? How can we not see there is something very wrong here?

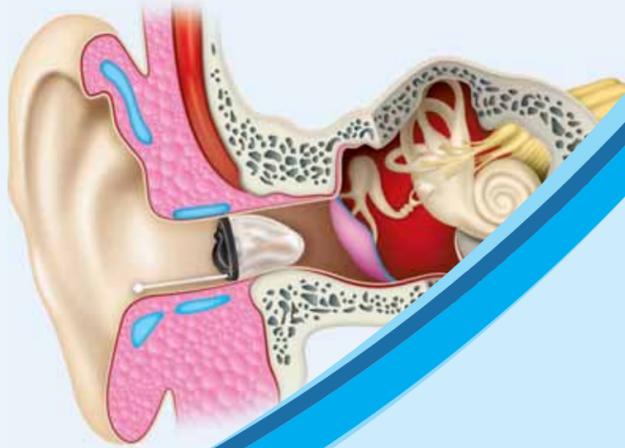
— Jeanette Schneider, Bourbonnais

Bad language dishonors office

Donald Trump's use of profanity denigrates the office of the president. It's the sign of a weak mind expressing itself forcibly.

— Edwina Jackson, Chicago

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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS

Uber plans to hire hundreds more in Chicago

Ride-share company also on the hunt for additional office space

BY ALLY MAROTTI
AND RYAN ORI
Chicago Tribune

Uber Technologies is searching the downtown office market for a big new space as it plans to hire hundreds of employees over the next year for its growing Uber Freight business.

Launched in May 2017, Uber Freight connects truck drivers with shippers. Chicago has become the headquarters for the fast-growing business unit.

"Historically, (Chicago) has been really a logistics hub," said Sagar Shah, director of carrier operations at Uber Freight. "A lot of innovation is happening here. A

lot of the talent is here as well."

Uber employs more than 1,000 people in the Chicago area, making it the second-largest office outside of its home in San Francisco. "Several hundred" of those employees work for Uber Freight, and the company plans to double the head count in 2020, Shah said.

Uber is believed to be looking to lease hundreds of thousands of square feet of office space, according to real estate sources, which would give the company a comparable presence in Chicago as other California-based tech giants such as Google, Facebook and Salesforce. All of those companies have in the past year confirmed plans for big expansions in Chicago.

"We are exploring all sorts of opportunities as they present themselves and haven't made any definitive decisions regarding office space," Uber spokeswoman Charity Jackson said in an email.

In about five years, Uber has grown from a 12,000-square-foot space in the Fulton Market district to two large offices in downtown Chicago. The company has about 185,000 square feet of space combined at 111 N. Canal St. and 225 W. Randolph St.

The larger Randolph Street office, which is used by Uber Freight, is subleased space in a 30-story office tower that has been owned for more than a decade by the family of Jared Kushner, the presidential son-in-law and White House adviser.

A venture of Angelo Gordon & Co., former Angelo Gordon executive Ryan Klenovich and Chicago-based AJ Capital Partners plans to buy the tower from Kushner Cos., in a deal first reported in October.

The Angelo Gordon venture has until April 20, 2021, to complete the purchase, under a memorandum signed in August, according to

a document filed with the Cook County Recorder of Deeds.

When Uber Freight launched, it only operated in Texas. It has since expanded throughout the continental U.S.

People are ordering items online at an ever-increasing pace, Shah said. That habit is part of what is driving Uber Freight's growth.

The Uber Freight employees in Chicago work with shippers and truck drivers around the country, and negotiate prices for shipments, among other roles, Shah said. As the business unit grows its employee count in Chicago, it will look to add people in sales, operations and engineering roles.

The growing Uber Freight joins other expanding logistics companies in Chicago. Those include Echo Global Logistics, which was launched by Groupon's founders; transport company C.H. Robinson, which recently opened a new

office in Lincoln Park; and Ship-Bob, an e-commerce fulfillment company that landed \$40 million in new investments last summer.

Outside of freight, Uber's Chicago office employs people in the Uber Eats and Uber Ride businesses, including sales staff, lawyers, marketing, and operational staff for Chicago and other Midwest markets. The company also has four area facilities called Greenlight Hubs, where drivers can stop in for assistance, and a customer support center.

In the backdrop of the expansion in Chicago are Uber's preparations for an initial public offering. The company's ride-share competitor Lyft is also planning an IPO.

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BOB BONG/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Dollar Tree said March 6 that it would close up to 390 Family Dollar stores this year and rebrand about 200 others under the Dollar Tree name.

Up to 390 Family Dollar stores are set to close

Another 200 will switch to Dollar Tree brand

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dollar Tree is closing up to 390 Family Dollar stores this year and rebranding about 200 others under the Dollar Tree name.

The company also slashed the value of its struggling Family Dollar chain, booking a \$2.73 billion charge in its fiscal fourth quarter. There were 224 Family Dollar stores in Illinois as of

February 2018.

Chainwide the company closed 84 Family Dollar stores in the fourth quarter, 37 more than originally planned. The company has said that it will renovate at least 1,000 stores this year. It also said it's open to again testing new prices at Dollar Tree, where all items are priced a dollar or less. Family Dollar sells items under \$10.

Dollar Tree, based in Chesapeake, Va., acquired Family Dollar in 2015 for almost \$9 billion. The move was expected to bolster its business and better battle chains like Walmart and rival Dollar General Corp. But Family Dollar, hurt by unkept stores, has struggled and pulled down

the parent company's earnings. And the company is under a lot of pressure from activist shareholder Starboard Value Hedge fund to sell Family Dollar or expand prices at its Dollar Tree stores.

In the latest fourth quarter, Family Dollar reported a 1.4 percent increase in sales at stores opened at least a year. Meanwhile, Dollar Tree had a 3.2 percent increase for that figure.

While prices are lower at Dollar Tree, Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail, noted that Family Dollar has a more urban customer who has a lower income than the average Dollar Tree shopper.

Most of the purchases at Family Dollar are done on a strict

budget, he added.

"Dollar Tree has a much broader customer base, which includes more affluent shoppers," Saunders wrote. "There are a lot more discretionary purchases made at Dollar Tree, despite the fact all products are a dollar or under. Visits to a Dollar Tree are not always made out of necessity. A lot of people go there out of curiosity and to see what's on offer."

The company said Wednesday that it's seeking rent concessions on the potential 390 stores they want closed. Dollar Tree closes about 75 stores annually.

The company had 15,237 stores in 48 states and five Canadian provinces as of Feb. 2.

Attorney general looking into tax preparers

Firms luring filers with false promises, according to complaint

BY JOE LIGHT
Bloomberg News

Michael Anderson and his wife, Kathy, spun his tax preparer's electronic "prize wheel" and won a promise from the company to double their refund.

That never happened. Instead, the preparer charged the Andersons more than twice as much as Anderson says he was told, made mistakes on the federal return and, without Anderson's permission, told the Illinois Department of Revenue that he wanted to donate his 2017 state refund to charity, according to a complaint filed last week by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul.

The complaint, made against Nu Republic and Refund Republic along with their owners and some employees, reflects a growing problem of companies scamming taxpayers, often of modest means, with wild promises and misleading claims, according to attorneys and consumer advocates.

Companies are using gimmicks and fine print to lure low-income taxpayers into hiring them for tax preparation, often charging far greater fees than what other preparers would charge for the same service.

In the Illinois complaint, filed in Cook County Circuit Court, the attorney general's office wrote that as a result of Nu Republic's and Refund Republic's practices, "customers, many of whom are low-income, only receive a fraction of their expected tax refunds and risk losing future refunds" while the companies profited.

The complaint doesn't list Anderson's income or occupation.

Refund Republic and Nu Republic, which share owners and a telephone number in Georgia, did not respond to a message left at its office Tuesday morning.

"People should be wary of tax preparers who offer 'free' incentives and promise big refunds, because these offers can ultimately lead to expensive, and in some cases, prohibited fees," Raoul said in a statement.

The tax preparing firms in the complaint were founded in 2013 and 2015. According to the complaint, the firms as recently as last year recruited prospective employees on Facebook with promises of potentially earning \$50,000 to \$100,000 in two to three months with "no experience needed" in preparing taxes.

Preparers would earn \$90 per return as well as the fees the preparers charged the consumer were more than \$300. Less than that, and they'd earn a quarter of the fees they charged.

Turn to Refunds, Page 3

FDA: Asbestos found in cosmetics at Claire's

Alert issued for eye shadows, compact powders and others

BY LAUREN ZUMBACH
Chicago Tribune

The Food and Drug Administration said it found asbestos in certain cosmetics sold by teen chain Claire's.

A consumer alert issued Tuesday advised consumers not to use certain eye shadows, compact powders and contour palettes the agency said tested positive for asbestos, a carcinogen.

Claire's, which is based in Hoffman Estates, said it removed the three products the agency identified from stores "out of an abundance of caution" but disputed the agency's findings.

"There is no evidence that any products sold by Claire's are unsafe," the company said in a statement that said the FDA's test results showed "significant errors."

In late 2017, Claire's stopped selling some products and hired a lab to conduct tests after a consumer claimed to have found asbestos in its makeup. Initial tests found no asbestos, Claire's said at the time.

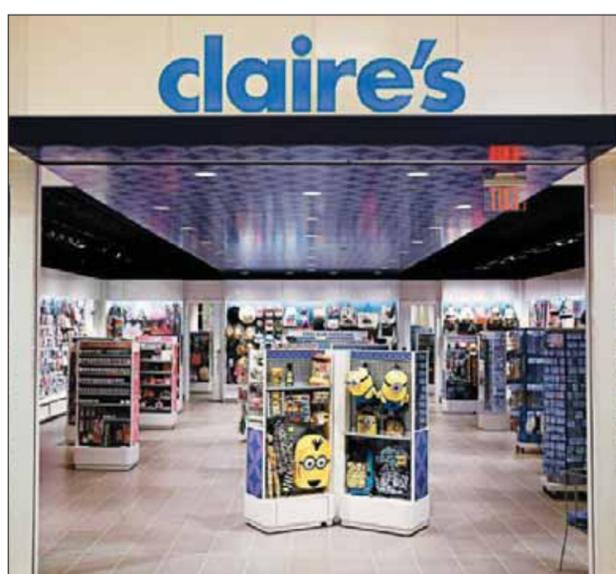
The three items identified by the FDA were "extensively tested by multiple independent accredited laboratories" in early 2018 and were found to follow all relevant safety regulations, Claire's said Wednesday.

Claire's also said it is removing all talc-based cosmetic products from stores and will honor returns of talc-based products.

The mineral, an ingredient in many cosmetic products, is often found near asbestos, which can lead to contamination, according to the FDA.

Claire's, which sells jewelry, accessories and cosmetics, emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October.

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MICHAEL NOBLE JR./CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A Claire's test store is seen in 2015 inside Claire's headquarters in Hoffman Estates. The Food and Drug Administration has issued a safety alert warning consumers not to use certain makeup products.

Aon says it's no longer pursuing Willis Towers

Regulatory issues figured to be big overhang in any merger of the two giant insurance brokerages

BY NICK LICHTENBERG AND AMY THOMSON
Bloomberg News

Aon said it's no longer pursuing a combination with rival insurance brokerage Willis Towers Watson, a day after confirming that it was considering a tie-up.

The company said Tuesday that it was in the early stages of exploring an all-share tie-up with Willis Towers after Bloomberg reported the potential plans. The companies held preliminary talks and Aon was preparing to submit a bid in the coming weeks, people familiar with the matter had said,

asking not to be identified as the details aren't public. A potential combination with Willis could have been the industry's largest-ever merger.

Aon was required to issue Tuesday's statement because Willis Towers Watson is subject to Irish regulatory requirements, and Aon said it had to make the disclosure "at a very early stage in the consideration."

Aon said it reserves the right within the next 12 months to set aside Wednesday's announcement where permitted under Irish Take-over Rules.

Wells Fargo said regulatory issues would be a big overhang for any deal between Aon and rival Willis Towers given the size of the two companies, which are the second- and third-largest insurance brokers.

Aon and Willis Towers' "poten-

tial transaction would put together two very large global insurance broking companies that are also engaged in a number of human resources and management consulting practices," Harry Fong, an analyst at MKM Partners, said Tuesday in a note to clients.

Buying Willis Towers might enable Aon to overtake Marsh & McLennan Cos. as the world's largest brokerage by revenue, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Brokerages, which help connect businesses looking for coverage with insurers, have been aggressively merging to diversify, boost commissions and serve customers who increasingly want to deal with fewer intermediaries. Deals in the broker space accounted for most of 2018's insurance deals in the U.S. and Bermuda, according to a report from Deloitte. Those deals were on



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Aon Center at 200 E. Randolph St. in Chicago is seen in 2016. Aon has said it is no longer pursuing a deal with brokerage Willis Towers Watson.

average smaller than many transactions for underwriters, meaning the total value of brokerage deals accounted for just 16 percent of total transactions in the space.

The industry started 2019 with a sizable deal. Private equity firm

GTCR and other buyers agreed in February to buy a majority stake in AssuredPartners from Apex Partners. That transaction valued AssuredPartners at about \$5.1 billion, according to people familiar with the matter.

In Vegas, an opening seen for Musk tunnel system

Sin City officials push for contract even as O'Hare, other plans hampered

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS - Entrepreneur Elon Musk's dream of an express tunnel transit system could finally become a reality in Las Vegas after major setbacks in Chicago and other cities.

Las Vegas' tourism agency announced Wednesday it is recommending that an enterprise backed by the divisive billionaire receive a contract to build and operate an underground tunnel system through which autonomous electric vehicles would whisk people around a mega convention center, and in the future, possibly the city's famous casino-filled corridor.

If approved, the system of just over a mile long would debut by January 2021 at the facility, which hosts more than 1 million people every year. The Musk-owned The Boring Co. would build the project costing from \$35 million to \$55 million.

It's different from his beleaguered efforts to build underground tunnel systems in other cities because Musk will be paid

for it if the contract is approved. Projects in Los Angeles and Chicago have drawn opposition and skepticism from residents and officials about whether they will actually open.

Musk has faced recent blowback because of his behavior and tweeting habits. He has had dust-ups with stock market regulators and agreed last year to step down as chairman of the board of Tesla, his electric car company.

But Las Vegas tourism officials are ready to get on board with a Musk project.

"It's really innovative. I think it will be an attraction in and of itself, frankly," Steve Hill, president and CEO of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, told The Associated Press.

Details of the project have not been finalized. But Hill said the system will probably have three or four stations, each situated at entrances to the convention center's halls. People would be carried to the hall of their choice in electric vehicles moving through parallel tunnels, each running in one direction.

The fleet could include Tesla's Model X and Model 3 and a vehicle with capacity for about 16 people, Hill said. All vehicles would be fully autonomous, meaning they won't have backup human drivers.

The Las Vegas Convention Center, which attracts worldwide gatherings, including the premier Consumer Electronics Show, is undergoing an expansion. When finished, convention attendees could log about 2 miles walking from one end to the other. The distance led officials to look for a transportation solution.

The service within the convention center is expected to be free for people attending events.

The convention center is operated by the authority, which is funded by a county room tax and is responsible for promoting the destination around the world. The tourism agency is governed by a board of directors.

The authority is expected to present to the board the recommendation to select Musk's company March 12. If approved, Hill said the agency hopes to return to the board with a full design and proposed contract by June.

Musk in December unveiled a test tunnel built under a Los Angeles suburb, allowing reporters and guests to take rides. It came almost two years to the day after Musk announced on Twitter that "traffic is driving me nuts" and he was "going to build a tunnel boring machine and just start digging."

"I am actually going to do this," he added in response to initial

skepticism. Soon after, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, began The Boring Co.

The skepticism has not subsided. The Boring Co. in November canceled its plans for another test tunnel in the Los Angeles area after a neighborhood group filed a lawsuit over concerns about traffic and disruptions from trucks hauling out dirt during the boring process.

Now plans for a project in Chicago appear to be in jeopardy. Neither mayoral candidate approves of plans announced in June that called for a system similar to the one proposed for Las Vegas. It would carry people between Chicago's downtown and O'Hare International Airport at speeds of up to 150 mph through underground tunnels.

Hill said he does not expect permitting processes in the Las Vegas area to put the project behind schedule should it be approved, because the city is "committed to innovation."

"Look at everything that we have built in Las Vegas, and this city and everybody who has built it found ways to make that happen," he said. "As long as this continues to make sense, I believe that we will figure out how to make it happen."

Hill acknowledged the technol-

ogy that will be used in the project has not been used commercially, but he said the company has the talent to make the project a reality.

The confidence in The Boring Co. is such that the authority already has optional routes for the tunnel system to expand to connect to the Las Vegas Strip, the city's downtown and McCarran International Airport. An expansion of that magnitude could be a solution to the congestion affecting the Strip and nearby areas.

"We do see it as a real opportunity and something we would like to pursue," Hill said.

Steve Davis, president of The Boring Co., said the speed at which the vehicles will move inside the convention center's tunnels will depend on the number of stations built. The technology involved in the project is being tested every day in the tunnel in Hawthorne, Calif., he said.

The company believes it will be able to deliver the project by the 2021 deadline, just before that year's edition of the CES tech gadget gathering. It is also eyeing the expansion possibility.

"If the community likes it, and they come, they ride at the convention center and they say 'This is great. It's comfortable. It's fast. It's awesome.' Well, there are other places it can go," Davis said.

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Undergraduate Teaching Award



POLITICS

Part II - Looking Forward: The Changing Face of Politics

10:50 AM - 11:55 AM | Sam Potolicchio / Georgetown University
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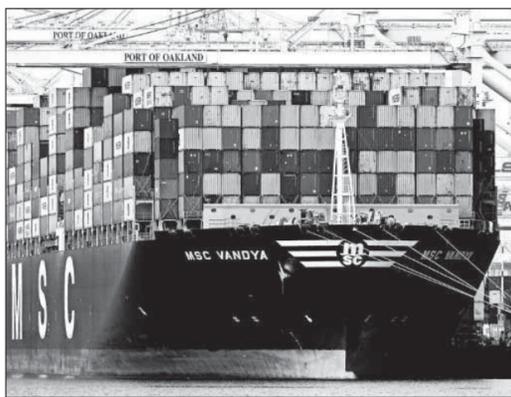
Trade deficit soars to \$621B, a 10-year high

BY JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade deficit jumped nearly 19 percent in December, pushing the trade imbalance for all of 2018 to widen to a decade-long high of \$621 billion. The gap with China on goods widened to an all-time record of \$419.2 billion.

The Commerce Department figures released Wednesday undermined a key commitment by President Donald Trump, who promised to cut the trade imbalance on the belief that it would bring back overseas factory jobs and bolster the broader U.S. economy.

But America's appetite for imports appears to have increased after the tariffs that Trump imposed last year on foreign steel, aluminum and Chinese products. The greater reliance on Chinese imports likely reflects an acceleration in economic growth last year from Trump's debt-funded



BEN MARGOT/AP
President Donald Trump vowed to cut the trade imbalance. Above, a container ship is unloaded in Oakland, Calif.

tax cuts, which were designed to increase spending by consumers and businesses.

The gap between what the United States sells and what it buys from other countries rose to \$59.8 billion in December from \$50.3 billion in November, the Commerce Department said. Adjusted for inflation,

December was the highest imbalance on trade goods in U.S. history.

Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities, suggested the trade gap climbed because importers were rushing to bring their goods into the U.S. before a planned expansion of tariffs Chinese products Jan. 1. But the

tariff hikes have since been postponed as the administration has cited progress in trade talks with China.

While strong economic growth helped to fuel a jump in imports, a higher trade gap can also be a drag that worsens the rate of growth.

The increased trade gap along with weak home construction figures for December likely means slower economic growth during the final three months of 2018, according to Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

He estimated that annualized growth in the October-December quarter will be revised to 2.4 percent from 2.6 percent.

On an annual basis, the trade gap widened 12.5 percent. The gap reached the largest total since 2008, when it was \$708.7 billion. That imbalance fell in the aftermath of that year's financial crisis as the United States and other nations

plunged into severe recessions.

December's trade imbalance worsened because U.S. imports rose 2.1 percent as Americans bought more household appliances, cell phones and computer products from abroad. U.S. exports also fell 1.9 percent as foreign demand for civilian aircraft and oil products declined.

Trump hit roughly half of Chinese imports with taxes last year, a move designed to jumpstart trade negotiations with the goal of increasing exports to that country and stopping the forced turnover of U.S. technology and theft of intellectual property.

China retaliated, and the simmering trade war roiled financial markets last year. U.S. and Chinese officials have recently signaled that they're close to some kind of agreement, although China has only bolstered its commitment to investing in and developing its technology sector and questions about

how to enforce any trade rules remain.

China has also offered to buy a reported \$1.2 trillion in additional American products over the next six years.

But most economists say that such increased Chinese purchases would likely only divert U.S. shipments from other foreign customers, shrinking the trade gap with China but leaving the global balance largely unchanged. With the economy at or close to full employment, U.S. farms and factories have a limited ability to sharply increase output to meet a sudden increase in Chinese orders.

In addition to a record trade gap in goods with China, the imbalance reached new peaks with Mexico, \$81.5 billion, and the European Union, \$169.3 billion. The U.S. ran a record surplus last year with South and Central America.

The Washington Post contributed.



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY

Even with offers of bonuses and short training schedules, trucking companies are struggling to hire enough drivers to meet demand.

Shortage of truckers drives up prices for everyone

Rising freight costs put the squeeze on stores, consumers

BY LESLIE PATTON
AND MATT TOWNSEND
Bloomberg News

America's trucker shortage is about to hit consumers right where it hurts: in the kitty litter.

McDonald's long-time distributor Martin-Brower Co. is raising delivery fees, imperiling low menu prices, and Procter & Gamble Co., Church & Dwight Co., and Hasbro Inc. are sounding the alarm that higher freight fees could be passed on to consumers of everything from Crest toothpaste to Arm & Hammer cat litter to My Little Pony figurines. And it's all because transport companies can't find drivers.

"Millennials, they don't want to drive trucks," said Darren Tristano, CEO and founder of consultant Food-service Results. "They're looking at this and saying, 'I want to be in something more glamorous, more tech-oriented.'"

America simply doesn't have enough truck drivers to deliver everything its people buy. That's not new, but many retailers are just now feeling the pain as annual shipping contracts are renewed. That has trucking companies scrambling to find ways to keep costs down. And it has Michael Norwich counting every dime and quarter as he contemplates the \$4.99 combo meal whose price is dictated at Jack in the Box Inc. headquarters.

"Distribution costs are huge," said Norwich, who owns 14 of the fast-food

restaurants in El Paso, Texas, and Las Cruces, N.M. "I'm scratching my head trying to figure out how \$4.99 is going to work."

The driver shortage is a long-term issue that's going to get worse, and it's going to cost consumers money, said Lee Klaskow, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst. Pay bumps for drivers haven't moved the needle much. Autonomous trucks are still far off. And even if legislators succeed in lowering the minimum age for long-haul drivers to 18 from 21, as some propose, it wouldn't help much. Insurance for young drivers would be sky high, making it a tough job most of them would avoid, he said.

The trucking industry is also trying to recruit more women, who currently make up a small fraction of the workforce.

Drivers who own their own trucks and pay their own expenses can make gross pay of as much as \$250,000 a year and receive a hiring bonus of \$5,000 by joining J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc., according to the company's website. The trucking giant is also advertising long-haul positions that pay \$65,000 a year plus a \$2,500 hiring bonus and require only three months of experience.

"It's still difficult to find good quality drivers," Executive Vice President Nicholas Hobbs said in January.

Companies are trying to push down costs by using software to optimize routes and moving some cargo to rail. While cheaper, those rates have risen and aren't as flexible as having a truck travel point to point.

Still, it's difficult keeping

prices down. Tariffs are increasing the price of truck parts coming from China and imported aluminum and steel. Fuel increases, too, are having an effect.

Retail chains are also trying to cut shipping expenses where they can. TJX Cos.'s HomeGoods furniture chain said Wednesday that "increased pressure from freight" is weighing on margin. It's opening more distribution centers in the U.S. to mitigate mounting costs.

So is Hasbro, which plans to open a new hub in Joliet, Ill., after shipping costs surged in 2018.

Procter & Gamble, maker of Tide detergent and Pampers diapers, is feeling the heat, too. The company recently blamed a 25 percent jump in trucking costs for narrowing margins. P&G raised prices last year on some products, and has said it's still too early to divulge its pricing strategy for 2019.

Higher transportation costs are "headwinds that we have to overcome," Church & Dwight CEO Richard Dierker said Feb. 21. The company identified a bright side to the jump in trucking expenses — competitors are also raising prices.

Walmart Inc., which has its own fleet of 6,500 trucks, offered \$1,500 referral bonuses last year and shortened the hiring process to attract more drivers.

For Amazon.com Inc., freight costs consistently outpace online sales growth. The company is trying to find cheaper ways to deliver packages or it may have to hike prices. It already raised its annual Prime membership fee by 20 percent to \$120 last year.

And then there's the

McDonald's menu. Martin-Brower ships to 12,372 restaurants in the U.S. and 20,208 globally, so the sting of higher fees is widespread. Because much of the McDonald's menu is priced at company headquarters and reinforced by a national advertising campaign, franchisees are looking for places they have leeway to set their own prices and \$1 drinks are candidates.

"We must be able to pass these increases along to our customers," a group of McDonald's franchisees said in a Feb. 27 web post.

Attorney general looking into tax preparers

Refunds, from Page 1

The companies marketed their tax services in neighborhoods where residents rely heavily on the earned income tax credit, which often ends up accounting for a quarter or more of a family's income. They offered cash advances on the refund and the chance to win prizes like a cruise to the Bahamas or gift cards.

But the clients were often charged multiples of what the preparer told them they'd receive, the complaint says, and fees that they didn't realize until the company took it straight out of the refund.

For decades before 2009, banks and other lenders offered loans against anticipated tax refunds that often carried double or even triple-digit interest rates. The loans were meant to bridge the few weeks between filing a return and receiving the refund check. After new laws and regulations capped the interest rates lenders could charge or limited other terms, most banks left the market.

Some large tax preparers still allow tax refund "transfers," which don't get consumers money more quickly than the Internal Revenue Service, but do allow the taxpayer to pay for the preparation services out of their checks.

The banks' departure from the refund loan business provided an opportunity for tax preparation firms that take advantage of people who need money quickly, according to the National Consumer Law Center. According to the complaint, Nu Republic and Refund Republic of

ferred clients such advances, though in many cases they never materialized.

The companies did allow customers to pay for the services out of the refund checks, but the fees ended up being much higher than the customers were told, according to the complaint.

Manuelita Martinez, another consumer in the complaint, met with a Nu Republic tax preparer in a Chicago barbershop in January 2018, according to the attorney general. The preparer estimated his fee would be \$350 to prepare her federal and state returns. She also opted to buy "audit protection" for about \$60. Another form estimated her tax refund to be \$4,688.

When she received her federal refund check, Nu Republic had deducted \$750 in charges, the attorney general said. The company told the attorney general that Martinez had signed a disclosure listing the \$750 in fees, but Martinez said she did not remember the disclosure or know how her signature appeared on it.

Dory Rand, president of the Woodstock Institute, said low-income taxpayers can often find free tax preparation help at local nonprofits and, regardless, should ideally wait the less-than-two weeks it typically takes the IRS to deliver a refund instead of getting an advance from a private company.

"As often happens in the high-cost lending space, people keep coming up with ingenious ways to rip people off," said Rand, whose nonprofit advocates on behalf of low-income and minority consumers.

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Chicago Tribune

Deposit & Loan Guide

Institution	Int Chking	Money	3 mo		6 mo		12 mo		18 mo		24 mo		36 mo		60 mo		Phone / Website
			Acct	Mkt	Acct	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD			
synchrony Synchrony Bank	NA	1.20	0.75	1.00	2.80	2.75	2.90	2.90	3.10							800-869-3813 www.synchronybank.com	
	NA	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000								

Savings Update

What is a CD grace period?

When you open a certificate of deposit, you're entering into a contract with the bank or credit union to keep your funds deposited with them, earning a specified rate of return, for a set period of time.

That period is always explicitly defined by an end date, called the maturity date. And once that date hits, something will happen with your CD funds. What happens depends on instructions you make, or on the bank's policy if you fail to provide any guidance.

The issuer of your CD will notify you when your CD is soon maturing. In that notification, they'll indicate their policy on handling maturing funds if you do nothing. Most will roll the funds over into a new CD of a similar term and at current rates, while a smaller share of institutions will move the funds into a linked savings account.

The notification should also stipulate the grace pe-

riod, which is the number of days after the official maturity date — usually one to 10 — during which you can still make instructions. After the grace period ends, your opportunity sunsets on deciding your own terms for handling the funds, and the bank's default policy instead takes effect.

It's always best to act before the maturity date, so you can direct the bank to move the funds into savings, or return them to you by check, or even transfer them to another institution. But should you miss that deadline, the grace period gives you a little cushion to still make a smart decision.

Note, however, that your CD will stop earning interest on the maturity date, regardless of entering the grace period. Your grace period provides only an extension for decision-making, not an extension of your interest-earning period. So funds will earn nothing during the grace period.

Rate Criteria: Rates effective as of 03/05/19 and may change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC, does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates in this table. Banks, Thrifts and credit unions pay to advertise in this guide. N/A means rates are not available or not offered at the time rates were surveyed. All institutions are FDIC or NCUA insured. Yields represent annual percentage yield (APY) paid by participating institutions. Rates may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce the earnings on the account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.



TONY DEJAK/AP 2018

GM's Lordstown plant built more than 16 million vehicles during its 50 years of operation.

Cruze cruises: GM assembly plant prepares to shut down

BY MARK GILLISPIE AND TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

LORDSTOWN, Ohio — A sprawling General Motors assembly plant near Youngstown was idled Wednesday after more than 50 years of producing cars and other vehicles, a move that will eliminate nearly 1,700 hourly positions by month's end.

GM announced last year that Lordstown along with three plants in the U.S. and one in Canada would close by early next year.

The Cruze, once a popular and well-reviewed compact car made in Lordstown since 2011, has become the victim of consumer tastes as car buyers in an era of inexpensive gasoline have shown strong preferences for trucks, SUVs and crossover-type vehicles, all of which produce far bigger profits than sedans for GM.

While Wednesday would be the last day for the Cruze, GM spokesman Dan Flores said the plant's parts-stamping operation will continue producing fenders and other replacement parts through most of March.

The 6.2-million-square-foot plant will be placed in a "state of readiness," Flores

said, meaning it will be heated and fully maintained to allow for a resumption of operations. A final decision on the plant's future is expected to be made during upcoming contract talks with the United Auto Workers that begin this summer. The UAW's national contract with GM expires in mid-September.

The union contends in a recent federal lawsuit that its existing contract prohibits GM from idling plants. UAW 1112 President Dave Green has urged workers to remain hopeful, saying their fate will ultimately be decided at the bargaining table.

Green said he took an emotional walk around the plant during the final shift Wednesday.

"It's gut-wrenching. People were crying, they're frustrated and they feel like they've done everything right," he said.

Meanwhile, production of the Cruze sedan and hatchback will continue in Mexico, where the car is made for markets outside the U.S.

Recently promoted company President Mark Reuss said in January that GM is "looking at a lot of different options for the plant," without providing specifics.

When asked whether that means Lordstown could get a new vehicle, he said that hasn't been decided.

"We've just got to keep an open mind here, and we are," he said.

Reuss also said GM can't keep operating a plant with a slow-selling vehicle like the Cruze, and still have enough money to invest in the future. It also doesn't want to get caught like it did in 2008 with too many factories and workers, a problem that helped to push the company into bankruptcy.

"We've got some history of that, to be honest," Reuss said. "We don't want that history to repeat."

Lordstown's history dates to 1966. More than 16 million vehicles have rolled off its assembly line since then, including nearly 1.9 million Cruzes since the car went into production.

The automaker has said most of its blue-collar workers whose jobs are eliminated in the U.S. will be able to transfer to plants in the Midwest and South.

The other plants slated to close this year are assembly plants in Detroit and Oshawa, Ontario, and transmission plants in Warren, Mich., and near Baltimore.

AT&T shakes up WarnerMedia to put emphasis on streaming

BY TALI ARBEL
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Now that AT&T's \$81 billion takeover of Time Warner is a done deal, the company is reorganizing its TV and movie businesses to emphasize streaming rather than cable TV networks.

AT&T is bringing in a new executive as longtime HBO and Turner chiefs leave. It's also consolidating operations for different brands to help generate more video for a new streaming service launching this year.

With the revamp, AT&T is "trying to move the organization to a new business model," said Michael Smith, a Carnegie Mellon information technology and marketing professor.

AT&T has named former NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt as the chairman of WarnerMedia's entertainment and streaming businesses. He will run HBO and Turner cable networks TNT, TBS and truTV. HBO and Turner were previously run separately. HBO's longtime chief, Richard Plepler, resigned last week, as did Turner's president, David Levy.

AT&T said the reorganization will give it "agility and flexibility" to better coordinate original programming across its brands and distribute them through emerging platforms such as streaming.

The company has been ramping up the streaming services that it sells to customers directly as it tries to maneuver the shift to internet video and reckon with the increasing number of people who don't want to pay for a \$100 cable bundle. It has been losing customers in its DirecTV satellite TV business.

AT&T launched a streaming service with live TV channels, DirecTV Now, in 2016. The service



ANDY KROPA/INVISION 2017

AT&T said that former NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt will run HBO, TNT, TBS and truTV.

has already had its bumps, losing customers for the first time in the most recent quarter as AT&T ended deep discounts. AT&T also debuted a cheaper live-TV service, WatchTV, in 2018.

Now, it's planning to compete with Netflix and an upcoming Disney streaming service by launching a separate service built around WarnerMedia shows and movies, including what's on HBO. HBO Now will continue to exist as a separate streaming service.

Breaking down walls between WarnerMedia's individual brand empires could result in layoffs and save the company money. But more importantly, it will help spark new ideas and thus more video overall for AT&T to distribute and sell ads against, CFRA Research analyst Keith Snyder said.

"They want a lot more content coming out of Warner," he said. "That's going to help them launch the streaming service and go up against Disney. They really need to start generating more content."

The company tried to emphasize that the reorganization was more about content strategy and less about layoffs. "I don't think there are big massive layoffs coming," Greenblatt said in an interview with trade publication Variety. Wells Fargo analyst Jen-

nifer Fritzsche wrote in a note to investors last week that one immediate concern is whether the departures by longtime Time Warner leaders would affect the key staffers that make WarnerMedia's shows and movies.

AT&T argued that it needed to buy Time Warner, in one of the biggest media deals on record, to compete with tech giants such as Google and Facebook that grab the bulk of internet ad dollars in the U.S. today. AT&T wants to build a digital advertising business, with ads tailored to customers, on the back of that video. More video means more potential ad dollars and, perhaps, more subscribers.

The Turner TV business had been operating as a stand-alone entity under an agreement with the government until AT&T won again in court last week. Now AT&T can change Turner's staffing levels and be involved in its deals with cable companies.

