

ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Nigel Lee, 20, in his home this month in Urbana, Ill. Lee was incarcerated since he was 16 after a string of arrests as a gang member, but was able to find an arrangement with the youth prison that allowed him to attend Malcolm X College.

‘I didn’t count the days. I made the days count.’

With guards at his side, jailed teen was able to attend college on campus

BY ALICE YIN

It was time for midterm grades, and Nigel Lee expected the worst.

The 18-year-old heard the stories about how tough college can be and how students stayed up cramming for exams. And the nursing program he was interested in was particularly competitive and demanding.

Jailed since he was 16, Lee believed he had fallen behind the rest of the class at Malcolm X College on the West Side of Chicago. But with each class, his confidence ballooned: C, A, A and A.

“Man, do you know how happy I was?” said Lee, now 20. “I was so happy. I was known as the guy in college who was locked up. I thought I was going to

do so bad, and I did so great.”

At the time, Lee was one of more than 400 people between ages 13 and 21 housed at prisons run by the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice — and among the first to attend college on campus while in custody.

About 15% of those under IDJJ custody participate in some form of

post-secondary education, according to department Director Heidi Mueller. All five of its facilities offer programs, but only two allow youth to attend a college while incarcerated.

“One of the things that we are really committed to doing at (IDJJ) is really reversing the school-to-prison pipeline, and we’re doing what we call creating a prison-to-college pipeline for our kids,” Mueller said.

People who receive educational programming while behind bars are 43% less likely to return to prison, according to a nationwide RAND study in 2013.

Turn to **Teen**, Page 5

Revenge porn may go to US high court

Free speech defense draws split rulings in Illinois, Minn. cases

BY DEANNA PAUL
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When Bethany Austin learned that her fiancé had been unfaithful in late May 2016, she ended the seven-year relationship and called off their upcoming wedding.

He told the couple’s friends that Austin was “crazy.”

To set the record straight, Austin sent their families a four-page letter that contained text messages between her ex and his mistress and nude photos of the woman.

Austin was promptly charged with a felony for violating Illinois’ revenge porn law, known as “non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images.” In return, she argued that the law was an unconstitutional restriction of her freedom of speech.

Legislation criminalizing nonconsensual pornography has gained traction in much of the country. Forty-six states and Washington, D.C., have passed revenge porn laws over the past decade, and appeals courts across the country are beginning to take up cases involving the constitutionality of revenge porn statutes on First Amendment grounds.

The U.S. Supreme Court has yet to hear a case on the issue, but Austin’s could be the first.

The Constitution protects freedom of speech, even when it is “offensive or disagreeable.” But rules have exceptions; the First Amendment does not protect certain speech, such as threats, obscenity, incitement of violence and public disclosure of private information.

When the government imposes a content-based restriction on a specific statement or image, it must satisfy the strictest,

‘Where do you draw the line with this law?’

— Igor Bozic, attorney for Bethany Austin in Illinois case

Turn to **Court**, Page 10

Sports betting via phone is coming, as are its perils

BY JOHN KEILMAN

Brian Bengé is an experienced and enthusiastic sports bettor, and though he lives in Iowa City, the way he bets is a glimpse of the future for Illinois gamblers.

He rarely sets foot in any of his state’s 19 casinos, most of which established sportsbooks after Iowa introduced sports betting in August. Instead, he wagers via his smartphone, picking winners, overunders and upset specials from the comfort of home.

“I prefer to stay here,” he said. “You can eat or drink whatever you want, invite friends over and enjoy the game.”

Online sports betting has become the default option in the handful of states that

offer it — in New Jersey, second only to Nevada as a sports gambling market, 86% of wagers are made that way — and when you talk with gamblers, it’s easy to see why.

Smartphones allow them to shop around for the most advantageous betting lines, make wagers as the fancy strikes — even in the middle of a game — and enjoy the stimulation of gambling without having to leave their couches.

But the very ease and convenience that makes online betting attractive concerns some experts, who say it can lead to addiction.

“When you’re watching a game and can

Turn to **Betting**, Page 6



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jessica Morales joins others in lighting up aboard a bus near Denver. It’s still early to gauge consequences in the 10 states that legalized cannabis, including Colorado, since 2012.

Legal pot in Ill.: ‘No big deal’ or a ‘reckless experiment’?

Proponents, critics disagree about recreational weed’s potential impact on state

BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN

Yes, Northwestern University professor of pharmacology Rich Miller was at Woodstock. He recalls the landmark 1969 music festival as the pinnacle of the counterculture movement, a joyous, peaceful celebration consecrated in clouds of marijuana.

The next year, President Richard Nixon signed into law the Controlled Substances Act, outlawing weed. Yet after all these years, Miller says, the legalization coming to Illinois in the new year is “no big deal.”

The Netherlands, he points out, has had

decade legalization since the 1970s. More recently, Canada and Uruguay have legalized it. All found that marijuana use did not lead to widespread crime, addiction or collapse of society.

“January 1st is going to be a ridiculous feeding frenzy,” Miller said. “After a year, it’s just not a big deal. The big surprise is, there’s not going to be very many surprises.”

Legalization opponents beg to differ. They say legalization is a huge social venture, and the costs will be high.

“There’s a reason why most localities that have the chance reject legal marijuana: In theory it sounds nice, but in practice it stinks — literally and figuratively,” Kevin Sabet, president of the anti-legalization

Turn to **Pot**, Page 6



KRISTAN LIEB/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The pursuit of popularity and the cruelty of cliques

Tina Fey’s droll dissection of the tribal doings in her lightly fictional amalgam of Evanston Township High School and New Trier probes the pursuit of popularity and the cruelty of Chicagoland cliques. “Mean Girls” runs through Jan. 26 at the Nederlander Theatre. **A+E**

Encarnacion signing feels a lot like past moves

Paul Sullivan: Whether Edwin Encarnacion, who turns 37 in January, turns out to be the final piece to the White Sox puzzle or the next Ken Griffey Jr. or the next home-run-or-bust slugger like Adam Dunn, his signing is a blast from the past. **Chicago Sports**

Law requires insurers to pay for 2nd mammogram

About 10% of patients who receive routine mammograms get called back for another look. It’s news that can hit hard emotionally and financially — but a new state law will require many insurers to fully cover the cost of second, or diagnostic, mammograms. **Business**



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‘THE CHICAGO BEARS: A DECADE-BY-DECADE HISTORY’

The Tribune sports department has compiled a comprehensive, decade-by-decade portrait of the Bears featuring essays, box scores, articles, photographs, a one-of-a-kind first person account by George Halas and team memorabilia from the Tribune's historical archives. Available at chicagotribune.com/bears100book.

“Even the Terrible Things Seem Beautiful to Me Now, 2nd Edition” Over the last two decades, Mary Schmich's column in the Chicago Tribune has offered advice, humor and discerning commentary on a broad array of topics including family, personal milestones, mental illness, writing and life in Chicago. This second edition collects her 10 Pulitzer-winning columns along with more than 150 others, creating a compelling collection that reflects Schmich's thoughtful, insightful and engaging sensibility.

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

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ACCURACY AND ETHICS

MARGARET HOLT, standards editor

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

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

■ A story on the front page of the Business section on Thursday incorrectly stated the full City Council needs to approve applications to open new recreational marijuana stores. The city's Zoning Board of Appeals must approve them. The Tribune regrets the error.

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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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GOOD NEIGHBORS

Sunbow Foundation lights the darkness with small acts of kindness, generosity



DONNA VICKROY

Note: Anger, divisiveness and discord may have dominated the headlines in 2019, but as the late Fred Rogers once said, even in scary times, there is goodness. In this year that brought his spirit to life through the inspiring film “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” we are lifted by his reminder: “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”

Indeed. To close the year on a positive and hopeful note, this week we introduce you to some of the helpers in your neighborhood.

Joe Fionda was nearly broken. Having buried his single mother, his grandmother and an aunt and uncle, the former Lynwood resident was a penniless high school dropout living in a trailer that was about to be foreclosed on.

He'd left school to care, first, for his mom and, then his grandmother, after each were diagnosed with cancer.

Rock bottom came on his way home from yet another funeral, when he was in a traffic accident on Pulaski Road. His car, left to him by his late grandmother, was totaled.

Fionda, 23, said he plummeted into a sea of depression and anxiety that manifested in physical symptoms, including pain and dry heaves.

When a friend of his mother's learned of his situation, she started a fundraiser on Facebook.

Then Marie Jarrell got involved. Jarrell, a New Lenox cancer survivor and long time fundraiser for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Team in Training Society, started the Sunbow Foundation seven years ago, after her own struggles following the loss of her mother.

Through Sunbow, so named for the spectrum of color seen after the rain has cleared, she is able to organize small acts of kindness that reap big results.

A couple of years ago, it became a 501C3.

“The people we help are going through a rough time; we just try to help,” she said.

“We have a board of directors but we're still small enough that we don't have an application process. It's really word of mouth,” she said.

Each request's legitimacy is checked out, she said. And the amount of money needed must be enough to change a person's situation, she said.

“It has to make a difference,” she said.

“For example, I'm not going to give a thousand dollars to a gofundme to make it jump from \$26,000 to \$27,000. I'm going to give a thousand dollars to someone for whom a thousand dollars is going to rock their world.”

She met Fionda, learned his story and then reached out to her vast network of friends to match whatever his mom's friend raised.



DONNA VICKROY/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Seven years ago, Marie Jarrell started the Sunbow Foundation, an organization that delivers small acts of kindness that reap big results.

The result was a gift of \$3,000 and plane ticket to California, where he connected with some friends to start a new life.

“He calls me Aunt Marie,” said Jarrell, who still keeps in touch with Fionda, now living in Ventura County.

A longtime runner and running coach, Jarrell has an extensive network of “altruistic” friends. “They're givers,” she said. “And every time I ask for their help in helping someone else, they give.”

Jarrell, 56, grew up in Glenwood. She attended St. Kieren School in Chicago Heights and Homewood-Flossmoor High School. She works as a physical therapist.

Among the people her foundation has helped is a woman she met on the job.

“Her feet were hurting but she couldn't afford new shoes because she had two adult special needs children and all were about to move into a shelter,” Jarrell said.

“It was right before Christmas. Her husband had lost his job. We intended to raise enough money to get her a new pair of shoes but we ended up raising \$860. I went to work that day and surprised her with a check that was the exact amount of her mortgage,” she said.

The gift enabled the family to stay in their home for Christmas. And it broke through a pride barrier for her husband, who had been reticent to apply for government assistance.

“About a year later he got a job and now they're in their home forever. We were that bridge and a lesson in generosity that changed their lives. Our gift changed the trajectory they were on,” she said.

Another time, while she was at work, someone asked if she knew of a charity that gave away prom dresses to people like her daughter, who couldn't afford to buy one.

“I posted a request, and within minutes my friends volunteered everything. Shoes, makeup, everything. One person had a bunch of

dresses but they didn't fit so she took the girl out and bought her a prom dress. It ended up being this whole thing,” Jarrell said.

The foundation has helped people who are sick, including one woman with Stage 4 cancer who couldn't pay her light bill. She and her husband sold their wedding bands to buy their son a winter coat.

“We replaced the bands and gave them a couple thousand dollars so they could pay their bills. Just to ease that stress,” Jarrell said.

When the woman died and her family was unable to afford a funeral, Sunbow funded a memorial luncheon.

“We're small but we've done some big things,” she said.

“One of the reasons I do it is to change the way everyone views the world. I'm lucky enough that my friends and family are this kind of people. They've been the grassroots of the Sunbow foundation,” she said.

Now, she's trying to grow her circle.

Most of the fundraising is done on Facebook, she said, but the goal is to take it to another level, to apply for grants and other resources.

“I'm totally connected to good-hearted people,” Jarrell said. “They make this happen. They're totally amazing.”

Fionda said that not only did Jarrell give him a new chance at life, “she helped me know there are people who care. I never thought my story was remarkable or that anybody would take an interest in it but it was really good to learn that that's not true. People really do care.”

Though he's still seeking steady employment, Fionda said the boost Jarrell's kindness gave him has energized him. He is now working to earn his GED.

“Marie took the time to get to know me. She cares about people. She's inspiring,” he said. “I'm not just a pity case, not just a sad story. I'm a person she really cares about.”

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FACT #341

The folks who brought us Reddi-wip whipped cream had another brainstorm in the 1960s: Reddi-Bacon.

10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.

FACT #84: A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #178 : Genuophobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238: Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

SHOP NOW at tribpub.com/10things or call (866) 545-3534



MEG KINNARD / AP

Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, left, speaks with a business owner during a campaign stop last month in Columbia, South Carolina.

Deval Patrick to campaign Saturday in Evanston, Chicago

BY LISA DONOVAN

Democratic presidential hopeful Deval Patrick, the former Massachusetts governor who spent part of his childhood growing up on Chicago's South Side, is bringing his nascent campaign to his onetime hometown this weekend.

And he'll be filming a campaign ad here, his campaign tells the Tribune.

On Saturday, Patrick will visit two woman-owned businesses, starting in the morning with Evanston bakery Hewn Bread, 810 Dempster St., where he'll tour the business and meet customers, according to his campaign. In the afternoon he'll meet with local clergy at the Prayer Center Church of God in Christ at 526 E. 67th St., in Chicago's West Woodlawn neighborhood.

On Saturday night he'll attend a meet-and-greet and deliver remarks at downtown Chicago's MAP Strategies, 181 W. Madison St., a firm that aids developers and others through the city's building requirements, including the permitting process.

And on Sunday, he'll attend 11 a.m. services at

Trinity United Church of Christ at 400 W. 95th St. in the South Side's Brainerd neighborhood.

Like former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Patrick is a late entry in the race — setting up shop as members of the Democratic Party fretted about whether any of the candidates in the crowded race could appeal to moderates and swing voters disenchanted enough with Republican President Donald Trump to not vote for him again.

At a fundraiser last month, former President Barack Obama, a longtime pal of Patrick's, raised concerns before a crowd of wealthy Democratic donors about the party's presidential candidates leaning too far left — and out of alignment with the average Democratic voter.

So far, Obama hasn't endorsed in a race that includes his former vice president, Joe Biden. But one of Obama's key White House advisers, Valerie Jarrett, a Chicagoan, also is close to Patrick and urged his campaign for president, The Associated Press reported last month.

Patrick acknowledged to The Boston Globe that

his mid-November decision to run for president, just months from Iowa's Feb. 3 first-in-the-nation caucuses, "is a Hail Mary from two stadiums over." Still, he's been busy on the stump in Iowa, along with other early primary states like New Hampshire and South Carolina, pitching himself to small groups as the moderate to beat Trump.

Patrick grew up at 54th Street and Wabash Avenue, in the city's Washington Park neighborhood, according to a 2014 Tribune story; a stretch of Wabash Avenue there is named Honorary Deval Patrick Way. At age 14, Patrick left Chicago to attend an East Coast boarding school, eventually graduating from Harvard Law School and, years later, becoming Massachusetts' first African American governor.

Lisa Donovan is the host of The Spin, the Tribune's politics newsletter. Sign up online to have it delivered to your inbox weekday afternoons.

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Panel begins work to overhaul Illinois ethics, lobbying laws

BY DAN PETRELLA

A bipartisan panel of state officials tasked with overhauling Illinois' government ethics and lobbying laws began its work Monday amid an ongoing federal corruption investigation that has reverberated from Chicago City Hall to suburban village halls to the Illinois Capitol in Springfield.

The Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform has until the end of March to issue a report recommending changes in the wake of an investigation that has led to criminal charges against 14th Ward Ald. Ed Burke, Democratic state Sen. Tom Cullerton of Villa Park and former Democratic state Rep. Luis Arroyo of Chicago.

It also led to the resignation, effective Jan. 1, of Democratic Sen. Martin Sandoval.

"In regard to the recent federal cases, I think it's just important to remember that those things for which some elected officials have been indicted are already crimes," said House Majority Leader Greg Harris of Chicago, a co-chairman of the commission.

"However, other circumstances in those investigations have revealed other situations not currently addressed in law where we have an opportunity to clarify what is right and what's wrong, what is permissible and what's prohibited," Harris said.

Arroyo was charged in October with allegedly bribing a state senator to support sweepstakes gambling legislation that would have benefited one of Arroyo's lobbying clients at City Hall.

Those charges cast a spotlight on the fact that state legislators have been allowed to work as registered lobbyists at other levels of government.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a law passed in November that tightens disclosure re-



TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois state Rep. Greg Harris speaks in the House chamber of the Illinois Capitol building in Springfield on May 31, 2018. Harris is a co-chairman of the Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform.

quirements for state lobbyists but did not address the issue of state lawmakers lobbying at City Hall.

The other co-chairman of the ethics panel, Democratic Sen. Elgie Sims of Chicago, is himself registered with the city as a lobbyist. Sims, an attorney, has been paid nearly \$13,000 in the past two years by consulting firm Gartner for lobbying city officials, according to city records.

Sims said after Monday's meeting that he was following the law by registering with the city for the work on behalf of his legal clients.

"Part of what our ... legislative systems consider is a citizen legislature and bringing those experiences to bear when you are being a legislator and conducting business," Sims said. "End of the day, the entire work that I do is on behalf of the constituents that I represent."

The issue may now be moot, at least in Chicago, after aldermen voted last week to ban elected officials from other levels of government from lobbying at City Hall. The ordinance takes effect in the spring.

Another member of the commission, Democratic Rep. Kelly Burke of Evergreen Park — who is not related to Ald. Burke — is

also a village trustee in Evergreen Park. Such dual elected roles are often discussed as a potential conflict of interest but are allowed under Illinois law — though prohibited in some other states.

Burke said she's never felt a conflict between her two elected roles, but acknowledged it's an issue that could warrant the commission's attention.

"We're going to look at everything," she said. "If that's something that comes up, we'll kind of flesh through it."