AT&T also said this week that CNN leader Jeff Zucker is adding sports to his duties and will become chairman of WarnerMedia News & Sports. Kevin Tsujihara will remain the head of the Warner Bros. studio but take on leadership of a new business to bring together the company's family, kids and animation efforts.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow High: 25,837.61 Low: 25,633.71 Previous: 25,806.63



Nasdaq -70.44 (-0.93%) Close: 7,505.92 High: 7,579.02 Low: 7,499.87 Previous: 7,576.36	S&P 500 -18.20 (-0.65%) Close: 2,771.45 High: 2,790.27 Low: 2,768.69 Previous: 2,789.65	Russell 2000 -31.46 (-2.01%) Close: 1,536.82 High: 1,568.44 Low: 1,536.82 Previous: 1,568.28
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10-yr T-note -0.03 to 2.69%	Gold futures +2.90 to \$1,284.90	Yen -0.08 to 111.81/\$1	Euro -0.0003 to .8844/\$1	Crude Oil -0.34 to \$56.22
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Major market growth and decline

5-day % change			30-day % change			1-year % change		
DOW	NASD	S&P	DOW	NASD	S&P	DOW	NASD	S&P
-1.20	-0.64	-0.75	+1.12	+1.77	+1.46	+3.52	+1.48	+1.64

COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 19	449.25	450.50	440.50	440.50	-13.75
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 19	366	366	361	362.50	-3.50
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 19	900.50	903.50	889.50	889.75	-11.50
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	Mar 19	29.74	29.78	29.50	29.51	-0.22
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	Mar 19	306.90	306.90	301.80	301.80	-3.80
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	Apr 19	56.28	56.40	55.42	56.22	-0.34
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, \$ per mm btu	Apr 19	2.889	2.896	2.822	2.841	-0.043
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Apr 19	1.7604	1.7919	1.7524	1.7890	+0.0316

LOCAL STOCKS

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	77.70	-.52	Equity Lifesty Prop	N	111.23	-.13	Mondelez Intl	O	46.97	+0.04
AbbVie Inc	N	78.09	-.82	Equity Residential	N	73.55	-.38	Morningstar Inc	O	122.05	-.25
Allstate Corp	N	93.53	-.47	Exelon Corp	N	48.43	+0.01	Motorola Solutions	N	140.28	-1.32
Aptargroup Inc	N	100.49	-.98	First Indl RT	N	33.92	-.12	Navistar Intl	N	36.72	-.87
Arch Dan Mid	N	42.13	-.12	Fortune Brds Hm&Sec	N	46.82	-.17	NISource Inc	N	27.07	+0.16
Baxter Intl	N	74.73	-.98	Gallagher AJ	N	78.88	-1.12	Ntn Trust Cp	O	92.00	-.91
Boeing Co	N	424.46	-5.66	Grainger WW	N	302.45	+1.15	Old Republic	N	20.56	-.21
Brunswick Corp	N	52.91	+1.19	GrubHub Inc	N	76.42	-2.97	Packaging Corp Am	N	99.05	-.03
CBOE Global Markets	N	94.80	-2.11	Hill-Rom Hldgs	N	103.73	-2.03	Paylocity Hldg	O	81.75	-1.44
CDK Global Inc	O	58.15	-.32	IDEX Corp	N	145.09	+0.35	Stericycle Inc	O	47.67	-1.14
CDW Corp	O	93.21	-.63	ITW	N	142.55	-1.11	TransUnion	N	64.07	-.80
CF Industries	N	41.25	-.03	Ingredion Inc	N	90.54	-1.21	Tribune Media Co A	N	46.25	-.11
CME Group	O	174.25	-1.74	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	160.03	-5.01	US Foods Holding	N	34.03	-.38
CNA Financial	N	42.99	-.17	Kemper Corp	N	80.95	-1.79	USG Corp	N	43.10	-.03
Caterpillar Inc	N	134.83	-2.31	Kraft Heinz Co	O	32.86	-.18	Ultra Salon Cosmetics	O	312.51	+2.27
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	22.89	+0.02	LKQ Corporation	O	28.47	+0.69	United Contl Hldgs	O	84.33	-.72
Deere Co	N	158.24	-3.21	Littelfuse Inc	O	191.74	-1.62	Ventas Inc	N	61.89	-.57
Discover Fin Svcs	N	71.30	+0.27	MB Financial	O	44.15	-.82	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	61.10	-2.30
Dover Corp	N	90.96	+0.24	McDonalds Corp	N	182.03	+0.68	Wintrust Financial	O	71.64	-1.20
Equity Commonwth	N	32.81	-.08	Middleby Corp	O	124.13	+0.09	Zebra Tech	O	201.24	-.40

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.	FUND	NAV	CHG	1-YR %RTN
Gen Electric	9.11	-.78	Alibaba Group Hldg	184.17	-.83	American Funds AMCPA m	30.64	-.25	+1.1
Eli Lilly	126.68	-1.81	Alphabet Inc C	1157.86	-4.17	American Funds AMCNBA m	26.37	-.09	+3.0
Aurora Cannabis Inc	8.89	-.21	Alphabet Inc A	1164.94	-4.25	American Funds CptWldGrncA	m46.92	-.19	-4.0
Ford Motor	7.58	-.19	Amazon.com Inc	1668.95	-23.48	American Funds GrfAmrcA m	59.73	-.06	+6.3
Chesapeake Energy	2.98	-.16	Apple Inc	174.52	-1.01	American Funds FdmtInvSA m	57.59	-.32	+1.6
Bank of America	28.84	-.24	Bank of America	28.84	-.24	American Funds GrfAmrcA m	47.48	-.34	+1.3
Vale SA	12.49	-.17	Berkshire Hath B	200.67	-.80	American Funds IncAmrcA m	21.95	-.03	+1.9
EnCana Corp	6.98	-.31	Boeing Co	424.46	-5.66	American Funds InvCmrcA m	36.79	-.19	-1.1
Sea Ltd	22.88	-1.18	Exxon Mobil Corp	79.28	-.91	American Funds NwPrspctvA m	42.06	-.18	+4.4
Ambev S.A.	4.23	-.15	Facebook Inc	172.51	+1.25	American Funds WAMtInvSA m	44.56	-.27	+4.1
Elanco Animal Health	29.70	-.76	HSBC Holdings prA	25.95	-.07	DFA EMktCorEqIn	20.71	-.08	-1.1
Sprint Corp	6.24	-.15	JPMorgan Chase	103.72	-.39	DFA IntlCorEqIn	12.88	-.05	-9.0
Goldcorp Inc	10.64	-.40	Johnson & Johnson	139.09	+0.32	Dodge & Cox Inc	13.54	+0.01	+2.9
Weatherford Intl Ltd	.67	-.09	Johnson & Johnson	139.09	+0.32	Dodge & Cox IntlStk	40.85	-1.01	-10.1
AT&T Inc	29.81	-.14	Microsoft Corp	111.75	+0.05	Dodge & Cox Stk	190.18	-1.55	-1.1
BRIST Myr SqB	52.89	-.91	Procter & Gamble	98.93	-.16	DoubleLine TlRetBdl	10.43	+0.01	+3.6
Pfizer Inc	41.86	-1.03	Royal Dutch Shell B	63.64	-.10	Fidelity 500IntlXlnsPrrm	96.66	-.63	+3.6
Nokia Corp	6.10	-.06	Royal Dutch Shell A	62.39	+0.01	Fidelity Contrafund	12.21	-.07	+1.8
Abercromb Fitch	25.70	+4.35	Visa Inc	147.81	-.18	Fidelity GroCo	18.47	-.21	+7.7
Itau Unibanco Hldg	9.11	-.16	WalMart Strs	98.26	-0.48	Fidelity TlMktIntlXlnsPrrm	78.78	-.64	+3.3
Rite Aid Corp	.65	-.03				Fidelity USBdIntlXlnsPrrm	11.35	+0.02	+3.4
Zayo Group Holding	27.48	+3.07				Franklin Templeton IncA1 m	2.30	...	+4.6
Stwhstn Energy	4.63	-.05				Metropolitan West TlRetBdl	10.47	+0.01	+3.5
CenturyLink Inc	11.56	-.41				PIMCO IncInstl	11.94	...	+3.6

THE LADDER: Have a hiring or promotion you'd like to tell the world about in print and online? Go to chicagotribune.com/theladder to share your news. Be sure to include a photo. We'll publish on our site and in the printed editions of the Chicago Tribune as space allows.

OBITUARIES

JERRY MERRYMAN 1932-2019

'Brilliant' worker helped create hand-held calculator

By **JAMIE STENGLE**
Associated Press

DALLAS — Jerry Merryman, one of the inventors of the hand-held electronic calculator who is described by those who knew him as not only brilliant but also kind with a good sense of humor, has died. He was 86.

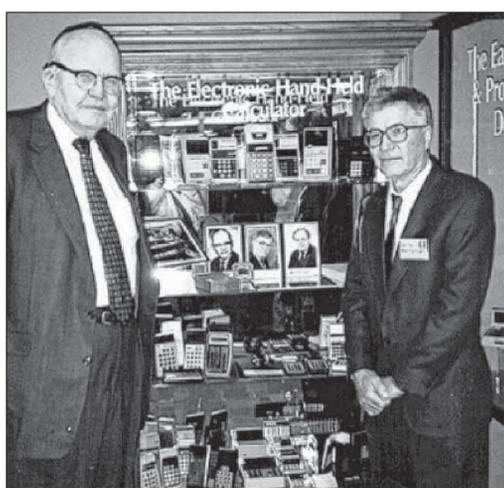
Merryman died Feb. 27 at a Dallas hospital from complications of heart and kidney failure, said his stepdaughter, Kim Ikovic. She said he'd been hospitalized since late December after experiencing complications during surgery to install a pacemaker.

He's one of the three men credited with inventing the hand-held calculator while working at Dallas-based Texas Instruments. The team was led by Jack Kilby, who made way for today's computers with the invention of the integrated circuit and won the Nobel Prize. The prototype built by the team, which also included James Van Tassel, is at the Smithsonian Institution.

"I have a Ph.D. in material science and I've known hundreds of scientists, professors, Nobel Prize-winners and so on. Jerry Merryman was the most brilliant man that I've ever met. Period. Absolutely, outstandingly brilliant," said Vernon Porter, a former TI colleague and friend. "He had an incredible memory and he had an ability to pull up formulas, information, on almost any subject."

Another former TI colleague and friend, Ed Millis, said, "Jerry did the circuit design on this thing in three days, and if he was ever around, he'd lean over and say 'night-night.'"

Merryman told NPR's "All Things Considered" in 2013, "It was late 1965 and Jack Kilby, my boss, presented the idea of a calculator. He called some people



PHYLLIS MERRYMAN 1997

Jack Kilby, left, led the team of Jerry Merryman, right, and James Van Tassel. Kilby won the Nobel Prize in 2000.

in his office. He says, we'd like to have some sort of computing device, perhaps to replace the slide rule. It would be nice if it were as small as this little book that I have in my hand."

Merryman added, "Silly me, I thought we were just making a calculator, but we were creating an electronic revolution."

The Smithsonian says that the three had made enough progress by September 1967 to apply for a patent, which was subsequently revised before the final application in June 1974.

Merryman, who was born June 17, 1932, grew up in Hearne in Central Texas. By the age of 11 or so he'd become the radio repairman for the town.

"He'd scrape together a few cents to go to the movies in the afternoons and evenings and the police would come get him out because their radios would break and he had to fix them," said Merryman's wife, Phyllis Merryman.

He went to Texas A&M University in College Station but didn't finish. His

jobs after that included working at the university's department of oceanography and meteorology and before long he was on an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico measuring the force of hurricane winds. He started at Texas Instruments in 1963, at the age of 30.

Friend and former TI colleague Gaynel Lockhart remembers a telescope in concrete at Jerry Merryman's home with a motor attached that would allow it to follow a planet throughout the night.

Despite his accomplishments, he was humble. "He wouldn't ever boast or brag about himself, not ever," said his daughter Melissa Merryman, who became stepisters with her friend Kim Ikovic when they set up their parents, who got married in 1993.

Jerry Merryman retired from TI in January 1994, the company said.

"He always said that he didn't care anything about being famous, if his friends thought he did a good job, he was happy," Phyllis Merryman said.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON MARCH 7 ...

In 1573, the Peace of Constantinople ended the war between Turkey and Venice.

In 1849 horticulturist Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Mass.

In 1850, in a three-hour speech to the U.S. Senate, Daniel Webster endorsed the Compromise of 1850 as a means of preserving the Union.

In 1854 Charles Miller of St. Louis patented a sewing machine that could stitch buttonholes.

In 1875 composer Maurice Ravel was born in Cibourne, France.

In 1876 Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his telephone.

In 1901 the bluebonnet was adopted as the state flower of Texas.

In 1911 the United States sent 20,000 troops to the Mexican border as a precaution in the wake of the Mexican Revolution.

In 1926 the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversation took

place, between New York and London.

In 1936 Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1965 a march by civil-rights demonstrators was broken up in Selma, Ala., by state troopers and a sheriff's posse.

In 1968 the United States and Soviet Union pledged to protect all weaker nations from nuclear blackmail and aggression.

In 1974 East Germany and West Germany agreed to establish permanent diplomatic missions in each other's capitals.

In 1975 the Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present. **Also in 1975** Cambodian government forces lost their last beach head on the lower Mekong River, apparently ending an effort to re-open

the vital supply route to Phnom Penh.

In 1978 President Jimmy Carter welcomed Yugoslav President Tito to the White House, praising him as a "true friend" of the United States, thus reaffirming support for Yugoslavia's role as a nonaligned communist state.

In 1981 anti-government guerrillas in Colombia executed kidnapped American Bible translator Chester Allen Bitterman, whom they accused of being a CIA agent.

In 1986 former Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., died in Palm Beach, Fla.; he was 81. **Also in 1986** South Africa lifted a state of emergency imposed the previous July.

In 1991 Baseball Hall of Famer James "Cool Papa" Bell, once considered the fastest man in the Negro Leagues, died in St. Louis; he was 87.

In 1994 the Supreme Court ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use" that doesn't require permission from the copyright holder. **Also in 1994** the U.S. Navy issued its first permanent orders assigning women to regular duty on a combat ship — in this case, the USS Eisenhower.

In 1995 New York Gov. George Pataki signed a death penalty bill into law.

In 1996 three U.S. servicemen were convicted in the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl and sentenced by a Japanese court to up to seven years in prison.

In 1999 film director Stanley Kubrick, whose films included "Dr. Strangelove," "A Clockwork Orange" and "2001: A Space Odyssey," died in Hertfordshire, England; he was 70.



Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Death Notices

Blazek, Evelyn Mary

Evelyn Mary Blazek (nee Nedza) 93, born in Chicago, August 1, 1925, passed away January 12, 2019 surrounded by the love of her family. She worked for the W.W. Grainger Company as a Lead Payroll Specialist for 34 years and was known as "Grandma" to her Grainger friends. Evelyn was a kind and generous woman donating too many charitable organizations through her life. Evelyn is survived by her sister, Gertrude Stefanski; nieces and nephews, Susan (Robert) O'Connell, Stephen Nedza, Karen (Douglas) Mulheron, Mary (Ronald) Pezdek, Cathie Stefanski, Michael (Tony Lopez) Nedza, Evelyn (Gus) Grubczak, Bob (Susan Gilman) Stefanski and Paul (Stacey) Stefanski; as well as thirteen grand-nieces and nephews.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Sophie (nee Barnas) Nedza, husband, Elmer Blazek, sister, Helen Nedza and brothers, Matthew (Anne) Nedza and Edward Nedza.

A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 9, 2019 at St. Ladislaus Parish, 5345 W. Roscoe St, Chicago. Interment will immediately follow at St. Adalbert's Cemetery, 6800 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or a Veterans Group of your choice, will be appreciated.

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Bonacker, Donald F.

Donald F. Bonacker, 85, U.S. Army Veteran. Longtime resident of Bellwood. Beloved husband of the late Juanita; loving son of the late Fred and Lois Bonacker; dear cousin and friend of many. Visitation Thursday, March 7, 10:00 a.m. until time of funeral service 11:00 a.m. at **HURSEN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY**, SW corner of Mannheim & Roosevelt Roads, Hillside/Westchester. Interment Arlington Cemetery. Funeral info: 800-562-0082 or www.hursen.com.



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Bovis, Dinos T. "Gus"

93, of Joliet, formerly of Chicago passed away Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at his home. Beloved husband of the late Maria Bovis (nee Pilsis); Loving father of Tom (Michelle) Bovis and Betty (Jack) Bovis-Baity; Cherished grandfather of Dena Maria Baity; Dear uncle and cousin of many. Dinos was preceded in death by his siblings Sophia and Paraskevi. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church would be appreciated. The family will receive friends at Kurtz Memorial Chapel, 102 E. Francis Rd., New Lenox, IL, 60451 on Friday, March 8, 2019 from 3-8 PM. Funeral service Saturday, March 9, 2019 with visitation at Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, Hegewisch from 9:00AM until time of funeral service at 10:00am. Interment Elmwood Cemetery, Hammond, IN. Info www.kurtzmemorial-chapel.com or 8165-485-3700

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Brasch, Edward

Edward Brasch. Beloved husband of Nancy Brasch nee Prescott and beloved ex-husband of the late Bettina "Tina" Brasch nee Appleby. Loving father of Steven Brasch, Joel (Mary Anne) Brasch, Judy (Mark) Sloane, Lori Sterling, and Linda Gershon. Cherished grandfather of Shija, Hanah, Spencer, Maxwell, Lilian, Abigail, and Noa Brasch and Samantha, Jessica, and Gabriella Sloane and Holly and Andrew Dombroski. Darling son of the late Philip and Lilian Brasch. Dear brother of the late Jerome Brasch. Dear uncle of Gilda, Philip, and Jordan Brasch. Contributions in Edward's name to the Wounded Warrior Project would be appreciated. Funeral service Friday, 12Noon, at former Congregation Beth Am, 225 McHenry Road, Buffalo Grove. Interment to follow at Shalom Memorial Park, Arlington Heights. Arrangements by **Mitzvah Memorial Funerals**, 630-Mitzvah (630-648-9824) or www.MitzvahFunerals.com.



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Ciccone, Rose B.

Rose B. Ciccone, nee Melone, age 94, of Morton Grove. Beloved wife of the late Raymond; dear sister of the late Emily (the late Mario) Peppitone, Margaret Malone, Helen (the late Tom) Malone-Corrigan, Jean (the late Michael) Milano, Marlene Garza, Joanne (the late Leon) Lieberman, Viola (the late Joseph) Romanelli, and Anne (the late George, Jr.) Schoeneck; fond sister-in-law of the late John (the late Carmella) Ciccone, Mary (the late Joseph) Pusateri, Lucille (the late Hugo) Di Pasquale, Emil (the late Felicia) Ciccone, and Edward (the late Nancy) Ciccone; loving aunt of many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces, and great-great-nephews. Visitation, Friday, March 8, 2019, from 9 a.m. until time of Prayers, 10:15 a.m., at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Funeral Mass, 10:30 a.m., at St. Peter Catholic Church, 8100 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Entombment, Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery Mausoleum, Hillside. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK, 73123-1718. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com to sign guestbook.



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Chicago Tribune

Visit: chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Cummings, Michael Joseph

Michael Joseph Cummings Jr., U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. Devoted son of the late Helen "Tudy" nee Griffin & Michael J. Cummings Sr. Beloved cousin of the late Sister Marilyn Miller, C.S.J. Loving godfather of Michael J. Bertoni & Arlene Bertoni Mancine. Cherished friend of Rich & Marie Bertoni, Marina, Jim, John & Jerry Bradley, Alice (the late John) Collins, Jeff & Arlene Leptich, & the late Chester Jaskolka, Jack Howard, Don Hogan, Pat Shannon, & Terry Murphy and countless others. Funeral Friday 8:30 am from **Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home**, 5570 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn to Nativity of Our Lord Church, 653 W. 37th St. in Chicago, for Mass at 10:00 am. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Visitation Thursday from 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm. During his journey with Alzheimer's, Mike expressed appreciation for his doctors, Dr. James Mastrianni & Dr. Adam Cifu; his caregivers from Aishling Companion Home Care; and his devoted counselors Gina Lavorata-O'Hehir & Tom Gibbs. Mike was a proud graduate of Visitation Catholic Grade School, Mount Carmel High School and the University of Notre Dame. He served his country with distinction as an Officer in the United States Marine Corps. He retired from the City of Chicago as the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Aviation at Midway Airport. His dedication to Mount Carmel was legendary. He was recognized with the Mount Carmel Man of the year Award in 1977 and was inducted into the Mount Carmel Hall of Fame. In lieu of flowers, memorials in memory of Michael J. Cummings may be made to the Mount Carmel Educational Foundation, 6410 S. Dante Ave., Chicago, IL 60637 would be greatly appreciated. thompsonkuensterfuneralhome.com 708-425-0500

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Deignan, James E.

James Edward Deignan, age 67, beloved son of the late Mary and the late John Deignan; cherished brother of Cathy (Roger) McGill, Gerard (Theresa) Deignan and Julie (Charles) Schultz. Preceded in death by much loved siblings Virginia (Tom) Sullivan, Mary Therese, Colette, and John Michael. Loving uncle to Thomas, Seanne, Julie, Michael, Patrick and Kerry Sullivan, John, Colette and James McGill, Robert and John Deignan, Elizabeth, Patrick, Eileen and Nora Deignan, Katie, Mary Pat and Michael Schultz; great-uncle and dear cousin to many. Jim enjoyed a wonderful career for over 37 years as an experienced manager at AT&T. Upon his retirement, Jim joyfully shared his knowledge and practical expertise with young students as an instructor of Economics at College of DuPage and Oakton Community College. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Edward Catholic Church, 4350 W. Sunnyside, Chicago, Saturday March 9th at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Misericordia, or the charity of your choice. Interment private. Info at tohlefuneralhome.com or 773-685-4400.

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Gallagher, Michael Joseph 'Mickey'

Age 82, beloved husband of Eileen, nee Breyer, for 57 years; Loving father of Michael (Martha), Stephen (Maria), Paul (Dora), Dan (Mary), Susan (Glenn) Townsend, Bill (Jackie), and Maria (Walter) Moore; Dear brother of Margaret (Roger) Ferguson, Jim (Toni), Diane Gay, Darlene (Bob) Lippner, and John (Linda); Preceded in death by his parents, Eugene and Rose, and brother Tom; Proud grandfather of Jack, Abby, Tommy, Lucy, Sean, Morgan, Tara, Aidan, Liam, Kyle, Drew, Jafet, Vanessa, Kevin, Catie, Brennah, Brielle, Brayden, Hannah, Emma, Isla, Aoife, and Saoirse; Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews; Cherished friend to many; Visitation Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm; Funeral Saturday, 8:30 a.m. from **Curley Funeral Home**, 6116 W. 111th St. Chicago Ridge, IL., to Most Holy Redeemer Church 9525 S. Lawndale Ave., Evergreen Park, IL, Mass 9:30 a.m.; Interment: St. Mary Cemetery; In lieu of flowers, memorials made to a charity of your choice would be appreciated. For Funeral info 708-422-2700 or www.curleyfuneralhome.com



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Galowitch, Karen L.

Nee Konczyk, late of Nevada; beloved wife of Edward (retired C.P.D.); loving mother of Bethany (Michael) Morgan; proud grandma of Chase A. Morgan; fond sister of Kenneth and the late Donald. Visitation Friday 10:00am - 12:00pm at THE ORIGINAL RAGO BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, 7751 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, with funeral service at Noon. Int: Acacia Park Mausoleum. For info: 773-276-7800 or ragobrothersfuneralhome.com

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Garvin, Elizabeth Randall

Elizabeth R. Garvin died on February 22, 2019, after a short illness. Born and raised in the Chicago area, she spent most of her adult life in NYC. Family and friends will celebrate her life on Sunday, June 2, 3pm, at Church of the Ascension, 5th & 10th, NYC; and at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago this summer.

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Joan, Maloney Maria

Joan M. Maloney nee Randag, 87 formerly of Arlington Heights, beloved wife of the late William; loving mother of John (Kim), Robert, Steven (Nancy), Mary Jo, and the late William; loved grandmother of Matthew, Dillon, Erin, and Colton; dear sister of John "Bucky" (Nancy), Stephen (Ruth), and the late William (Aileen) Randag; cherished aunt of many. Memorial visitation from 11:30 am until time of Memorial Mass at 12:30 pm, Saturday at St. Edna Catholic Church, 2525 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arl. Hts, Ill. In lieu of flowers, contributions to STARAbility Foundation, 5125 Castello Drive, Naples FL 34103, starability.org appreciated. Funeral Information and condolences www.GlueckertFuneralHome.com or (847) 253-0168.



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Jeneipp, Jean Marshall

Jan Marshall Jeneipp, born May 16, 1925, passed away on February 16, 2019. He was the beloved husband of Phyllis Marie Jeneipp for over 68 years. Jean was a WWII veteran with the 44th division. After the war he obtained degrees in engineering at U. of I. followed by a long career as a consulting engineer. A life-long Cub fan, he threw out a first pitch in 2015. He is survived by loving sons David, his wife Leslie and their children Everitt and Sarah; Brian and his wife Ashima; Mark and his wife Thitaya; Walter, his wife Angie and their daughter Emma.

Memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at **Pilgrim Congregational Church**, 460 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60302.

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WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS	
March 6	
Powerball	06 10 21 35 46 / 23
Powerball jackpot:	\$381M
Lotto jackpot:	\$12M
Pick 3 midday	725 / 7
Pick 4 midday	7641 / 4
Lucky Day Lotto ending	02 19 29 43 45
Pick 3 evening	674 / 8
Pick 4 evening	9048 / 0
Lucky Day Lotto ending	03 16 26 31 33
March 8 Mega Millions:	\$45M
WISCONSIN	
March 6	
Megabucks	03 05 07 19 45 49
Pick 3	159
Pick 4	9621
Badger 5	14 16 22 24 31
SuperCash	03 11 14 23 30 32

INDIANA	
March 6	
Lotto	09 20 26 34 42 43
Daily 3 midday	605 / 5
Daily 4 midday	1282 / 1
Daily 3 evening	663 / 5
Daily 4 evening	4627 / 1
Cash 5	02 07 23 33 41
MICHIGAN	
March 6	
Lotto	04 10 12 28 36 45
Daily 3 midday	080
Daily 4 midday	4101
Daily 3 evening	135
Daily 4 evening	2289
Fantasy 5	02 07 13 26 34
Keno	05 11 18 21 33 36 39 49 50 55 63 65 66 67 69 71 72 73 74 76 78 80

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Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Kimmeth, Evelyn H.

Evelyn H. Kimmeth, age 91 and the youngest of 4 children of Frank and Helen Sczcepkowski, passed away peacefully on March 3, 2019. In 1954, she married Robert C. Kimmeth Sr. and they lived in Morton Grove for almost 50 years. She is survived by her two children Robert Jr. and Jacqueline Kushnir, six grandchildren (Matthew, Ben, Jessica, Theo, August and Mabel) and other loving relatives and friends. Visitation is Friday (3/8), 4 PM to 9 PM at **Skaja Terrace Funeral Home**, 7812 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Niles; lying in state on Saturday (3/9) at St. Gregory Church, 5545 N. Paulina St. in Chicago from 9:30 AM until the funeral Mass at 10:30 AM. Interment is at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines. Donations to the Alzheimer's Association appreciated, in lieu of flowers. Funeral info: 847-966-7302 or www.skajafuneralhomes.com.



SKAJA Terrace
Funeral Home & Cremation Services

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Koerber, William B.

William "Bill" B. Koerber, age 93, of Crete formerly of Hazel Crest. U.S. Navy Veteran of WWII. Beloved husband of Renee Koerber nee Stanius. Loving father of Stephen, Michael (Ann), James, Kathryn (Timothy) James, Peter (Diane) and Jeffrey Koerber. Dear grandfather of 11, great-grandfather of 12. Fond brother of the George, Fred and Ken Koerber, Carol Silva and the late Larry Koerber. Bill was a retired Architect for many Chicago Architectural Firms. A Memorial Visitation and Service will be held on Saturday March 9, from 10 am until the time of Service at 11 am. Military honors will be provided at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL in June. In Lieu of flowers Memorials to the "Honor Flight Chicago" For additional info contact tewryanfh.com or 708-798-5300



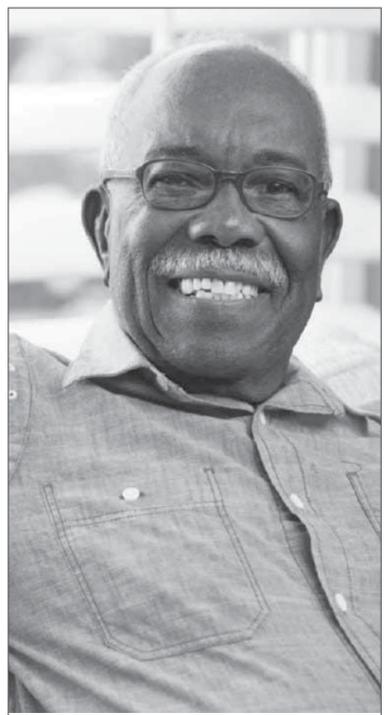
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Kokas, Frances Ann

Frances Ann Kokas, of Elmhurst, age 81, passed away on Friday, March 1, 2019 in her home. Born November 3, 1937 in Chicago, she was the daughter of the late Dominick & Esther (nee Potter) Alvino. She will be dearly remembered for her love, style, class and grace. She is survived by her three children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren and the many who loved her. Funeral Service was held at Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. Interment Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery. Memorial donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org) appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to Chris J. Balodimas, Director. For further info 708-F-U-N-E-R-A-L. Chris J. Balodimas



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Mahoney, Denis J.

Denis James Mahoney, age 65, precious and devoted son of Rosemary and the late Denis Mahoney; cherished brother of Mark and Nancy (Louis) Caputo; adored uncle of Shane, Kelly (Jason) Blons, and Frank and Cara Caputo. He will be lovingly remembered by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Denis was a graduate of St. John Brebeuf School, Notre Dame of Niles High School, and Western Illinois University. Denis enjoyed all sports- especially golf, and passionately rooted for the Bears, Cubs, and Blackhawks. He will be enormously missed by all who knew him. His funeral Mass will be held at St. John Brebeuf Church 8301 N. Harlem Avenue Niles on Saturday, March 9th at 12:00 Noon. Interment Maryhill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Misericordia would be appreciated. Arrangements by **Skaja Terrace Funeral Home**. Funeral info: 847-966-7302 or www.skajafuneralhomes.com



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Mattei, Mary Marol

March 5, 2019 our sweet Mary succumbed to the ravishes of a long and unrelenting battle with Lupus and heart failure. She is survived by her loving husband, Giovanni, her brother Ralph and nephew Matthew. Mary's legacy is that of bringing people together and being very generous. She drew to her a wide net of friends from all walks of life. She never once considered herself better than anyone. She was the most loving and forgiving person. And she will be missed. Mary lived in Rome, Italy for over 20 years, where she met her husband Giovanni, who worked at the U.S. Embassy. He has been a constant comfort to her during her long illness. She was accomplished. Her ability to get results enabled her to become a prominent part of the USO in Rome, where she staged events for U.S. dignitaries and servicemen for years. She co-owned and managed a family real estate business in Chicago. She was very happy with her marriage, accomplishments and faith. Mary leaves us to learn from her rare and simple grace. Visitation Friday 9 am to 10 am at Our Lady of Pompeii Shrine 1224 Lexington Ave, in Little Italy. Funeral mass 10 AM. Int. Acacia Park. For info 773-276-7800 or ragofuneral.com.

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McCormick, Robert T.

Robert Thurman "Mac" McCormick, a US Army Veteran, 74, passed peacefully at home on March 6th, 2019. He is survived by his wife Maureen, daughter Elizabeth (Vince), sons Chris & Matthew, grandchildren Charlie, LuLu, & Maggie, sister Sally Wilkins, and a large extended family. Visitation will be on Saturday, March 9 from 9:00 and 11:30 AM at Notre Dame in Clarendon Hills with a mass to follow. Arrangements by **Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale**. 630-703-9131 or www.powell-funeraldirectors.com



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Modesto, Narciso

Narciso G. Modesto, 98, passed away on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Narciso was born in Chicago, IL on November 14, 1920, to Fermina (nee Ciani) and Marcello Modesto. Loving husband to the late Florence; loving father to Narciso (Shawn), Michele (David) and Mark (Susan); and loving grandfather to Marissa & Nicholas (Heidi), Michael (Meaghan) & Kristen, and Mark & Kristina; and loving great-grandfather to five great-grandchildren, Dylan, Riley, Aidan, Thomas, and Jackson.

Narciso served in the Navy during World War II in the Pacific theater aboard LST 778 and was honorably discharged at Great Lakes Naval Base at the end of the war. He returned home to marry his sweetheart, Florence, in 1945. Narciso continued his education, graduating with an degree from the Mies van der Rohe Architectural School at Illinois Institute of Technology. Beginning his career with John Caretti & Company, he helped to build it into one of the premier terrazzo contractors in the nation. Narciso rose to eventually own the company outright. During his career, Narciso served as president of the National Terrazzo Association, and was integral in bringing innovative terrazzo concepts to the commercial flooring industry. The United Terminal at O'Hare Airport is a notable example of Caretti's terrazzo flooring achievements.

Narciso and Florence moved to Lake Forest in 1966 to raise their family. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, and VFW. Narciso, Florence, and family were active parishioners at The Church of St. Mary in Lake Forest. Narciso and Florence travelled extensively throughout Europe and the United States, and enjoyed many happy family vacations. Visitation will be held from 4pm - 8pm, Friday, March 8, 2019 at Wenban Funeral Home, 329 Vine Avenue, Lake Forest, IL. Funeral Mass will be at 11:30 am, Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the Church of St. Mary, 175 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL. Entombment will be at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, IL. Memorial contributions can be directed in loving memory of Narciso Modesto to Catholic Charities, 721 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60654. Info: Wenban Funeral Home (847) 234-0022 or www.wenbanfh.com



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Moncek, Michael J.

Michael J. Moncek, 53, of North Barrington, IL passed away unexpectedly on February 23, 2019. He was born on June 27th, 1965 in Des Plaines, IL. Beloved husband of Mary Ann, nee Duppler. Proud father of Michael, Jaclyn, Brittany and Tyler. Loving brother of Carol (Kevin) Thompson, Linda (David) Steffens, Pamela (Jeff) Sorensen and Julie (David) Boesen. Dear uncle, cousin, nephew and brother-in-law to many. Preceded in death by his parents George and Rosemary Moncek and his brother George. Mike was a successful business owner, but he counted his family and friends as his greatest treasures. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Michael's name to the American Heart Association or your local animal shelter. Visitation Friday, March 8, 2019 from 4-8 PM at **Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home**, 185 E. Northwest Hwy., Palatine. Family and friends will meet Saturday, March 9, at St. Anne Church, 120 N. Ela Street, Barrington for visitation from 9 AM until time of Funeral Mass at 10 AM. Interment will be private. 847-359-8020 or www.smithcorcoran.com



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Moriarty, Katie

Katie Moriarty nee Foley, age 89, passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 5, 2019. Katie is remembered by many friends and family from her childhood home in Castlemaine, Co. Kerry, Ireland. She was blessed with 13 siblings, some who are living and some who have passed on. They are from Oak Lawn, Ireland, England, Wales, and Australia. She married the late Florence Moriarty and immigrated to the United States. Here, she lived a full and joyous life surrounded by her four children, Daniel Ret. CFD (Kathy), Dennis (Kathy), Jerry (Christine), and Mary (David) Wisniowicz, and her grandchildren, Danny, Katie, Brendan, Meaghan, Eileen, Tim, Brian, and Caitlin. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Loving sister-in-law of many. Katie will be missed dearly by them for her endless laughs and love she showed each of them. She had many interests and never had a boring moment. She was involved with senior swim, an avid bingo player, and an active member of the Women's Auxiliary Council at St. Louis de Montfort.

Katie will be dearly missed by many, but will be remembered for her spontaneous and spunky spirit, a trait that resides in every person that was fortunate to meet and know her.

Visitation Sunday 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Funeral Monday 8:30 am from the **ROBERT J. SHEEHY & SONS FUNERAL HOME-BURBANK**, 4950 W. 79th Street, to St. Albert the Great Church for Mass at 9:30 am. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. 708-857-7878 or www.sheehyfh.com



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Murphy, Barbara

Barbara A Murphy, a resident of Glen Ellyn since 1962, passed away Sunday March 3rd.

Barbara was the longest serving DuPage County Republican Chairwoman. She was dedicated to good government and the Republican Party. She began her career as a volunteer for Richard Nixon's campaign in California in 1960. She was the first woman to be elected as a Milton Township Trustee and the first woman to be elected as Chairman of the Milton Township Republican Central Committee's organization. Barbara served under Secretaries of State George Ryan and later, Jesse White as a member of the Illinois Motor Vehicle Review Board. By the appointment of Governor Jim Edgar, she served for 5 years on the Illinois Toll Highway Advisory Board. Barbara was a State Central Committeewoman for the 6th Congressional District in the 1980's. Concurrently she was on the Board of DuPage Civic Center Authority and the DuPage County Domestic Violence Task Force. She always credited Chairman James "Pate" Philip for including her as the only woman in the proverbial "all male smoke filled" meetings. Just as the Republican National Conventions were the highlight of her political career, her satisfaction in mentoring a person who wanted to become involved in the political system was her greatest fulfillment. Barbara was a strong believer in inclusiveness and loyalty. Barbara was a member of the Inland Western Retail Sales Trust Board. She was a founding member of "The Friends of Family Shelter." And a former co-owner of the "Daffy Down Dilly" gift shop of Glen Ellyn.

Growing up in Connecticut, Barbara attended Greenwich Academy and Skidmore College. She is survived by her sons, David (Patti), Jeffrey (Kim), Brooks (Amy), Bradley (Bridget), nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Visitation Saturday, March 9 from 10AM - 12PM at Leonard Memorial Home (565 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn 60137) with funeral service to follow at 12PM at Leonard. Interment to follow at Forest Hill Cemetery, Glen Ellyn.

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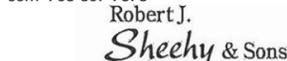
Neumann, Magdalena

Beloved wife of the late Wilhelm; loving mother of Gloria Cairns (William II), Arlene Zingsheim (Wayne), and William Neumann; dear grandmother to Lisa, Billy III, Michael, Brittney, Lauren, Eric, Sean, and Nicole; proud great grandmother to Vincent, Anthony, and Leiha; fond sister to Barbara Amey. Visitation Thursday from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at **Cooney Funeral Home** located at 625 Busse Hwy. in Park Ridge. Funeral Friday, prayers at 12:00 p.m. to St. Paul of the Cross Church for Mass at 12:30 p.m. Interment All Saints Cemetery. For information please call 847-685-1002 or visit www.cooneyfuneralhome.com

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Rutkiewicz, Lottie

(nee Krzystek). Age 99. Beloved wife of the late Harry. Devoted mother of the late Thomas (Mary Ann), and Ronald (Bernadette) Rutkiewicz. Cherished grandmother of Joseph, Christine, Glenn, Laura, and Jennifer. Proud great-grandmother of Zak. Loving sister of Mary Elipani, late Clarence Krzystek and late Gene Koran. Kind aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Friday 3-9 p.m. Funeral Saturday 9:15 a.m. from the **Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home**, 9000 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL to St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Mass 10:00 a.m. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878



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Salerno, Joseph G.