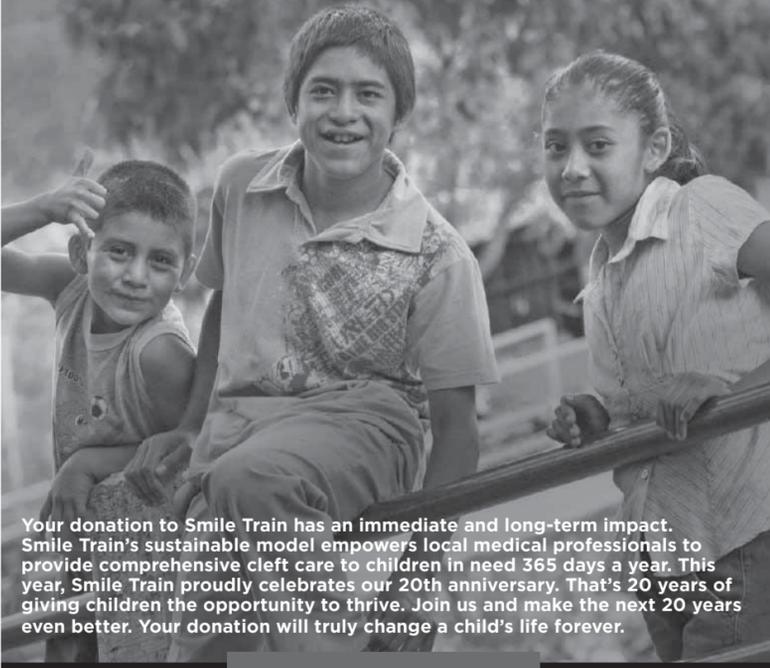
Burke is also an attorney for the law firm Odelson & Sterk in Evergreen Park, which represents the village of Lyons, whose village hall was raided by federal agents as part of the ongoing corruption probe. Burke said she does not do any work on behalf of Lyons.

The 16-member panel, appointed by Pritzker, Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Secretary of State Jesse White and Democratic and Republican leaders in the Illinois House and Senate, is made up of 10 Democrats and six Republicans.

Monday's meeting was largely to establish rules for going forward.

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Chicago Tribune CHICAGOLAND

Former officer hit with federal lawsuit

Retired Chicago police supervisor accused of threatening jail for sex act

BY JEREMY GORNER

A former Chicago police supervisor is facing a federal lawsuit for alleged sexual misconduct while on duty, a filing that accuses him of threatening to arrest a transgender woman if she did not perform a sex act on him.

The lawsuit was the second this year accusing the former officer of on-duty sexual misconduct. He retired from the department as a sergeant in April after being relieved of his police powers during an internal review of the latest claim.

The allegation also is the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation, police said. It is the third time in recent years the same officer has been sued for misconduct. The two prior cases were settled by the city.

The Tribune first reported in June that the transgender woman had made her allegation. The newspaper is not naming the former sergeant or the woman because of the ongoing criminal investigation of her accusation.

In her lawsuit filed last month, the woman alleged she was in the area of Fifth and Cicero avenues in the West Side's Lawndale neighborhood on March 5 when a Chicago police officer wearing a white uniform top — reserved for supervisors with the rank of sergeant or above — approached her in his marked police vehicle.

The retired officer named in the lawsuit, then a sergeant in the Harrison District, was later identified by the woman as the cop in question.

After he pulled up, the officer asked her

why she was in the area, and told her she had to perform a sex act on him “because that’s what you do or you will go to jail,” the lawsuit alleged.

The officer ordered the woman into the front passenger seat and drove her to a secluded area near Lexington Street and Kostner Avenue, overlooking the Eisenhower Expressway, according to the lawsuit. She also alleged that the officer ordered her to give him her phone number.

“I can make you one of my regulars,” the woman quoted him as saying, according to police reports obtained by the Tribune.

The woman alleged she performed the sex act on the officer out of fear before he left her in an alley, the lawsuit said. Without the sergeant’s apparent knowledge, she was able to preserve some DNA evidence from the incident, which she turned over to caregivers later that night at Rush University Medical Center, she told detectives, according to police reports.

Chicago police spokesman Tom Ahern said investigators still were awaiting the results of DNA testing as part of the criminal investigation into the alleged assault.

The retired sergeant could not be reached for comment. Michael Crowley, a spokesman for the city’s Law Department, declined to comment on the lawsuit citing the pending litigation.

The woman’s lawyer, Christopher Smith, said her lawsuit shows how police officers, if their behavior goes unchecked by supervisors, can get away with misconduct against citizens who are marginalized and vulnerable.

“This is one of the worst abuses of police power there can be,” said Smith. “(The) transgender community gets abused so often that they actually are starting to know what to do in instances like this, which is why my client acted so intelligently and quickly to be able to fight back (against) the

“This is one of the worst abuses of police power there can be. (The) transgender community gets abused so often that they actually are starting to know what to do in instances like this.”

— Christopher Smith, lawyer for a transgender woman who accuses a former Chicago police officer of on-duty sexual misconduct

situation, despite being powerless against an officer who can threaten arrest or worse.”

In a separate lawsuit filed in August, another woman accused the same officer of stalking and harassing her when he was on duty, in uniform, and driving a Chicago police vehicle. The city has agreed to settle that case.

In an incident on Sept. 8, 2016, that woman alleged that he pulled up next to her vehicle and ordered her to follow him into an abandoned parking lot near Roosevelt Road and Homan Avenue. Once there, he performed a sex act on himself in front of her between their two parked cars, forcing her to watch, according to the lawsuit.

The officer then released the woman without issuing her any tickets, and she wasn’t charged with any crimes, according to the court document. Court records show the city entered into an agreement to settle the case this month, but the terms were not immediately disclosed.

The officer also was named in a 2013 suit, which the city settled for \$220,000.

In that lawsuit, the officer was one of several named defendants in a federal civil complaint alleging that he arranged for a woman to be strip-searched without justification.

The woman alleged in her suit that she came into contact with the officer in 2011 at the Harrison District police station after she had been pulled over in a car driven by her boyfriend. The officer allegedly grabbed her, handcuffed her and took her into a secure area.

As a way of punishing the woman’s boyfriend for challenging him, the officer ordered another cop to strip-search the woman, her lawsuit alleged. She was released without charges, the suit stated.

The retired sergeant, who joined the department in December 1989, originally was recommended for firing more than 20 years ago after an investigation by the Internal Affairs Division, when he was a Harrison District tactical officer. He was found to have threatened to throw a felon back into prison on bogus drug charges unless the man handed over an illegal gun. The officer was ultimately given a 30-day suspension.

But the retired sergeant also earned high marks in his 29 years with the department, receiving nearly 150 awards, according to department records. He retired on April 15, nine days after being relieved of his police powers as the department’s Bureau of Internal Affairs investigated the transgender woman’s allegations.

Anthony Guglielmi, another police spokesman, said the officer already had been planning a mid-April retirement. He is set to receive more than \$86,000 annually for his pension, records show.

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ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Wan Lin, 51, left, Neil Roos, 56, and Xihui Jiang, 64, dry off after swimming Thursday at Promontory Point in Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood.

City breaks record high for temps, but roller-coaster is set to roll in

BY KATHERINE ROSENBERG-DOUGLAS

Chicago broke a record high and topped out at 61 degrees Thursday as high temperatures for the weekend were expected to remain in the 50s.

The previous record for Dec. 26 — 55 degrees in 1971 — was surpassed at 12:01 a.m., when the temperature at the city’s official recording site at O’Hare International Airport was 57 degrees, according to Mark Ratzler, a meteorologist.

“That’s fairly unusual, to be so warm in those early hours. It dropped some overnight, it’s 52 now,” he said around 6:30 a.m.

The temperature reached 61 at 2:44 p.m. Thursday, according to the National Weather Service. Friday and Saturday are expected to see temperatures in the 50s.

This will be only the ninth time since 1871 that there has been a stretch of more than five consecutive days in December



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Sisters Alisha Gajmer, 7, and Natasha Gajmer, 5, play in the sand Thursday at Loyola Beach on an unusually warm day in Chicago.

during which temperatures reached the 50s.

That it occurred later in the month makes it more rare.

The record-breaking warmth

comes on the heels of another historic ranking. With a high of 57 Wednesday, this year now ranks No. 2 on the list of warmest Christmas Days in

Chicago since the mid-1800s, when records started being kept.

The warmest Dec. 25 ever in Chicago was 64 degrees in 1982.

But after the daytime high pushes the record for warmest Dec. 26 further out of reach, the city should brace for a roller-coaster of cold and warm days, Ratzler warned.

“Very late afternoon, it looks like probably just after dark, so between 5 and 7, a front will go through, and we’ll cool down markedly,” Ratzler said. “We’ll drop pretty quickly into the 40s, which isn’t that bad, but overnight we’ll be back around freezing.”

After a brisk Friday, the temperature again will rebound into the 50s in time for a mild and comfortable weekend, although it will be rainy, he said.

“Then we’ll cool off again by Monday,” Ratzler said.

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CPS employee accused of sexually assaulting student at Roosevelt High

ROTC instructor Brian Travis arrested Wednesday at O’Hare Airport, according to police

BY MADELINE BUCKLEY

A Chicago Public Schools ROTC employee is accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old student at Roosevelt High School and exchanging inappropriate messages and FaceTime conversations with the girl for more than a year, according to Chicago police.

Brian Travis, 46, of St. John, Indiana, was arrested Wednesday at O’Hare International Airport. He is charged with a felony count of criminal sexual assault and a misdemeanor count of simple assault. A police spokeswoman did not know why Travis was at the airport.

Travis was listed as a senior administrative assistant for Junior ROTC, an armed forces training program, in a Chicago Public Schools employee roster as of September. A CPS spokesman said the district has removed Travis from his position and will notify Roosevelt families. Travis was a junior ROTC instructor at Roosevelt until June when he moved into an operational role at the district’s ROTC office.