Joseph G. Salerno, age 78, owner and CEO of Salerno's Rosedale and Galewood Chapels; Cherished father of George (Megan) and Frank (Lynda) Salerno; Loving son of the late George W. and Rose G. Salerno; Dear brother of the late Linda (the late Jimmy) Colucci; Adored Papa of Tiffany (Dave), Sophia, Joey, Evan, Elizabeth and Ethan; Dear uncle of many nieces and nephews; Funeral Saturday 9:30 a.m. from **Salerno's Rosedale Chapels**, 450 W. Lake St., Roselle (3/4 mile west of Bloomingdale/Roselle Rd.) Funeral mass celebrated at 10:45 a.m. at St. Isidore Catholic Church. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Visitation on Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For info (630) 889-1700



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Schwartz, Patricia Ann

We regret to inform all those who loved our mom that she passed away in her sleep on February, 28, 2019. Her peaceful ending came after 87 years of life filled with love and happiness. When asked how she lost 15 pounds in her 20's she famously replied, "I switched from beer and peanuts to martinis and cigarettes". She loved collies and folies and sunny days on the beach. She taught us that you can't soar with the eagles in the morning if you hoot with the owls at night; but that the owls have way more fun. She leaves behind her sons David, Allen(Janet) and Lewis (Karla) ; 10 grandchildren, Jeffrey (Stephanie),Katherine Daigle (Andrew),Charles (Katherine),Rebecca, Amanda, Margaret (Jonah),Ollivia, Alex, Anna and Henry ; and 3 great grandchildren, Bennett, Silas Daigle and James. On the bright side, heaven just added a beautiful southern belle where her husband gets to welcome her with open arms. We love you mom

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Vasilj, Andrija

Beloved husband of Zdenka (nee Dugandzic); loving father of Ana Maria and Tomislav "Tom" Vasilj; beloved son of the late Mate and Sima Vasilj; dear brother of the late Mara (the late Jozo) Bukmir, the late Franjo (the late Jagoda) Vasilj, Ruza (the late Blago) Vasilj, Kata (the late Jakov) Dugandzic, the late Vida (the late Jozo) Vasilj, and the late Tomislav (the late Sima) Vasilj; fond uncle, great uncle, cousin, and friend of many; many relatives and friends located in Herzegovina, and Croatia. Member of St. Jerome Croatian Parish. Visitation Friday 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at **Michael Coletta Sons Funeral Home** 544 W. 31st St. (Chicago) Funeral Mass Saturday 1 p.m. at St. Jerome Croatian Parish 2823 S. Princeton Ave Mass 1 p.m. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. For Service info (312)225-8500 or www.colettasonsfuneralhome.com

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Yatsushiro, Anne 'M'

Anne M. Yatsushiro; beloved wife of the late Kenji; loving mother of Christine (Richard) Guro, Therese Vickers (Jim Korpolinski) and Stephen (Sue); cherished grandmother of 5 and great-grandmother of 3; fond sister of Margaret Miyashiro. Visitation Saturday 1-5 PM with prayer service at 3 PM At **Gibbons Family Funeral Home** 5917 W. Irving Park Rd (½ Block East of Austin). Interment Private. For info 773-777-3944 or www.GFFH.com

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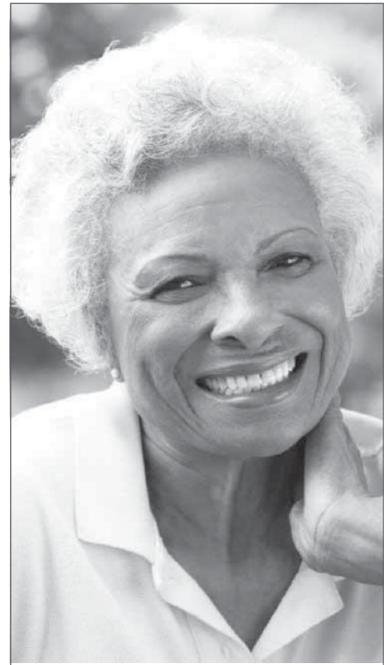


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SEARCHING FOR DESCENDANTS
Czech attorney is searching for descendants of:
Jan (John) and Antonia VRBA, who lived in
Chicago 1919. Collectible Books & Magazines.
DR Tbl w/Chairs, China Cabinet, BR SETS, Model
Chairs, Marble Coffee Tbl, Couch, Rocker, Shelf
Units & Book Cases, Piano, Lamps, Rugs, Art,
Jewelry inc. Sterling, Watches, Vintage Cloth-
ing, Collectibles, Dolls, Doll House, Glassware
& Crystal, Books galore; Huge CD Collection
Electronic & Stereo; Kitchen & Household
Items, Dishes; Home Decor; garden Tools; Bikes;
Linen; Bar Items; XMAS; Photo Supplies inc.;
Epson Printer, Frames, Matting etc.; Home Office;
Typewriters & TONS MORE! #s at 8:00AM Friday.
More info - www.emeraldsales.biz and click on
current sales.

Please contact:
Judt, Jiri Sehnal
Piotrictkyh zena 27
Kolin IV
Czech Republic
or Email: jirsehnal@volny.cz

CONDUCTED HOUSE SALES
Kildeer March 8-9-10
21654 N. Hampton Court 9:00AM-4:00PM
HUGE 6 BEDROOM HOME w/BASEMENT & 2 CAR
GARAGE LOADED! Power & Hand Tools, Model
Chairs, Real Train Collectible, Books & Magazines,
DR Tbl w/Chairs, China Cabinet, BR SETS, Dresser,
Chairs, Marble Coffee Tbl, Couch, Rocker, Shelf
Units & Book Cases, Piano, Lamps, Rugs, Art,
Jewelry inc. Sterling, Watches, Vintage Cloth-
ing, Collectibles, Dolls, Doll House, Glassware
& Crystal, Books galore; Huge CD Collection
Electronic & Stereo; Kitchen & Household
Items, Dishes; Home Decor; garden Tools; Bikes;
Linen; Bar Items; XMAS; Photo Supplies inc.;
Epson Printer, Frames, Matting etc.; Home Office;
Typewriters & TONS MORE! #s at 8:00AM Friday.
More info - www.emeraldsales.biz and click on
current sales.

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.
Y19000680 on the
Date: February 25, 2019
Under the Assumed Name of: MGCULTURE
with the business located at:
1649 E 50th St Unit 6C
Chicago, IL 60615
The true name and residence Address of
the owner is: Michael George Barnes
1649 E 50th St Unit 6C
Chicago, IL 60615
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.
Y19000698 on the
Date: 03/01/2019
Under the Assumed Name of: Chtown Style
with the business located at:
5822 N. West Circle
Chicago, IL 60631
The true name and residence Address of
the owner is: George Kelly
5822 N. West Circle
Chicago, IL 60631

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Ms.Janet 708-654-3138

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.
Y19000521 on the
Date: February 11, 2019
Under the Assumed Name of: STUDIO HAIR
SALON
with the business located at:
1712 GLENVIEW ROAD
GLENVIEW, IL, 60025
The true name and residence Address of
the owner is: NANCY J VICTOR
9317 N LONG
SKOKIE, IL, 60077

LEGAL NOTICES
GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION
Project Based Voucher Wait List Opening
Access West Cook - Scattered Site Housing

The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)
will be opening a site-based wait list for one
and two bedroom project-based voucher
(PBV) units for Access West Cook (AWC), 42
units of scattered site housing located in
Bellwood, Berwyn, Forest Park, and
Maywood. The units will be ready for
occupancy at various times throughout the
next 12 months. The PBV Program is a rental
assistance program where the resident pays
30% of his/her income towards the rent to
the owner and the HACC subsidizes the
remainder.

To be eligible for the AWC PBV units, the
head of household, co-head, or spouse must
have a verifiable disability. Applicant's
income may not exceed the very low income
limit (50% AMI), which is \$29,650 for a 1
person household; \$33,850 for a 2 person
household; \$38,100 for a 3 person
household; and \$42,300 for a 4 person
household. Additionally, certain units are
restricted to households whose income does
not exceed the extremely low income limit
(typically 30% AMI), which is \$17,800 for a 1
person household; \$20,350 for a 2 person
household; \$22,900 for a 3 person
household; and \$25,400 for a 4 person
household.

Priority preference will be given to applicants
who are currently on the HACC's Housing
Choice Voucher (HCV) wait list. Preferences
may also be given to families who are
literally homeless; who are Veterans; or who
are victims of domestic violence, dating
violence, sexual assault, or stalking (referred
to as VAWA collectively). Applicants claiming
a preference must be able to demonstrate
they qualify for the preference. Those
claiming to be literally homeless must
submit the HACC's Homeless Verification
Form along with supporting documentation
at the time of application. Those claiming
VAWA must submit the VAWA Certification,
Form HUD-5382, along with supporting
documentation at the time of application.
Preferences are assigned a point value and
applied cumulatively before the time/date of
application.

Application packages, which consist of the
Pre-Application, Homeless Verification Form
if applicable, and the VAWA Certification
Form if applicable, are available for
download on the HACC website at
www.thehacc.org. Click on See Our Open
Wait List link on the Home Page and scroll
down to the Project Based Voucher section
for the Access West Cook application
package. Completed application packages
will be accepted by mail or email only at the
addresses listed below beginning on
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 10:00am.
Application packages submitted before
10:00am will be rejected. The wait list will
remain open until we receive 50 completed
application packages, which must be
submitted by one of the following methods:

By Mail:
The Housing Authority of Cook County
Attention: AWC PBV Wait List
175 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 350
Chicago IL 60604

By Email:
pbvwaitlist@thehacc.org
Subject: AWC PBV Application

Applications mailed or emailed to any other
address will be rejected.

If you need assistance or require a
reasonable accommodation, please send an
email to pbvwaitlist@thehacc.org, with AWC
Reasonable Accommodation as the SUBJECT

Equal Housing Opportunity
Equal Housing Opportunity
Please contact:
Judt, Jiri Sehnal
Piotrictkyh zena 27
Kolin IV
Czech Republic
or Email: jirsehnal@volny.cz

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
Alissa Hale-Kirby AKA Alisha Hale-Kirby
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Nakiesha Hale-
Kirby (Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 16JA00960

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Unknown (Father)
Any And All Unknown Fathers Any
respondents, and to All Whom It May
Concern, that on February 26, 2019, a
petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF 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 03/27/2019, at 9:30 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
terminate your parental rights and appoint
a guardian with power to consent to
adoption, you may lose all parental
rights to the child.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be
entitled to further written notices or
publication notices of the proceedings in this
case, including the filing of an amended
petition or a motion to terminate parental
rights.
UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and
show cause against the petition, the
allegations of the petition may stand
admitted as against you and each of you,
and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 7, 2019

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
Amelia Green
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Julia Green
(Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 19JA00128

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Unknown (Father),
respondents, and to All Whom It May
Concern, that on February 11, 2018, a
petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge Patrick Murphy in
the Cook County Juvenile Court Building,
1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois,
ON 03/27/2019, at 9:00 AM in CALENDAR
14 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as
this case may be heard, an adjudicatory
hearing will be held upon the petition to
have the minor declared to be a ward of the
court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS
CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY
AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO
TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO
CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL
PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE
PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF
YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT
OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT
TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL
RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be
entitled to further written notices or
publication notices of the proceedings in this
case, including the filing of an amended
petition or a motion to terminate parental
rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and
show cause against the petition, the
allegations of the petition may stand
admitted as against you and each of you,
and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 7, 2019

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
Anyia Bouquet
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Francesca
Bouquet (Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 19JA00089

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Derrick Richardson
(Father), respondents, and to All Whom It
May Concern, that on December 3, 2018,
a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge John Huff in the
Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100
So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON
03/27/2019, at 9:30 AM in CALENDAR 14
COURTROOM N, or as soon thereafter as this
case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing
will be held upon the petition to have the
minor declared to be a ward of the court and
for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS
CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY
AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO
TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO
CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL
PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE
PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF
YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT
OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT
TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL
RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be
entitled to further written notices or
publication notices of the proceedings in this
case, including the filing of an amended
petition or a motion to terminate parental
rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and
show cause against the petition, the
allegations of the petition may stand
admitted as against you and each of you,
and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 7, 2019

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
Ava Kelly
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Kathleen Kelly
(Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 18JA01127

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Daniel Compton
(Father), respondents, and to All Whom It
May Concern, that on December 3, 2018,
a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge Kimberly Lewis in
the Cook County Juvenile Court Building,
1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois,
ON 03/27/2019, at 10:30 AM in CALENDAR
8 COURTROOM H, or as soon thereafter as
this case may be heard, an adjudicatory
hearing will be held upon the petition to
have the minor declared to be a ward of the
court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS
CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY
AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO
TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO
CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL
PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE
PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF
YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT
OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT
TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL
RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be
entitled to further written notices or
publication notices of the proceedings in this
case, including the filing of an amended
petition or a motion to terminate parental
rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and
show cause against the petition, the
allegations of the petition may stand
admitted as against you and each of you,
and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 7, 2019

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
Chivonne Damt'E Rhodes AKA Chivonne
Rhodes Parish Rodgers Italian Rodgers
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Sonia Rodgers
(Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 16JA00215 16JA00216

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Sonia Rodgers
(Mother), respondents, and to All Whom It
May Concern, that on December 31, 2018,
a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge Maxwell Griffin in
the Cook County Juvenile Court Building,
1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois,
ON 03/27/2019, at 10:30 AM in CALENDAR
10 COURTROOM J, or as soon thereafter as
this case may be heard, an adjudicatory
hearing will be held upon the petition to
terminate your parental rights and appoint
a guardian with power to consent to
adoption, you may lose all parental
rights to the child.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be
entitled to further written notices or
publication notices of the proceedings in this
case, including the filing of an amended
petition or a motion to terminate parental
rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and
show cause against the petition, the
allegations of the petition may stand
admitted as against you and each of you,
and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 7, 2019

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
Desiree Ponce
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Maria Cristina
Reyes (Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 19JA00117

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Ricardo Ponce
(Father), respondents, and to All Whom It
May Concern, that on February 8, 2019, a
petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge John Huff in the
Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100
So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON
03/27/2019, at 10:00 AM in CALENDAR 14
COURTROOM N, or as soon thereafter as
this case may be heard, an adjudicatory
hearing will be held upon the petition to
have the minor declared to be a ward of the
court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS
CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY
AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO
TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO
CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL
PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE
PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF
YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT
OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT
TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL
RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be
entitled to further written notices or
publication notices of the proceedings in this
case, including the filing of an amended
petition or a motion to terminate parental
rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and
show cause against the petition, the
allegations of the petition may stand
admitted as against you and each of you,
and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 7, 2019

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
Giovanni Ocampo
A MINOR
NO. 2019JD00206

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Carmen Villalobos
(Mother), respondents, and TO ALL WHOM
IT MAY CONCERN, that on February 6,
2019, a petition was filed under the Juvenile
Court Act by KIM FOXF, STATE'S ATTORNEY
OF COOK COUNTY, through her assistant
STATE ATTORNEY in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge Kristal Royce Rivers
in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building
located at 1100 South Hamilton, Chicago,
Illinois on 03/20/2019 at 9:00 AM IN
CALENDAR 58 COURTROOM 11,
or as soon thereafter as this case may be
heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held
upon the petition to have the minor declared
to be a ward of the court and for other relief
under the Act. The court has authority in
this case to take from you the custody and
guardianship of the minor.

Unless you appear at the hearing and show
cause to the contrary, an order of judgment
will be entered against you for the relief
asked in the petition.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF COURT
March 7, 2019

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY:
B. Pucci, E. Bammel
ATTORNEY FOR:
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
ADDRESS: 1100 South Hamilton
CITY/STATE: Chicago, Illinois 60612
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (312) 433-7000
ATTORNEY NO.: 33182

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT,
COOK COUNTY OF ILLINOIS

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC
EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY
IN THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND
WETLAND
March 7, 2019

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and
Individuals

This is to give notice that Cook County
has conducted an evaluation as required
by Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990,
in accordance with HUD regulations at 24
CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for making
Determinations on Floodplain Management
and Wetlands Protection. The activity is
funded under the Community Development
Block Grant (CDBG).

The Cook County Department of Planning
and Development has determined that
there is no practicable alternative for project
activities in the floodplain for the following
projects:

1506-095 Village of Posen: Sidewalk
Reconstruction of Western Ave. West to
Richmond Ave. 145th street north to 143rd;
Walter Zimny Drive North to 145th street,
Division Street west to California Ave.
CDBG grant amount: \$200,000. This project
located in Posen has been identified as FIRM
1703106433 as being partially within the
100 year base floodplain.

1806-009 Village of Dolton: Street
Reconstruction: 158th Street from
Greenwood to East End; 157th Street from
East End to Cornell. CDBG grant amount:
\$200,000. This project located in Dolton
has been identified as FIRM # 17031C0752J
as being partially within the 100 year base
floodplain.

1806-019 Village of Robbins: Sidewalk
and Curb Replacement: Lawndale Avenue
from 135th Street to Lincoln Lane, Claire
Boulevard from 135th Street to Kedzie
Avenue. CDBG grant amount: \$300,000.
This project located in Robbins has been
identified as FIRM # 17031C0639I as being
partially within the 100 year base floodplain.

1807-022 Village of Stone Park: Road and
Alley Rehabilitation: 38th Avenue from Soffel
Avenue to LeMoine Street; 39th Avenue
from Soffel Avenue to LeMoine Street.
CDBG grant amount: \$399,740. This project
located in Stone Park has been identified
as FIRM # 17031C0369I as being partially
within the 100 year base floodplain.

1808-085 UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago:
Rehabilitation of Group Homes: 616
Manchester Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154.
CDBG grant amount: \$110,000. The Group
home located in the Village of Westchester
has been identified as FIRM # 17031C0476J
as being totally within the 100 year base
floodplain.

There are three primary purposes for this
notice. First, people who may be affected
by activities in floodplains/wetlands and
those who have an interest in protection
of the natural environment should be given
an opportunity to express their concerns
and provide information about these areas.
Commenters are encouraged to offer
alternative sites outside of the floodplain/
wetland, and various methods to serve the
same project purpose, and methods to
minimize and mitigate impacts. Second,
an adequate public notice program can be
an important public educational tool. The
dissemination of information and request for
public comment about floodplains/wetlands
can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts
to reduce the risks and impacts associated
with the occupancy and modification of
these special areas. Third, as a matter of
fairness, when the Federal government
determines it will participate in actions
taking place in floodplains/wetlands it must
inform those who may be put at greater or
continued risk.

Written comments must be received by
Cook County at the following address on
or before March 22nd 2019: Cook County
Department of Planning and Development,
69 W. Washington, Chicago, Illinois Suite
2900, and 312-603-1000. Attention: Mr. Jay
Stewart, Bureau Chief. A full description of
the project may also be reviewed from 9:00
a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the above address.

Looking for a
conversation
starter?
Call 1-800-
TRIBUNE for
home delivery
Operator #125
Wed/Fri/Sun/\$2.50

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
Joshua Mattison
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Lydia Mattison
(Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 19JA00102

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Camarlo Wather
(Father) Any And All Unknown Fathers
, respondents, and to All Whom It May
Concern, that on February 7, 2019, a
petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge Peter Vilkelis in
the Cook County Juvenile Court Building,
1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois,
ON 03/27/2019, at 10:00 AM in CALENDAR
13 COURTROOM M, or as soon thereafter
as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory
hearing will be held upon the petition to
have the minor declared to be a ward of the
court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS
CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY
AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO
TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO
CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL
PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE
PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF
YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT
OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT
TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL
RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be
entitled to further written notices or
publication notices of the proceedings in this
case, including the filing of an amended
petition or a motion to terminate parental
rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and
show cause against the petition, the
allegations of the petition may stand
admitted as against you and each of you,
and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 7, 2019

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
Mercy Castro Tania Castro
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Ibinz Murillo
(Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 19JA00016 19JA00017

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Ibinz Murillo
(Mother), respondents, and to All Whom It
May Concern, that on January 9, 2019, a
petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge John Huff in the
Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100
So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON
03/27/2019, at 10:00 AM in CALENDAR 14
COURTROOM N, or as soon thereafter as
this case may be heard, an adjudicatory
hearing will be held upon the petition to
have the minor declared to be a ward of the
court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS
CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY
AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO
TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO
CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL
PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE
PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF
YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT
OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT
TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL
RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be
entitled to further written notices or
publication notices of the proceedings in this
case, including the filing of an amended
petition or a motion to terminate parental
rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and
show cause against the petition, the
allegations of the petition may stand
admitted as against you and each of you,
and an order of judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 7, 2019

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
Unique Myles
MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Alicia Myles
(Mother)
JUVENILE NO.: 19JA00041

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Michael Myers
(Father) Any And All Unknown Fathers
Any , respondents, and to All Whom It
May Concern, that on January 18, 2019, a
petition was filed under the Juvenile Court
Act by KIM FOXF in this court and that in
the courtroom of Judge Andrea Buford in
the Cook County Juvenile Court Building,
1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois,
ON 0

NEWSPAPER
EXCLUSIVE
TWO EXTRA PAGES
OF COVERAGE INSIDE

Chicago Tribune CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section,

as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors



MVC TOURNAMENT

CHII TOWNES

His first step was to find Loyola.
Now he's ready to lead Ramblers
on another magical March.

By SHANNON RYAN | Chicago Tribune

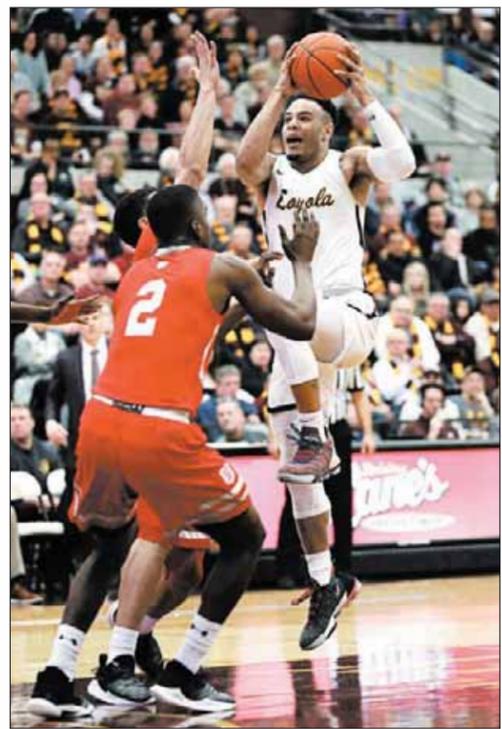
Marques Townes walked around the edges of the Gentile Arena court, high-fiving fans as team tradition dictates. A fan stopped him and said, "Here, I want you to wear this," as she put a maroon-and-gold-striped scarf around his neck.

Townes made his way to center court with his teammates to celebrate Loyola's second straight Missouri Valley Conference regular-season title and stepped to the microphone to address the crowd. The senior guard dabbed his eyes with the scarf, soaking in his final game on campus.

"We're not done yet," he said.

Townes — who was named the conference's player of the year Tuesday — has been playing like someone trying to make the most of his remaining time. He has been a beacon of consistency in an inconsistent season for the Ramblers, who begin their postseason encore to last year's Final Four run with the Valley tournament this week in St. Louis.

Turn to **Loyola**, Page 2



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Marques Townes, going up for a shot against Bradley, is averaging 15.9 points, five rebounds and 3.5 assists.



MVC QUARTERFINALS

#1 Loyola vs. Indiana State/Valparaiso winner

12:05 p.m. Friday, NBCSCH+

Calling a halt to all the spring silliness



PAUL SULLIVAN
On the Cubs

MESA, Ariz. — If it seems as if the Cubs have toned down their spring antics, it's probably because they have.

The days of Joe Maddon driving the 1976 Dodge referred to as the "Shaggin' wagon" onto the field while wearing a tie-dyed shirt and headband during workouts are history.

Strength coach Tim Buss has yet to address the players while wearing a Speedo.

There's no karaoke, no animals and no bounce house in general manager Jed Hoyer's parking space, like the prank Tommy La Stella pulled on his boss last spring.

What once resembled a Las Vegas revue can now pass for an Elks Club meeting.

If you didn't know better, you'd think Maddon might be low-keying things as he enters the final year of his contract, trying to set a serious tone after the Cubs' crash-and-burn at the end of 2018.

Turn to **Sullivan**, Page 5



JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY

BEARS

Hey, you can't judge a kicker by his signature

Chris Blewitt, a former Pitt kicker, emerges from the pack at a Bears group tryout and is expected to sign a contract. Brad Biggs' story, Page 3

BULLS 108, 76ERS 107

Butler not leaving Chicago far behind

76ers guard declares, 'This is still home'

By K.C. JOHNSON | Chicago Tribune

Jimmy Butler rose from the 30th pick in the 2011 draft to the NBA's Most Improved Player in 2015 to third-team All-NBA last season.

Until the postseason recognition that came last season with the Timberwolves, two things remained constant: Butler wanted to remain a Bull. And he wanted to win a championship.

Butler made his second return as a visitor to the United Center on Wednesday night and first since he forced his way out of Minnesota and landed with the 76ers in November.

"From the great games I had here to the terrible ones, and the best competition that comes in here tonight and right out, to playing with the players that I played with,

Turn to **Bulls**, Page 4

WHITE SOX | Left-handed slugger Blake Rutherford has a chance to make some noise in the minors. Page 5

BLACKHAWKS | Hawks go bowling for a good cause — but things get a little bit competitive. Back Page

TOP OF THE SECOND



PHIL ROSENTHAL

Delaney's tenure had warts

Jim Delany made the Big Ten bigger and richer over the last 30 years, which for many is the very definition of success.

The conference probably will name something for him or erect a statue when the retirement Delany announced this week takes effect in mid-2020. But before everyone burnishes a legacy already seemingly dipped in gold, there should be a full accounting of the good, the bad and the opportunities taken and missed.

One thing is for sure: The Big Ten that Delany leaves won't be what it was when he took over in 1989, for better and for worse.

The Big Ten now has 14 schools. Once a collection of midwestern campuses, it stretches 11 states from Nebraska across the Appalachian Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean.

Expansion has split the conference into two divisions for football, the eastern half typically boasting more strong teams.

Falling in line with other conferences, the Big Ten added a football title game and basketball tournaments, money makers that diminish the value of the regular-season schedule.

It now plays Friday night football games to appease TV.

The conference has partnered with Rupert Murdoch's Fox Sports in the lucrative Big Ten Network. Combined with other TV deals Delany has struck, member schools pocketed as much as \$52 million each in proceeds last year.

That has made the Big Ten the envy of every other conference. As a point of reference, that payout blows away the \$40 million-plus Southeastern Conference schools receive, despite the SEC's dominance in football and how mesmerized its region is by its schools.

The wheeling and dealing hasn't served Delany poorly either.

While his pay has been on the lower end among Power Five conference bosses, it's more than \$2 million a year, and USA Today reported in 2017 that Delany was set to get more than \$20 million in future bonus payments.

That's not too shabby for overseeing a nonprofit organization.

To Delany's credit, the Big Ten has avoided the pitfalls of, say, the Pac-12. Commissioner Larry Scott's salary dwarfs Delany's, and he committed resources to lavish headquarters but produced lackluster returns to member schools.

Still, one can't help wonder how much stronger the Big Ten could be in every respect if some of the millions of dollars Delany's shrewd moves produced were devoted to improving quality control.

Delany has been opposed to compensating athletes beyond the cost of attending school, though obviously a lot of cash is floating around.

Maybe a way to help them, along with



MEL EVANS/AP

Commissioner Jim Delany's impact on the Big Ten has featured both pluses and minuses.

everyone else connected to the conference and its schools, would be to use a sizable portion of the TV windfalls Delany has negotiated as an incentive — not to penalize after the fact but as a bonus to fund and promote better outcomes.

What would happen if rewards were paid for aggressive policing of programs and boosting academics as if all involved — including those of us who are Big Ten alumni — had reputations riding on it?

Unfortunately, among the areas in which the Big Ten is second to none is scandals. And those aren't just garden-variety scandals either, though there has been plenty of that awful, sometimes unlawful behavior too.

The Big Ten in recent years has been home to world-class monsters in serial sex criminals Jerry Sandusky at Penn State and Larry Nassar at Michigan State.

It will be a long, long time before the Big Ten can shake that smudge on its reputation. That these men weren't ferreted out sooner and turned over to law enforcement by their respective schools is beyond shameful.

Lesser but nevertheless inexcusable actions taint the conference from top to bottom.

Take Rutgers and Maryland, the schools Delany ushered into the Big Ten in 2014 for the sake of extending the conference's TV territory into the New York and Baltimore/Washington markets. They've been great.

Rutgers intervened with abusive basketball coach Mike Rice only when Rice's bullying was caught on tape, an imitation of vintage Indiana Bob Knight.

Maryland football tolerated a toxic culture under coach DJ Durkin until pressed about the workout death of player Jordan McNair

Every school, it seems, has contributed some scandal during Delany's tenure.

Lowlights this past year included Ohio State slapping the wrist of football czar Urban Meyer for evasions and (non-)handling of assistant coach Zach Smith's transgressions. Wisconsin opened last football season minus two receivers, one accused of sexual assault and the other having taken pictures.

Earlier bullet points in Delany's tenure include point-shaving at Northwestern and Michigan being forced to vacate two Final Four appearances because of payments from a booster.

These aren't necessarily Delany's fault. But with all of that money pouring into Big Ten headquarters in Rosemont, a truly visionary leader might see the need for and value in the conference and its schools spending more on housekeeping.

Money and size translate into power, the ability to set higher standards and change things for the better.

The mark of a truly great legacy isn't just to leave behind an institution that's bigger, wealthier and stronger but one that's cleaner as well.

LET'S PLAY 2



Thursday
Rockies
2:05 p.m.

Friday
@Mariners
7:40 p.m.
MLBN



Thursday
Brewers
2:05 p.m.

Friday
@Angels
2:10 p.m.



Friday
Pistons
7 p.m.
NBCSN

Sunday
@Pistons
11 a.m.
NBCSCH



Thursday
Sabres
7:30 p.m.
NBCSCH

Saturday
@Stars
7 p.m.
NBCSCH



Saturday
Orlando City
Noon

March 16
Sounders
Noon

THURSDAY TV/RADIO

MLB
Noon Twins at Red Sox ESPN
8 p.m. Athletics at Giants MLB Network

NBA
7 p.m. Pacers at Bucks TNT
9:30 p.m. Thunder at Trail Blazers TNT

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
6 p.m. Iowa at Wisconsin ESPN
6 p.m. Cincinnati at UCF ESPN2
6 p.m. Indiana St. vs. Valpo NBCSCH+
7 p.m. Indiana at Illinois FS1
WSCR-AM 670
8 p.m. SMU at Houston ESPN
8 p.m. UCLA at Colorado ESPNU
8:30 p.m. Ill. St. vs. Evansville NBCSCH+
9 p.m. USC at Utah FS1
10 p.m. California at Stanford ESPNU

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
11 a.m. NU vs. Michigan State BTN
1:30 p.m. Ohio St. vs. PSU/Wisconsin BTN
5:30 p.m. Minnesota vs. Indiana BTN
8 p.m. Nebraska vs. Purdue/Illinois BTN

GOLF
1 p.m. Arnold Palmer Invitational Golf
1:30 a.m. Friday Qatar Masters Golf

NHL
6 p.m. Blue Jackets at Penguins NBCSN
7:30 p.m. Sabres at Blackhawks NBCSCH
WGN-AM 720

TENNIS
1 and 9 p.m. BNP Paribas Open Tennis

ON THE WEB

For the most updated stories all day long, go to chicagotribune.com/sports

- Subscribers, open the **digital replica** for the latest results and standings.
- Sign up for our sports newsletter at chicagotribune.com/insideslant

Townes, Ramblers eyeing a 2nd magical March

Loyola, from Page 1

The top-seeded Ramblers (19-12, 12-6) must also repeat as conference tournament champions to earn a second straight NCAA tournament invitation. That quest begins Friday against either No. 8 seed Indiana State or No. 9 Valparaiso.

After being part of a balanced offense on the Final Four team — five players averaged between 10.5 and 13.2 points — Townes has carried the bulk of the scoring load in many games this season. He's averaging 15.9 points, five rebounds and 3.5 assists and has exploded in conference play with 18.1 points per game on 50.6 percent shooting, including 41.8 percent on 3-pointers.

Townes was left off the all-conference teams a year ago, when he averaged 11.1 points, four rebounds and 2.4 assists — and most memorably hit a dagger 3-pointer in the Sweet 16 against Nevada.

'This is the spot'

If Townes looks like a football player on the court sometimes, it's because he was one, garnering interest from programs such as Penn State as a linebacker at St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, N.J.

On the court, Townes uses his 6-foot-4, 208-pound frame to muscle past defenders while maintaining his speed.

"There's three different levels of a scorer," Loyola coach Porter Moser said. "Some guys get to the rim. Other guys have a 3-point game. Other guys have a midrange (jumper). There are not a lot of guys who can do all three."

"Marques worked on all three levels. He's so hard to guard. If you go under, he's good hitting a pull-up. If you go over, he's slowing down and reattacking. He's embraced the fine art and fundamentals of coming off ball screens, and he's not playing a million miles an hour."

Asked how he chose Loyola as a transfer after his sophomore season at Fairleigh Dickinson, Townes laughed.

"I don't know how I got here," he said. "I really don't."

He had to Google "Loyola" to find out where the university was located when he heard the Ramblers were interested in him. He visited with his dad, Bryant, and the connection was instant.

He ate dinner with the team at Moser's house. They watched an NBA game, laughing and joking and talking hoops. He looked so comfortable, Moser remarked,



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Marques Townes celebrates with Terri Custer, mother of Loyola teammate Clayton Custer.

"It's like you're already part of the team."

"Just being around the guys, they were such a close group," Townes said. "I wanted that."

He had a visit to Colorado State scheduled later in the week.

"I said, 'Marques, this is the spot,'" Bryant Townes recalled. "I told him, 'Marques, let's skip this (next) visit and sign. They want you and it sounds like a great spot.'"

So Townes committed on that visit.

'It was all three of us'

Townes always has been committed to winning. Success hasn't just followed him. He has sought it out.

As a child in New Jersey, he would play in up to five basketball games in a day in different youth leagues, some on teams his dad coached. He would switch his jersey in the car on the way to the next game.

One time he and his cousin were scoring so much, a parent from another team complained that they didn't live in the area and had them booted from the league, Townes recalled, laughing at the memory.

But he couldn't get enough basketball, couldn't get enough of winning.

After making a big 3-pointer or drawing an "and-one," Townes would pound his chest

or flex his muscles for the crowd. He charges down the court with three fingers in the air or roars as he runs.

"I get real emotional whenever I lose. I'm such a competitive person," Townes said. "That's why I get amped up. I just have a lot of passion for the sport."

After playing two seasons at Cardinal McCarrick, Townes thought about playing for a more elite high school team. After a Christmas tournament game as a sophomore, his opponent Wade Baldwin IV approached him.

"I pulled him aside and said, 'Hey, bro, I want to play with you. Let's go to St. Joseph,'" Baldwin said. "I saw how he played and that he played hard. I just had a good feeling. He's not only a good player, but I saw he could be a good teammate and good friend. You want that entire combination as part of the team."

Baldwin and Townes transferred to St. Joseph, requiring a move by Townes' dad, to join forces with Karl-Anthony Towns, who went on to play at Kentucky and is a two-time All-Star for the Timberwolves.

The plan worked: St. Joseph won the next two Non-Public A state titles and went 30-2 during the trio's senior year in 2013-14, also winning the New Jersey Tournament of Champions and ranking 12th nationally.

"I get real emotional whenever I lose. I'm such a competitive person."

— Marques Townes

Townes averaged 17 points, five rebounds and three assists as a senior while playing with two future NBA first-round picks. He finished his high school career with 1,863 points, including his time at Cardinal McCarrick, which St. Joseph recognizes as second-most in school history behind former Duke and Bulls star Jay Williams.

"It could have been kind of rough for him seeing two guys, his friends, going to high-major (programs)," said Baldwin, who played at Vanderbilt and now is with Raptors 905 of the G League. "He was our leading scorer. We won big games because he was part of that. It wasn't Wade and Karl and then Marques. It was never just two or one of us; it was all three of us."

"Not getting the same looks (from recruiters), it could turn you a certain way. But going back to his character, he never let it faze him."

Townes said his emphasis on football as a senior delayed him from focusing on basketball recruiting, and he missed out on some offers.

"I messed up. I waited too long," Townes said before quickly adding, "Now that I think about it, God has mysterious plans and it just works out. I'm fortunate to be in this position."

This season has been a different journey, requiring more from Townes. He and fellow senior Clayton Custer called a players-only meeting after a 67-48 loss at Evansville on Jan. 8. Townes encourages teammates to keep taking shots. He high-fives kids in the stands after games and gives team chaplain Sister Jean Delores Schmidt hugs.

"I think he's handled it great," Moser said of Townes' increased leadership role. "He wears his emotions on his sleeve. I do too. Marques is a sensitive guy. He's a real guy. You just love him."

Townes is on a quest for another magical March filled with big wins. Before ending an interview, he said he had one thing to add.

"Don't count out the 'Blers," he said.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL



BRETT CARLSEN/GETTY

Colgate's Rapolas Ivanauskas (25), battling Syracuse's Paschal Chukwu for a rebound, was named the Patriot League Player of the Year.

A right turn for 'Rap'

While NU struggles, former Wildcat Ivanauskas is taking center stage for Colgate

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN | Chicago Tribune

Northwestern's season won't have a happy ending. But a former Wildcat's just might.

Rapolas Ivanauskas is running hot. On Monday the Barrington native who transferred from Northwestern to Colgate was named Patriot League Player of the Year.

Colgate won the regular-season title and will host the conference tournament, taking on Boston University in Thursday's No. 1-vs.-No. 8 game. The tournament champ will dance into the NCAA tournament field.

"I grew up watching the 'One Shining Moment' videos," Ivanauskas said in a telephone interview. "We have three games to win before we get to be in the video."

The 6-foot-10 Ivanauskas, who goes by "Rap," was a big-time recruit also wanted by Purdue, Iowa and Creighton. But he logged just 11 career minutes over two seasons at Northwestern because of shoulder injuries and two surgeries.

He tore his left labrum two weeks before classes began in 2016 but tried to play through it.

"My shoulder would pop out every practice," he said. "It was hard ... but we made the (NCAA) tournament and it was really cool to be part of that."

More bad luck struck in July 2017. He was

playing pickup ball with fellow Wildcats Bryant McIntosh, Vic Law, Scottie Lindsey, Gavin Skelly and Dererk Pardon at Blomquist gym on campus.

"They said last game, but I convinced them to play one more," he said. "On one of the last possessions I dove for a ball and reached out with my left arm to brace myself. It completely dislocated."

That December he underwent the Latarjet operation, which involves restoring the shoulder's glenoid bone.

Sounds fun. He missed the entire 2017-18 season, which was miserable anyway, NU had a losing record and trudged to Allstate Arena for home games.

"A very hard season," he said. Ivanauskas sat down with coach Chris Collins after the season. Collins said he meets with every player in the spring and asks: How do you feel? What are your goals?

"Rap and I have a great relationship," Collins said. "There was never any animosity. ... Rap made his own decision. He wanted to go somewhere he would have a key role — and he wanted to be at a great academic school."

Ivanauskas was torn. His girlfriend, Sarah Bunda, studies at Northwestern. And many of his best friends are on the team. Had he stayed, he might not have earned much playing time.

"I didn't particularly want to go anywhere else," he said, "but it was definitely the best decision for me."

He considered Colgate, Davidson, UC Santa Barbara and William & Mary.

He chose Colgate, he said, "because the coaching staff was really direct with me. No smoke and mirrors. And the education. My mom wouldn't let me to go a school that is not top-25."

Colgate's coach is Matt Langel. John Langel, his father, is a practically a member of Collins' family, having handled contracts for both Chris and Doug Collins.

"Matt was our next-door neighbor in Philly," Collins said. "It was all about finding a place for Rap where he'd be treated and respected. I'm so happy for him and Matt. It's awesome."

The NCAA didn't approve Ivanauskas' waiver to play this season until hours before Colgate's first game.

Ivanauskas ended up having a terrific season. He's averaging 16.3 points and 8.1 rebounds while shooting 51.7 percent from the field and 43.8 on 3-pointers. Colgate's 21 victories are a program high.

Could he have flourished had he stayed at Northwestern? Who knows? The Patriot League is not the Big Ten.

"I'd like to think I would have done well," he said.

What the 21-year-old Ivanauskas knows is that he's in the right spot, at a great school, with three years of eligibility left.

How long does he plan to play in college before giving the pros a shot?

"I don't know," he replied. "I don't even know what I'm having for breakfast tomorrow."

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ROUNDUP

Northwestern beats OSU, ends 10-game skid

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Associated Press

Dererk Pardon had 20 points and 13 rebounds as Northwestern snapped a 10-game losing streak with a 68-50 win over Ohio State on Wednesday night at Welsh-Ryan Arena.

Pardon was 8 of 10 from the field and Vic Law and A.J. Turner scored 10 points apiece for the Wildcats (13-17, 4-15 Big Ten), who won for the first time since beating Indiana 73-66 on Jan. 22.

Keyshawn Woods had 15 points and seven rebounds for Ohio State (18-12, 8-11), which lost its second straight without Kaleb Wesson, suspended indefinitely last week for an unspecified violation of athletic department policy.

Wesson, a 6-foot-9 sophomore, leads the Buckeyes in scoring (14.6 points per game) and rebounding (6.7) and had 22 points and eight boards in a 63-49 win over Northwestern on Feb. 20.

Ohio State missed its first 14 field-goal attempts before C.J. Jackson scored on a



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Northwestern's Ryan Greer guards Ohio State's Duane Washington Jr.

driving layup with 11:09 left in the first half. The Buckeyes were 4 of 27 (14.8 percent) from the field in the first half for a season-low 17 points.

Northwestern wasn't lighting up the scoreboard either, hitting 11 of 28 (39.3 percent) from the field, but took a 28-17 halftime lead.

DePaul 101, Georgetown 69: Max Strus had 30 points as the Blue Demons (15-13, 7-10) easily beat the Hoyas (18-12, 8-9) at Wintrust Arena.

Eli Cain added 24 points in DePaul's second straight win, Paul Reed had 19 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks and Femi Olujobi scored 13.

James Akinjo led Georgetown with 13 points and seven assists.

Clemson 64, Notre Dame 62: Marcquise Reed scored 22 points and made a critical steal late as the visiting Tigers (18-12, 8-9 ACC) survived an upset bid by the Irish (13-17, 3-14).

Reed picked off a pass in the lane with 28 seconds to go, then made two free throws two seconds later for a 62-59 Clemson lead.

The Irish had a chance to tie with 3.1 seconds left, but freshman Nate Laszewski missed the second of two free throws to leave them down 63-62.

John Mooney scored 18 points and grabbed a career-high 20 rebounds for Notre Dame, which lost its sixth in a row.

BEARS

One more kicker put in the mix

Ex-Pitt star Blewitt signed after tryout at Halas Hall

BY BRAD BIGGS | Chicago Tribune

The Bears' search for a kicker continued Wednesday at Halas Hall with the second known group tryout, and former University of Pittsburgh kicker Chris Blewitt emerged from the pack.

Blewitt, a free agent without NFL experience, won Jamie Kohl's field-goal competition last month in Phoenix, and the Bears announced Wednesday evening they signed him to a contract.

The highlight of Blewitt's college career came as a senior in 2016 when his 48-yarder in the final seconds lifted the Panthers to a 43-42 victory over second-ranked and eventual national champion Clemson. He went to camp with the Steelers in 2017 but has been looking to land a job since, and the Bears were interested after he performed well at Kohl's camp.

Blewitt kicked for four seasons at Pitt, making 10 of 17 field goals in his senior year. His best season came as a freshman in 2013, when he made 14 of 18. He wasn't NFL-ready coming out of college but has fine-tuned his mechanics and showed well at Halas Hall in a competition that included former Buccaneers kicker Patrick Murray, among others.

The Bears now have three kickers on the roster: Blewitt; the recently signed Redford Jones, who also has no NFL experience; and Cody Parkey. General manager Ryan Pace indicated last week the plan is to terminate Parkey's contract after the league year starts March 13 in order to designate him as a post-June 1 cut and spread some of the salary-cap hit into 2020.

Kohl started his professional camps in 2000 and now works with kickers, punters and long snappers across the country. He counted 62 former campers on NFL rosters at the start of training camp last August. While his business is primarily designed to coach high school athletes and create exposure for players seeking college scholarships, he also works with professionals and said nearly 100 free agents or draft-eligible specialists participated in last month's event.

NFL rules prohibit teams from attending the event because draft-eligible players are present, but the camp makes livestreams available and the Bears took an interest in the event.

"We've worked for 20 years to build a reputation where coaches will listen to us," said Kohl, who compiles national rankings of high school specialists for ESPN. "Part of what we have tried to establish is a trust factor that if we get to know guys and work with them and so on, that they will actually pay attention."

Kohl worked with Parkey previously and has spent time with Jones.

"I remember Redford when he was in high school and saw him his early years at Tulsa," Kohl said. "I haven't seen Redford personally in probably two to three years, but he's obviously done a nice job getting noticed by Chicago."

Kohl knows a performance in a tryout or even an offseason program is only the first step for a kicker hoping to stick around.

"There is a lot that goes into a season," he said. "You have to have the physical attributes to get in the front door, but then it's, can you handle the media, the locker room, the week-to-week ins and outs, bad performances which do occur? There is a lot to it. We're still learning just like everybody else. I've gotten to see a lot of different guys that have made it and guys that didn't make it. We try to figure it out, and there is still that little bit of spice where you're not sure why some guys are successful and why some aren't."

"Some of it is situational. There are some good players that, just because of a situation, haven't been successful. Then there are other guys, like a Harrison Butker, he gets cut by Carolina and goes to the Chiefs and he is top five in any NFL statistical category when it comes to kickoffs and field goals and his production. You've got to have the talent and you've got to be at the right place at the right time and you have to handle the things that are thrown at you."

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CUBS & WHITE SOX

CUBS TAKEAWAYS

Zobrist and his ilk are vanishing breed

BY PAUL SULLIVAN
Chicago Tribune

MESA, Ariz. — Three takeaways from Cubs spring training Wednesday:

1. The Ben Zobrists of the game are a vanishing breed.

Zobrist turns 38 in May but is coming off a season in which he hit a career-high .305 with an .817 OPS in 139 games.

He's the anomaly to the latest trend in baseball, and it may not be long until players in their late 30s are phased out of the game.

"It looks like it's getting shorter and shorter if you look at the trend," Zobrist said. "They're getting rid of older players and they're pulling up young guys earlier and pushing guys that are 32 and beyond out of the game."

That would be a shame, since the game would lose a lot of knowledgeable hitters who can advise the younger players.

"It's definitely a shame," said Zobrist, who is preparing for his 14th season. "You're not getting guys with experience, and I think it's less of a finished product. If you're looking for the best baseball product, you're going to have to have a mix of older guys that have experience, and that experience is not (deemed) as valuable as it used to be."

Does manager Joe Maddon have to factor in Zobrist's age when deciding how much to play him in 2019, or does Zobrist's conditioning leave him immune to those kinds of concerns?

"I do factor it in, and that's controlled through conversation," Maddon said. "He and I talk constantly about how he's feeling."

Maddon said Zobrist seldom fights him when given a day off to rest.

"There are other times he feels good and I'm saying, 'I really feel it's the right time to not go,' and he'll concede," Maddon said. "It's a real good exchange, and he does look great."

Last year Zobrist started 52 games in right field, 42 at second base and 10 in left, along with three at first and one as DH. Maddon said "there's no question" the rest helped keep the veteran fresh.

2. Jose Quintana appears to be slated for the No. 5 spot in the rotation.

Maddon hasn't announced the rotation schedule aside from opening day starter Jon Lester, but from the current schedule it looks as if Quintana will be in the No. 5 spot.

"I don't know yet, but it doesn't matter to me," Quintana said. "I just want to help. I know Jon is the opening guy and I'm really proud of him. It's really good to follow guys like that, and guys like (Cole) Hamels, (Kyle) Hendricks and Yu (Darvish). I'm really happy to get an opportunity in this rotation, with a lot of experience."

Quintana went 13-11 last year with a 4.03 ERA, which wasn't up to his high standards. But he was his old self down the stretch, compiling a 2.92 ERA in his last nine starts.

Quintana was the ace on the Sox in 2017, when he started the opener the year after the Chris Sale trade, and he said "it's cool, it's really good when you're an ace on your team." He feels he can be that kind of pitcher again and appears to be off to a strong start this spring. Quintana threw three innings in Wednesday's 4-1 win over the Royals and has allowed no runs and five hits in five innings in his first two starts.

Tyler Chatwood also is having a good spring. He pitched three scoreless relief innings against the Royals, inducing double-play grounders in the eighth and ninth innings to earn the save. Seven of the eight outs Chatwood recorded came on ground balls, with another via strikeout.

Lester is scheduled to start Thursday's game against the Rockies, and Darvish will pitch on the back fields at Sloan Park on Friday instead of in the Cactus League game against the Mariners in Peoria, Ariz.

3. The Cubs remain the kings of the Cactus League.

The Cubs drew 12,036 to Sloan Park on Tuesday and came into the day leading all major-league teams with an average of 10,224 per game this spring.

The next-closest team in spring attendance is the Red Sox, with an average of 8,212 in Fort Myers, Fla.

Cubs put halt on all the spring training silliness

Sullivan, from Page 1

But Maddon said Wednesday he's just too busy to think of something creative.

"Everybody is asking me what's going to happen," he said. "Eric Davis asked me yesterday. There's a lot of pressure there, man, a lot of pressure. T-shirts, animals, bouncy things. ... That's real pressure. The game itself? No pressure. It's all this ancillary stuff that's got me (saying), 'I've got to think about this.'"

"We've got other things going on, a lot of fun stuff. But I'd give (former bench coach Davey Martinez) the idea and he'd run with it. Tommy had some good stuff. I just haven't been there."

"Maybe it's my fault." Yes, it is Maddon's fault. He created the circus-like atmosphere that separated Cubs camp from the other 29 spring training camps, giving writers fodder for their daily dispatches all spring long.

The Cubs' costume budget in 2016 was so high Buss once pronounced: "There is no budget." There seldom was a morning when everyone wasn't laughing, all part of a plan to reduce the monotony associated with repetitive spring training drills.

But now Maddon expects us to quit cold turkey and focus on his return to teaching situational hitting and reaching the millennial players, whom he called "sponges" Wednesday for their listening ability.

"That might just be (because it's) the fifth year together," he said. "Or maybe it's the residue of last year or more familiarity from another year together."

Perhaps it's for the best anyway. It's hard to think up new and wackier stuff to keep players entertained during six weeks of spring training, where every day can seem like Groundhog Day.

Martinez is now in Washington, where he brought some camels to camp last year as part of a "get over the (playoff) hump" message that didn't work out.

La Stella was traded to the Angels, where he can't play pranks on front-office types who don't subscribe to the frat-boy mentality of the Cubs brass.

The only prankster left in Cubs camp is Buss, but his costume budget apparently was sliced along with the team's free-agent budget.

Even the music has been turned down a couple of notches. On the first official workout day of the 2015 season, Maddon's first with the Cubs, he starting things off by blasting Jimi Hendrix's "Voodoo Child" from the loudspeakers, a not-so-subtle reference to breaking the Billy Goat curse.

"In the beginning, I wanted to have the stretch louder," he said that day. "The first thing out of the chute in the morning, get the blood flow going. And it seems to have helped. So I'm all for that."

The Cubs still play music during morning stretch, but the blood has to flow on its own volition. The guitar riffs are so soft the neighbors can't even complain.

How sleepy has Cubs camp been this spring?

Maddon, who turned 65 in February, admitted he went back to his RV on Tuesday, watched a documentary on the Bush family and "downloaded myself" before crashing out.

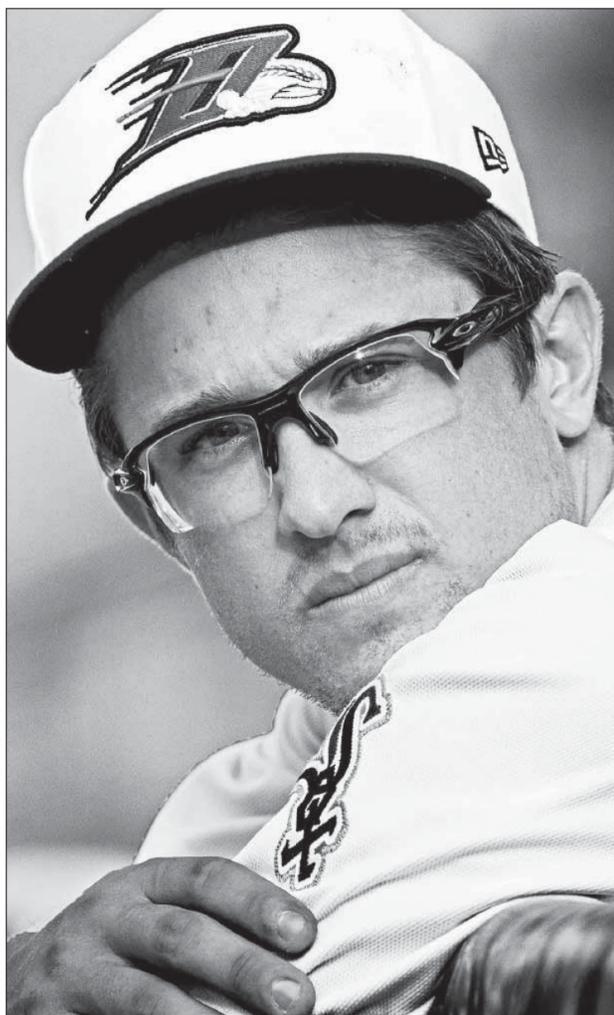
I'm not sure how you download yourself, but it sounds painful. So what are we to take from this new norm, that the Cubs are treating spring training like any other team?

Does it mean the thrill is gone on the 2016 season, or has everyone just grown up and grown older together?

There still are a few weeks left to see if Maddon can reboot, but it looks as if the spring-break party is over.

Every party ends sometime, and maybe the more serious tone will lead to a bigger and better party come October.

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JASON E. MICZEK/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Blake Rutherford, acquired from the Yankees, hit .293 with seven homers, 78 RBIs and a .345 on-base percentage last year in Class A.

Working hard to get his shot

Rutherford improving his game in attempt to make move to majors

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN
Chicago Tribune

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Fantasy rankings are based in reality. And in the case of White Sox outfielders, they tell a story.

The highest-ranked outfielder on the Sox isn't even on the Sox. Eloy Jimenez figures to arrive on the South Side around April 26. That projection is enough to make him the 36th-ranked outfielder overall by FantasyPros.com.

Next come Daniel Palka (92), Jon Jay (163), Nicky Delmonico (170), Adam Engel (175) and Leury Garcia (182).

That's a long way of saying the current Sox outfield is not exactly Rake Central. So there will be ample opportunity for players such as Blake Rutherford, one of a half-dozen highly acclaimed outfielders in the Sox system.

Rutherford, who turns 22 in May, has a sweet lefty swing and a connection to a guy who last season produced an on-base plus slugging percentage of exactly 1.000. Which is spectacular, if you didn't know.

Where he's from

Rutherford grew up near Los Angeles but loves the Michigan Wolverines, especially Derek Jeter, who signed a letter of intent with Michigan before joining the Yankees. Rutherford's grandparents are from Ann Arbor, and his parents went to Eastern Michigan.

"Growing up," Rutherford said, "Michigan (sports) was always on the TV in the house."

He even has what he called a "weird" Jim Harbaugh story.

Rutherford went to the 2007 Rose Bowl with his mother, Julie. They were standing in the restroom line when she noticed a familiar face.

"My mom of all people says, 'I think that's Jim Harbaugh, the new coach at Stanford,'" Rutherford recalled. "I was a little more shy then, but I chatted with him and took a picture with him. He was a nice guy. I was pumped (when he got the Michigan job)."

Rutherford batted .577 as a high school senior, and the Yankees selected him in 2016 with the 18th pick. They signed him for \$3.282 million and traded him to the Sox a year later in the seven-player deal that netted the Yankees Todd Frazier and David Robertson.

Rutherford explains his love for Jeter by starting with this: Both were born in New Jersey.

"He has been my role model," Rutherford said. "He played the game hard, competed every day. He was clutch in so many situations in the biggest market. In New York you can get into trouble easily, but he never had a bad rap. He always respected the fans and the media."

His game

Rutherford is a contact hitter beginning to show some pop. He slugged just .348 in 2017 and upped that to .436 last season at Class A Winston-Salem. In 115 games for the Dash, he hit .293 with seven homers, 78 RBIs and a .345 on-base percentage.

"He's young and still learning his power zone," said Omar Vizquel, who managed Rutherford last season. "It will come."

The 6-foot-3 Rutherford is doing more to add pop than staring at a tablet. He is adding left to his body, especially his lower half. He is up to about 210 pounds after breaking in at 195.

His typical In-N-Out Burger order plays some role in that: "Double-cheese, ketchup only, fries and a drink — and one more burger, ketchup only. When you go, you've got to go all for it."

But mainly he's adding good weight from a good diet and offseason workouts with a star-studded crew that includes fellow Southern Californians Tyler Saladino, Mike Moustakas, Ryan Braun, Trevor Plouffe and Christian Yelich, he of the 1.000 OPS and National League MVP fame.

"I'm very fortunate," Rutherford said. "I've been working out with Christian for two, three years and doing little drills with the guys. I don't talk a lot when I'm around them. I just sit back, listen and watch how they go about their business."

Yelich is a family friend. His older brother Cole played youth ball with Rutherford's middle brother, Collin. Blake is tight with Cameron Yelich, the youngest in the clan.

"Christian is a mentor," Rutherford said. "He always checks in to make sure I'm not being too hard on myself. He says, 'Be a hitter first and then power will come.' As I get to learn my swing more and more and understand what pitches I can drive, a lot of the line drives I hit will leave the yard."

As far as defense, Rutherford likely has the speed to survive in center field and certainly has the arm to thrive in right. During a July 4 game in his home park last season, he flipped over the right-field wall after trying to make a catch. The result was an inside-the-park homer.

"Luckily one of the groundscrew guys was there, so he caught me as I tipped over," Rutherford said. "I got a little banged up and bruised. (The game) was sold out, so it was nice and embarrassing."

What's next

Rutherford will open the season at Double-A Birmingham, likely with fellow outfield prospects Luis Gonzalez and Luis Basabe (once he recovers from a broken bone in his left hand).

Luis Robert and Micker Adolfo figure to be one level below. Jimenez will be at Triple-A Charlotte.

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MEDIA

North on air again? Bettor believe it

Radio host unretires for weekly gambling show on ESPN 1000

BY PHIL ROSENTHAL
Chicago Tribune

What was the betting line on Mike North emerging from his sports-radio retirement for a regular Chicago broadcasting gig?

Well, you can cash those tickets because North has been teamed with Carmen DeFalco to co-host "The Odds Couple," a one-hour weekly WMVP-AM 1000 show about gambling scheduled to debut at 6 p.m. Friday.

"As sports betting moves from the shadows to the spotlight, we expect to be a destination for those who participate and those who want to be entertained," Jim Pastor, ESPN 1000's vice president and general manager, said in Wednesday's announcement.

"This isn't only going to be about updated betting lines and hot tips. It's about the highs, the lows and how to succeed and have fun, whether you're a grizzled veteran or a newcomer to sports betting."

Sports betting isn't legal in Illinois, but Gov. J.B. Pritzker has said he would like to legalize it to generate revenue for the state.

A former hot-dog stand owner, North parlayed his penchant for hot water and his everyman perspective into a lucrative media career.

He was a founding host of WMVP's sports-radio rival, The Score (WSCR-AM 670), and its biggest star for many years. At his peak, he was making a reported \$1.5 million per year plus endorsement fees.

North left The Score in 2008 but continued in other media ventures across several platforms, including the scandalized internet radio outlet Webio and a morning news and talk show for CBS-2.

He announced his retirement from sports media in August 2017, though he said he wasn't giving up broadcasting altogether.

"I'm stepping away from sports radio and sports podcasting, sports columns completely, and I'm heading in another direction completely because I think the timing is right," he said on WTTW-11's "Chicago Tonight."

One of North's ongoing activities has been handicapping sports.

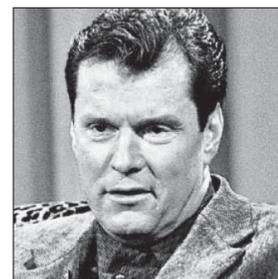
"I started handicapping at age 14 and lost for 40 years but haven't had a losing year in the last five," North said in ESPN 1000's announcement. "You are judged by your picks and wins, and that's why this show will be No. 1. I've always said gambling and winning is about believing and confidence. Scared money has no home."

The Score has its own weekly betting program, "Early Odds," a half-hour show with Joe Ostrowski at 8:30 a.m. Saturdays. The station also has an affiliation with the Nevada-based Vegas Stats & Information Network (VSIN) for regular reports.

Pastor dubbed DeFalco — co-host of WMVP's noon-2 p.m. weekday "Carmen & Jurko" program — "ESPN 1000's resident gambling guru." But Pastor had especially high praise in his statement for North.

"Those in betting circles already know of Mike's incredible track record as a longtime gambling expert," Pastor said. "Bringing Mike back to Chicago's airwaves to become a lead voice in local sports betting was too good to pass up."

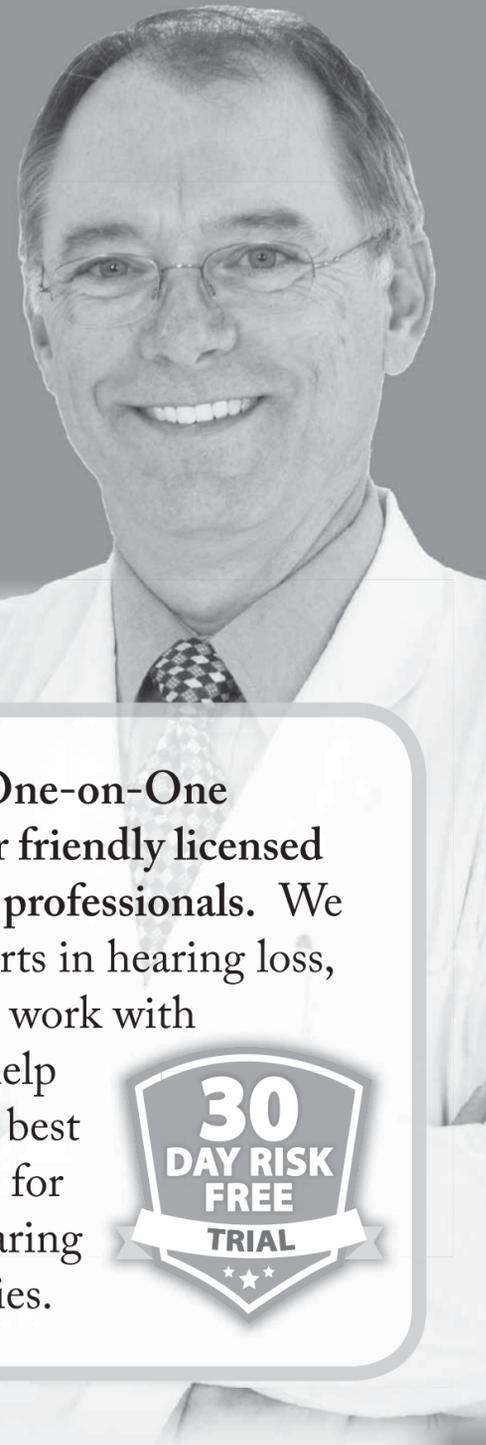
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Mike North is returning to the airwaves for a sports gambling show on WMVP-AM 1000.

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SCOREBOARD

ODDS

NBA		THURSDAY
pregame.com		
at Milwaukee	10½	Indiana
at Portland	3½	Oklahoma City

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

THURSDAY		
at Appalach. St	7½	Troy
at UConn	1	Temple
at Wisconsin	8½	Iowa
at C. Carolina	6	S. Alabama
at UCF	2	Cincinnati
at UALR	Pk	LA-Laf.
La-Monroe	3½	at Arkansas
at Illinois	2½	Indiana
at Houston	13	SMU
at Colorado	6	UCLA
at Utah	6	USC
at UC Davis	1	Hawaii
UCSB	2½	at CS Northridge
UC Irvine	12	at Cal Poly
at Stanford	11½	California
Indiana St	2½	Valparaiso
Illinois St	3½	Evansville
Pepperdine	2	Pacific
San Diego	13½	Portland
Marist	2	St. Peter's
Fairfield	2	Mannhattan
Monmouth	2	Niagara

NHL		THURSDAY
at Boston	-210	Florida
at Pittsburgh	-130	Columbus
NY Rangers	-220	at Detroit
NY Islanders	-220	at Ottawa
at Tampa Bay	-240	Minnesota
at Dallas	-130	Colorado
at Chicago	-135	Buffalo
at Edmonton	off	Vancouver
Calgary	-129	at Arizona
St. Louis	-145	at Los Angeles
at San Jose	-195	Montreal

TENNIS

ATP/WTA BNP PARIBAS OPEN

at Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, Calif.; outdoor-hard

WOMEN'S FIRST ROUND SINGLES

Johanna Konta d. Pauline Parmentier, 6-2, 6-3
Lauren Davis d. Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, 7-6 (2), 6-2
Magda Linette d. Petra Martic, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (5)
Marketa Vondrousova d. Laura Siegemund, 6-4, 7-6 (6)
Zhang Shuai d. Vik. Kuzmova, 6-2, 6-4
Amanda Anisimova d. Aleksandra Krunic, 6-0, 6-4
Bianca Andreescu d. Irina-Camelia Begu, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-3
Katerina Kozlova d. Katerina Siniakova, 7-5, 6-2
Stefanie Voegele d. S. Vickery, 7-5, 6-2
Katerina Kozlova d. Katerina Siniakova, 7-5, 6-2
Sofia Kenin d. W. Wafan, 1-6, 7-5, 6-4
Bernarda Pera d. Cat. McNally, 6-2, 6-1
Tatjana Maria d. Magdalena Rybarikova, 6-3, 6-2
Jennifer Brady d. Nao Hibino, 7-5, 6-3
Barbora Strýcová d. V. Golubic, 6-2, 7-6 (4)
Tatjana Maria d. Magdalena Rybarikova, 6-3, 6-2
Dayana Yastremska d. Daria Gavrilova, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2
Victoria Azarenka d. V. Lapko, 6-2, 6-3

MLB SPRING TRAINING

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Pittsburgh 6, Boston 1
Baltimore 9, Tampa Bay 6
St. Louis 9, N.Y. Yankees 5
Atlanta (ss) 4, Miami (ss) 0
Houston 11, Miami (ss) 5
Atlanta (ss) 8, Detroit 2
Toronto 9, Philadelphia 7
Chicago Cubs 4, Kansas City 1
Texas 12, San Francisco 5
Milwaukee 5, Arizona 4
L.A. Angels 6, Colorado 5
Cincinnati 6, San Diego 4
Cleveland 6, Seattle 4
Cleveland 6, L.A. Dodgers 1
THURSDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs. Washington at West Palm Beach, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Philadelphia (ss) at Clearwater, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Houston vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (ss) vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 2:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 2:05 p.m.
Milwaukee vs. Chicago White Sox at Glendale, Ariz., 2:05 p.m.
Cleveland vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 2:10 p.m.
Texas vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 2:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz., 2:10 p.m.
Seattle vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 7:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz., 8:05 p.m.

GOLF

PGA TOUR STATISTICS

FedExCup Season Points
1, Xander Schauffele, 1,298,233. 2, Matt Kuchar, 1,238,933. 3, Gary Woodland, 997,614. 4, Charles Howell III, 955,733. 5, Justin Thomas, 948,333. 6, Rickie Fowler, 934,033. 7, Marc Leishman, 931,404. 8, Brooks Koepka, 870,583. 9, Phil Mickelson, 821,433. 10, Dustin Johnson, 770,416.

Scoring Average
1, Justin Rose, 68.948. 2, Sergio Garcia, 68.972. 3, Justin Thomas, 69.202. 4, Rickie Fowler, 69.237. 5, Lucas Glover, 69.513. 6, Patrick Cantlay, 69.540. 7, Tiger Woods, 69.549. 8, Jim Furyk, 69.618. 9, Gary Woodland, 69.660. 10, Xander Schauffele, 69.732.

Driving Distance
1, Bubba Watson, 318.5. 2 (tie), Louis Oosthuizen and Cameron Champ, 316.3. 4, Lucas Bjerregaard, 315.8. 5, Luke List, 314.6. 6, Rory McIlroy, 313.7. 7, Hideki Matsuyama, 313.4. 8, Patrick Cantlay, 312.6. 9, Wyndham Clark, 312.4. 10, Matt Wallace, 312.1.

Driving Accuracy Percentage
1, Jim Furyk, 81.72%. 2, Ryan Armour, 75.33%. 3, Chez Reavie, 74.28%. 4, Brice Garnett, 73.02%. 5, Ben Silverman, 72.08%. 6, Matt Kuchar, 72.06%. 7, Kevin Streelman, 71.58%. 8, Austin Cook, 71.01%. 9, Brian Gay, 70.72%. 10, Andrew Landry, 70.71%.

Greens in Regulation Percentage
1, Kevin Chappell, 78.24%. 2, Charles Howell III, 77.34%. 3, Lucas Glover, 76.11%. 4, Gary Woodland, 75.64%. 5, Matt Kuchar, 75.17%. 6 (tie), Tiger Woods, Ian Poulter, Louis Oosthuizen and Corey Connors, 75.00%. 10, Brendan Steele, 74.36%.

SG-Putting
1, Brian Gay, 1.149. 2, Dominic Bozzelli, 1.074. 3, Scott Langley, 1.072. 4, Si Woo Kim, .996. 5, Andrew Putnam, .971. 6, Patrick Reed, .967. 7, Martin Piller, .944. 8, Rickie Fowler, .934. 9, Brandt Snedeker, .894. 10, Dustin Johnson, .878.

Birdie Average
1, Justin Rose, 5.50. 2, Justin Thomas, 5.13. 3, Gary Woodland, 5.05. 4, Jason Day, 5.00. 5 (tie), Rickie Fowler and Aaron Wise, 4.96. 7, Cameron Champ, 4.95. 8, Si Woo Kim, 4.86. 9 (tie), Ryan Palmer and Bryson DeChambeau, 4.80.

Sand Save Percentage
1, Ernie Els, 78.57%. 2, Derek Fathauer, 74.07%. 3, Tommy Fleetwood, 72.00%. 4, Tyrone Van Aswegen, 70.83%. 5, Tyrrell Hatton, 68.97%. 6, Justin Rose, 68.18%. 7, Webb Simpson, 67.57%. 8 (tie), Ian Poulter and Steve Marino, 66.67%. 10, Sean O'Hair, 65.71%.

All-Around Ranking
1, Justin Thomas, 244. 2, Justin Rose, 305. 3, Rickie Fowler, 321. 4, Rory McIlroy, 323. 5, Xander Schauffele, 325. 6, Jason Day, 361. 7, Gary Woodland, 376. 8, Brooks Koepka, 379. 9, Marc Leishman, 416. 10, Matt Kuchar, 419.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. Gonzaga (29-1) did not play. Next: WCC semifinals, Monday.
2. Virginia (27-2) did not play. Next: vs. Louisville, Saturday.
3. North Carolina (25-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 4 Duke, Saturday.
4. Duke (26-4) did not play. Next: at No. 3 North Carolina, Saturday.
5. Tennessee (27-3) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Saturday.
6. Kentucky (25-5) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Saturday.
7. Michigan (26-4) did not play. Next: at No. 9 Michigan State, Saturday.
8. Texas Tech (25-5) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.
9. Michigan State (24-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 Michigan, Saturday.
10. LSU (25-5) beat Florida 79-78 (OT). Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Saturday.
11. Purdue (22-8) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.
12. Houston (27-2) did not play. Next: vs. SMU, Thursday.
13. Kansas (22-8) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.
14. Florida State (24-6) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Saturday.
15. Virginia Tech (22-7) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Friday.
16. Marquette (23-7) lost to Seton Hall 73-64. Next: vs. Georgetown, Saturday.
17. Nevada (27-3) did not play. Next: vs. San Diego State, Saturday.
18. Kansas State (23-7) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Saturday.
19. Buffalo (27-3) did not play. Next: vs. Bowling Green, Friday.
20. Cincinnati (25-4) did not play. Next: at No. 25 UCF, Thursday.
21. Wisconsin (20-9) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa, Thursday.
22. Wofford (26-4) did not play. Next: vs. VMI or Western Carolina, Saturday.
23. Villanova (22-8) did not play. Next: at Seton Hall, Saturday.
24. Maryland (21-9) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Friday.
25. UCF (22-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 Cincinnati, Thursday.