Travis began an exploitative relationship with the student on Oct. 31, 2018, when he told her he misplaced his phone and asked her to call it to help him locate it, Chicago police sources said. That allowed him to obtain her cellphone number, sources said, and he texted her: “Do want me to be your sugar daddy?”

A few weeks later, Travis kissed her after he agreed to help her with some paperwork, sources said. Later, he asked her if she could help get him marijuana, and the two began smoking in his car.

They started working out together, and Travis had sex with her in the massage room at a Northwest Side health club, according to police sources. He also had sex with her in the ROTC office at Roosevelt High School on the Northwest Side.

At some point, another ROTC instructor saw Travis in his car with the girl and reportedly told him to end the relationship, police sources said.

Travis told the girl that he could hire someone to kill the other ROTC instructor for \$2,000, sources said. The girl responded that he should not kill anyone, and Travis told her he wouldn’t if she stayed in a relationship with him, according to sources.

The relationship began dwindling around March, but they continued to FaceTime each other and exchange messages, police said.

The girl reported the relationship to police in November and said she feared for her safety, police sources said.

Tribune reporter Rosemary Sobol contributed.

Teen

Continued from Page 1

“What better way for them to move forward in life, what better sign that they’re really trying to turn their life around and become a safe and productive member of society, than the fact that they’re trying to pursue education?” Mueller noted.

For Lee, it was a true turning point. Listening to lectures with other students and walking the halls of a City Colleges of Chicago campus afforded him a glimpse of his potential.

‘I just got smarter’

Lee didn’t see much ahead for himself in 2016 when he was arrested and later found guilty of residential burglary. His daughter had been born just two months earlier.

“It was a very depressing time,” Lee said. “Even at 16, no matter how hard I was, I was in the cell crying. I can’t really say I hated it though, because I didn’t count the days. I made the days count.”

While at the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, awaiting trial, Lee said he began thinking of a way out of the world he had known in the Back of the Yards neighborhood, a world overrun with gang wars. He decided to break away from the Black P Stones gang and its life of violence.

“When I was locked up, I just got smarter,” he said.

One day, Lee struck up a conversation with a nurse at the detention center who talked about helping those in need while also having some financial security. “If you want a good job in life, you should do nursing,” Lee remembers him saying.

Lee was sold. He went on to graduate high school in 2017 while at the Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles. His next destination? College, he told the facility’s supervisor.

The St. Charles center offers a post-secondary program on site, but Lee didn’t feel he would grow there. “It’s really not like I’m in college, I’m still locked up,” he said. “I’m still goofing around with the same kids. I wanted a whole different environment, and I pleaded my case to them.”

Later that year, he was cleared to transfer to the youth center in Chicago and enroll at Malcolm X College under a pilot program with the City Colleges of Chicago begun in early 2018.

Two guards escorted Lee to and from campus. He was not allowed a phone. While other students made plans to hang out on the weekends, Lee chatted with the guards in the hallways between classes. Eventually, they developed a rapport, and one of them warned him, “You got a good head on your shoulders. Whenever you get out, don’t come back.”

Lee said he fell into a rhythm with the college lifestyle. He found his voice in seminars and reconnected with his heritage in his favorite class, African American studies. His cell felt less lonely with his textbooks. And he befriended classmates he still keeps in touch with today.

“That was the validation I was looking for on the streets,” Lee said.

‘What is incarceration for?’

Lee’s mother, Desirria Brown, had visited him every six weeks to catch up and send him clothes for school.

After welcoming him back home, she was delighted that her hot-headed teenage boy had become an ambitious young man focused on education.

“That’s what I thought incarceration was there for: to help you transform,” Brown said. “If you have juveniles who want to transform, they should help them by any means necessary. If not, what is incarceration there for?”

But Lee found the streets of Chicago hadn’t changed for him. He had to navigate



Nigel Lee, 20, walks to lunch with his girlfriend, Kayla Hill, 19, near his new apartment in Urbana.

ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

neighborhoods fraught with shootings in order to get to classes. He felt like a walking target.

“I wasn’t stable,” Lee said. “I couldn’t take a regular city bus. I can’t get seen. People, they trying to hurt me. Everybody tries to hurt you if you gangbanged or considered gangbanging.”

Lee struggled to scrape together enough rent. The uncertainty of his living situation eroded his concentration at school. Some days, he couldn’t find the time to shower before class. His 3.75 GPA from his prison days fell.

In the middle of spring semester, he withdrew from his classes.

The odds were always against Lee since he got out. Nationwide, people who have been jailed are eight times less likely to receive a bachelor’s degree, according to the Prison Policy Institute. Their chances are less than 1 in 20.

Mueller said former inmates are often the first in their families to attend college, and so they face such disadvantages as less financial stability and less familiarity with the demands of the college lifestyle. Like other first-generation students, they can benefit from mentoring programs, support groups and guidance on class registration and financial aid, Mueller said.

‘Trying to get it together’

Freed from both prison and gang life, Lee said he has diligently kept himself busy this year, even though he’s not in school — for now.

He calls his toddler daughter every day. He has spoken at events for the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, a Back of the Yards nonprofit that helps teens who have been in the criminal justice system. AT&T invited him to participate in a paid internship for a commercial shoot in its “Believe Chicago” campaign, which highlights the lives of everyday Chicagoans.

In November, he moved downstate to Urbana. He said he chose the location because he wanted to be immersed in a college town. Hoping to save up money, he got a job at a McDonald’s and plans on starting at Parkland College in Champaign next year.

He misses his daughter but believes he will be in a better position to provide for her away from Chicago. “It feels great to leave,” Lee said. “Now I’m where all college students come to struggle. They struggling, I’m struggling. We just all trying to get it together.”

Strolling down the sidewalk outside his new apartment one afternoon, Lee tucked his hands into his jacket, away from the December chill. His dreads framed a wide smile as he headed to lunch with his girlfriend. He easily blended in with the stu-

dents there.

The confidence gained that semester in prison has never left.

“In my neighborhood, a lot of people don’t believe in themselves,” Lee narrates in an AT&T video

released this year, the camera panning over the streets of Chicago. “They believe what other people believe

about them. I believe in myself now.”

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Pot

Continued from Page 1

group Smart Approaches to Marijuana, wrote in a statement to the Tribune. “As Illinois moves forward in this unfortunate, reckless experiment, we can expect to see continued harms to health, safety, and social justice.”

The ripple effects of legalization will extend far beyond people getting high. Foremost among them are what the pro-legalization Marijuana Policy Project, which helped write the new state law, calls “the most far-reaching social equity and criminal justice reform provisions ever.”

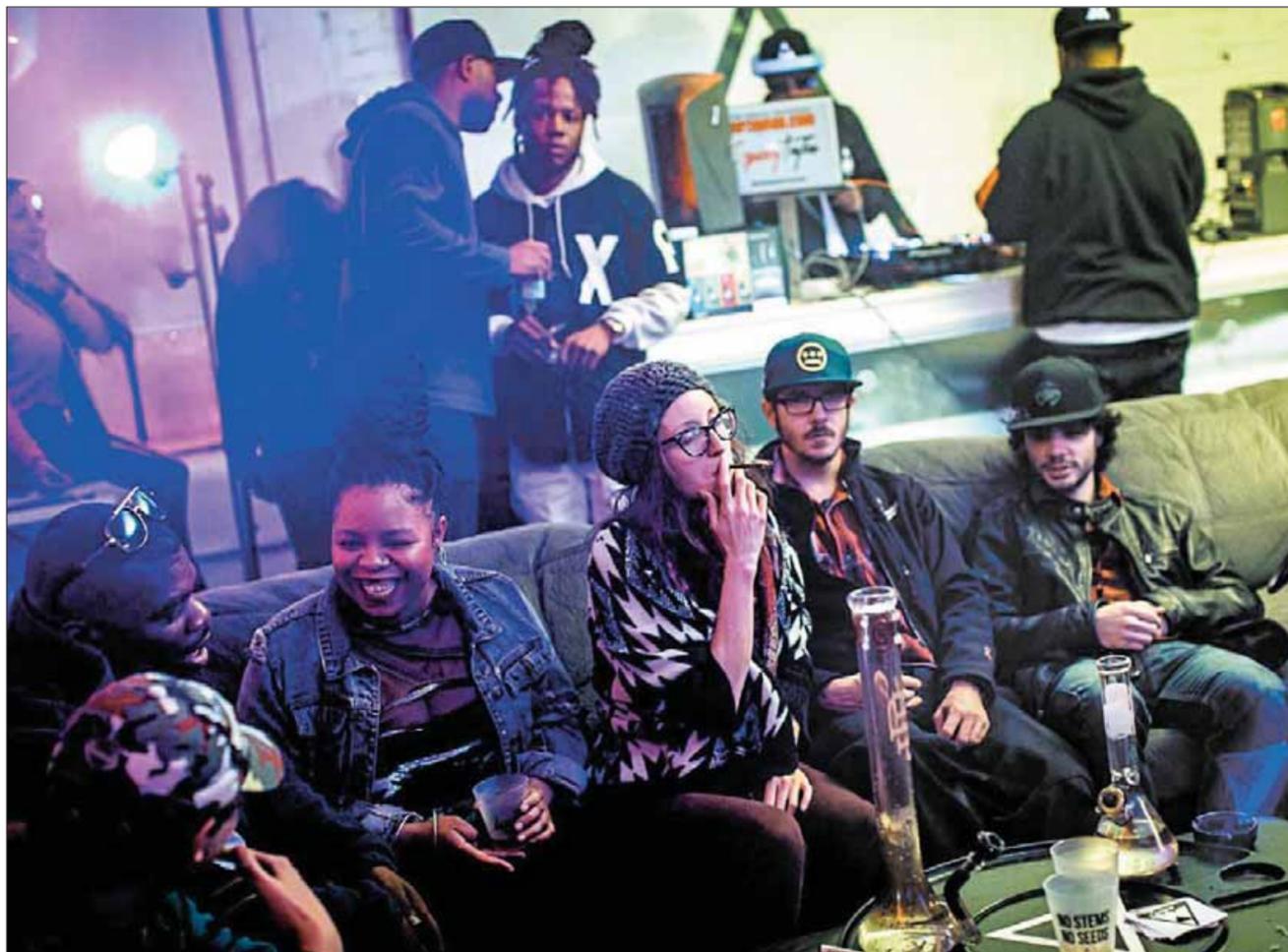
The law provides for clearing the criminal records of hundreds of thousands of people with low-level cannabis convictions. It also provides a cut of legal pot sales to fund social equity applicants, primarily people who were convicted of low-level cannabis crimes and their families, or who’ve lived in areas hardest hit by the war on drugs.