HOW WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. Baylor (27-1) did not play. Next: Big 12 quarterfinals, Saturday.
2. UConn (28-2) did not play. Next: AAC quarterfinals, Saturday.
3. Louisville (27-2) did not play. Next: ACC quarterfinals, Friday.
4. Notre Dame (27-3) did not play. Next: ACC quarterfinals, Friday.
5. Mississippi State (27-2) did not play. Next: vs. LSU or Tennessee, Friday.
6. Oregon (27-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona or USC, Friday.
7. Stanford (25-4) did not play. Next: vs. California or Washington State, Friday.
8. Maryland (26-3) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern or Michigan State, Friday.
9. N.C. State (25-4) did not play. Next: ACC quarterfinals, Friday.
10. Iowa (23-6) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota or Indiana, Friday.
11. Oregon State (24-6) did not play. Next: vs. Utah or Washington, Friday.
12. South Carolina (21-8) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia or Arkansas, Friday.
13. Kentucky (24-6) did not play. Next: SEC quarterfinals, Friday.
14. Gonzaga (27-3) did not play. Next: WCC semifinals, Monday.
15. Texas A&M (23-6) did not play. Next: SEC quarterfinals, Friday.
16. Miami (24-7) did not play. Next: ACC quarterfinals, Friday.
17. Marquette (24-6) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's or Seton Hall, Sunday.
18. Syracuse (22-7) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia or Boston College, Thursday.
19. Iowa State (23-7) did not play. Next: Big 12 quarterfinals, Saturday.
20. Arizona State (19-9) did not play. Next: vs. Colorado, Thursday.
21. Texas (22-8) beat TCU 62-48. Next: Big 12 quarterfinals, Saturday.
22. Drake (23-5) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois State, Thursday.
23. Florida State (22-7) did not play. Next: vs. Duke, Thursday.
24. Rice (24-3) did not play. Next: at UTSA, Thursday.
25. UCLA (19-11) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 Arizona State or Colorado, Friday.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

MEN
EAST
Fordham 67, George Washington 56
Penn St. 66, Rutgers 65
Seton Hall 73, Marquette 64
St. Francis (Pa.) 67, Bryant 63
UMass 87, Richmond 79
W. Virginia 90, Iowa St. 75
SOUTH
Arkansas 84, Vanderbilt 48
Davidson 64, St. Bonaventure 46
Georgia Tech 63, NC St. 61
LSU 79, Florida 78, OT
La. Tech 72, FAU 69
Marshall 94, FIU 78
Missouri 64, Georgia 39
Nicholls 63, North Carolina St. 60
Rice 79, Charlotte 70
SE Louisiana 81, New Orleans 67
S. Florida 75, Tulane 70
S. Miss. 59, Old Dominion 52
Texas A&M-CC 59, McNeese St. 50
UTSA 81, W. Kentucky 76, OT
MIDWEST
Clemson 64, Notre Dame 62
Creighton 76, Providence 70, OT
Dayton 70, La Salle 39
DePaul 101, Georgetown 69
Northwestern 68, Ohio St. 50
Saint Louis 85, Duquesne 75
SOUTHWEST
Houston Baptist 118, Incarnate Word 111
Middle Tenn. 69, UTEP 53
Oklahoma St. 67, Baylor 64

WEST
Fresno St. 76, San Diego St. 74
Long Beach St. 70, UC Riverside 57
New Mexico 73, Boise St. 72
Oregon 72, Washington St. 61
Washington 81, Oregon St. 76, OT
Wyoming 81, San Jose St. 71
TOURNAMENT HONOR LEAGUE
N. Kentucky 99, Detroit 88
Oakland 88, Youngstown St. 84
NE Conference
Fairleigh Dickinson 84, Wagner 46
LIU Brooklyn 71, Sacred Heart 62
Robt Morris 69, St. Francis Brklyn 65, OT

Ohio Valley Conference
Morehead St. 72, SIU-Edwardsville 68
UT Martin 78, E. Illinois 71
WOMEN
EAST
Albany (NY) 61, Binghamton 56
American U. 69, Navy 44
Bucknell 84, Army 66
Buffalo 75, Bowling Green 61
Colgate 77, Lafayette 67
Hartford 65, UMC 48
Lehigh 79, Holy Cross 74
Loyola (Md.) 59, Boston U. 55
Maine 69, New Hampshire 36
Stony Brook 69, Vermont 58
Wisconsin 65, Penn St. 57
SOUTH
Alabama 74, Vanderbilt 57
Belmont 74, SE Missouri 65
Campbell 59, SC-Upstate 49
Charleston S. 67, Winthrop 57
Duke 86, Pittsburgh 64
Florida 64, Mississippi 57
Gardner-Webb 67, Presbyterian 62
High Point 82, UNC-Asheville 81
Morehead St. 77, Jacksonville St. 60
New Orleans 46, SE Louisiana 45
Nicholls 89, Northwestern St. 67
Radford 84, Hampton 59
Virginia 77, Boston College 61
Virginia Tech 85, Wake Forest 63

MIDWEST
Ball St. 67, N. Illinois 64
Cent. Michigan 88, W. Michigan 57
Green Bay 73, Cleveland St. 30
Kent St. 65, Akron 55
Ohio 70, Miami (Ohio) 66
Purdue 72, Illinois 60
Toledo 70, E. Michigan 67
Youngstown St. 64, Milwaukee 58
SOUTHWEST
Houston Baptist 67, Incarnate Word 59
San Houston St. 71, Cent. Arkansas 52
St. F. Austin 65, Abilene Christian 48
Texas A&M-CC 62, McNeese St. 51

FAR WEST
CS Northridge 68, UC Irvine 58
UC Davis 87, Cal Poly 54

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

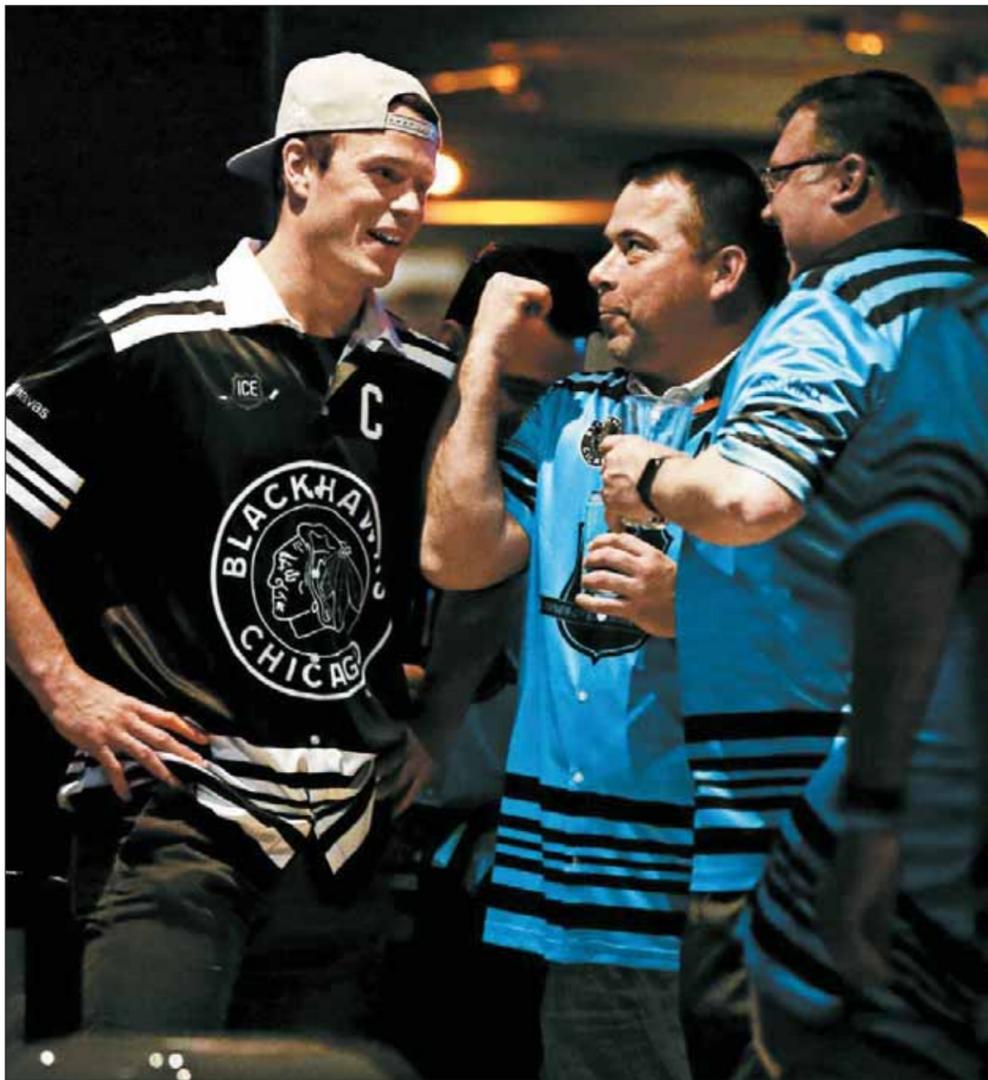
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STK	HOME	AWAY	CONF
Toronto	46	19	.708	—	7-3	L-2	27-7	19-12	28-12
Philadelphia	40	24	.621	5	6-4	L-1	25-9	17-16	23-16
Boston	40	26	.606	6½	5-5	W-2	24-10	16-16	28-13
Brooklyn	34	33	.507	13	5-5	W-6	20-16	14-17	23-20
New York	13	52	.200	33	3-7	L-4	6-25	7-27	8-35

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STK	HOME	AWAY	CONF
Miami	30	34	.469	—	5-5	W-3	14-18	16-16	17-21
Orlando	30	36	.455	1	6-4	L-2	17-16	13-20	21-19
Charlotte	29	35	.453	1	3-7	L-2	20-14	9-21	22-19
Washington	27	37	.422	3	5-5	W-2	19-12	8-25	18-26
Atlanta	22	44	.333	9	4-6	L-2	11-20	11-24	13-30

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STK	HOME	AWAY	CONF
x-Milwaukee	48	16	.750	—	7-3	L-2	25-5	23-11	32-8
Indiana	42	23	.646	6½	6-4	W-1	25-9	17-14	29-13
Detroit	32	31	.508	15½	8-2	W-3	20-13	12-18	22-19
Chicago	19	47	.288	30	6-4	W-1	8-25	11-22	14-28
Cleveland	16	49	.246	32½	5-5	L-1	10-24	6-25	12-31

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STK	HOME	AWAY	CONF
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STK	HOME	AWAY	CONF
Houston	39	25	.609	—	7-3	W-6	22-9	17-16	22-17
San Antonio	37	29	.561	3	5-5	W-4	25-7	12-22	26-19
New Orleans	30	37	.448	10½	5-5	L-1	18-13	12-24	20-23
Dallas									

BLACKHAWKS



Hawks on a roll for youth program

Kane on bowling: 'You don't want to be the guy who finishes last'

By PHIL THOMPSON
Chicago Tribune

Connor Murphy, you're off the hook — there's a new worst bowler on the Blackhawks.

Patrick Kane, Jonathan Toews, Corey Crawford, Murphy and other Hawks stars signed autographs, bowled some frames and mixed in a little trash talk Tuesday night at a benefit for a Chicago youth program that uses hockey as a teaching tool.

None of these guys resembled professional bowlers, but it doesn't mean stakes were involved.

"I think (I've gotten) a little more competitive over the years," Kane said about the 11th Inner-City Education (ICE) Bowl at Lucky Strike in Streeterville. "You don't want to be the guy who finishes last. You're getting a trophy if you finish first and you're getting a trophy if you finish last. One way or the other, you just don't want to be last."

Last year, last place belonged to defenseman Murphy. So is he really a bad bowler?

"Oh, yeah," Kane laughed. "He's got no athletic ability."

You'd get no argument from Murphy.

"Unfortunately my bowling game is terrible," said Murphy, adding, "I just have to get a couple gutter balls out of my system."

But Murphy — who rolled at least one strike Tuesday — is now officially off the hook. Marcus Kruger's score of 73 relegated him to this year's distinction as worst bowler, a dishonor that also comes with a trophy.

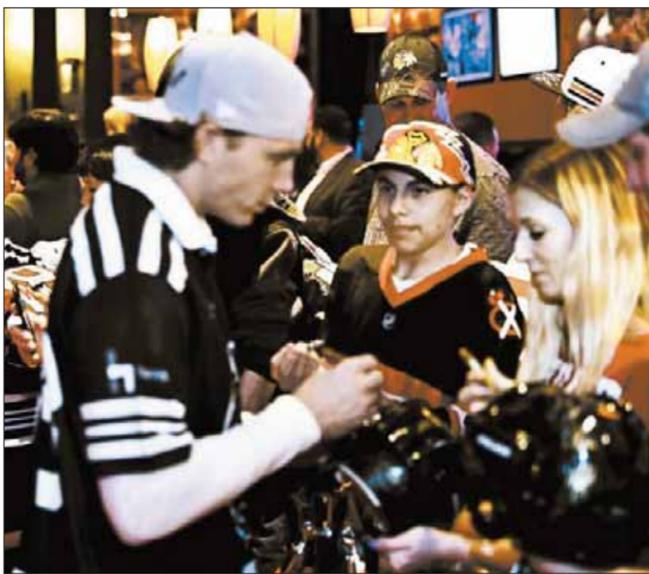
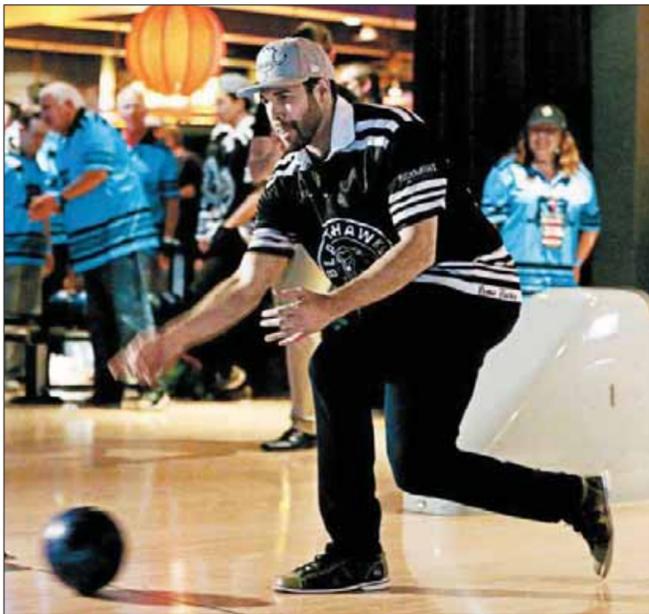
Dylan Strome is the new kingpin with a 179.

"We're pretty competitive people," Alex DeBrincat said before the bowling started. "We always want to win. I think this is for the kids. We'll let them have their fun. It doesn't really matter how well we play — that could be because I'm not a very good bowler."

DeBrincat and others came to support Brent Seabrook, the charity bowl's host and the Hawks' main ambassador for the ICE program. Including Tuesday's event, the 11 fundraisers have earned more than \$1 million.

"We've all had fun with this over the years, everybody's had different events supporting different causes," Seabrook said. "We're all just trying to be part of this great city and give back."

"Hockey's really the hook," Brad Erickson, ICE's founder and executive director, said. "The main focus of our program is academics and scholarships. We use hockey as a vehicle to get kids focused on school. So they play hockey with us twice a week. They get an hour of mandatory academic tutoring before practice, and then they get scholarships."



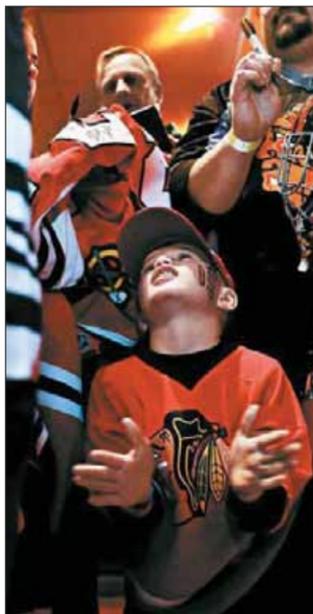
As Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane huddle with fans and autograph-seekers Tuesday at Lucky Strike, goaltender Corey Crawford works on his game.
CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Kane said one of the cool things about the program is how it brings the sport to inner-city children.

"We all come from different upbringings and might have different backgrounds, different races ... but one thing that brings us together is we all play hockey," Kane said. "It's a really cool thing Seabrook and Inner-City Education puts on this event, raise some money for these kids to play hockey and be able to enjoy that."

"It's a great sport, it's a great game, taught me a lot and gave me a lot of friendships. Hopefully these kids have the same experience."

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It's a mixed bag for Gustafsson

Defenseman having growing pains during his breakout season

By JIMMY GREENFIELD
Chicago Tribune

It has been the Blackhawks' good fortune that young defenseman Erik Gustafsson is having a breakout season.

Few could have predicted Gustafsson, who came into the season with 30 points in 76 career games, would be among the NHL's top 10 defensemen in scoring as the season enters its final few weeks.

But the news hasn't been all good for the Hawks, who also are dealing with a young defenseman who hasn't yet played his position with the ferocity it requires.

Yep, that's also Gustafsson.

The duality of Gustafsson's season is not lost on coach Jeremy Colliton, who often has been his biggest supporter and biggest critic. In private conversations as well as during news conferences, Colliton has both praised Gustafsson and pushed him to reach his vast potential.

"It has been a breakout year and he's shown that he can do special things at our level," Colliton said. "He's been great for the power play and he makes plays not many guys in the league make. That's been a huge development for him. Doesn't mean we're not going to ask him to do more away from the puck and defensively because ultimately we don't want him to limit himself as far as (the) player he can be."

"We want him to be dominant at both ends. Skillwise, skating (and) size he can do it. It's just a matter of committing to it."

The committing to it has been the tricky part for Gustafsson, who knows he has to find the grit to play harder in his own zone and dish out more hits when they're needed. At 6-foot, 197 pounds, Gustafsson isn't tiny by any means. But when he was a smaller player he became accustomed to using his

stick instead of his body and is hesitant to take on larger players.

"I think so," Gustafsson said. "Back in the day I was a small guy, so I didn't use my body. I used my skating and stuff like that. There's nothing you can say. If I need to hit, you've got to hit. Right now I'm not the shortest guy on our team, so I need to use my body a little bit more."

The answer, Gustafsson says, isn't to head to the gym this season and bulk up. He feels he's big enough and strong enough to handle any good-sized NHL forward. But right now his first instinct is to use his stick rather than his body, and that's not always the right choice.

"It's just the mentality," he said. "I've got to play harder in my own zone. I know I can do it with the puck. I can take a hit when I have the puck. Just when I go in one-on-one what I have in my mind is I have to use my stick to get the guy where I want him to go and use the stick to take the puck."

Gustafsson's contributions on the power play have keyed his offensive outburst this season. He was a healthy scratch as recently as Dec. 2 against the Flames but a couple of weeks later Colliton elevated him to the first power-play unit.

It had an immediate impact. In his first 31 games, Gustafsson had six goals and eight assists, including just one point on the power play. Since moving to the top unit, Gustafsson has 34 points in 32 games, including 16 on the power play.

Gustafsson, who is signed through next season with a \$1.2 million salary-cap hit, is still only 26. He has been in the Hawks organization since he was drafted in the fourth round in 2012 but is just now finishing his first full season in the NHL.

"I know what I can do and I know I have (made) progress this season," Gustafsson said. "But I've got to work on a lot of stuff too."

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BLACKHAWKS NOTES

Colliton: Rest assured for both Kane, Toews

By JIMMY GREENFIELD
Chicago Tribune

At 30, Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews both are on target to play the most minutes of their careers.

But they haven't been producing as much the last few games and Blackhawks coach Jeremy Colliton is ready to reduce their playing time just a bit to try to get them going.

"Because we need them to produce," Colliton said. "When they don't, it's hard for us to win."

Kane is playing a career-high 22 minutes, 30 seconds per game and could become the first Hawks player in nearly 30 years to score 50 goals in a season. Toews' 20:59 ice-time average is eight seconds per game more than his previous career high.

"I feel good," said Kane, who has gone without a point in three of his last four games after a 20-game point streak. "I was playing good there for a while, didn't have a great trip obviously but still feel pretty confident about my game. It's not like I really feel tired out there. When they tell me to go out there I will."

Toews, who has one goal and five assists in his last six games, is right on board with Kane.

"We all realize these are our playoffs right now," Toews said. "We have some guys in this room aside from myself that are getting a lot of ice time and a lot of pressure and have seen some tough, heavy games and never really make excuses. I don't think fatigue should be an excuse."

Shaking up the lines: Hawks forward David Kampf has been out since Feb. 5 with a right foot injury, but he participated in practice Wednesday and Colliton said he could return for Thursday night's game against the Sabres.

Anticipating Kampf's return and with Drake Caggjula (concussion) still out indefinitely, Colliton experimented during practice with some dramatic line changes that included separating Kane and Toews for the first time in about six weeks.

Colliton had Toews centering a line with Brandon Saad and John Hayden, while Kane was with Artem Anisimov and Dominik Kahun.

"It was kind of a test run to see how they looked and obviously it depends on (Kampf)," Colliton said. "It's an option to spread it out again. We haven't exactly been perfect lately so it's an option."

Ward out, Delia in: Goalie Collin Delia was back in the Hawks locker room on Tuesday a week after being sent down to Rockford when Corey Crawford returned from a concussion.

Colliton said Cam Ward hurt his right knee during Sunday's loss to the Sharks, prompting Delia's recall. Ward is expected to be out at least a week.

Delia started two games for the IceHogs last week, and Colliton said "he'll get his starts" while he's with the Hawks.

One-timers: Forward Reese Johnson, 20, agreed to a three-year deal with a \$925,000 cap hit. Johnson has 22 goals and 23 assists in 62 games with the Western Hockey League's Red Deer Rebels. ... The IceHogs practiced at MB Ice Arena on Wednesday following the Hawks' practice and will practice there again Thursday. "Pretty special environment to be a hockey player in here and maybe it gives them a little bit of a push," Colliton said.

eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE

Master of bracketology

Lunardi is more than just a machine making predictions

BY MARCUS FULLER
Star Tribune

PHILADELPHIA — The godfather of NCAA tournament projections is courtside, coolly checking the pings on his phone before saddling up for his ESPN broadcast duties.

He has just crafted his first in-season men's basketball bracket projection on this November evening, revealing to his legion of followers which 68 teams he predicts will fight it out for four tickets to Minneapolis in April.

This is serious stuff — “Who's in?!” “Who's out?!” — as sports debates go, but Joe Lunardi is stressing more about St. Joseph's vs. Illinois-Chicago.

His laptop is closed and his phone is on mute. “Joey Brackets” right now is Administrator Joe Lunardi doubles as the St. Joseph's director of marketing for athletics. He bounces between greeting Hawks fans and checking in on several pregame scenes. The gameday production crew includes his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, who transferred from Hofstra last year to be closer to her father.

Lunardi, the man behind bracketology, may seem part machine to sports fans — spitting out projections at high speed for millions to scour and debate. The truth is he is a husband and father of two daughters, a key university official, a media personality, as well as an architect of brackets.

Away from Philadelphia and St. Joseph's, the Lunardi name for nearly two decades has been attached to the process and debate around predicting which teams will form March Madness. Fans and followers anxiously wait for his picks, often with red pens in hand.

“I usually tweet my bracket before the game and don't look at it for two hours,” said the 58-year-old Philadelphia native. “Then, I get home and people tell me how much I screwed up.”

Before they split for their pregame duties, Lunardi hugs Elizabeth and gives her a package at the scorer's table. It's an Ariana Grande T-shirt he ordered for her, for an upcoming concert.

“Love you, Dad,” she says. “Have a good game.”

Just Joe

Lunardi's projected field gets updated daily on his laptop, regardless of whether it's posted online.

His master Microsoft Excel spreadsheet resembles the tournament selection committee's cheat sheets, complete with the new-for-2019 analytics. Any time Lunardi peels off a fact for a tweet, it spreads across college basketball nation.

Long before Twitter, ESPN knew it had something with Lunardi's first bracket page in 2002. It received hundreds of thousands of hits within an hour. He then made his on-air debut. Lunardi knew his stuff but was clueless how bracket talk would translate to TV, especially from a small production studio in Philadelphia.

“I was just doing whatever they told me in my ear,” he said. “I was trying not to blink, pick my nose or look in the wrong direction.”

In 2008, Lunardi correctly picked the entire 65-team field. It was a moment that seemed to grow the already wide gap between Lunardi and the slew of other regular bracket projectors, a tribe of around 150.

“I don't think most of the others out there are doing it every day from November,” said Lunardi, who for four years taught an online bracketology class at St. Joseph's until 2014. “Not because they're inferior, but they don't have to stay up.”

Three years ago, Lunardi did need help staying up on the games. He was diagnosed with mildly aggressive prostate cancer. Doctors told him he could wait until the spring, after the season, to have surgery, but “there was no way I was waiting,” he said. Lunardi was out of commission for less than two weeks and missed only a few games. He is cancer-free now but gets screened annually.

Lunardi has been a supporter for cancer research and awareness for some time. About two years before his diagnosis, middle



CHRIS SZAGOLA/CAL SPORT MEDIA

Former St. John's coach Steve Lavin has a word with Joe Lunardi before a game against Villanova in 2011 in Philadelphia.

brother Richard died after a 16-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Lunardi misses Richard's sending him messages about a “lousy tie” after watching him on TV. This fight is another of Lunardi's many missions.

“If there's a story here to be told,” he said, “it is don't be afraid to get checked.”

Bracketology is born

Long before “bracketology” was added to the Oxford English Dictionary, as it was in 2017, Lunardi grew up in the Overbrook neighborhood in West Philadelphia, a mile from the St. Joseph's campus. Some of his earliest basketball memories do not match the glamorous Philly Big 5 scenes of the era, though.

“I used to ride my bike to watch my older brother's intramural games,” Lunardi said, chuckling. “I loved tagging along.”

The family moved to Southern California while Lunardi was in high school, but he returned to his roots and attended St. Joseph's, like his father and two older brothers before him. In 1981, No. 9 seed St. Joseph's upset No. 1 seed DePaul on the way to the Elite Eight. Lunardi wrote about the magical run as an editor at the student newspaper, the Hawk.

Another big victory came that season, too. Lunardi met his future wife, Pam, but their first date was

delayed from winter until April, after basketball season. Pam still jokingly calls him an “April Fool” for waiting so long to take her out.

Lunardi began a 30-year career with St. Joseph's in 1987, first as the head of media relations. On the side, his role as a contributor for Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook expanded, and he and Chris Dortch bought a stake in Blue Ribbon in 1995. An 80-page NCAA tournament guide soon debuted.

That work went down in Lunardi's office at St. Joseph's. He would spend late nights with other area college hoops junkies to finish the Selection Sunday preview.

“Every Sunday at the crack of dawn, (former St. Joseph's AD) Don DiJulia would show up with coffee, doughnuts and bagels,” Lunardi said. “He would say, ‘Who you got in? Who you got out? You got that wrong. What do you think of this?’ I don't think we had slept at all.”

Soon Mike Jensen of the Philadelphia Inquirer was calling Lunardi an expert in “bracketology” — a tag that would stick as a new career launched.

“I started showing up in arenas and people started yelling ‘Joey Brackets’ down to the floor,” Lunardi said. “I would be in airports and people would say, ‘Are you that guy?’ I'd say, ‘Yeah, I'm that guy.’”

Man, not machine

Joey Brackets spent a lot of time being a dad, too. In one favorite picture Lunardi is holding his oldest daughter, Emily, a 3-year-old member of the Hawks contingent in 2004. The team was undefeated and made it to the Elite Eight.

“She grew up following Jameer Nelson and Delonte West,” Lunardi said of the former St. Joseph's stars.

When Emily was in the seventh grade, Joey Brackets added another side gig: Coach Joe.

“It was the 2010-11 season,” Lunardi said. “My daughter came to me and said, ‘Help us or we're not going to have a team.’ I remember thinking it was the worst possible time. I told her, ‘I'll coach a spring sport or a fall sport, I'll take you surfing. But I can't add a winter sport.’”

Lunardi gave in, though. “I was a dad,” he said, adding: “I literally had no idea how to make us better.”

He scheduled practice on Monday nights to work around his St. Joseph's duties. Coach Phil Martelli moved his “Hawk Talk” radio show back an hour to accommodate him.

“I had a girl who led the league in fouling out,” Lunardi said. “That was big. I would usually have a sub at the scorer's table after the second pos-

session.”

Emily never played hoops again. “I put out that flame for good,” he joked. Lunardi left the sidelines for good, too, and attended too many plays and dances to count.

“I think I was scared of the ball,” his youngest, Elizabeth, said with a laugh. “We were more theater girls, and he was a great stage dad.”

Lunardi loves the juggling act. He makes enough money as one of the most recognized names in college hoops, but Lunardi likes to work.

And his recent move into the Hawks athletics department fulfilled a dream.

As the head of marketing, he works directly with new AD Jill Bodensteiner and her staff.

He is still Dad, especially with Elizabeth transferring closer. He is entrenched in Hawks basketball more than ever, from gameday crew boss to team radio analyst.

And he's still “that guy” college hoops fans praise and pick on as March arrives.

Back on this November night in Philadelphia, he's a happy man in his happy place.

“Getting that buzz during warmups when the teams take the court and the music starts and the bands playing,” Lunardi said, “that's kind of my fuel to do what I do. I'm still feeling that.”

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —

HE'S OLD SCHOOL

Cardinals QB still intends to get degree

BY BEN BOLCH | Los Angeles Times

Football or school? School or football? For three years, Josh Rosen felt like he was being torn between two great loves. "You can't put as much into one thing as you want," Rosen said, "and I felt like I was shortchanging football a little bit by giving school so much time."

That didn't stop the quarterback from starring in both endeavors during his time at UCLA, becoming the school's single-season passing leader in 2017 and a five-time member of the athletic director's honor roll. The division of labor is easier these days. Rosen has gone on to the NFL, recently completing his rookie season with the Arizona Cardinals, but he's not neglecting that other love.

Rosen has fully devoted himself to his schoolwork after returning to UCLA in January to take three classes toward his undergraduate degree in economics. The plan is to take the balance of classes he needs next winter, allowing him to walk with several friends during graduation ceremonies in the spring of 2020.

It will be the end of one era just as Rosen continues the early stages of what he hopes is a lengthy professional football career.

"I just never in my life imagined not graduating college," Rosen said, "so I feel like it's kind of my obligation to my parents almost to give them a degree in return for everything they've given me."

Rosen isn't the only familiar face strolling campus this quarter. Mercedes Lewis, the John Mackey Award-winning tight end at UCLA who has spent 12 of his 13 NFL seasons with the Jacksonville Jaguars, is also back working toward his degree, a 34-year-old intermingling with classmates who might confuse him with one of their professors were he not 6 feet 6 and 267 pounds.

Both players have returned as part of the Bruin Varsity Club's degree completion program, which helps the school's former athletes come back to obtain their diplomas. Provided the athletes' professional contract doesn't include tuition reimbursement, UCLA foots the roughly \$4,800 quarterly bill for tuition, books and fees (plus an additional \$9,700 for those who live out of state) as well as housing costs for those who have not gone on to make millions in a pro league.

UCLA also provides tutorial support, academic counseling and access to its learning center, giving returning athletes the same services that the school's current student-athletes receive.

Christina Rivera, the UCLA senior associate athletic director who oversees the program, said 51 athletes have returned to work toward their degrees since 2016. Their ranks include former NFL running back Paul Perkins, retired MLS star Kevin Hartman, Olympic water polo gold medalist Samantha Hill and professional golfer Bronte Law.

Scores of baseball players have come back, fulfilling coach John Savage's recruiting edict that anyone who plays for him will eventually return to get his degree. Mattie Larson, a former U.S. champion in the floor exercise who says that she was one of the Larry Nassar abuse victims, returned to obtain her degree after her ordeal had forced her to abandon her studies.

The length of time it takes a returning athlete to complete his or her degree depends on more than the number of classes needed; it also hinges on availability amid a busy schedule. Most of Rosen's time is consumed by his NFL season, organized team activities and training camp, leaving the 11-week winter quarter as the best option to squeeze in schoolwork.

"Quarters are short," Rosen said, "so it's not like I need to give a big offseason to it."

Rosen has resumed student life beyond the classroom, sitting courtside at a few men's basketball games and hanging out at the five-bedroom apartment he used to share with teammates Matt Lynch and Ethan Fernea, who will play for the Bruins next season. Rosen has his own short-term lease in an off-campus apartment, where he busies himself with his studies. He's taking Econometrics, Monetary Policy and Money and Banking, learning about interest rates, the bond market and international exchange. He said he had forgotten how much effort was needed to do well in a class.

"It's hard to study for a test and be like, 'I only need a C or a B,'" Rosen said. "If you're going to study your (butt) off and you're going to try to get as high a score as you can, you usually will end up with a C or a B at a school like this, so there's no like more or less incentive in these classes. I'm still studying as much as I did when I was here."

Rosen's presence has predictably generated a few stares from students wondering why a top-10 NFL draft pick is strolling Bruin Walk with a backpack slung over his shoulder, but there hasn't been any discernible reaction among his professors.

"I don't think any of my teachers know much about football," Rosen said. "Pretty much every teacher I have is foreign, and UCLA's a brilliant mix of minds from all over the world."

Come April, Rosen will head back to Phoenix to learn the offensive language of new Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury. He's coming off a rookie season in which he took over as the starter in the season's fourth game and completed 55.2 percent of his passes for 2,278 yards with 11 touchdowns and 14 interceptions.

The number that most irritated Rosen was the Cardinals' 3-13 record. It made a player known for his outspokenness on social issues feel like not saying all that much.

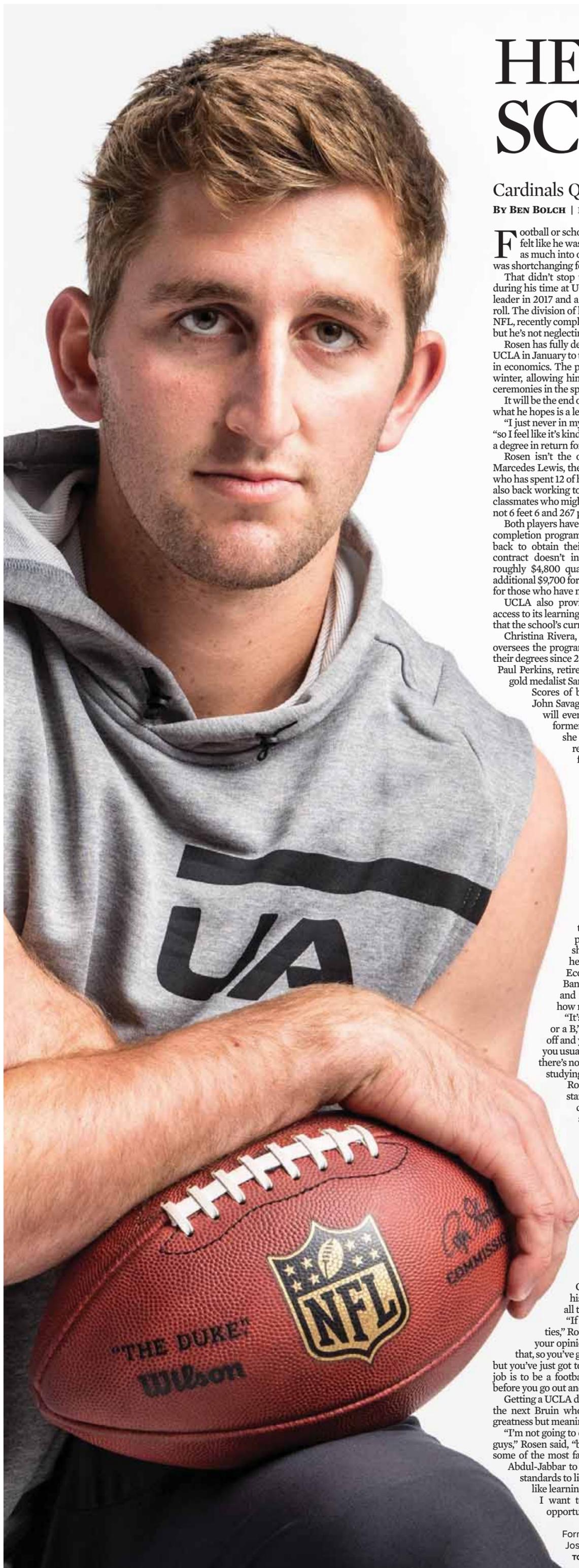
"If you win three games and you have 16 opportunities," Rosen said, "the last thing (fans) want to hear is about your opinions on like, I don't know, climate change, stuff like that, so you've got to walk the line a little bit. The audience is bigger but you've just got to kind of know your time and place. Your primary job is to be a football player and you've got to accomplish that task before you go out and do anything else, really."

Getting a UCLA degree might enhance Rosen's chances of becoming the next Bruin whose name is synonymous with not only athletic greatness but meaningful social change.

"I'm not going to even mention my own name in the breath of these guys," Rosen said, "but you sort of go to this school in the shadows of some of the most famously politically active in history from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to Bill Walton to Arthur Ashe, so it's got some high standards to live up to, so hopefully one block at a time. But I just like learning new things, new people and for the rest of my life I want to travel and do all that, so this is just a cool opportunity to learn."

Former UCLA quarterback and economics major Josh Rosen is back on campus.

TODD ROSENBERG/AP



Chicago Tribune
A+E
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MY WORST MOMENT

Park's first audition a real sop story

'Fresh Off the Boat' star was wet behind the ears as he tried to land a job

By **NINA METZ**
 Chicago Tribune

For the past five seasons, Randall Park has played the endearingly optimistic, consistently upbeat husband, father and Florida steakhouse restaurant proprietor Louis Huang on the ABC comedy "Fresh Off the Boat."

One reality of working on a family sitcom: The once-small child actors are little no more. "It's crazy, seeing how fast kids grow," said Park. "And all of us adults just stay the same. It's surreal. And the kids on our show, they're at an age where they're hitting these growth spurts at a rapid rate. The oldest kid, Hudson Yang, when we started the show he was so tiny I could hold him in my arms — and now he's taller than me."

Park has also had a long-running recurring role on HBO's "Veep" as Danny Chung, and he co-stars in the upcoming Netflix romantic comedy "Always Be My Maybe" with comedian Ali Wong.

Headlining a broadcast network sitcom has been one of Park's career highs. When asked to share a worst moment, he replied:

"There's one that definitely stands out for me, and I've told it to



NICOLE WILDER/ABC

Randall Park and Constance Wu on "Fresh Off the Boat." Park had an interesting start to his acting career.

friends before — hopefully I can tell you the story without acting it out and still convey the horror."

My worst moment ...

"When I first started acting, I

was doing a lot of these network showcases. Like ABC, NBC and Fox, they all had these diversity showcases where basically they were looking for talent and trying to help us get seen. There have

been a lot of changes in the past few years — and our show is a testament to that — but when I first started, things weren't very diverse. And I think a lot of the networks were getting called out

for that, so they formed these diversity groups, which put on these showcases.

"I didn't have any representation at the time, I was fairly new. So I did a lot of these showcases for all the different networks and one of these showcases went particularly well — so well that the network brought me in to meet all the casting people and some of the executives. I didn't have an agent at the time but they said, 'We're going to send you out to audition for some of our pilots this season.'"

"This is *huge* for me at the time because I had no agent and my dream was to be on a show. So they started sending me out to these auditions. I'd done a lot of sketch and theater, and I was doing stand-up at the time, but I didn't know how to audition. And I didn't realize that it's a different set of skills that are *related* to acting, but different.

"So they sent me out to this one audition and it was a renowned casting director. Still renowned to this day, I won't say his name. But he's a great casting director and I was just so thrilled that I was seeing him. All I remember about the pilot was that Nathan Lane was one of the stars. In the scene, I was an assistant at this company and the idea is that I come in, having running up the stairs, and

Turn to **Moment, Page 2**

R. Kelly: 'I'm not Lucifer'

R&B singer denies sex abuse charges in new TV interview

By **TRACY SWARTZ**
 Chicago Tribune

In his first TV interview since being charged with sexual abuse last month, embattled R&B singer R. Kelly angrily denied accusations that he has had sex with underage girls and holds women against their will.

"I didn't do this stuff! This is not me! I'm fighting for my (expletive) life!" Kelly told "CBS This Morning" co-host Gayle King. "Y'all killing me with this (expletive). I gave you all 30 years of my (expletive) career! Thirty years of my career! And y'all trying to kill me. You killing me, man.

"This is not about music. I'm trying to have a relationship with my kids, and I can't do it. Y'all just don't want to believe the truth."

The first part of the interview, which was taped Tuesday in Chicago, aired Wednesday on "CBS This Morning." More footage is scheduled to air Thursday on the morning show.

King also chats with Azriel Clary and Joycelyn Savage in an emotional interview set to air Friday morning. The women's parents have alleged that Kelly is holding them against their will. He told King he is in a relationship with them and "it's like they're my girlfriends."

The 52-year-old singer, who was interviewed while he was out on bail, pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse last month. The charges involve four women, three of whom were allegedly teenagers at the time.

Each of the Class 2 felony counts carries a maximum of seven years in prison upon conviction but also could result in probation.

A Cook County jury acquitted Kelly of child pornography charges in 2008.

"I will tell you this: People are going back to my past, OK? That's exactly what they're doing," Kelly told King. "They're going back to the past, and they trying to add all of this stuff now to that. To make all of this stuff that's going on now feels real to people."

The charges came weeks after the Lifetime network aired a six-part docuseries that traced the



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Alana Haim, left, and Danielle Haim of HAIM, performing last May at the Aragon Ballroom, will appear July 19 at Union Park.

PITCHFORK MUSIC FESTIVAL

READY TO ROCK

Robyn, HAIM and Isley Brothers to headline in 2019

By **GREG KOT** | Chicago Tribune

Robyn, HAIM and the Isley Brothers will headline the Pitchfork Music Festival on July 19-21 in Union Park.

In booking the Isleys on the 60th anniversary of the hugely influential R&B band's breakthrough single, "Shout," as well as gospel legend Mavis Staples, Neneh Cherry and Pusha T, the festival continues its recent tradition of spotlighting soul and hip-hop heritage acts — past year's lineups have included Chaka Khan, Lauryn Hill, A Tribe Called Quest and Raphael Saadiq.

This year's festival also includes some of Chicago music's best up-and-coming artists and bands, including Aalee, Ric Wilson, Whitney, Lala Lala, Dreezy, Tasha and Twin Peaks spinoff Grapetooth, as well as local R&B heavy-

weight Jeremih.

Among the highlights are a reunion of British trance-rock band Stereolab, and sets by Low, Charli XCX, Parquet Courts, Julia Holter and Earl Sweatshirt.

Also in keeping with the festival's adventurous spirit, there's a taste of jazz, including the revered Great Black Music Ensemble, a veritable all-star band representing the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, and multi-genre innovators Standing on the Corner (heavily featured on Solange's recent album).

Here's the complete lineup:

July 19: HAIM, Mavis Staples, Earl Sweatshirt, Jeremih, Sky Ferreira, Low, Soccer Mommy, Julia Holter, Grapetooth, Rico Nasty, Valee, Standing on the Corner, MIKE, Great Black Music

Ensemble.

July 20: The Isley Brothers, Belle & Sebastian, Stereolab, Kurt Vile, Pusha T, Parquet Courts, Freddie Gibbs, Amber Mark, Jay Som, Cate Le Bon, Tirzah, CHAI, Ric Wilson, Lala Lala.

July 21: Robyn, Charli XCX, Whitney, Khruangbin, Clairo, Snail Mail, Neneh Cherry, Ibeyi, Amen Dunes, JPEG-MAFIA, Flasher, Black Midi, Dreezy, Tasha.

Tickets (three-day passes for \$175, single day for \$75) are available at pitchforkmusicfestival.com.

Greg Kot is a Tribune critic.

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Turn to **R. Kelly, Page 3**

CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services



EAMONN M. MCCORMACK/GETTY

Singer-songwriter Dolly Parton said: "Get ready, you're going to be hearing a lot more from me!"

Parton signs music deal with Sony/ATV

Sony/ATV Music Publishing has signed a deal to represent the catalog of singer-songwriter Dolly Parton, the company announced Wednesday.

The agreement takes in songs from across Parton's entire career, including the record-breaking global smash "I Will Always Love You" as well as hits like "9 to 5," "Jolene," "Love Is Like A Butterfly" and "Two Doors Down" along with newly written compositions.

Sony/ATV Chairman and CEO Martin Bandier said: "Dolly Parton is a true musical icon and we are unbelievably excited to get the chance to work with her again. Her importance, influence and legacy as a recording artist is recognized the world over, but more than anything she stands out as an exceptional songwriter with a peerless catalog of songs, which we are honored to represent."

"I am very excited to be working with Sony/ATV," Parton said. "They know my catalog and they know me. Get ready, you're going to be hearing a lot more from me!"

Parton's manager Danny Nozell, CEO of CTK Management, said: "With so many years of Dolly's career being under Sony, we feel this is a great home for Dolly's publishing administration and we're looking forward to the partnership."

— Variety



EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION

Jenner named youngest self-made billionaire: At 21, Kylie Jenner has been named the youngest-ever, self-made billionaire by Forbes magazine. Forbes estimated that Jenner's Kylie Cosmetics is worth at least \$900 million, and she owns it all. She hits the billion-dollar mark when you add in cash she has already pulled from the profitable business. Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg was 23 when he hit the big B mark.

Netflix to make 'Solitude' series: Netflix has acquired the rights to Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude," one of the most celebrated novels of the 20th century. Netflix announced Wednesday that it will adapt the 1967 book into a Spanish language series. It will be filmed largely in Colombia. Marquez's sons Rodrigo Garcia and Gonzalo Garcia Barcha will serve as executive producers.

Ballerini receives Opry invite: Country singer Kelsea Ballerini got a musical surprise of a lifetime in the middle of a duet with Little Big Town when the vocal group changed up the lyrics to their hit "Girl Crush" to ask Ballerini mid-song if she would join the Grand Ole Opry as a member. The 25-year-old singer was invited to join Tuesday night live during the Opry show from Nashville. Ballerini will be the youngest current Opry member when she is formally inducted in April.

March 7 birthdays: Actor Bryan Cranston is 63. Singer Taylor Dayne is 57. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 55. Actress Rachel Weisz is 49. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 48.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Spouse's ethics affecting friendship

Dear Amy: I have been friends with a woman for more than 30 years. She is wonderful. Her first husband cheated on her, they divorced, and she married another man within a year.

I have been trying to be supportive of her choice in mates.

Her husband, "Jake," works in social work, as do I. Occasionally we see one another at trainings and professional events. Recently he told me he was suspended from his job. The reason was that he did not report that a minor on his caseload told him she was being sexually abused. When he first told me this, he took ownership and said he had made a grave mistake. However, over time, and through investigations, his story has changed.

My friend is taking his side, saying he shouldn't be responsible and that he is a wonderful social worker, which he is not. Proof of this is that his license to practice was revoked.

The issue is twofold: One, this guy is still going to professional events, paying out of pocket and not telling anyone about his license being revoked. Two: I'm not sure I can be around someone whose ethics were so poor that they didn't report a sexual abuse situation and then lied about it later.

I would hate to give up a close friendship over this jerk. Do I point out how the story changed, and how sick it is that he is still posing as a social worker when he has no license?

This just makes me so sad. As social workers, we carry a HUGE responsibility, and there is little room to mess up other people's

lives. Help!
— Social Worker

Dear Social Worker: It's not obvious (to me) that "Jake" is posing as a social worker — only that he is attending professional events, presumably to network. If it is obvious to you that he is misrepresenting himself, then you should definitely do something about it.

While he might be lying by omission (allowing people to believe he is still licensed), presumably if he were being considered for a new job, or being brought off suspension for a related job, his professional issues would surface.

If you are aware of a professional and ethical reason to out him to colleagues, then you should. You should also be honest with him regarding your opinion about his behavior.

You don't need to give up a longstanding friendship over this. You should assume that your friend will support her husband's version of events. That's what spouses try to do.

However, she should not insist that you buy her husband's line. If she prompts you, you can state: "I've shared my concerns about this with Jake." Otherwise, you can decline to discuss it.

Dear Amy: I need some relationship advice. A girl I've known for two years and have developed feelings for ended things with her boyfriend.

Unfortunately, in an effort to get over her, just before I became aware of her breakup, I asked her to set me up with her friend. I've revealed my feelings for her, and today I re-

peated these feelings.

She didn't give me any type of answer, but she didn't leave, either. In fact, after I made my admission, we even hung out for a while — as we've done for the past two years. Does that mean she may have feelings for me as well?

— Chef

Dear Chef: My official "Ask Amy" Magic 8 Ball declares: "It is definitely possible."

You have indicated your feelings for this person twice, and now it is time for you to be cool. Back off a little while she figures out how she feels and what she wants to do about it.

She will telegraph any romantic interest in you by lingering in your presence, initiating small talk and asking if you want to hang out. She will also randomly touch your arm, for no apparent reason.

If you don't come on too strong, you will create the space for her to act accordingly to her own desires. And then you'll know.

Dear Amy: I wish you had suggested that "Trying to Do the Right Thing" see a lawyer with her serious inheritance question.

Why don't you send readers to true experts?!
— Upset

Dear Upset: This was the final phrase in my answer: "... you should consult with a professional estate planner to determine what is legal, fair, allowable and taxable."

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Moment

Continued from Page 1

I'm out of breath, drenched in sweat and I deliver my lines.

"The show was never picked up. Most pilots don't get picked up. But I didn't know this at the time, I thought I was going to be a multibillionaire after I wowed this casting director. And next would come movies! This was the opportunity of a lifetime in my head."

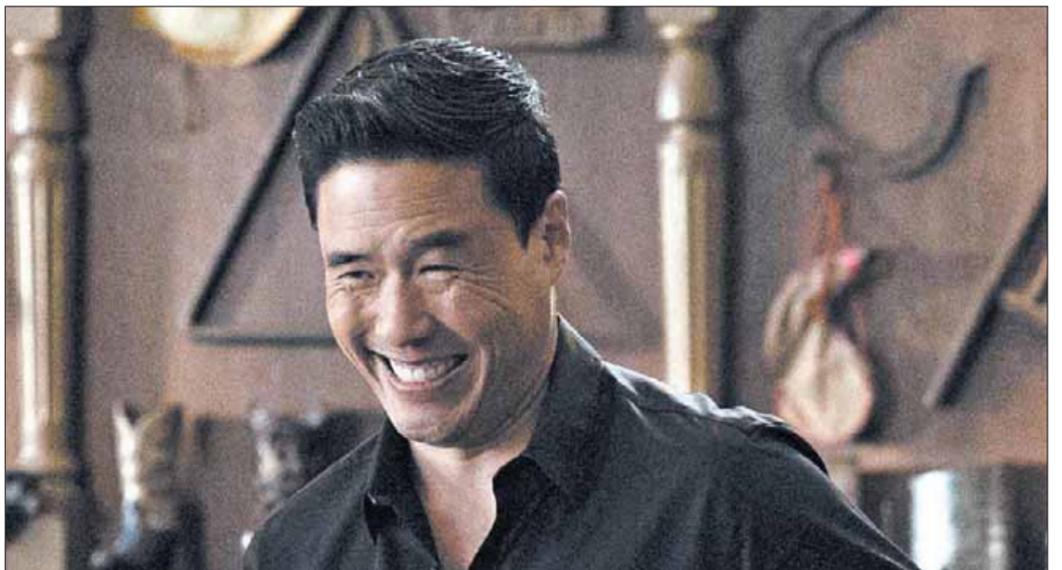
"I remember being in the waiting room and getting really nervous. I'm this new actor and I'm seeing all the other actors and thinking: Gosh, all these guys probably have so much more experience than me — I might have even recognized some of them from TV. I was psyching myself out and I was thinking, I really need to find a way to stand out in my audition."

"And I notice that there's a water cooler in the wait-

ing room with these little cups. And I thought: Oh, wait a minute — I know how I can stand out. What if I get a little cup of water and bring it into the audition, and when the scene starts I just douse myself with the water? (Laughs) So I'll literally be sweaty, like I've just run up a flight of stairs. I wanted to put on a show for this guy and the competition looked very fierce!"

"So they call my name and I have my plan, I have my little cup of water, and I go into the office and it's just me and the casting director. And the office is tiny. And I'm thinking: Oh man, this is a tight space for an audition, but all the better, he'll really get to see the nuances that I'm about to bring."

"There's some chat at first, he's very nice. And I'm very nervous. And then he said, 'Are you ready?' And I said, 'Yeah, give me one second' — and I took a deep breath and I pick up my little cup of water and I pour it on my face (laughs)



RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/ABC

Randall Park's first interview with a casting director didn't go quite as he had planned and it haunted him for years.

and then I'm ready to go. "But I look at him and I see that there's also water on his face. And I look down at his tie and I see these

little speckles of water on his tie. And then I look down at his desk and the papers have these little droplets of water all over.

"And he is silent. Just staring at me. And I start the scene. And I could tell he is not happy. I fumble half the words because I'm so in my head about what I just did to him. When I finished my last line of the scene, he doesn't say anything. He just looks at me. And I'm like, 'All right. Well. Thank you.' He doesn't say a word. And I walk out."

"So then I have to walk by all those actors in the waiting room who saw me a few minutes ago when I was completely dry, and now I come out of this office soaked — what they must have been thinking? I might have added to that dampness crying in the car."

The casting director didn't say anything at all?

"Well, he read the other lines in the scene and it was a lesson in subtext, because he was saying the words on the page but conveying something totally different, which was: You're the worst actor I've ever seen."

"And again, I didn't have an agent, my representation was the network at the time. I was mortified on so many

different levels. I don't know if word got back to them, but I do know that I didn't go on many auditions for them after that."

"And I never went back in that office for another, like, seven years and I remember seeing his name — and at this point, my career had progressed somewhat — and I remember thinking, I wonder if he remembers? So I went to the office and I was even more nervous than the first time. When he saw me, would it all come rushing back to him? But there was no flash of recognition! I don't think he remembered that it was me."

"And the crazy thing is, I booked the role."

The takeaway ...

"Avoid gimmicks. At the time I didn't think it was a gimmick, for some reason I thought water on my face would wow him. But really, what they want is just a sense of who you are and to see you perform the part. And the irony is, I did give him a sense of who I was at the time: I was a desperate, scared, nervous and anxious new actor who wanted to make an impression."

"For years, that experience haunted me. With most careers there are ups and downs and especially at the beginning there is strug-

gle — and that was my beginning. And there was a lot of struggle, a lot of times when I was broke and not working and not even auditioning, and I would always think about that one audition and wonder if there was any connection. Like, did word get around about me? Was I the Guy Who Drenched the Office? I was so paranoid."

"I'm sure casting directors see a ton of horrible, nervous first-timers. Or actors that just aren't prepared. And I'm sure that casting director has seen it all and has worse stories. I mean, splashing a little water on his desk, not so bad. But it was on his face (laughs) I think that's what really did it. And the look on his face while the water was dripping down it, that really got seared into my memory for many years."

"But in retrospect, it was not that big of a deal. And things turned out OK. I've made mistakes, I'm still going to make mistakes — and I may feel like those mistakes define me in the moment — but with time they just become part of the journey."

"And I may even get a great story out of it!"

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IN PERFORMANCE

Are we jerks? Reformed jerks?

Ansari hashes it out, and eventually gets around to himself, at the Chicago Theatre

By ZACH FREEMAN
Chicago Tribune

"I just kept waiting for him to talk about it," the guy next to me said after comedian Aziz Ansari's show Tuesday night at the Chicago Theatre — the first of a three-night, four-show run. "I'm glad he finally did at the end but I really just spent the whole time wondering if he was ever going to mention it."

The "it" here would be the allegations of sexual misconduct made against Ansari on the website babe in January of last year. And though he did wait until the tail end of his show to address it explicitly (more on that later), it could be argued that the entire set of his ongoing international "Road to Nowhere" tour is built around addressing the allegations ... while not mentioning them at all.

After solid opening sets from former Chicagoan Matteo Lane and New Yorker Sam Morril, Ansari, in jeans, sneakers and a black T-shirt, used his 65-minute set to alternately rip into and praise the current cultural moment.

We're all lousy people, he said early on. "And we're getting better."

This concept of ongoing improvement was a theme throughout the night. "Scary time to be working on the jokes y'all," he said at one point. "Gotta be careful about what you say," he said a bit later. Here he paused briefly before adding, "And about what you said." He then launched into a bit about Kevin Hart's homophobic tweets from 2011 and earlier that cost him the Oscars hosting gig,

Despite his complaints at the start of his set about "people arguing, trying to out-woke each other," here he had a positive spin on society in 2019: "Look at our culture," he noted. "We just slowly get better."

As an example of our improvement, Ansari talked about the Lifetime documentary "Surviving R. Kelly" released in January and the #MuteRKelly movement. He mentioned apologetic statements issued by musicians who worked with Kelly in the past — including Lady Gaga and Chance the Rapper — before asking rhetorically, "You know who I haven't seen a statement from?" Suddenly, he pounced and pointed accusingly at an audience member. "This guy!"

It's a clever bit and — as he did with a similar bit centered around Hart's tweets — Ansari dragged it out to make his point, here painting a picture of the audience member enjoying (and therefore, implicitly, supporting) R. Kelly in the past, without having to face any repercussions today (presumably because of his anonymity as a non-celebrity).

It must be nice to not have everything you say or do held up under a microscope, Ansari seemed to be saying. Where is the formal statement from each of us disavowing R. Kelly and any support we've previously given him? (Ansari later made a similar case regarding Michael Jackson).

It's a decent point and he played it well, but he undermined it soon after by playing the opposite side,



GENARO MOLINA/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Aziz Ansari uses his 65-minute set at the Chicago Theatre to alternately rip into and praise the current cultural moment.

describing a fake controversy and then berating audience members who weighed in on it one way or the other. "I just made all that up," he announced after getting people to clap their opinion. "And you people clapping, you're the ... problem!" Here he seemed to be complaining about over-involvement when he moaned, "You have to weigh in on everything!"

So what is the proper level of engagement? Somewhere between commenting on everything and avoiding constantly issuing our own personal statements? And what is the appropriate way to engage

with a celebrity's work after finding out they've done something awful?

Ansari manages to wring plenty of laughs from tough topics — at one point wondering hypothetically if Osama bin Laden had recorded a critically-acclaimed jazz record a few years before Sept. 11 would we be debating whether to still listen to it — but, as the audience member next to me noted, there's an undeniable tension throughout the night when considering why this issue of overly opinionated people is eating at him so much.

So yes, Ansari has a very good set here, but he's burying the lead.

Toward the end of the night, after some truly moving — and humanizing — discussions about appreciating our families while we can, he faced the topic head on. "It's a very scary thing for me to talk about," he said seriously, adding that he felt "terrible this person felt this way." (Ansari previously issued a statement stating that he thought the encounter was "completely consensual.")

He said that he's learned from the experience and hopes others have as well. "That story made me think about every date I've ever been on," Ansari said a friend of his told him.

It may be a tough topic to

breach, especially at a comedy show, but when most of the jokes seem to be indirectly referencing it anyway, it needs to be discussed. And it would serve the material — and the audience — for Ansari to move this frank discussion to the top of the show rather than playing through the tension all night.

Through Thursday at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St.; www.thechicagotheatre.com.

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What if the art is what allowed an artist to prey?

Allegations of abuse taint work of some celebrities



HEIDI STEVENS
Balancing Act

When a clip surfaced in 2016 of director Bernardo Bertolucci describing the way he and actor Marlon Brando plotted the rape scene in 1972's "Last Tango in Paris," the movie, to my mind, was no longer art. It was a weapon.

In the clip, recorded in 2013, Bertolucci says he and Brando didn't tell actress Maria Schneider ahead of time that Brando would use butter in a scripted rape scene, "because I wanted her reaction as a girl, not as an actress. I wanted her to react humiliated."

"I felt humiliated and to be honest, I felt a little raped," Schneider, who died in 2011, told the Daily Mail in 2007. "Both by Marlon and by Bertolucci."

I bring this up today because we're in a fresh cycle of debate over when and whether to separate the art from the artist. We're here because of "Leaving Neverland," the two-part



TIMOTHY A. CLARY/GETTY-AFP

Michael Jackson waves as he arrives at the Santa Barbara County courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif., in 2005.

HBO documentary that examines child sexual abuse allegations against Michael Jackson. We're here because R. Kelly pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse

last month. Three of Kelly's alleged victims were teenagers.

Then again, we may never leave here. This may be our permanent state, this state of debating whether

we can enjoy, or even abide, the works of deeply flawed humans. The comedy of Louis C.K. The films of Woody Allen. The full canon of Harvey Weinstein.

And if we're going to

linger here, in this debate, there's a question I'd like to hear us ask and attempt to answer. It's a question I'm not hearing much.

What if the art allowed the artist to prey?

What if the art was, in effect, a weapon? The way I think "Last Tango in Paris" was revealed to be, once we knew the back story, a weapon.

Jackson's access to young fans and pliable parents was a direct result of his fame, which was a direct result of his art. His music brought children into his orbit. Same with R. Kelly. If the allegations are true, their art was bait.

Does that taint their art in a way that doesn't taint, say, the works of an impressionist painter who harbored anti-Semitic views? Or is that a moral needle we shouldn't try to thread?

I don't know the answer. I don't know if there is one.

But I do know that when the conversation turns, inevitably, to art vs. artist, someone in the room, almost without fail, asks whether we want to head down that slippery slope of excising artists whose private lives we abhor. *What about Picasso? What about Wagner? What about Jerry Lee Lewis? Am I no longer allowed to enjoy "Million Dollar Quartet?"*

And I think that reaction oversimplifies an incredibly complicated question. It

feels like an attempt to let ourselves off the hook as much as the artists in question. *I don't need to stop loving "Billie Jean" because then I'd have to stop loving Degas and Chuck Berry and, honestly, when does it end?*

I don't know. I don't know when it ends.

I do know, for me, I can't listen to music that, in the case of both Jackson and Kelly, lured alleged victims into a life of trauma. I feel the same way about Harvey Weinstein. I don't see it as a slippery slope toward cutting myself off from the world's great art. I see it as refusing to ingest poison.

Oprah Winfrey hosted a special following the premiere of "Leaving Neverland," during which she interviewed director Dan Reed and two men who allege they were abused by Jackson as children, Wade Robson, 36, and James Safechuck, 41.

"Celebrity supersedes criminality," Winfrey said at one point.

And sometimes, too many times, it facilitates it.

I want us to talk about that. I don't think we're being honest until we do.

Join the Heidi Stevens Balancing Act Facebook group, where she hosts live chats every Wednesday at noon.

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R. Kelly

Continued from Page 1

singer's South Side roots, his rise to fame with songs such as "I Believe I Can Fly" and the allegations that he has had sexual relationships with underage girls and runs a so-called "sex cult." The series — which featured interviews with nearly 50 people — was inspired by years of reporting by Chicago journalist Jim DeRogatis.

Kelly, who said he was sexually abused as a kid, dismissed the women who shared their stories on the Lifetime series as liars.

"If you really look at that documentary, which I'm sure you have, everybody says something bad about me," Kelly said. "Nobody said nothing good. They were describing Lucifer; I'm not Lucifer. I'm a man. I make mistakes, but I'm not a monster, and by no means am I a monster."

"The problem is is that I'm likable, and (the women) can't be around me 'cause certain things didn't work out, Lifetime — these girls were older. They were 20 years ago, 15 years ago. Why now? Why would they come out now?"

DeRogatis reported in a 2017 BuzzFeed story that

some parents told police that Kelly was keeping their daughters against their will. His reporting sparked the #MuteRKelly movement to end the singer's career and protests that helped lead to the cancellation of a performance Kelly had scheduled last year in Chicago.

Some artists, including Lady Gaga, recently apologized for past musical collaborations with Kelly. He addressed Gaga in particular in his interview with King.

"John Legend, Lady Gaga — the interesting thing about this is the fact that working with Lady Gaga, she's a very great talent, you know, and it's unfortunate



LAZARUS JEAN-BAPTISTE/CBS

"CBS This Morning" co-host Gayle King interviewed R. Kelly for more than an hour Tuesday in Chicago.

that her intelligence go to such a short level when it comes to that," Kelly said. "You know, I have nothing

against none of these artists, but I think it's not professional for them to do that because something like this

can happen to any artist. Anybody famous can get accused of so many different things."

King, who said she briefly met Kelly about five years ago, said the interview lasted about 80 minutes. She said she visited Kelly's home at Trump Tower off Michigan Avenue and spoke to him by a Christmas tree he keeps up year-round. King said she thought she "might get accidentally clattered, but I never felt in danger talking" to the emotional Kelly.

"CBS This Morning" airs at 7 a.m. weekdays.

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BOOK REVIEW

'The Border' a timely and brutal affair

Don Winslow delivers relentless tale

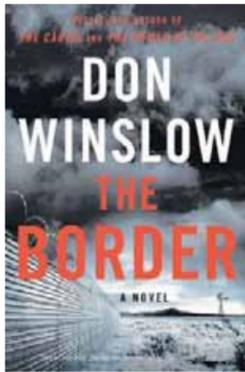
BY LLOYD SACHS
Chicago Tribune

With its account of Mexican drug cartels, the American opioid crisis they feed and an incoming U.S. president promising he's going to build "a great, great wall down there," Don Winslow's latest epic, "The Border," could hardly be more timely.

Throw in the president's son-in-law and close adviser desperately trying to bail out his pet building project in Manhattan after Germany's Deutsche Bank withdraws its loan, and you might even think Winslow is holding up a mirror to current events.

But aside from such updates, there isn't much in "The Border" about which Winslow hasn't been sounding off for years, going back to "The Power of the Dog" (2005), the first book in his drug trilogy. No fiction writer has been more dogged in exposing America's war on drugs as a farce, holding not only the cartels but also their bureaucratic enablers north of the border accountable for crimes ranging from the impoverishment of huge swaths of Mexico to the coldblooded murder of journalists. Winslow asserts that the cartels — functioning as something akin to powerful nation states — may pose as much of a threat to American democracy as Russian meddling.

In "The Cartel," the second novel in the series, DEA agent Art Keller nearly lost his mind as well as his life pursuing Sinaloa

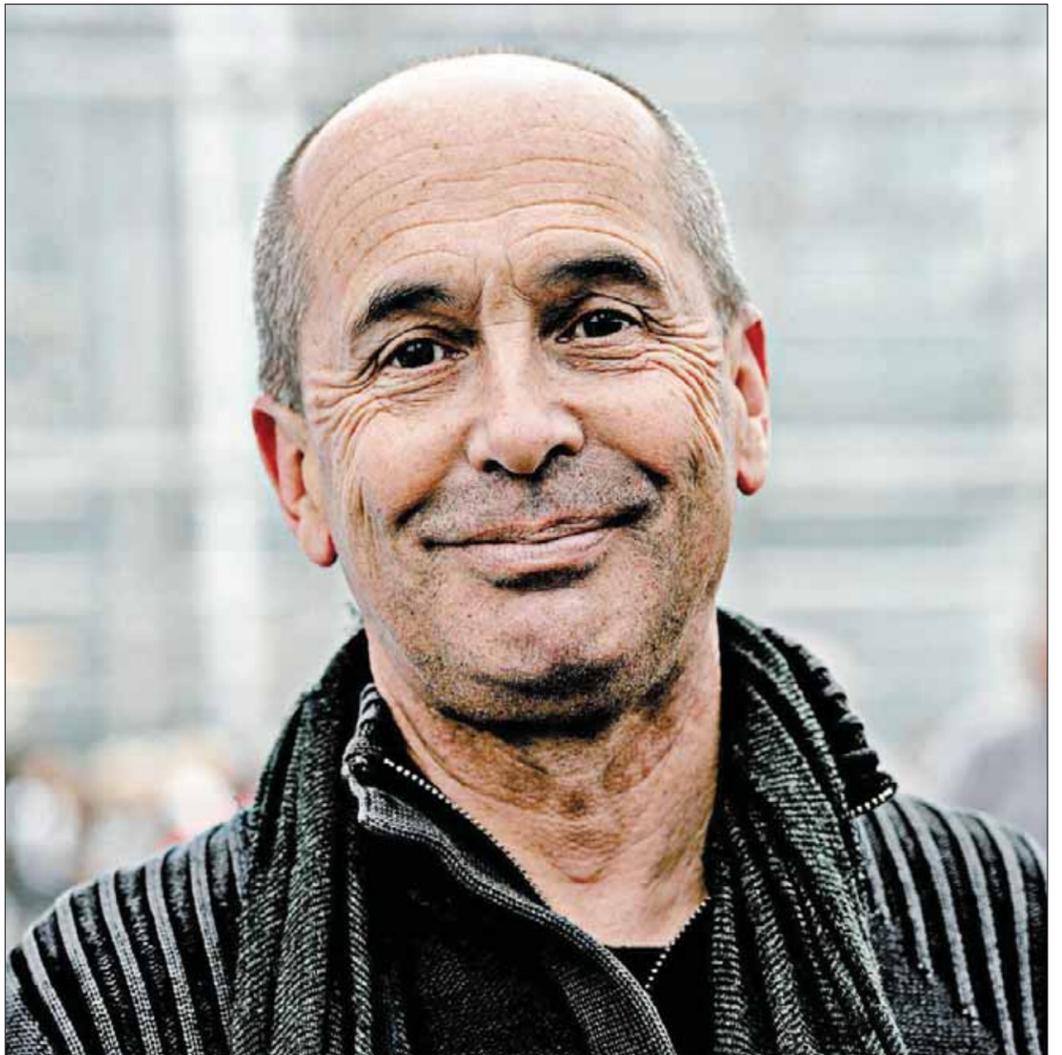


'The Border'

By Don Winslow, 736 pages, Morrow, \$28.99

drug kingpin Adan Barrera across the parched Mexican landscape. After more than 20 years, he finally caught his hombre, who had taken part in the torture-murder of Keller's partner, and had gotten him tossed into a San Diego prison. But after being transferred to a supposedly high-security Mexican facility, Barrera escaped and put a \$2 million bounty on Keller's head.

Barrera is killed at the conclusion of "The Cartel" — after Keller rather bizarrely partners with his sworn enemy to bring down the Zeta cartel. Its gunmen shot and nearly killed the woman to whom Keller is now married, Marisol, when she was mayor of a town with a track record of having its top official assassinated. In "The Border," as newly named head of the DEA, Keller has to contend not



JENS SCHLUETER/GETTY

Don Winslow, shown in 2016, holds the cartels and their bureaucratic enablers accountable in "The Border."

only with a flood of trigger-happy would-be successors to Barrera but also unproven suspicions that he, Keller, executed him.

"The Border" is not for the faint of heart. Heads roll — literally. Body parts get scattered. Women and children get raped, tortured and killed in front of husbands and fathers. In the Canyon of the Dead in Guatemala, kids search among rotting corpses and skeletons for anything of value. Nearly 50 children who were mistakenly put on a school bus loaded with heroin are brutally killed and tossed into a garbage heap.

In the horrific world of the cartels, where so much is made of family loyalty, children have no value. In another scenario, narco snatch a boy and a girl escaping to New York on a midnight train, separate them and subject each of them to unspeakable horrors. The train, a kind of underground railroad, is appropriately called La Bestia — the Beast.

As heartbreaking as such scenes can be, Winslow is not an emotional flag-waver. Taking a hard-boiled approach to the "nonfiction novel" with his mix of fact-based reporting and flights of storytelling, he

operates close to the ground. His insights and occasional editorializing emerge naturally from the narrative.

"The old, dominant Sinaloa cartel never allowed extortion on the belief that it would alienate an otherwise neutral citizenry and force the government to take action," he writes. "The CJN (a rival cartel based in Jalisco) has no such scruples. It's extorting businesses right in Mexico City, under the federal government's nose, and daring the ruling PRI party to do something about it."

Deliberately paced and lacking in conventional

dramatic turns, "The Border" can sometimes seem like a long haul. But thanks in part to its biting humor, the pages keep turning. The Al Pacino of "Scarface" seems to have been supplanted as a role model for certain narco by the Al Pacino of "The Godfather." Upon hearing that two cartels are going to go after each other, Keller thinks of "Groundhog Day." One faceless massacre gives way to another. The names and places change, but the outcomes all look alike.

Lloyd Sachs, a freelancer, writes frequently about crime fiction for the Tribune.

BOOK REVIEW

Helen Oyeyemi leads readers down the rabbit hole — again

BY RON CHARLES
The Washington Post

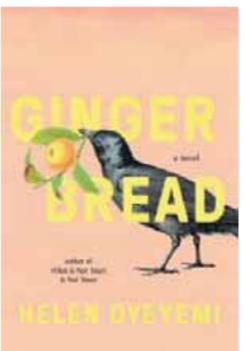
Someone must have given Helen Oyeyemi a handful of magic beans when she was born in Nigeria, because she's been planting them ever since. This fantastical writer, who completed her first, acclaimed novel at the age of 18, sows her modern-day stories in the fertile ground of ancient myths and fables.

But Oyeyemi, now 34, isn't just goosing old fairy tales with contemporary melodies. She's drawn to what's most unsettling about these fables: their disorienting logic, their blithe cruelty, their subtle encoding of race and gender. Nor is she beholden to the source material she collects in the dark forest. No matter what characters she's dealing with, she's willing to cut off their tales with a carving knife.

Her new novel, "Gingerbread," is a challenging, mind-bending exploration of class and female power heavily spiced with nutmeg and sweetened with molasses. If you think you know where you're going in this forest, you'll soon be lost. Oyeyemi has built her house out of something far more complex than candy.

The novel opens in contemporary London, where Harriet Lee, an immigrant, lives with her teenage daughter, Perdita. They own a large apartment so high that "climbing the staircases takes more than just walking up; it's also necessary to spring, scramble and wriggle." It's such a challenge to reach them, in fact, that "princess in a tower syndrome sets in" — one of many fairy-tale allusions that should set off your inner Brothers Grimm.

A few years ago, Oyeyemi told an inter-



'Gingerbread'

By Helen Oyeyemi, Riverhead, 258 pages, \$27

viewer, "I'm very interested in strange women, women who are for some reason not able to express emotion in a way that wins their friends." Harriet Lee is such a character, kind and sympathetic, but guileless in the ways of social competition. She's desperate to ingratiate herself with the snobs on the parents' advisory committee at her daughter's school. Her only special skill is making gingerbread from a recipe passed down through her family for generations. One of Harriet's addicted fans tells her that "eating her gingerbread is like eating revenge" — and who could resist that?