People meeting those criteria will get job training, and \$12 million for grants, loans, lower fees and preferential treatment in licensing to develop cannabis businesses. The programs will be funded largely by existing medical marijuana growers and dispensaries, which were given first crack at selling to the new recreational market.

Because the state isn’t required to grant new marijuana business licenses until May, black Chicago aldermen complained that the existing white-owned medical cannabis businesses were getting an unfair chokehold on the industry, while minorities were getting the scraps.

Financial analysts agree that early investors stand to make huge amounts of money in the industry. One study done for sponsors of legalization estimated there will be about 1 million cannabis customers living in Illinois, plus another 11 million tourists buying weed.

When the market matures in a few years, that many customers could generate annual sales of some



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Guests lounge and smoke cannabis at the Tetra Private Lounge earlier this year, in the RiNo neighborhood of Denver. Tetra is a private club where guests can bring their own cannabis products to smoke or consume.

\$2 billion, though some of that demand would remain in the illegal market, according to the study by cannabis consultants Freedman & Koski of Denver.

It’s still early to gauge the consequences in the 10 states that have already legalized cannabis since 2012. But a few preliminary results have emerged.

First, a marked increase in youth use has not so far materialized. Teens in legal states use cannabis at a higher rate than nationwide, but have generally not started using more since legalization.

However, cannabis-related hospitalizations roughly doubled in Colorado in the first years following legalization. A disproportionate amount were due to people eating too many edibles, and tourists also accounted for more



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A brand name marijuana strain is housed in a jar and on display at Exclusive Brands earlier this month in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Marijuana dispensaries in Michigan began selling recreational cannabis on Dec. 1.

than their share.

Not surprisingly, cannabis-related arrest rates have fallen dramatically in places where it’s legal. But homelessness appears to have increased. An informal survey by a Salvation Army shelter in Denver report-

edly found that 30% of about 500 new out-of-towners said they had come to Colorado for pot.

Another major source of concern is the risk of traffic accidents.

In four states that legalized pot — Colorado, Ne-

vada, Oregon and Washington — crashes were up by 6% compared with nearby states, according to the Highway Loss Data Institute, funded by insurance companies.

Studies have shown that marijuana can significantly impair a driver’s reaction time and decision-making, even when they don’t think they’re impaired. If Illinois sees more claims for car crashes, insurance officials said, that will likely push the cost of auto premiums higher.

“Illinois needs to prepare for the impact legal marijuana use will have on the safety of its roads,” Beth Mosher, spokeswoman for the AAA, said in a news release. She called for more training for law enforcement and a campaign for public education.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who campaigned on legalization,

argued it was better to regulate and tax marijuana since it was already used illegally. His budget for this year initially estimated \$170 million in revenue from licensing fees, though that amount later was reduced to \$57 million. The state projects that taxes could raise \$375 million annually but the program grows over the next five years.

The legal shift may also bring some unanticipated changes. One study by Georgia State University found that alcohol sales fell by 15% in states with medical marijuana.

Ultimately, proponents hope that legalization will cut down or eliminate the illegal market and its crime. But black markets are thriving in some West Coast states that have an oversupply of legal weed, so experts say that may takes years to occur, if ever.

Betting

Continued from Page 1

bet during that game, that plays into impulsivity,” said Lia Nower of the Rutgers Center for Gambling Studies, which is tracking New Jersey’s plunge into sports betting. “The more impulsive people are, the higher the likelihood that they’ll develop gambling problems.”

Betting by app

Earlier this year, Illinois legislators wrote online wagering into the bill that legalized sports betting. Casinos can establish virtual sportsbooks if they pay a \$10 million license fee upfront, plus a \$1 million renewal fee every four years. They will also have to pay a 15% tax on their earnings.

The Illinois Gaming Board recently issued application forms for aspiring sportsbooks. Spokesman Gene O’Shea said the agency is “working to ensure that sports wagering will go live in 2020.”

Whenever it happens, the experience of other states suggests that phone apps will swiftly become the dominant method of sports betting. One of the most dramatic examples can be found in Indiana, which introduced casino-based sports betting in September.

The state rolled out online wagering a month later, and once that happened, the state’s handle — the total amount bet — soared. In November, it reached \$147 million, two-thirds of which came from online betting.

The state’s revenue, based on a 9.5% tax on the casino’s take, worked out to \$883,000. A consultant’s report projects that when the market matures in five years, Indiana’s annual tax revenue from sports betting will be \$38 million (the Pritzker administration has estimated that Illinois’ an-



BRENNAN NORMAN/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Russ DeSanti uses an app to bet on the Baylor vs. University of Oklahoma game from his home in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Dec. 7. Since Iowa legalized sports betting in August, DeSanti has been using his phone to wager on sports.

nual revenue could top \$100 million).

Indiana allows bettors to set up their accounts entirely online, confirming their identities with personal data and partial Social Security numbers. Other states, such as Iowa and, eventually, Illinois, require gamblers to register in person at a casino.

But once that’s done, gamblers can download apps that allow them to bet anywhere within state limits. Bengé said he toggles between two apps to find the best deal.

“I’m shopping for the best lines when I’m placing my bets,” he said. “The line might be off a half-point here or there.”

Technology has also enabled states to set up safeguards meant to stem problem gambling. People can exclude themselves entirely from online betting, similar to how they bar themselves from casinos, cap the amount of money they can wager or limit the

time in which they can use the app.

“It’s not a requirement, but they have to have the opportunity to do that if they want to,” said Brian Ohorilko of the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission. “That’s something that couldn’t be tracked in a retail environment.”

Dire consequences?

Despite such measures, some experts are concerned that online sports wagering has the potential to create a new generation of gambling addicts.

“I believe we’ll see it, and it’ll be a much younger demographic,” said Kirk Nessel, gambling education coordinator at Iowa’s Prelude Behavioral Services. “I’m expecting it for sure.”

Scholars estimate that roughly 2% of the population can be classified as problem gamblers. Few studies have looked at the particular danger of online

sports betting, though some researchers have drawn disturbing conclusions.

Darragh McGee of the University of Bath in England spent two years observing gamblers whose phones allowed them to bet frequently and impulsively. Some said they had lost substantial amounts of money; one even claimed he had to turn to drug dealing to cover his losses.

“Far from being the knowledge-based, risk-free activity it is marketed as, the profound appeal of online sports gambling has had dire consequences for many young men,” the yet-unpublished study found, according to The Guardian newspaper. (McGee could not be reached for comment.)

Officials with the Illinois Department of Human Services, which funds gambling addiction treatment, say they are preparing for online wagering by training counselors on the nuances of online sports betting, and

by rolling out a public awareness campaign in the spring. The agency already operates a hotline, 1-800-GAMBLER, and a website, WeKnowTheFeeling.org, where people with gambling problems can seek help.

Elizabeth Thielen of Nicasa Behavioral Health Services in Round Lake said there are only 70 credentialed gambling counselors in the entire state, far too few to treat everyone who will need help as betting opportunities proliferate.

Her organization is developing a program to encourage safer sports betting so people know the risks and how to mitigate them. Among the pointers: Don’t look at betting as a career or an investment; understand that alcohol skews judgment; and be aware that gambling can taint a person’s allegiance to a team.

“Is it worth it?” she said. “People are extremely loyal to their teams, and when you start making financial

decisions around them, that relationship could change dramatically.”

‘It’s just entertainment’

Russ DeSanti is the sort of person that gambling experts are concerned about as online betting expands across the country.

The 23-year-old senior at the University of Northern Iowa caught the sports wagering bug earlier this year during a spring break trip to Las Vegas. His first bet, taking the Orlando Magic in an NBA game, was a winner. When Iowa legalized sports betting, he and some friends swiftly set up accounts at a nearby casino.