Unfortunately, Harriet's daughter must resist. Born with celiac disease, Perdita almost died from gorging on gingerbread as a toddler. So years later when Harriet comes home one evening and finds her teenager in a coma surrounded by fresh gingerbread, she knows something is horribly wrong.

So far, most of this makes a certain kind of sense. But once Harriet's sleeping beauty wakes up

in the hospital and begs her mother to reveal the secret of their family's past, the dimensions of this novel start to bend in surreal ways. The narrator explains that Harriet has "the kind of past that makes the present dubious. Talking or thinking about 'there' lends 'here' a hallucinatory quality that she could frankly do without. Pull the thread too hard and both skeins unravel simultaneously." Get ready for some heady tangles.

The bulk of the novel is Harriet, sitting alongside her daughter's hospital bed, spinning the long story of her own childhood in an isolated nation called Druhástrana, which, we're told, many scholars do not believe exists.

Harriet grew up in a poor village near a giant shoe, "a relic from the days of giants." Her only entertainment was reading the novels of Emile Zola, which, even in French, would probably be easier for me to follow than this story.

Just to give you a taste: One day, Harriet drops a package of gingerbread down a well where a girl named Gretel is hiding because she recently threw another girl farther down the well. Harriet and Gretel become fast friends, and Harriet is sent away to work at a gingerbread theme park owned by Gretel's miserly mother.

Anyone who resists Oyeyemi's absurdism will find "Gingerbread" a very bitter meal, indeed. A fan of Aimee Bender, Oyeyemi works in an adjacent realm of dreams where things simultaneously make perfect sense and no sense at all. What's always clear, though, is Oyeyemi's wit, often tossed off in satirical asides — sometimes silly, sometimes sharply political.

BOOK REVIEWS

10 March books worth reading



BY BETHANNE PATRICK
Special to The Washington Post

Consider this a guide, not a prescription, for March reading. Your local booksellers and librarians will have their own worthy titles to recommend.

"The Wall" by John Lanchester (out now)

Novelist and financial journalist Lanchester deeply comprehends how market forces influence daily lives. His latest centers on an island nation surrounded by a government-sanctioned concrete barrier. Its purpose? To keep "The Others" out. Too soon? Or just in time?

"Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls: A Memoir" by T Kira Madden (out now)

What's tougher? Being a queer, biracial teenager struggling with too much privilege and too little oversight? Or a town like Boca Raton, Fla., where racism, white-collar crime and unrealistic standards threaten that teenager's existence? Madden turns her life into art in this gorgeous reckoning.

"Madame Fourcade's Secret War: The Daring Young Woman Who Led France's Largest Spy Network Against Hitler" by Lynne Olson (out now)

The audacity of Marie-Madeleine Fourcade (code name "Hedgehog") cannot be exaggerated. Just 31 years old in 1941, she became France's only female *chef de Resistance*. Her network provided more intelligence than any other

— and Fourcade escaped twice after capture.

"Outer Order, Inner Calm: Declutter and Organize to Make More Room for Happiness" by Gretchen Rubin (out now)

Move over, Marie Kondo: America's foremost guru on happiness ("The Happiness Project," "The Four Tendencies") is coming for your tidy principles. Rubin believes when it comes to organizing "for most of us, a rigid, one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work."

"A Woman Is No Man" by Etaf Rum (out now)

Debut novelist Rum was born, like her protagonist Deya, in Brooklyn to Palestinian immigrants. The marriage of Deya's parents was arranged, and the secrets of their union both constrain and free their daughter, who has dreams of a college education.

"The Bird King" by G. Willow Wilson (March 12)

"Alif the Unseen" (2012) established Wilson as a politically minded fantasy writer. "The Bird King" takes place during the reign of the last Iberian sultan, when a concubine and a mapmaker attempt to escape imminent danger from the incoming Christian Spanish rule.

"26 Marathons: What I Learned About Faith, Identity, Running, and Life from My Marathon Career" by Meb Keflezighi and Scott Douglas (March 19)

Keflezighi is a four-time

Olympian who has won the Boston and New York marathons — so it's fitting his 2017 New York Marathon was not just his last, but his 26th. That's one marathon race per marathon mile for an athlete whose wisdom and lessons aren't just for runners.

"Horizon" by Barry Lopez (March 19)

Lopez blends literary journalism, memoir and travelogue. Here, he traverses the globe, and considers the history of human discovery, the present day and climate change.

"The Other Americans" by Laila Lalami (March 26)

Pulitzer Prize finalist Lalami ("The Moor's Account") may be our finest contemporary chronicler of immigration and its discontents. The book uses different perspectives to uncover the story behind a Moroccan immigrant's death in a California intersection.

"The Old Drift" by Namwali Serpell (March 26)

For once, the PR is right: This really is "the Great Zambian Novel you didn't know you were waiting for." From 1904 to the near future, Serpell's story focuses on three families as they contend with a country that keeps evolving in unexpected ways.

Bethanne Patrick is the editor, most recently, of "The Books That Changed My Life: Reflections by 100 Authors, Actors, Musicians and Other Remarkable People."

WATCH THIS: THURSDAY



Charles Michael Davis

"For the People" (9 p.m., ABC): Charismatic actor Charles Michael Davis, who played the vampire Marcel in the now-defunct CW supernatural drama "The Originals," joins this severely underrated Shonda Rhimes-produced legal series as it opens its second season with the professional fates of several characters left hanging from Season 1. Britt Robertson, Jasmin Brown, Ben Rappaport and Susannah Flood are among the returning cast.

"Superstore" (7 p.m., NBC): As this cheerful workplace comedy resumes Season 4, Cloud Nine co-workers Amy and Dina (America Ferrera, Lauren Ash) are confronted with different issues that share the common themes of single motherhood and workplace stress. Amy has sharpened her focus on climbing the ladder at Cloud Nine, while Dina is toying with the idea of changing careers entirely. Feldman also stars.

"Top Chef" (7 p.m., 12:33 a.m., Bravo): The four remaining chefs are challenged to cook appealing dishes containing durian, the world's smelliest fruit, in a new episode called "The Tao of Macau." Durian is a Macau delicacy, but the chefs must take extra pains to ensure their dish is palatable to host and judge Padma Lakshmi, as well as guest judge James Beard. After receiving a tutorial in Macau cuisine, they're joined by relatives from back home.

"A.P. Bio" (7:30 p.m., NBC): Glenn Howerton ("It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia") returns as comically bitter Jack Griffin, a failed Harvard philosophy professor reduced to teaching advanced placement biology in a suburban Ohio high school, as this caustically funny sitcom from former "Saturday Night Live" writer Mike O'Brien opens its sophomore season.

"Swamp People" (8 p.m., 11:03 p.m., History): In the new episode "Bringing the Heat," Ronnie is forced to push himself to the brink as the Swampers battle the suffocating extreme heat and humidity. While Terral and Troy venture out on an overnight mission to defend a state park, Dusty resorts to using some Everglades magic in the swamp.

"Backyard Envy" (9:03 p.m., Bravo): In the Season 1 finale, "Brides & Blooms," the Manscapers travel to a working farm and vacation retreat in upstate New York, where they plan to help their friend, Matt, prepare for an ambitious wedding ceremony. James, Mel and Garrett must construct the ceremony site, landscape a honeymoon suite and prepare arrangements for the reception.

TALK SHOWS

"Conan" (10 p.m. 11:30 p.m., TBS): Filmmaker Judd Apatow.*

"The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (10:34 p.m., NBC): Actor Adam Sandler; writer Stephen Merchant; Metro Boomin and Gunna perform.*

"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (10:35 p.m., CBS): The comic interviews guests and introduces musical performances.*

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" (10:35 p.m., ABC): Actress Kate Beckinsale; actor Jason George; Sam Fender performs.*

* Subject to change

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RECORDINGS

Solange puts mood ahead of songs on 'When I Get Home'

BY GREG KOT
Chicago Tribune

"I saw things I imagined," Solange sounds like she's waking from a dream as she murmurs at the outset of "When I Get Home" (Columbia). And then later, another vision appears: "Brown skin, brown face, black skin, black braids."

In contrast to the political, personal and social specificity of the singer-producer-songwriter's landmark 2016 release, "A Seat at the Table," her fourth album favors ambience, texture, dreaminess.

Ostensibly inspired by Solange's hometown of Houston (the album includes references to locations, scenes and personalities in the city), the album presents a far more ambiguous notion of "home" in the free-floating songs. They suggest that home is less a location than a state of mind. In that sense, the album joins the long line of Afro-futuristic releases by everyone from Sun Ra to Janelle Monae and their depiction of a place beyond, a life free of the shackles that earthly stereotypes and prejudices impose.

Solange's version of Wakanda brims with low-end rattles and drones, rhythms that tap like typewriters or stutter like rusty machines, voices that float and drift as they hit the listener's ear from different angles at varying volume levels, almost subliminal at times. Nods to Houston's chopped-and-screwed hip hop scene (including a cameo by rapper-producer Devin the Dude) spackle the album, and much of it feels like a distant tribute to that sound: slowed-down, hazy, vaguely psychedelic.

The social statements of the previous album are gone in favor of vague,



JOSH SISK/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Solange performs at Broccoli City Festival in Washington, D.C., in 2017.



'When I Get Home'

Solange
★★★ (out of four)

repeated phrases — "Dreams, they come a long way, not today"; "Swangin' on them days, swangin' on them days"; "Takin' on the, takin' on the light" — which Solange turns inside out. She plays with phrasing and emphasis, and turns syllables into taffy that she tugs, stretches and constricts as the mood suits her.

Though the songs are broken up into two- and three-minute arrangements, they seamlessly

blend with the interludes to create a continuous mood piece designed to be absorbed in one 38-minute listen. In contrast to the more traditional song structures and insinuating melodies on "A Seat at the Table," the new album lacks a signature tune. Only the reggae-flavored playfulness of "Binz" cuts through the haze on the first few listens, though shimmering moments of beauty flutter to the surface throughout.

Cameos and contributors abound, a cross-section of the cutting edge and the mainstream, from experimental group Standing on the Corner to Pharrell Williams, but they meld into the tapestry. And in a sense so does Solange. As primary writer and producer, she chooses an intimacy that may not be as immediate as some of her listeners might like, yet underlines Solange's continued growth as an artist unbound by expectations or definitions.

greg@gregkot.com

THURSDAY EVENING, MAR. 7

	PM	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00
BROADCAST	CBS 2	Big Bang Theory (N)	Young Sheldon (N)	(8:01) Mom (N) ©	Fam: "Ocean View." (N)	S.W.A.T.: "Jack." (N) ©	News (N) ♠	
	NBC 5	Superstore (N) ©	A.P. Bio (Season Premiere) (N) ©	Brooklyn Nine (N)	Will & Grace (N) ©	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit: "Accredo."	NBC 5 News (N) ♠	
	ABC 7	Grey's Anatomy: "Blood and Water." (N) ©		(8:01) Station 19: "Crash and Burn." (N) ©		For the People: "First Inning." (Season Premiere) (N) ©	News at 10pm (N) ♠	
	WGN 9	blackish (N) ©	blackish (N) ©	Last Man Standing ©	Last Man Standing ©	WGN News at Nine (N) ©	WGN News at Ten (N) ♠	
	Antenna 9.2	Alice ©	Alice ©	B. Miller	B. Miller	Johnny Carson ©	3's Comp.	
	This TV 9.3	Legally Blonde (PG-13/101) ★★	Reese Witherspoon.			Legally Blonde 2 ♠		
	PBS 11	Chicago Tonight (N)	Live on Mars: Tribute to David Bowie (N)			Live on Mars: Tribute to David Bowie ♠		
	The U 26.1	7 Eyewitness News (N)		The Game	Engagement	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Seinfeld ©
	MeTV 26.3	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Gomer Pyle	WKRP Cincinnati	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
	H&I 26.4	Star Trek ©		Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9	Star Trek ♠	
	Bounce 26.5	The Game	The Game	Last Call	In the Cut	Harlem Nights (R,'89) ★★		
	FOX 32	Gotham: "The Trial of Jim Gordon." (N) ©		The Orville: "Blood of Patriots." (N) ©		Fox 32 News at Nine (N)	Modern Family ©	
Ion 38	Chicago P.D. ©		Chicago P.D. ©		Chicago P.D. ©	Chicago ♠		
Telem 44	Exatlon EE. UU. (N)		Betty en NY (N) ©		La reina del sur ©	Chicago (N)		
CW 50	Supernatural (N) ©		Legacies (N) ©		The Good Wife ©	Chicago ♠		
UniMas 60	Tres Milagros		Atrapada		Rosario Tijeras	Tiro de ♠		
WJYS 62	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Joyce Meyer	Robison	Christian	Dn. Carson	Monument	
Univ 66	Jesús		Mi marido tiene familia		Amar a muerte	Noticias (N)		
CABLE	AE	The First 48 (N) ©		The First 48 (N) ©		(9:01) 60 Days In (Season Finale) (N) ©	First 48 ♠	
	AMC	The Mummy (PG-13,'99) ★★	Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz. ©				Mummy ♠	
	ANIM	River Monsters: "Killers From the Abyss." ©				River Monsters ©	River (N)	
	BBCA	Planet Earth: Blue Planet		Planet Earth: Blue Planet		Planet Earth: Blue Planet		Premier (N)
	BET	★ (5) Bad Boys II ('03) ★★		(8:03) Love Don't Cost a Thing (PG-13,'03) ★★	Nick Cannon. ♠			
	BIGTEN	★ Basketball	Basketball	Women's College Basketball (N)				BIG Show
	BRAVO	Top Chef (N) ©		Million Dollar LA (N)		(9:03) Backyard Envy (Season Finale) (N)		Tonight (N) ♠
	CLTV	News at 7	News (N)	News at 8	News (N)	SportsFeed ©		Politics
	CNBC	Shark Tank ©		Shark Tank ©		Shark Tank ©		Shark ♠
	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		Tonight (N) ♠
	COM	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Broad City	Other Two	Daily (N)
	DISC	Building Off the Grid ©		Building Off the Grid ©		Alaskan Bush (N)		Off Grid ♠
	DISN	Sydney-Max	Coop	Raven	Raven	Sydney-Max	Coop	Andi Mack
	E!	Hollywood Medium (N)		Hollywood Medium		Hollywood Medium		Busy (N)
	ESPN	★ College Basketball (N)		ESPN Documentaries (N)				SportCtr (N)
	ESPN2	★ College Basketball (N)		College Basketball: Teams TBA. (N) (Live) ©				Basketball
	FNC	Tucker Carlson (N)		Hannity (N) ©		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News
	FOOD	Chopped: "Fire It Up!" ©		Chopped ©		Beat Flay (N)	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby
	FREE	Siren: "Entrapment." (N)		(8:01) Pretty in Pink (PG-13,'86) ★★	Molly Ringwald.			700 Club ♠
	FX	★ (6) Hidden Figures (PG,'16) ★★	Taraji P. Henson.			Better (N)	Better	Better
	HALL	Harvest Moon (NR,'15) Jessie Schram. ©				Frozen in Love (NR,'18) ©		Watch (N) ♠
	HGTV	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip-Flop (N)	Flip or Flop	Hunters (N)	Hunt Intl (N)	Hunters
	HIST	Swamp People ©		Swamp People (N)		Truck Night (N)		Swamp ♠
	HLN	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
	IFC	★ The Heartbreak Kid (R) ★★		The Hangover Part III (R,'13) ★★	Bradley Cooper. ©	Hngover 3		Hngover 3 ♠
	LIFE	Bring It! (N) ©		Bring It! (N) ©		(9:03) The Rap Game (Season Finale) (N)		Rap Game
	MSNBC	All In With (N)		Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word (N)		11th Hour (N)
	MTV	Ex on the Beach (N) ©		Game of Clones (N) ©		Ex on the Beach ©		Clones ♠
	NBCSCH	Pregame (N)	NHL Hockey: Buffalo Sabres at Chicago Blackhawks. (N) (Live)					Postgame
	NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The Parent Trap (PG,'98) ★★	Lindsay Lohan, Dennis Quaid. ©			Travel
	OVATION	★ (6:30) Up in the Air (R,'09) ★★	George Clooney.			Travel (N)		The Wine
	OWN	20/20 on OWN ©		20/20 on OWN ©		20/20 on OWN ©		20/20 ♠
OXY	Chicago P.D. ©		Chicago P.D. ©		Snapped ©		Snapped ♠	
PARMT	Casino Royale (PG-13,'06) ★★	Daniel Craig, Eva Green. ©					Deadly ♠	
SYFY	★ (5) Hellboy	Ant-Man (PG-13,'15) ★★	Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas. ©				Conan (N)	
TBS	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Citizen Kane ('41) ★★ ★★	
TCM	All the President's Men (PG,'76) ★★ ★★	Robert Redford. ©					Stories ER ♠	
TLC	Dr. Pimple Popper ©		Dr. Pimple Popper (Season Finale) (N)		Untold Stories of the E.R.		Humanit	
TLN	IMPACT	Wretched	Greg Howlett		Life Today	Like You	Basketball (N Subject to	
TNT	NBA Basketball: Pacers at Bucks (N Subject to Blackout)						Family Guy	
TOON	Adventure	Adventure	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Burgers	Burgers	Dead Files ♠	
TRAV	The Dead Files ©		The Dead Files (N) ©		Kindred Spirits (N) ©		King	
TVL	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Two Men	Two Men	NCIS ♠	
USA	NCIS: "Monsters and Men."		NCIS: "Bulletproof."		NCIS: "Dressed to Kill."		Wild 'n Out	
VH1	RuPaul's Drag Race ©		RuPaul's Drag Race (N) ©				Hip Hop ♠	
WE	Growing Up Hip Hop ©		Growing Up Hip Hop (N)		Marriage- Stars (N)		Last Man	
WGN America	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man		
PREMIUM	HBO	O.G. (NR,'18) Jeffrey Wright. ©				(8:50) 2 Dope Queens	Tomb Raid ♠	
	HBO2	2 Dope Queens ©		High Main.	Crashing	Mr. Brooks (R,'07) ★★	Kevin Costner. ♠	
	MAX	Frantic (R,'88) ★★	Harrison Ford. ©			The Snowman (R,'17) ★ ©		
	SHO	★ Get Shorty (7:40) Den of Thieves (R,'18) ★★	Gerard Butler. ©				Desus (N)	
	STARZ	★ Jumanji: Welcome		(7:57) Spy Game (R,'01) ★★	Robert Redford.			Tremors ♠
STZNC	American Gods ©		(7:58) American Gods		(8:53) Road House (R,'89) ★★			

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Horoscopes



Today's birthday (March 7): This year takes your career to new heights. Bring your community together for shared strength. New love inspires you this summer, before a group challenge takes focus. Winter collaboration leads your team to fabulous results, before a transition or change touches your heart.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 9. You're getting stronger today and tomorrow. Assert your wishes now. Keep steadily pushing a personal dream forward.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 7. Take time off to recharge from a recent flurry of activity. Consider what is in the past and what lies ahead. Envision long-term possibilities, and imagine steps to take.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Strengthen team foundations by showing up. Share practical resources and valuable talents. Support each other through a challenge.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. Professional opportunities are worth pursuing. Show up on time and prepared. Don't over-extend or push too hard. Listen and observe.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 8. Expand your boundaries. Keep an open mind for how others do things. Listen to someone who has been there and done that. Keep your agreements and deadlines.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Keep building for the future. Handle financial responsibilities, and make plans for growth. Let others know what you're up to and what you need.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 9. Collaboration saves time and money. Untangle miscommunications immediately. Let go of outdated assumptions. Check multiple perspectives. Together, you get farther than either would solo.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 8. Focus on your work and health through tomorrow. Nurture yourself with beauty and delicious flavors. Rest deeply.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 7. Have fun with people you adore. You're especially lucky in love for a few days. Charms and enchantments fly. Enjoy the dance.

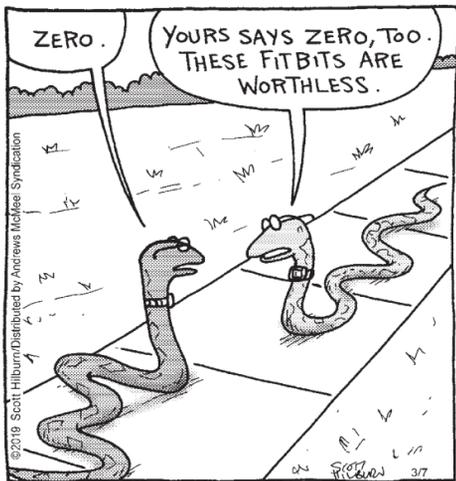
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 7. Domestic matters are on your mind. Family comes first today and tomorrow. Handle chores and repairs. Clean and organize your rooms to support your crew.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 9. Express creative ideas through art, writing, images or music. Articulate the story clearly. You're especially clever at getting to the heart of the matter.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 9. The next two days could get lucrative. An older person offers valuable instruction; take note. Your ideas are attracting attention.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater



Bliss



Bridge

East-West vulnerable, South deals

North	♠ 53	♥ Q4	♦ A J 7 6 5	♣ 9 6 4 3
West	♠ 10 9 7	♥ 8 7 2	♦ Q 9 8 3 2	♣ 10 2
East	♠ 8 6	♥ K 10 9 6	♦ K 10 4	♣ K Q J 8
South	♠ A K Q J 4 2	♥ A J 5 3	♦ Void	♣ A 7 5

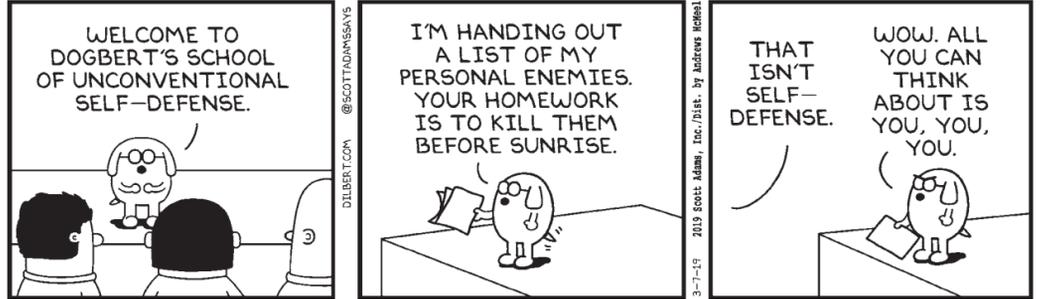
South forced to game with his powerful hand, but he didn't catch a very good dummy. Most of dummy's values were opposite his void, but the queen of hearts was worth a trick for him. That would get him up to nine tricks. Could he find a tenth?

South won the opening trump lead in hand with the ace. He saw that he could make his contract if West held the king of hearts. He could simply draw trumps and lead a low heart toward the queen, gaining an entry to the ace of diamonds. That was only a 50% chance, however, and South wanted something better than that. Can you spot the winning play?

South found a way to greatly improve his chances. At trick two, he led the jack of hearts from his hand. Should either opponent win this with the king, the queen of hearts would be an entry for the ace of diamonds. Should the opponent with the king duck this trick, declarer would have an overtrick on this lie of the cards. He would cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart, and then discard a loser on the ace of diamonds. This line of play would succeed whenever the missing hearts divided 4-3 — the percentage split, plus the slight extra chance the person with a doubleton heart also had no more trumps. It would also work when West started with doubletons in both majors. West could prevent the first heart ruff but not the second. Nice play!

— Bob Jones
tcaceditors@tribpub.com

Dilbert



Baby Blues



Zits



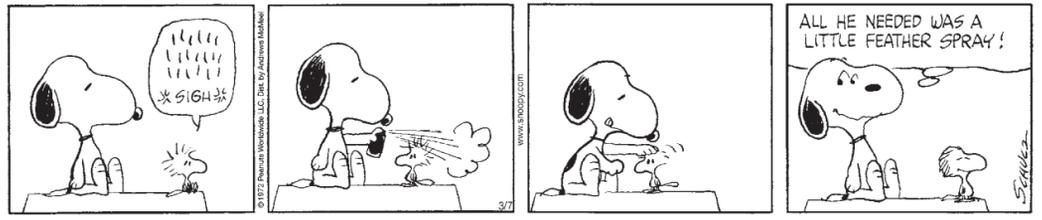
Mr. Boffo



Frazz



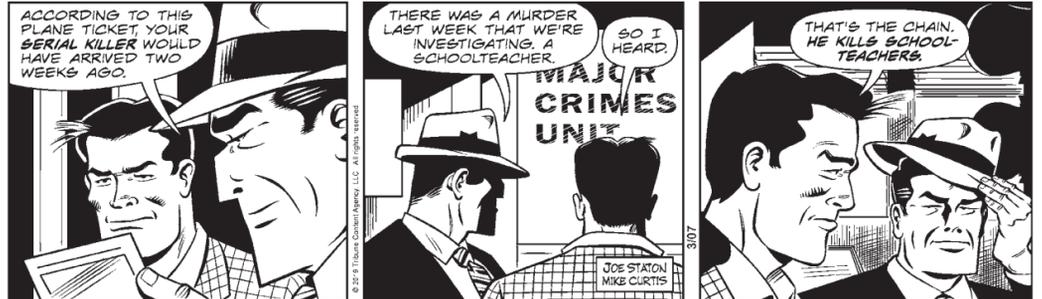
Classic Peanuts



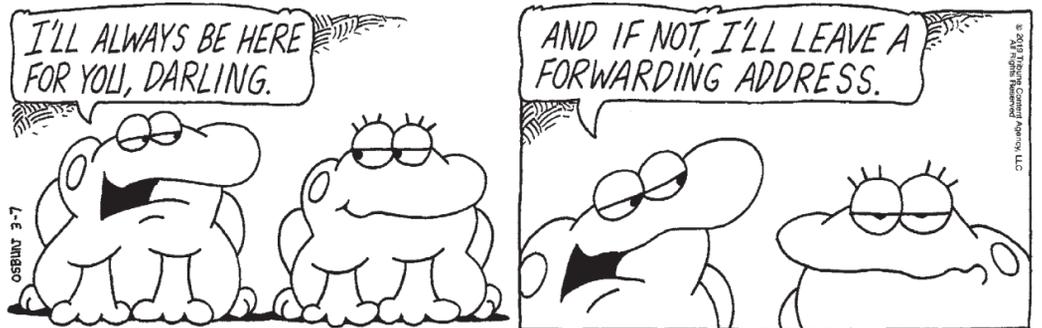
Pickles



Dick Tracy



Animal Crackers



Prickly City



Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



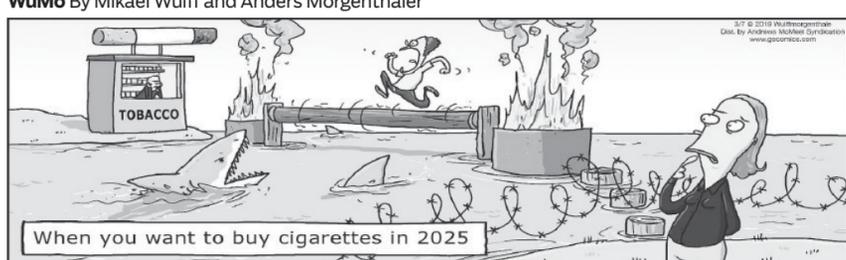
Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



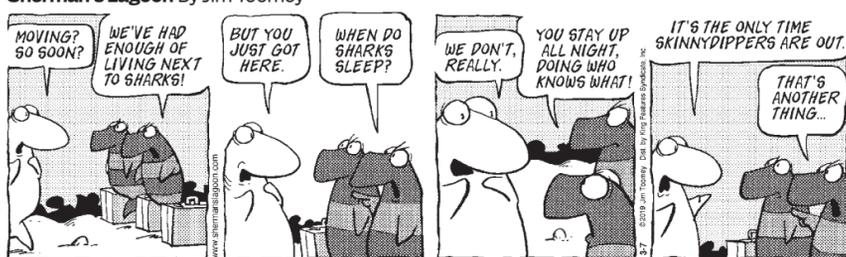
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



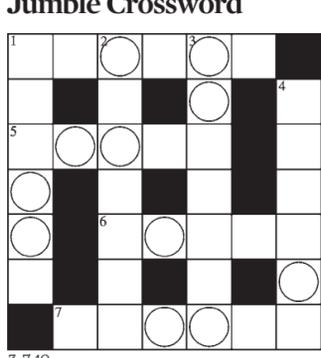
Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers



Trivia Bits

Former beauty pageant winners Lynda Carter and Gal Gadot are known for playing what role on TV and in films?
 A) Catwoman
 B) Cinderella
 C) Sleeping Beauty
 D) Wonder Woman
 Wednesday's answer: Golden Spike National Historic Site is in Utah.
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Jumble Crossword

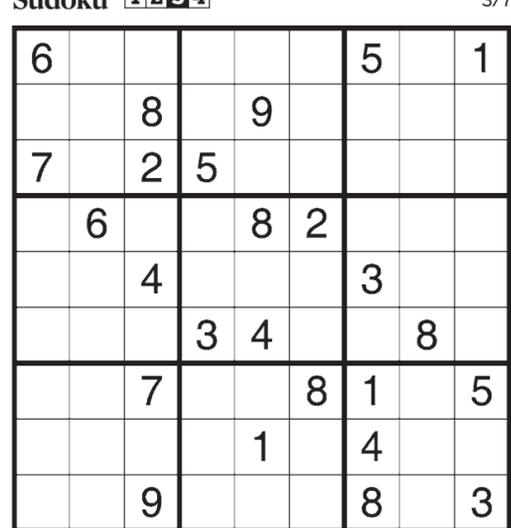


- CLUE ACROSS**
- Bottommost
 - Covering for the ground
 - Permit
 - Middle East city
- CLUE DOWN**
- Loose
 - Well-being
 - Academic
 - Get the better of
- ANSWER**
- ACROSS: 1. SLWETO, 2. MCHUL, 3. WLAOL, 4. IBRTUE
 DOWN: 1. MIBREL, 2. ELWAEFR, 3. HCLRASO, 4. UTIOWT

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.
 3-7-19 **CLUE:** _____ was born in West Germany on March 19, 1955.
BONUS ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○
 ANSWERS: 1-A-Lowest 5-A-Mulch 6-A-Allow 7-A-Blurt 1D-Lumber 2D-Wellfare 2D-Scholar 3D-Scholar 4D-Permit 4-B-Prince Willie
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 By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1 2 3 4

3/7



8	5	6	1	9	4	3	2	7
2	1	4	7	8	3	5	9	6
7	3	9	2	6	5	4	8	1
9	2	1	8	3	6	7	4	5
3	6	5	4	7	2	8	1	9
4	7	8	5	1	9	2	6	3
5	8	3	6	2	1	9	7	4
1	4	7	9	5	8	6	3	2
6	9	2	3	4	7	1	5	8

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Wednesday's solutions
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Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

NEEUUV
 ○○○○○○

PEDIT
 ○○○○○○

WAYLEK
 ○○○○○○

NAHRGA
 ○○○○○○

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

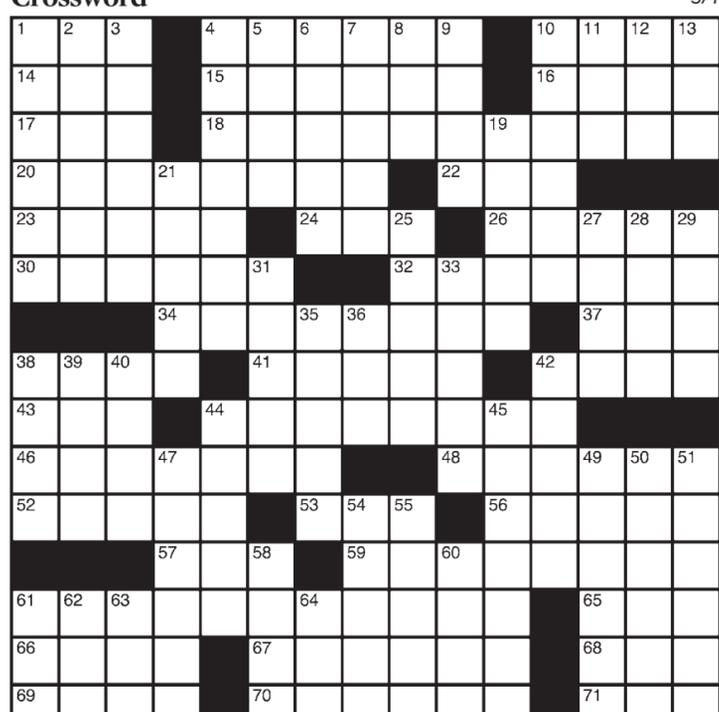
Answer here
 ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○

Wednesday's answers
 Jumbles: CABLE SLASH TARIFF WALLOP
 Answer: The new restaurant chain offered a healthful menu at all of their — "LOW-CALS"

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Crossword

3/7



- Across**
- Cleared (of)
 - Tote bag material
 - Down-to-earth
 - Chemical suffix
 - Even though
 - Wrinkly hybrid fruit
 - Teacher on call
 - John D. Rockefeller's company
 - Cutlery collection
 - Moo — gai pan
 - Record
 - Umbrella part
 - Grace word
 - Bilingual "Sesame Street" Muppet
 - Bath sponges
 - Most babbling
 - Bunk
 - Woodland goat-man
 - Arrainment answers
 - Kitchen pests
 - Racing Uners
 - Preparation period
- Down**
- German mathematician Bernhard
 - Softening
 - Calf-length skirts
 - 61-Across kingpin — Fring
 - Subtle shade
 - Glass lip
 - Speed trap equipment
 - #3 on Rolling Stone's 100 Greatest TV Shows of All Time (as of 2016) ... and a hint to what the black squares are doing in four rows of this puzzle
 - Check out
 - "Star Trek" race
 - Mariner's patron
 - Lingus
 - Pineapple center
 - "Mercy me!"
 - Genetic material
 - Actor Mahershala — 13 Rapper — Jon
 - High-tech worker
 - Affect
 - Pasture cry
 - Pull down
 - Opportunity
 - Former Air France jets
 - Colorado snowboarding mecca
 - "Cotton Comes to Harlem" director Davis
 - Urban Dictionary content
 - Iraq War weapon: Abbr.
 - One to grow on
 - Et ... and others
 - Hand-me-down
 - Group at Asgard
 - Cornea-reslapping surgery
 - One facing charges?
 - Desert illusion
 - Ready to roll
 - Vietnamese-American poker star Scotty
 - Biological subdivisions
 - Implored
 - Black
 - Japanese soup
 - Lady of Spain
 - Eng. channel
 - Pal of Pignlet
 - Goof up
 - Extreme
- Wednesday's solution**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | L | A | R | A | O | P | E | R | A | B | A | G |
| O | A | S | I | S | D | A | T | U | M | A | R | E |
| S | C | H | O | O | L | E | V | E | N | T | D | E |
| M | E | E | T | C | U | T | E | U | N | B | A | R |
| O | D | S | I | S | T | T | E | N | O | R | | |
| | | | S | A | H | A | R | A | D | E | S | E |
| | | | M | O | T | E | L | I | C | E | R | A |
| | | | E | P | I | C | A | D | D | O | N | O |
| | | | L | E | G | S | T | A | G | E | A | S |
| | | | S | C | H | M | O | O | Z | E | F | E |
| | | | T | A | U | P | E | O | X | I | A | P |
| | | | S | T | R | O | P | B | R | E | A | T |
| | | | W | O | S | P | R | E | A | D | S | H |
| | | | A | M | P | U | R | T | E | L | O | R |
| | | | Y | E | E | P | E | A | R | L | I | N |
- By Gary Larson. Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis. © 2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

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CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

chicagoweathercenter.com | BY TOM SKILLING AND WGN9



THURSDAY, MARCH 7 NORMAL HIGH: 43° NORMAL LOW: 26° RECORD HIGH: 78° (2000) RECORD LOW: -2° (1943)

Cold comes before rain, more seasonable temp

LOCAL FORECAST

HIGH 30 LOW 24

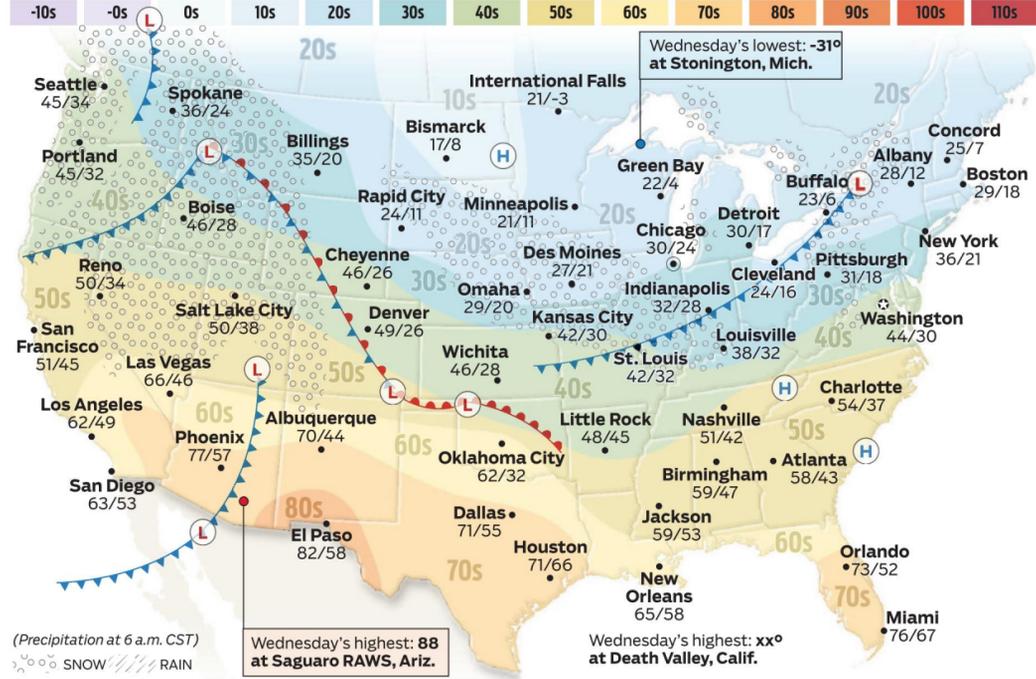
Very cold start to the day. Mostly cloudy and chilly. High again near 30, well below the normal high of 43. Clouds increase as the day progresses.