He now bets multiple times a week on his phone, checking the odds first thing in the morning to see if anything catches his eye. He bets during games, too, as the chances of a team’s victory or the projection of total points scored shift from moment to moment.

“Every minute counts during the game,” he said. “Even garbage time counts.”

That adds a thrill to watching sports, he said, though he’s well aware it can get out of control. In a recent post on a betting blog he’s doing for school, he wrote that young, male, fantasy-playing sports nuts like him are particularly susceptible to gambling problems.

Still, he said he wagers just a few dollars at a time and stays within the limits he sets for himself, even though his app sends teaser emails offering rewards for large bets. He’s down about \$30 or \$40 since he started betting, he said, which he views as a reasonable cost for an engaging pastime.

“For me, it’s just entertainment,” he said. “It just makes (sports) a lot more interesting for me to watch when I have money on it.”

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NATION & WORLD

Israeli PM Netanyahu claims 'a giant victory'

Lopsided win may shield Likud leader from prosecution

By JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won a landslide victory in a primary election for leadership of the ruling Likud party, giving the embattled leader an important boost ahead of the country's third election in less than a year.

Official results announced early Friday showed Netanyahu capturing 72% of the votes, compared with 28% for challenger Gideon Saar.

The strong showing by Israel's longest-serving leader could give him another opportunity to form a government following the March election, after falling short in two previous attempts earlier this year. The victory also keeps alive Netanyahu's hopes of winning immunity from prosecution after being indicted last month on a series of corruption charges.

"A giant victory," Netanyahu tweeted early Friday.

"Thanks to the members of Likud for the trust, support and love," he added. "God willing, I will lead Likud to a big victory in the coming elections."

In a tweet, Saar congratulated Netanyahu and said he would support the prime minister in the national election. "I am absolutely comfortable with my decision to run," he added. "Whoever isn't ready to take a risk for the path he believes in will never win."

The result of the primary



KOBI WOLF/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu retains leadership of the Likud Party.

will also prolong Israel's political uncertainty. Despite Likud's strong position, the March vote was expected to leave the party and its main rival, the centrist Blue and White, unable to form a government on their own, and Netanyahu's lingering legal troubles could again scuttle efforts to form a national unity government.

Turnout was just under 50% of the party's 116,000 members, with many voters apparently staying home because of cold, rainy weather.

Netanyahu, who has led the country for the past decade, has maintained his position atop the political right by cultivating an image as a veteran statesman with close ties to U.S. President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other world leaders.

His refusal over the last decade to make any concessions to the Palestinians was rewarded after Trump took office, as the U.S. began openly siding with Israel on several key issues, validating Netanyahu's approach in the eyes of many Israelis and adding to his mystique.

Netanyahu's hard-line



JACK GUEZ/GETTY-AFP

Gideon Saar speaks to the media after casting his ballot during the Likud Party primary.

approach to Iran has also proved popular. He was a staunch opponent of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which has unraveled since Trump withdrew from the agreement. A wave of Israeli strikes on Iran-linked targets in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq has burnished Netanyahu's claims to having protected Israel from its enemies.

His fortunes have nevertheless waned over the past year, after he was unable to form a government following unprecedented back-to-back elections in March and September. His party came in second place in Septem-

ber's elections, leading many observers to view the vote as the beginning of the end.

In November, Netanyahu was indicted on charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes, the culmination of three long-running corruption investigations. The Blue and White Party, led by former army chief of staff Benny Gantz, has refused to sit in a government led by an indicted prime minister.

Netanyahu has vowed to remain in office, dismissing the indictment as an "attempted coup" by hostile media and law enforce-

ment.

Opinion polls have forecast a similar outcome in the March vote, with Likud and Blue and White leading the pack and Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party emerging as the kingmaker. Lieberman has refused to endorse Netanyahu or Gantz, saying he will only serve in a unity government. That could signal months of paralysis after the next election.

Reuven Hazan, a political-science professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said a victory for Netanyahu would have no impact on the general elec-

tion.

"It just means that the faithful have circled the wagons. It means nothing for the elections except that he looks good. He looks strengthened," Hazan said.

Despite the victory, Netanyahu has many hurdles ahead. The Supreme Court is set next week to begin considering whether an indicted member of parliament can be tasked with forming a new government. Its decision could potentially disqualify Netanyahu from leading the next government. It's not clear when a ruling would be handed down.

Many cracks in US migrant crackdown

Smuggling efforts adapt, thrive as border toughened

By MARIA VERZA AND CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

HERMOSILLO, Mexico — The heavyside man swept through a nightclub curtain into the reserved area of a nightclub. In the darkness he agreed to talk about his business: handling the income from smuggling migrants across a 375-mile stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border.

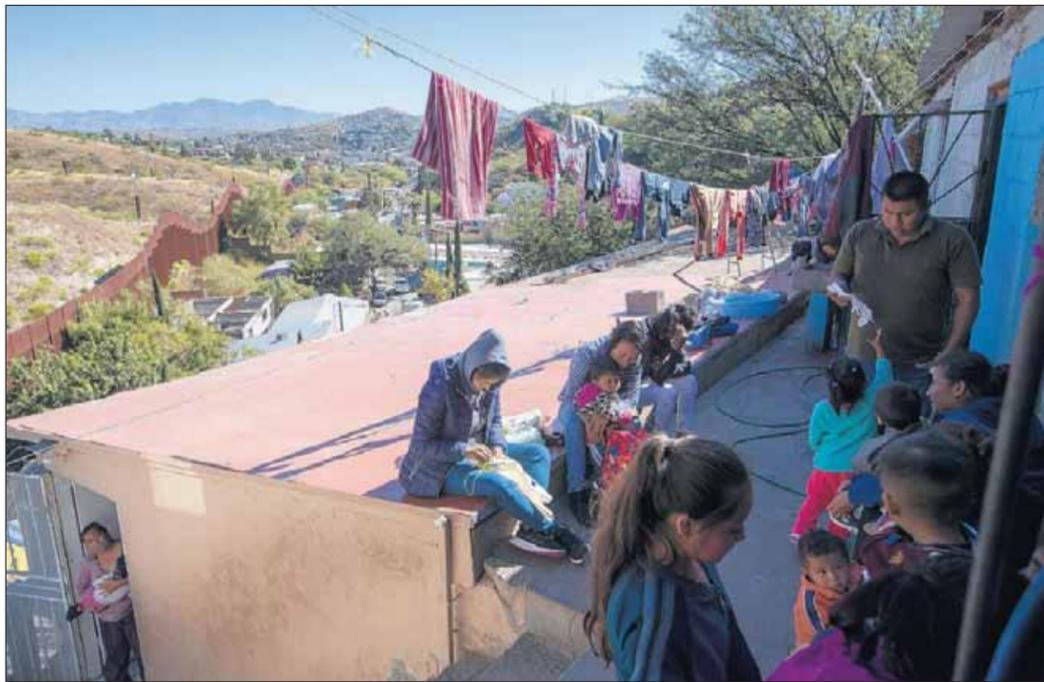
"We control all the territory" along the frontier with Arizona, said the cartel money man, who asked to be identified only as Manuel.

His organization, though he didn't explicitly name it: the Sinaloa cartel.

The hardening of U.S. and Mexican immigration policies has "complicated" the business because there are more security forces on both sides of the border, but Manuel isn't worried. Yes, there are fewer risking the journey and the out-of-pocket has mounted with the need to pay ever-escalating bribes. But the cartel also charges more. Conclusion: The money keeps flowing.

In a year of dramatic policy changes on both sides of the border, smuggling networks have adjusted: higher prices, some new workarounds, attractive "package deals," as well as tried-and-true smuggling techniques that include well-trodden routes and generous bribes.

Six months of interviews by The Associated Press with migrants and smugglers along migration routes in Mexico and Central America revealed a smuggling business that has adapted and thrived. In most cases, the migrants and smugglers refused to be fully identified to speak about a shadowy enterprise that governments on both sides of the border have promised to crack down on.



MOISES CASTILLO/AP

Migrants rest at "La Roca," or The Rock shelter in Nogales, Mexico, near the U.S.-Mexico border fence, top left.

The territory Manuel manages nets an average of \$1 million per month. But that's just a tiny piece of a multibillion-dollar business that the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime estimates involves \$4 billion annually. The Mexican government has calculated it could be as high as \$6 billion.

"It's a business that you're not going to stop," Manuel said.

When the doors of the semitrailer in southern Mexico swung open, the 26-year-old Honduran man wanted to turn around and leave with his wife and 4-year-old daughter.

The windowless metal box was not what a smuggler had promised 310 miles to the south in Los Amates, Guatemala. There, \$7,000 promised a carefree journey to the U.S. border aboard luxury buses with meals included.

Now he could only think of his daughter and the \$4,000 they had already paid and couldn't afford to

lose.

"They told me that we were going to come comfortably, eating well, but it was all a lie," said the man, who agreed to be identified only by his middle name, Jesus, out of fear for his family's safety.

Since entering office, U.S. President Donald Trump has moved to curb legal and illegal immigration, repeatedly decrying a "crisis" at the border. Earlier this year, he threatened crippling tariffs on Mexican goods unless Mexico curbed the flow of migrants. Mexico responded by deploying thousands of members of its newly formed National Guard along migration routes.

The U.S. then reached bilateral agreements with Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador aimed at making it much more difficult for migrants crossing those countries to seek asylum in the U.S.