Not as windy. NW winds shift NE 4-10 mph.

Clouds thicken and snow develops after sunset. Some snow accumulation possible overnight. Not as cold with a low of 24.

East winds 4-10 mph overnight.

NATIONAL FORECAST



Wednesday was the 11th consecutive day with below-normal temperatures. That trend will continue today and tomorrow. On Saturday, our high temperature will be near the normal of 44 degrees. Sunday's high will be in the 30s but the expected highs on Monday and Tuesday will return to the 40s. By Wednesday the temperature may reach the 50s.

While we will have light snow Thursday night into Friday morning, an approaching low pressure system will bring rain and a chance of thunderstorms by Saturday afternoon. Another system will approach Tuesday night into early Wednesday, bringing above normal temperatures and more rain.

Our temperatures are trending toward being closer to normal. Below normal temperatures will remain entrenched in the western half of the U.S.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

HIGH 37 LOW 33

Cloudy with light snow ending after 1/2" to 1" total accumulation from Thursday night to Friday morning. High snow totals in Central Illinois. ENE winds 5-12 mph. Partly cloudy overnight with an above normal low in the low 30s.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

HIGH 46 LOW 34

Cloudy, windy. Rain developing by the afternoon. Chance for late afternoon or evening t-storms. Breezy with ESE winds 17-22 mph gusting to 30 mph. Warmer after sunset with a high in the mid-40s. Rain diminishing overnight.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

HIGH 37 LOW 27

Clouds break after a cloudy start to the day. Much colder with a high in the mid to upper 30s. Strong winds become westerly 20-28 mph with gusts to 40 mph. Mostly cloudy overnight with winds diminishing to 12-17 mph.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

HIGH 40 LOW 25

Mostly cloudy and blustery with WNW winds 10-15 mph gusting to 18 mph. A few flurries possible in the morning. Afternoon high near 40. Mostly cloudy overnight West winds diminish and turn northwest.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

HIGH 42 LOW 31

Mostly sunny. High temp of 42°, just below the normal high of 45. Clouds increase as the day progresses. East winds turn southeast at 7-10 mph. Cloudy overnight with rain developing. East-south-east winds 7-10 mph.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

HIGH 52 LOW 35

A low pressure system in the plains brings cloudy skies and rain. An above normal high in the low 50s. Warmer temps enhanced by strong SW winds 16-20 mph with gusts to 30 mph. Skies clear overnight with a low in the mid-30s.

ASK TOM

Dear Tom,
What would happen if a hurricane crossed over an erupting volcano, like for example Kilauea in Hawaii?

Kathy McGonigle, Evanston

Dear Kathy,
The answer is absolutely nothing. There are two features of hurricanes that are significant in this regard: rain and wind. Rain, whether it be associated with a hurricane or just from an ordinary shower or storm, occasionally falls onto erupting volcanoes. Either the rainwater evaporates from the heat being released by the volcano and therefore never touches the volcano or the raindrops hit the ground. Rain also helps to wash volcanic ash out of the air.

The high winds associated with a hurricane will carry ash and other material ejected by a volcano more rapidly downstream, but lighter (non-hurricane) winds do the same thing, just at a slower pace.

Write to: ASK TOM
2501 W. Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60618
asktomwhy@wgnv.com

WGN-TV meteorologists Mark Carroll, Steve Kahn, Richard Koeneman, 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.

Cold March to moderate; more seasonal temps this weekend

COLD IN CHICAGO
March 3-5, 2019 was the second-coldest in history for that 3 day period

COLDEST MEAN AVERAGE TEMP (FOR MARCH 3-5)	1873	7.6°
2019	11.0°	2ND-COLDEST
1978	13.8°	
1960	15.5°	

The average minimum temp for the 3 days was the 3rd coldest on record:

COLDEST MEAN MINIMUM TEMP (FOR MARCH 3-5)	1873	-6.0°
2002	1.7°	
2019	2.7°	3RD-COLDEST
1978	5.7°	
1884	8.7°	
1960	8.7°	

IT'S OFFICIAL!
Mt. Carroll, Ill. holds the record for Illinois coldest temperature

Jan. 31, 2019 Replaces previous statewide record low of -36° (Jan. 5, 1999) near Congerville, Ill.

-38.0°

Recorded in the midst of this winter's Polar Vortex!

MORE SEASONABLE WINDS ARRIVE THIS WEEKEND AND EXTEND INTO WORK WEEK
Mean max temp departures for March 9-13
Eastern half of country near to slightly above normal; western half remains cold

WEEKEND STORM BREWING
Sunday and Sunday night SNOWSTORM POTENTIAL

AREA OF STICKING SNOW

SEVERE WEATHER SATURDAY/SUNDAY NIGHT POTENTIAL

IT'S BEEN A WINDY WEEK
Peak Chicago wind speeds (MPH)
March 3-6, 2019

	3 SUN.	4 MON.	5 TUES.	6 WED.
O'HARE	25	33	33	31
MIDWAY	26	33	36	33

MIDWEST CITIES

THURS./FRI.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Illinois	cl	45	35	sh	50	38
Carbondale	ss	30	27	pc	40	30
Champaign	ss	31	28	pc	41	31
Decatur	ss	31	28	pc	41	31
Moline	sh	30	27	pc	41	32
Peoria	ss	30	27	pc	41	31
Quincy	ss	36	31	cl	45	34
Rockford	sh	33	29	pc	39	27
Springfield	ss	33	29	pc	41	32
Stirling	sh	30	25	pc	39	29

OTHER U.S. CITIES

THURS./FRI.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Albany	cl	77	48	cl	69	54
Albuquerque	pc	70	44	pc	67	34
Amarillo	pc	76	34	pc	68	40
Anchorage	sh	36	30	sh	40	33
Asheville	pc	51	35	rs	49	40
Aspen	sh	39	25	rs	41	20
Atlanta	su	58	43	ts	61	52
Atlantic City	pc	39	25	sh	38	32
Austin	cl	71	51	sh	75	63
Baltimore	cl	48	28	rs	38	34
Billings	sh	35	20	ss	29	21
Birmingham	pc	59	47	ts	64	57
Bismarck	sh	17	8	cl	28	17
Burlington	sh	46	28	pc	42	26
Boise	pc	29	18	pc	39	25
Brownsville	pc	78	69	pc	82	70
Buffalo	cl	23	6	sh	32	11
Burlington	cl	20	9	pc	33	16
Charlotte	pc	54	37	pc	57	42
Charlottesville	su	57	45	pc	62	55
Charlottesville	cl	41	29	fr	41	35
Chattanooga	pc	55	42	ts	53	49
Cheyenne	cl	46	26	rs	40	23
Cincinnati	sh	36	28	ss	30	23
Cleveland	cl	24	16	pc	36	20
Colo. Spgs	su	55	28	pc	54	31
Columbia MO	sh	42	32	cl	48	36
Columbia SC	su	59	38	cl	63	48
Columbus	sh	33	25	ss	39	29
Columbus	pc	25	7	cl	37	16
Croft Christi	cr	67	63	sh	78	67
Dallas	cl	71	55	cl	68	56
Daytona Bch.	su	68	54	pc	76	56
Denver	pc	49	26	sh	48	29
Des Moines	ss	27	21	cl	35	29
Dubuque	sh	26	20	sh	36	27
El Paso	pc	82	58	pc	75	43

WORLD CITIES

THURS./FRI.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Palm Beach	cl	74	64	pc	77	66
Palm Springs	pc	74	52	pc	65	45
Philadelphia	pc	37	21	rs	38	30
Phoenix	cl	77	57	pc	67	45
Pittsburgh	sh	31	18	rs	37	26
Portland, ME	pc	25	11	pc	36	19
Portland, OR	rs	45	32	cl	42	31
Providence	pc	29	13	cl	37	23
Raleigh	pc	50	34	sh	52	40
Rapid City	sh	24	11	sh	30	19
Reno	cl	50	34	pc	43	29
Richmond	pc	47	29	sh	44	33
Rochester	sh	23	9	sh	35	14
Sacramento	cl	55	41	pc	56	39
Salem, Ore.	sh	46	31	rs	45	31
Salt Lake City	sh	50	38	rs	42	25
San Antonio	sh	70	61	sh	77	66
San Diego	pc	63	52	sh	59	51
San Francisco	sh	51	45	pc	51	45
San Jose	pc	63	52	pc	67	56
Santa Fe	pc	59	37	sh	59	28
Savannah	su	61	44	pc	71	52
Seattle	rs	45	34	cl	47	36
Shreveport	sh	61	57	ts	73	63
Sioux Falls	ss	20	14	sh	29	25
Spokane	pc	36	24	sh	34	23
St. Louis	sh	42	32	cl	47	36
Tucson	sh	81	54	pc	63	39
Tulsa	sh	62	37	sh	52	46
Washington	pc	44	30	sh	45	35
Wichita	sh	46	28	cl	48	41
Wilkes Barre	pc	28	9	ss	30	22
Yuma	pc	79	55	pc	70	46

FORECAST (FC) ABBREVIATIONS: su-sunny pc-partly cloudy cl-cloudy rn-rain ts-thunderstorm sn-snow fl-furries fr-freezing rain sl-sleet sh-showers rs-rain/snow ss-snow showers w-windy na-unavailable

CHICAGO DIGEST

WEDNESDAY TEMPERATURES

LOCATION	HI	LO	LOCATION	HI	LO
Aurora	32	6	Midway	32	10
Gary	29	12	O'Hare	30	9
Kankakee	32	9	Romeoville	34	6
Lakefront	31	na	Valparaiso	34	9
Lansing	32	7	Waukegan	28	6

CHICAGO PRECIPITATION

PERIOD	2019	NORMAL
Wed. (through 4 p.m.)	0.00"	0.08"
March to date	Trace	0.47"
Year to date	4.77"	3.99"

CHICAGO SNOWFALL

PERIOD	O'HARE	MIDWAY
Wed. (through 4 p.m.)	0.0"	0.0"
Season to date	41.5"	39.0"
Normal to date	30.9"	32.2"

SOURCE: Frank Wachowski

LAKE MICHIGAN CONDITIONS

THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Wind NE 3-11 kts.	NE 4-12 kts.
Waves 1 foot	1 foot
Wed. shore/creeper water temps 34°/32°	

U.S. SNOW COVER

MARCH 6	2019	2018
Area covered by snow	52.2%	36.9%
Average snow depth	7.6"	5.7"

TRACKING THE COLD

SINCE OCT. 15	O'HARE	MIDWAY
Sub-32° highs	39 days	34 days
Subzero lows	7 days	7 days

CHICAGO AIR QUALITY

Wednesday's reading **Good**
Thursday's forecast **Moderate**
Critical pollutant **Particulates**

THURSDAY RISE/SET TIMES

SUN	6:16 a.m.	5:48 p.m.
Moon	7:05 a.m.	6:52 p.m.

THURSDAY PLANET WATCH

PLANET	RISE	SET
Mercury	6:30 a.m.	6:54 p.m.
Venus	4:32 a.m.	2:23 p.m.
Mars	8:31 a.m.	10:42 p.m.
Jupiter	1:43 a.m.	10:54 a.m.
Saturn	3:31 a.m.	12:48 p.m.

BEST VIEWING TIME

Mercury	Not Visible	Direction
Venus	5:30 a.m.	9° SE
Mars	7:15 p.m.	37° SW
Jupiter	5:15 a.m.	24° SSE
Saturn	5:15 a.m.	14.5° SE

SOURCE: Dan Joyce, Triton College

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Chicago Tribune
HOMES

Tankless water heaters save space, energy **PAGE 2**

Early spring is time to spray trees and shrubs to prevent fungus **PAGE 5**

Plan ahead, consider space when building detached garage **PAGE 6**



Blending modern
and antique styles

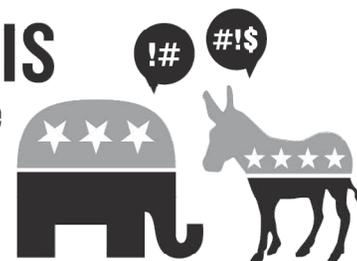
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Tankless water heaters offer benefits worth considering

BY JENNA SCHUSTER
HomeAdvisor

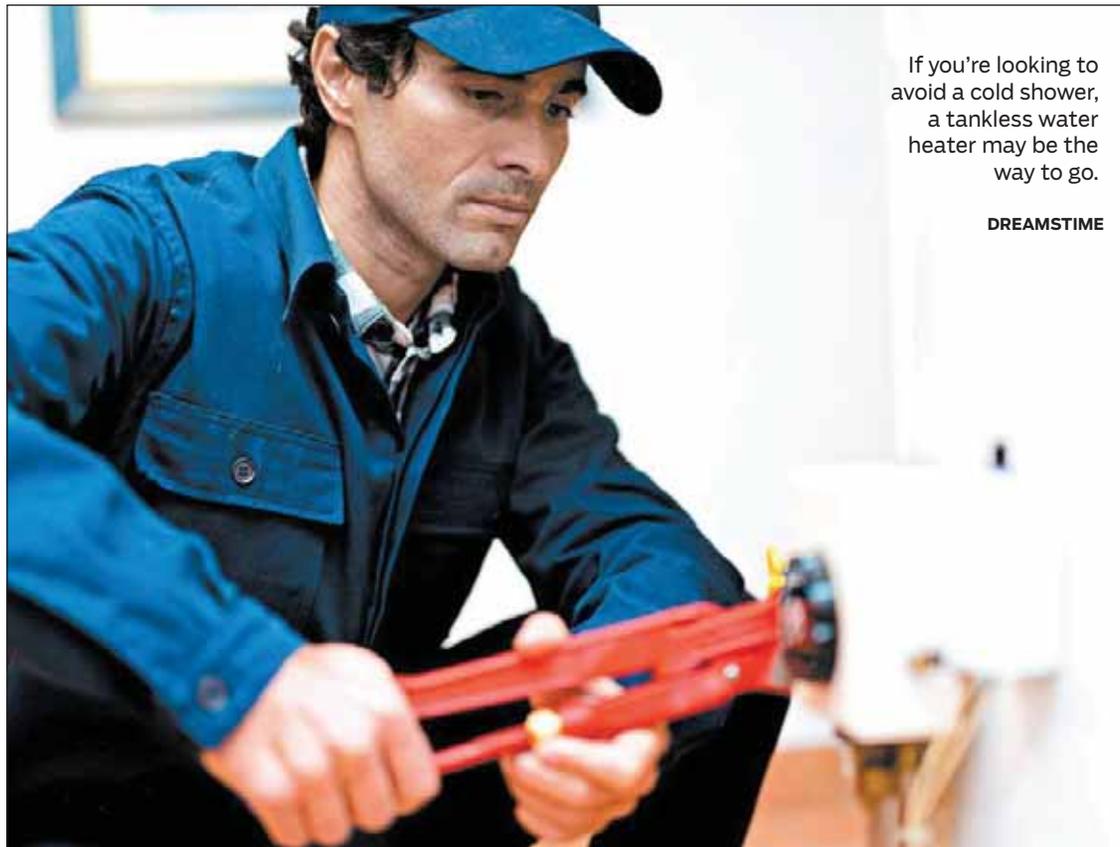
By now, you may have heard the hype surrounding tankless water heaters. Also known as “on-demand” or “instant” water heaters, they’re known to be energy-efficient space savers that can keep you from running out of hot water at home.

Tankless water heaters come in small and large sizes to fit your needs, and you can have several installed at once.

If your home’s infrastructure can support it, and you’re prepared to pay a higher upfront cost, tankless heaters could definitely be worth the switch.

They’re space savers: Storage-tank water heaters can hold 30 to 80 gallons, so the tank takes up a lot of space. But tankless water heaters are box-shaped and usually only a few cubic feet in size. Why the difference? Storage tanks store heated water until you are ready to use it, but instant water heaters can warm up water on command as it moves through the system and into the pipes. Because of their small size, you can install tankless heaters under sinks, in cabinets and even outside.

They’re energy-efficient: Storage tanks use energy to keep water heated at all times, while



If you’re looking to avoid a cold shower, a tankless water heater may be the way to go.

DREAMSTIME

instant water heaters simply warm cold water as it passes through on the way to your faucet. This makes instant water heaters the more energy-efficient option, as there aren’t standby losses from the heated water that goes unused. And some compa-

nies claim that tankless units use 30 percent to 50 percent less energy than units with tanks, which is good for your wallet and the environment.

They last a long time: Though tankless water heaters have a

higher upfront cost than storage-tank heaters, they should save you money over time. Tankless units are known to last five to 10 years longer than storage-tank heaters, so you shouldn’t have to replace it for a while. If you get a tankless water heater inspected

regularly and clear out mineral buildup in the pipes, it can last 20 years or more.

They won’t flood your home: Storage-tank water heaters are known to burst from sediment buildup, rust and pressure. If a leak occurs, gallons of water can pour into your home and cost thousands in water damage. Tankless water heaters don’t have a storage compartment, so there’s no reservoir waiting to put your home at risk. While there’s always a chance for pipes to burst from unrelated causes, you can rest easy knowing the damage would likely be less severe.

They won’t run out of hot water: Though storage-tank water heaters can hold a lot of water, there is still a finite amount available until the tank is able to heat more. When the warm water runs out, you’re left with a less effective dishwasher cycle or a cold shower. Tankless water heaters prevent this problem by heating water as you go and stopping only when you turn off the tap. For maximum efficiency, install a few smaller tankless water heaters around your home. It can be difficult for a tankless system to heat water for multiple locations at once, so having more heaters at work ensures you see the most benefit.

Hottest home decor trends

BY CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

What’s hot? What’s current? What’s now? When it comes to interior design trends, the answer is some timeless trends as well as a number of new ones. Curious? We’ve compiled a list and style guide.

Pastel: No longer considered feminine or old fashioned, pastel color palettes are both current and soothing.

Mirrors: Looking for a budget

alternative to artwork? Consider mirrors. Hang them in groupings for an impactful look.

Indigo: Indigo remains a modern alternative to black. Use this rich color as a primary color in a room or as an accent.

Wallpaper: Cue the ’70s music. Wallpaper was in, then out, and now it is certainly back in. Wallpaper is a way to add texture, color and pattern to nearly any space.

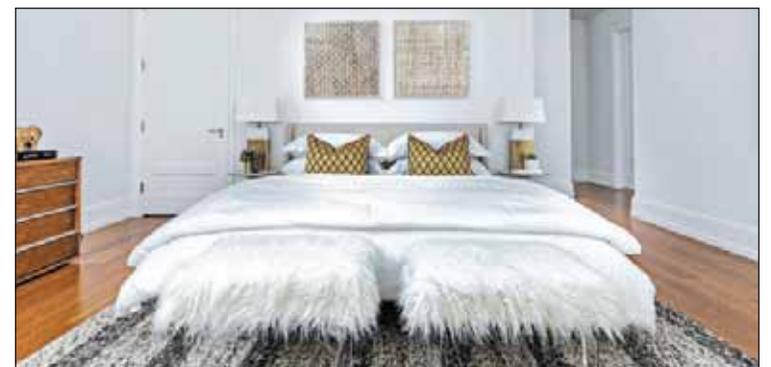
Black and white: One of the

most timeless color palettes remains on trend.

Faux fur: From accent pillows to accent furniture, faux fur is a way to add texture and glamour.

Wood: From slab tables to accent furniture, wood can infuse both an organic and nature element.

Black-and-white photography: Instead of solely using abstract artwork in a space, consider incorporating black and white photography as a creative and interesting alternative to tradi-



DESIGN RECIPES

Faux fur stools add a touch of glam in this master bedroom.

tional artwork.

Brass: Brass remains one of the hottest finishes in home decor.

Acrylic and resin: When it comes to transparent surfaces, acrylic and resin is being infused into modern furniture selections.

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COVER PHOTO BY HILLARY LEVIN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



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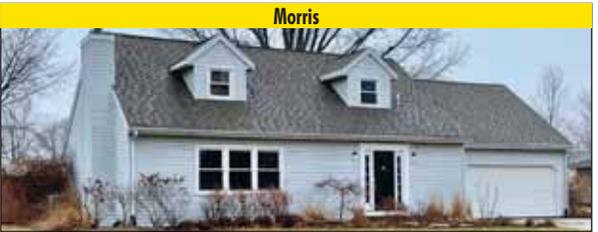
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Couple blends modern with antiques

BY ELENA QUINONES
Tribune News Service

ST. LOUIS — For many couples, a difference in design aesthetics could make for a jumbled mess of a home, not to mention a marriage. But for Scott and Jackie Leisler, their differences only enhance their home — and their relationship.

Scott prefers midcentury modern pieces for their St. Louis home while Jackie has an eye for antiques. The two styles blend in a look that seems effortless, stylish and utterly unique.

“We have a good way of combining things, but it takes us a lot of time,” Jackie says.

The Leislers have been curating decor pieces and updating their traditional style home since they moved in about six years ago.

“You can’t just go to Target and buy this stuff. It takes years of going in and out of antique stores or estate sales. When you want this look, it just takes a little bit more effort,” Jackie says.

The Leislers’ walls are covered in unique pieces. A set of their favorites is by St. Louis artist Gaucha Berlin. They own two of her pieces, which are made from old newsprint. One is of Snow White and the other is a world map.

Most of the pieces in their home come from Jackie’s antiquing. “I try to shop local as much as possible and make relationships with people in the stores,” Jackie says.

They also display many of Scott’s original paintings throughout the home. Scott is a part-time artist. One of Scott’s originals, a typographic painting that depicts the names of different streets in the area, takes center stage in the dining room.

A few feet away stands an original wood and glass built-in. They have updated the piece to add lighting and shelves. Jackie hopes to add wallpaper or some splash of color to the back of the piece in the future.

The built-in is just one of many of the 1901 home’s original pieces. The house also boasts six original fireplaces. Five maintain their original tilework; one was replaced with a marble backing.

An original floor-to-ceiling mirror with gold trim stands in the foyer, serving as a grand greet-



HILLARY LEVIN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH PHOTOS

The original built-in breakfront is a showpiece in the dining room of Scott and Jackie Leisler’s St. Louis home.



The master bedroom features one of six fireplaces, five of which include the original tilework.

ing to guests.

Off the foyer is a beautiful parlor, where the Leislers show off their knack for collecting.

“We really love this room, because it has taken us time to

collect and accumulate pieces,” Jackie says.

The parlor showcases Jackie’s coral collection and various oddities. Jackie also collects bird prints, John Darien plates, Rifle



The home was built in 1901 and the couple tries to keep in mind the original parts of the house when updating.

Paper Co. prints, Vargas pinup girls prints and more.

The couple maintains a good balance between keeping the original parts of the home and updating as necessary. Many of their updates, in fact, are in an attempt to get to the original essence of the home.

Some updates, though, are modernizing.

The home has a sun porch, which they turned into a four-seasons room, adding cooling, heating and wooden floors to make it an extension of the home to be used year-round.

It’s clear that the two love their home. They can’t pick a favorite spot.

“The whole house is our favorite,” Jackie says.



MORTON ARBORETUM

If you are planning to spray this year to deter fungus diseases, such as the apple scab that afflicts older varieties of crab apple trees, the time to do it is at the buds' opening.

To deter fungus problems, spray in very early spring

BY BETH BOTTS
Chicago Tribune

If your tree or shrub had a serious fungus problem last season, you may be considering applying a fungicide to deter the disease this year.

Now is the time to prepare, said Sharon Yiesla, plant knowledge specialist at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. "For a fungicide to be effective, it needs to be applied very early in the season, when the new foliage is just beginning to emerge from the buds," she said.

There's no way to predict when that will be, since the buds' opening depends on the weather. "You just need to get ready and then watch your tree closely to be sure you spray at the right time," she said.

For a fungicide to fend off a disease, it must entirely coat the leaves. "The first application will cover the emerging leaves," Yiesla said. "As they get larger and more leaf surface opens up, you'll need to spray again."

If you miss the early-spring window, there's no point in spraying later. "The purpose of a fungicide spray is to prevent the disease from taking hold," she said. "Once it has developed and you see the symptoms in the summer, it will be too late for spraying to do any good."

However, there's no need to spray for the majority of fungal diseases of trees, shrubs and other plants. Although these diseases are unsightly, most don't actually do serious damage to the plant, Yiesla said. "Some fungicides may be harmful to beneficial organisms, so you never want to spray if you don't have to."

Spraying may be warranted as a last resort if an infection is doing serious damage, she said. For example, it may be used to fight rhizosphaera needle cast on spruces; apple scab on older varieties of flowering crab apple; and black spot and botrytis blight on some varieties of roses.

Before you spray any fungicide or insecticide,

get expert advice to choose the right product. Not all chemicals are effective against all diseases, and spraying with the wrong product may be futile as well as harmful to the environment. The Arboretum's Plant Clinic can help you identify a disease, advise on whether to consider spraying and suggest an appropriate product.

If a plant is severely afflicted, it might be better to replace it with a newer disease-resistant variety, or maybe a different species altogether. "There are plenty of disease-resistant options today," Yiesla said.

"Spraying is a lot of trouble, and it can get expensive if you have to do it two or three times every spring, year after year," she said.

For tree and plant advice, contact the Arboretum's Plant Clinic (630-719-2424 or plantclinic@mortonarb.org).

Beth Botts is a staff writer at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle (www.mortonarb.org).

Picking the right gardening gloves depends on the tasks

BY TIM JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

I am planning to buy some gardening gloves and would like some advice on which ones to buy.

— Maria Jefferson, Morton Grove

It is difficult to recommend one specific type or brand of glove to purchase, as there are many styles available with advantages and disadvantages to each. Consider the amount and type of gardening tasks you will be doing as you are reviewing gloves, and buy gloves that have enough durability.

You will want to make sure that your gloves fit you properly and are comfortable. A good fit will vary from person to person, so it is best to try them on before buying. I prefer a snug fit, with the tips of my finger near the end of the gloves but not jammed against the end of them. If there is too much open space in the gloves' fingertips, you will find it difficult to grasp things with your fingers.

Make sure the gloves flex well, especially at the finger joints, so that the movement of your fingers is not restricted while gardening. The wrist closure should sit at your wrist to provide proper protection — gloves that are too small for you will sit lower on your hand. Gloves that are designed for men and women are often too loose and wide to be comfortable for those with smaller hands.

Cotton gloves generally will be very comfortable because they are flexible, lightweight and breathable. They are best for light gardening tasks such as planting annuals, weeding, deadheading and grooming perennials. Cotton gloves are available in a



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Cotton gloves are generally very comfortable for gardening because they are flexible, lightweight and breathable.

variety of colors and styles and are inexpensive so it should be easy to find a pair that suits you.

They will do a poor job, though, of protecting your hands from any sharp objects like thorns and will wear out quickly when used often. A pair of cotton gloves that I tried worked very well for routine garden maintenance but did not last long due to my heavy use.

My go-to gardening gloves are a simple pair of leather gloves that are nothing fancy. They last a long time, are comfortable and provide lots of protection for my hands, in addition to working well for all

types of tasks from pruning to heavy digging.

When new, leather gloves will need a little bit of use to soften up and be more comfortable. However, if you cannot make a fist or open your hand with the new leather gloves, then it may be best to try another pair that is bigger. When they get wet and then dry out, they will be very stiff until you work with them some to loosen them up. I use an insulated pair of leather gloves for cold weather, as well as an old pair of skiing gloves.

Tim Johnson is director of horticulture for the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

Consider space when building garage

BY TIM CARTER
Tribune Content Agency

Q: I bought a house with a dilapidated detached garage. It needs to be torn down. Now's my chance to construct a superb garage that will be the talk of the neighborhood. What size should it be? I've got unlimited flat space and a healthy budget, so don't hold back with your suggestions. What design features might you suggest?

A: You'd be surprised how often folks ask me for detached garage ideas. The second house I owned had one. The house and garage were built in the early 1900s, and the garage was in great condition. I know it's still standing to this day. It's a shame the previous owners allowed your garage to fall into disrepair.

Poor planning is the most common reason for dissatisfaction with both detached garages and homes in general. The root of the problem is that most people are unable to visualize the space once it's complete. The second issue is if you look at an empty space, say in a model home or a business that sells garage packages, your brain thinks the unfilled void will be plenty big. The minimum size I'd make a detached garage is 26 feet deep by 38 feet wide.

You're lucky that you have unlimited space, a substantial budget and a nice flat spot to build. The first thing you should do is make a list of all the things you plan to put in the garage. I'm talking about all your landscape tools, mowers, snowblowers, motorcycles, etc. Give some thought to whether you want a nice workbench there as well. You may even want a small bathroom and storage closet. Think big!

Using some large-format graph paper, start to develop a draft plan



TIM CARTER PHOTO

Plan ahead when designing a detached garage. The minimum size should be 26 feet deep by 38 feet wide.

of the space. Your challenge is to come up with a floor plan that allows you to store all the things you want out of the elements in such a way that you don't crowd anything. The ideal garage is large enough that you can access anything without having to climb over or move something else.

Garage door openings should be no less than 9 feet wide and 8 feet tall. If you plan to have a full-size pickup truck, you'll never regret having at least one door 10 feet wide. This allows you to pull the truck in without folding

back one of the large side mirrors.

Be sure to create a 3 foot minimum space between two side-by-side garage doors. That allows you to open most car and truck doors fully without any fear of dinging a vehicle parked in the other garage bay.

The distance from the edges of the garage door openings to the exterior walls should be a minimum of 5 feet. This distance allows you to store garbage cans and similar-sized things along a wall and still have enough space to open a car door to exit a vehicle

without being cramped for space.

The last garage I built for myself had plenty of space for a workbench because I added 10 extra feet of width to the garage between the one garage door and the exterior side wall. It seemed like far too much space at the time, but I came to find out it was perfect and allowed both a workbench along the wall and plenty of space for a table saw and a few other stationary tools.

The ceiling height in the garage should be given serious thought. Imagine having enough space to

put in a loft that's 6 feet 8 inches tall from the loft floor to the garage ceiling! You can have all sorts of extra storage up in a loft that's along the back wall of the garage. You just need to make sure there's enough headroom under the loft floor so you can walk around under it.

I'd also give serious thought to the roof trusses. At the very least, order storage trusses for even more bonus storage space. If you want living, office or hobby space above the garage, then order attic trusses. The steeper the pitch of the garage roof, the larger a full-sized room can be inside the garage attic.

Plan for floor drains and shallow funnels under each vehicle parking space. Snowmelt and water dripping from cars coming in from the rain will not flow across the garage floor toward the doors if you do this. Floor drains in garages seem to have been kicked to the curb over the years, and it's a massive mistake in my opinion. Just ask anyone whose garage door bottom seal has frozen to the floor in midwinter because of meltwater that was trying to get outside!

Don't skimp on the electric service you extend to the structure. I'd put in no less than 240 volts and 100 amps. This gives you plenty of power to use an electric welder or other power tools that might be used in the garage. You can put in much smaller service if you think you'll never have these big tools.

Radiant floor heat would be a delightful extra should you want to transform the garage into a workplace in the winter. You only get one chance to install the PEX tubing when you pour the concrete slab. Don't forget to put in plenty of closed-cell foam insulation under the slab if you decide to heat it.

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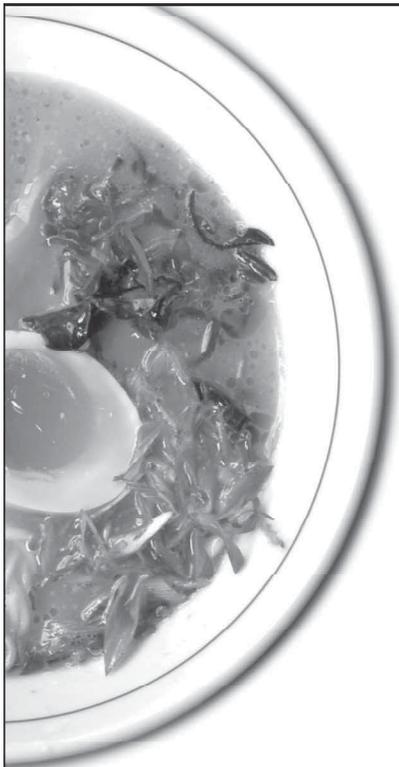
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DREAMSTIME

A microfiber cloth is an excellent tool for cleaning hardwood floors.

HOME REMEDIES

Maintaining hardwood floors

BY PAUL F. P. POGUE
Angie's List

Hardwood flooring is one of the most popular flooring choices for the home, and no wonder. It offers strength, durability and great looks. Plus, it tends to have a high return on investment when you start calculating resale value. But hardwood is also an expensive flooring choice, so you want to take the best possible care of it. Plus, it tends to be more vulnerable to the wrong cleaning choices than other kinds of flooring. Take these steps to ensure a long life and a beautiful finish:

Avoid moisture when cleaning: Moisture and wood don't mix. Water seeping into the boards, even in small amounts, can cause warping and cracks over the long term. In most cases, the finish will protect your hardwood from incidental amounts of water, but regularly cleaning with a wet mop will stretch that protection to its limit. For this reason, clean up any spills quickly.

Steer clear of harsh chemicals such as vinegar or ammonia. Many manufacturers will recommend a

specific cleaning solution, and you could void your warranty if you don't comply. Stay away from steam cleaners as well.

Many cleaning products can dull the finish or discolor the wood. Plus, some products, even those that are advertised as safe for hardwood floors, leave a waxy residue or buildup that can be hard to eliminate.

For regular maintenance cleaning, a soft cloth or microfiber mop can pick up most messes. Many manufacturer-recommended cleaners come in spray form, which you can spray directly on the mop head. Spray enough to make it damp but not wet, so it picks up dust but doesn't leave residue behind. A regular vacuum can handle debris. Make sure you set it for bare floors.

How to preserve your floor: Daily sweeping or vacuuming will help ensure your floor's long life. Debris, dirt and other grit can get into crevices, create buildup and scratches or wear away the finish.

Place rugs in entryways and high-traffic areas to minimize wear and tear.

Close your blinds or use

curtains to prevent fading from direct sunlight.

Place felt pads on chair legs, tables and any furniture that will be frequently moved. Every so often, inspect the felt on furniture that moves frequently, such as chairs. The pads will wear away more swiftly in such cases.

Rearrange your furniture every year or so. Heavy furniture sitting in the same spot for years can cause indentation and damage.

Place plastic trays underneath plant pots to protect the floors from excess water. Use caution not to overwater plants.

If you have pets, keep their nails trimmed to minimize scratches, and use caution while wearing high heels — or better yet, take your shoes off at the door.

Eventually, you'll need to refinish your hardwood floor. Most floors should last you 10 to 20 years. This will vary depending on traffic and maintenance. Keep an eye out for scratches, wear marks and furniture indentations. When you hire a pro, make sure they have experience with your type of flooring material.

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SAVINGS UPDATE

What is an FHA mortgage?

Mortgage shopping will pit you against numerous terms and acronyms that may leave you scratching your head. One you're likely to encounter is an FHA loan, and though some 8 million U.S. homeowners have this type of mortgage, you may be unfamiliar with what it is.

A FHA loan is a mortgage backed by the U.S. Federal Housing Administration. In the same way that private mortgage insurance, or PMI, guarantees conventional mortgages for those putting down less than 20 percent, the FHA provides mortgage insurance on FHA loans.

This backing makes lenders willing to extend mortgages to homebuyers they would have otherwise turned down. Namely, FHA insurance makes it possible to secure a mortgage with as little as 3.5 percent down, and/or a credit score as low as 580 (or possibly even lower), bringing homeownership into reach for many more low-income buyers than conventional loans would serve.

FHA loans can also allow gift money to be used for the down payment or closing costs, and can be less restrictive on required debt-to-income ratios for the buyer.

Of course, there are trade-offs. The biggest is that FHA borrowers must pay two different fees in exchange for FHA insurance. First, a one-time mortgage insurance premium of 1.75 percent of the loan amount is applied at the time of closing. Second, a modest ongoing premium, ranging from about half to one percent of the loan amount annually, will be due each month for the life of the loan.

Since FHA interest rates may or may not be better than conventional rates, borrowers with ample down payment funds and a decent credit score might be better served with a standard mortgage. But if your down payment or credit rating are stumbling blocks, an FHA loan may be your ticket to getting into a home.

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