The impact was swift: Total apprehensions and those deemed inadmissible

at ports of entry at the southern border reached 977,509 from October 2018 until the end of September, the highest number since 2007 — and a more than 87% increase since the same period a year earlier.

And the price of the journey has grown, often surpassing \$10,000 for those from Central America. But there are enticements, like the "package" deal. That was Jesus' plan — \$7,000 all-inclusive for his family of three.

He paid the initial \$4,000 installment and departed Honduras on Aug. 15 for the Guatemala border. There the family crossed into Mexico aboard a van with only a cursory glance from a lone Mexican soldier.

That's where Jesus' dream turned into a nightmare as his family and about 150 other migrants were piled into the semitrailer and the truck rumbled north.

A Salvadoran smuggler summarized it this way: To

have a safe and efficient trip, "you have to pay." And with Guatemalan authorities checking people on buses and thousands of National Guard members deployed across Mexico, there are more people to pay.

The National Guard said that it has not received any complaints about its personnel taking bribes. The Mexican government said it is working to root out corruption in security agencies, as well as among its immigration enforcement apparatus.

When Jesus got to Coatzacoalcos in southern Mexico where authorities have focused enforcement efforts, five agents from the Attorney General's Office stopped the truck. The migrants paid about \$35 each to be allowed to continue. In a matter of minutes, the agents made more than \$5,000.

In Reynosa, across the border from Hidalgo, Texas, armed men stopped the truck.

"I thought they were federal police because they had cones (set up) and were well-armed," he said.

He was wrong. They were from the local cartel and they explained to the migrants how things worked.

Reynosa has been in the grip of organized crime for years. It costs a migrant to enter and to exit. Jesus discovered his \$7,000 trip didn't include these fees: \$25 to enter the city and \$500 to leave. Jesus also had to pay the \$3,000 balance for their trip.

"You pay off the trip or they kill you," he said.

Jesus and his family crossed the Rio Grande in an inflatable raft the night of Aug. 27. They walked five hours before Border Patrol showed up and they could turn themselves in and request asylum.

A week later, U.S. authorities returned them to the Mexican border city of Matamoros, where hundreds of migrants are camped in deplorable conditions, to await their Dec. 2 court date.

Jesus' wife decided to return to Honduras with their daughter because it was too dangerous to remain in Mexico. Jesus headed for southern Mexico, where he felt safer, to await the court date.

In late November, Jesus headed for the border. He got as far as the northern city of Monterrey where he learned that the cartel controlling Matamoros required \$500 to enter and cross to his court date in Brownsville, Texas. He didn't have the money.

A day after he missed his Dec. 2 court date Jesus was looking for work in Monterrey — this time to raise the \$9,000 a smuggler wanted to bypass U.S. border security.

Being far from his daughter and wife was difficult, he said, "but I have to be strong and move ahead because in Honduras I owe a lot of money."

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2019

Notable deaths: From civil rights icon to Rhoda

BY BERNARD MCGHEE
Associated Press

Here is a roll call of some influential figures who died in 2019.

JANUARY

Eugene "Mean Gene" Okerlund, 76. His deadpan interviews of pro wrestling superstars made him a ring-side fixture in his own right. Jan. 2.

Daryl Dragon, 76. The cap-wearing "Captain" of Captain & Tennille on such easy listening hits as "Love Will Keep Us Together" and "Muskrat Love." Jan. 2.

Carol Channing, 97. The ebullient musical comedy star of "Hello, Dolly!" on Broadway and beyond. Jan. 15.

John C. Bogle, 89. He launched the first index mutual fund and founded Vanguard Group. Jan. 16.

Antonio Mendez, 78. A former CIA technical operations officer who helped rescue six U.S. diplomats from Iran in 1980. Jan. 19.

Russell Baker, 93. Genial but sharp-witted columnist for The New York Times. Jan. 21.

James Ingram, 66. Grammy-winning singer. Jan. 29.

Donald S. Smith, 94. Produced the controversial anti-abortion film "The Silent Scream." Jan. 30.

FEBRUARY

Frank Robinson, 83. The Hall of Famer was the first black manager in Major League Baseball. Feb. 7.

John Dingell, 92. The former congressman was the longest-serving member of Congress in American history at 59 years. Feb. 7.

Albert Finney, 82. Acclaimed British actor. Feb. 8.

Betty Ballantine, 99. Half of a husband-and-wife publishing team that helped invent the modern paperback. Feb. 12.

Karl Lagerfeld, 85. Chanel's iconic couturier



Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, D-Md.



Actress Doris Day



Designer Karl Lagerfeld



Fonda



Finney



Iacocca



Perry



Roberts



Robinson



Vanderbilt

dominated high fashion for 50 years. Feb. 19.

Peter Tork, 77. Bass guitarist in the made-for-television rock band The Monkees. Feb. 21.

Jerry Merryman, 86. One of the inventors of the handheld electronic calculator. Feb. 27.

Andre Previn, 89. Pianist, composer and conductor in the worlds of Hollywood, jazz and classical music. Feb. 28.

MARCH

Luke Perry, 52. Heart-throb on "Beverly Hills, 90210." March 4. Stroke.

Nipsey Hussle, 33. Grammy-nominated rapper. March 31.

APRIL

Ernest F. "Fritz" Hollings, 97. South Carolina Democrat served six terms in the U.S. Senate. April 6.

Bibi Andersson, 83. Swedish actress who starred in Ingmar Bergman films including "The Seventh Seal" and "Persona." April 14.

John Havlicek, 79. Star of NBA's Boston Celtics.

April 25.

Richard Lugar, 87. A former U.S. Republican senator from Indiana. April 28.

John Singleton, 51. Director of "Boyz n the Hood." April 29.

Peter Mayhew, 74. The towering actor who portrayed Chewbacca in the original "Star Wars" trilogy. April 30.

MAY

Peggy Lipton, 72. A star of TV show "The Mod Squad." May 11.

Doris Day, 97. Sunny actress and singer and a symbol of wholesome American womanhood. May 13.

Tim Conway, 85. The impish second banana to Carol Burnett on her TV variety show. May 14.

I.M. Pei, 102. Versatile, globe-trotting architect. May 16.

Claus von Bulow, 92. Socialite who was convicted but later acquitted of trying to kill his wealthy wife. May 25.

Bill Buckner, 69. A star hitter who made one of the biggest blunders in baseball. May 27.

Thad Cochran, 81. A former Republican U.S. senator from Mississippi who served 45 years in Washington. May 30.

JUNE

Leah Chase, 96. New Orleans chef and civil rights icon. June 1.

Dr. John, 77. New Orleans singer and piano player. June 6.

Gloria Vanderbilt, 95. Intrepid heiress reigned during the 1970s and '80s as a designer jeans pioneer. June 17.

Judith Krantz, 91. Writer of steamy million-selling novels such as "Scruples" and "Princess Daisy." June 22.

JULY

Lee Iacocca, 94. Auto executive and master pitchman who resurrected Chrysler. July 2.

H. Ross Perot, 89. Self-made Texas billionaire who twice mounted outsider campaigns for president. July 9.

Jim Bouton, 80. Former New York Yankees pitcher who authored the tell-all book "Ball Four." July 10.

Edith Irbby Jones, 91. The first female president of the National Medical Association. July 15.

John Paul Stevens, 99. Republican-nominated justice who emerged as the Supreme Court's leading liberal. July 16.

Chris Kraft, 95. The founder of NASA's mission control. July 22.

AUGUST

Toni Morrison, 88. Pioneer and reigning giant of modern literature whose works include "Beloved" and "Song of Solomon." Aug. 5.

Peter Fonda, 79. The son of a Hollywood legend who became a movie star in his own right. Aug. 16.

David H. Koch, 79. Billionaire industrialist who poured riches into conservative causes. Aug. 23.

Valerie Harper, 80. Portrayed Rhoda Morgenstern on back-to-back hit sitcoms in the 1970s. Aug. 30.

SEPTEMBER

Robert Mugabe, 95. Former Zimbabwean leader. Sept. 6.

T. Boone Pickens, 91. Oil tycoon who grew even wealthier through corporate takeover attempts. Sept. 11.

Cokie Roberts, 75. Pioneering journalist who chronicled Washington from Jimmy Carter to Donald Trump. Sept. 17.

Jose Jose, 71. Mexican crooner known as the "Prince of Song." Sept. 28.

Jessye Norman, 74. Renowned international opera star. Sept. 30.

OCTOBER

Diahann Carroll, 84. Oscar-nominated actress and singer who starred in pioneering TV series "Julia." Oct. 4. Cancer.

Elijah E. Cummings, 68. Civil rights champion, leading Democrat from Maryland in U.S. House. Oct. 17.

Kay Hagan, 66. North Carolina Democrat served in the U.S. Senate. Oct. 28.

NOVEMBER

Walter Mercado, 88. Television astrologer and a cherished icon for gay people in most of the Spanish-speaking world. Nov. 2.

Gert Boyle, 95. The chairwoman of Oregon-based Columbia Sportswear Co. Nov. 3.

Gahan Wilson, 89. His humorous and often macabre cartoons were a mainstay in magazines. Nov. 21.

DECEMBER

Juice WRLD, 21. A rapper who became a streaming juggernaut. Dec. 8.

Caroll Spinney, 85. Gave Big Bird his warmth and Oscar the Grouch his growl on "Sesame Street." Dec. 8.

Paul Volcker, 92. Former Federal Reserve chairman. Dec. 8.

Pete Frates, 34. Inspired the ALS ice bucket challenge that has raised more than \$200 million. Dec. 9.

Danny Aiello, 86. Blue-collar character actor in "Fort Apache, the Bronx," "Moonstruck" and "Do the Right Thing." Dec. 12.

Holiday celebration a sign of new religious hope in Sudan

BY MARIAM FAM
Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — The Sudanese Christian marchers wove through bustling markets and traffic-clogged streets wearing "I Love Jesus" T-shirts or colorful traditional robes known as thobes.

"Glory to God in the highest. And on Earth, peace, goodwill toward men," a speaker said.

Hymns blared and chants of "hallelujah" intermingled with loud, emotion-filled cries of celebration. Passersby and merchants snapped photos or flashed victory signs.

The marching group from the Bahri Evangelical Church was small, but the symbolism of the moment loomed much larger.

The March for Jesus holiday tradition had been suspended in recent years under authoritarian President Omar al-Bashir, whose government was accused of harassing and marginalizing Christians and other religious minorities.

This holiday season, a year after the eruption of the uprising against al-Bashir, Sudan is transitioning away from his three-decade repressive rule. The military overthrew him in April after months of prodemocracy protests.

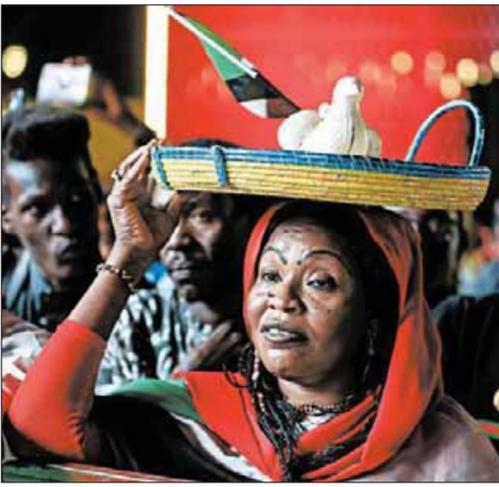
A transitional military-civilian administration now rules the country.

Though some caution against being overly optimistic about expanded religious freedom, Monday's march was one small sign of new openings.

"Hallelujah! Today, we are happy that the Sudanese government has opened up the streets for us so we can express our faith," said Izzah Ibrahim, one of the marchers.

Some Christians had been frightened before "because we used to encounter difficulties."

The changes started in



A Sudanese woman attends a ceremony Wednesday marking the uprising that toppled Omar al-Bashir.

2011, after South Sudan gained independence from Sudan following a long war and a referendum.

South Sudan is mostly Christian and animist, a belief that all objects have a spirit. Al-Bashir's government then escalated its pressure on the remaining Christians, human rights campaigners and Christians say.

Al-Bashir, who came to power in an Islamist-backed military coup in 1989, failed to keep the peace in the religiously and ethnically diverse country.

Noah Manzul, one of the church elders, said the march was treated almost as if it were a "crime."

Its return is "an expression of religious freedom," Manzul said. "We can live our lives with ease."

Manzul's social work with homeless children and orphans got him into trouble under al-Bashir, when he was accused of trying to convert the children to Christianity, an allegation he denies. Activities like singing hymns in the teeming market outside the church were stopped, he said.

Suliman Baldo, senior adviser at the Enough Proj-

ect, which supports peace and an end to atrocities in Africa's conflict zones, said the al-Bashir regime targeted the Christian faith. Under his rule, church properties could be seized. Some were demolished, and some preachers were arrested, he said.

"The ultimate goal is to limit the influence of the church," he said.

During past holiday seasons, many recalled, posters would appear on the streets warning against celebrating with the "kofar," or infidels, a reference to Christians.

But this year, Dec. 25 was declared a public holiday. Earlier, a Christian woman was appointed to the country's interim ruling Sovereign Council.

Pastor Hafiz Dasta, of the Bahri church, said a Muslim cousin can now ring in the season with him.

"I always celebrated with him at Eid al-Adha," Dasta said, referring to the Islamic feast. "He couldn't celebrate with me on Christmas because he would be working. This time around we will celebrate together and eat together," he said before Christmas.

Ex-husband of princess, Spacey accuser takes life

BY PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

Scandinavian writer Ari Behn — the ex-husband of Norwegian Princess Martha Louise and among the people who had accused actor Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct — died Wednesday, his manager said.

Behn, 47, died by suicide, his manager told the Norwegian news service NTB. Authorities said he was found at his home in Norway.

The Norwegian royal family said in a written statement that Behn was "an important part of our family for many years and we carry warm and good memories of him with us."

Behn, who was Danish-born, and Martha Louise, the oldest daughter of Norway's King Harald and Queen Sonja, were married for 14 years. The couple divorced in 2017 and have three children.

The match had critics before it even became official. Negative coverage dogged Behn after a Las Vegas travelogue he hosted on Norwegian TV in the early 2000s briefly showed him around prostitutes, some of them using cocaine.

Behn said at the time that it was mere reporting, not endorsement, and Martha Louise defended him.

Behn also wrote books and plays, including 1999's "Trist som faen," or "Sad as Hell," a short story collection that was translated into several languages.

In 2017, Behn accused Spacey of groping him under the table at a Nobel Peace Prize concert in Oslo a decade earlier. It didn't appear that Behn ever pursued criminal charges or a lawsuit against Spacey.

Spacey didn't comment on the allegations at the



JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/GETTY-AFP

Norwegian Princess Martha Louise and her husband, Ari Behn, arrive for a royal wedding in Sweden in June 2015.

time, which came amid a string of similar accusations. A lawyer for Spacey didn't respond to an email seeking comment Thursday.

Behn's death came a day after Spacey, 60, released a YouTube video in which he pretends to be Frank Underwood, the scheming politician he played in the Netflix series "House of Cards." He did not address the cascade of allegations against him.

Spacey was dropped from "Cards" after several people stepped forward with allegations of sexual misconduct. The final season aired last year.

Massachusetts prosecutors this year dropped a criminal case alleging the Oscar winner groped an 18-year-old man at a bar on the resort island of Nantucket in 2016. The unnamed accuser in that case invoked his Fifth Amendment right not to testify about text mes-

sages from the night of the alleged encounter.

Police in London have also said they are investigating allegations of sexual misconduct by Spacey, but there has been no public update on that inquiry for months.

Los Angeles prosecutors this year tossed a sexual battery charge against Spacey after the unnamed accuser in that case died.

Another player in the Spacey saga, Linda Culkin, was fatally struck crossing the street in Quincy, Massachusetts, in May.

The former nursing assistant had pleaded guilty to sending death threats and bomb threats to Spacey and his associates. She was sentenced to over four years in federal prison in 2014. Prosecutors said Culkin became obsessed with Spacey after a patient told her of being attacked by him.

Romania confronts ugly past of abusive orphanages

20K children died in state-run homes in communist era

By VADIM GHIRDA
Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Whenever he returns to the orphanage where he grew up, Florin Catanescu is overwhelmed by sad memories.

"I remember families showing up and visiting other kids, but nobody came for me," said Catanescu, now 41.

Walking through the ruins of what was his home between 1988 and 1997 in the mountain town of Busteni, in central Romania, he pointed to where the bread cabinet used to be in the mess hall. Back then, it was a cherished site for the kids.

"We wouldn't quench our hunger at lunch, so we ate bread to fill our stomachs," Catanescu recalled. "The only good times were when foreign aid workers would come over and spend time with us."

After Romania's revolution overthrew its communist regime in December 1989, news media from around the world focused

on the appalling conditions of Romania's state-run orphanages. Testimony from survivors and documented evidence revealed frequent beatings, emotional abuse, children tied to their beds and some even kept in cages.

With an estimated 100,000 children in state care at the time, only a few were lucky to be adopted by families abroad.

Most of them, including Catanescu, stayed in the orphanages, suffering beatings and going hungry until Romania decided to shut down the institutions and move orphans to foster families or smaller homes with specialized staff. The change came slowly but has led to better conditions overall, although reports of abuse still occur.

"Almost all orphans dream of having a family. Those that don't (have one) are trying to improve the system," said Catanescu, who is leading by example and turning trauma into commitment.

He now runs a transition home for youngsters who are coming out of state care homes at 18 with few life skills or job prospects. The home is funded by donations of money, equipment

and supplies from at home and abroad. His center, currently with room for 18 boys, offers social services, counseling, advice on writing resumes, coaching for job interviews and further education.

The effects of Catanescu's work, however, stretch beyond those immediately in his care.

He is a big fan of "Pay it Forward," the 2000 film about Trevor, played by Haley Joel Osment, a young boy who launches a goodwill movement. It inspired Catanescu to ask the boys he cares for to do their own charity work and help those in even greater need.

Some of the boys, for example, have taken food packages and gifts to families living in deep poverty, like they did this year before Christmas.

Andrei, 19, came to Catanescu's center three years ago. He's not an orphan, but he came from a broken home and was involved with a "bad entourage," Catanescu said.

"The first time I went to a poor family to bring them some gifts, I cried," Andrei recalled. "It made me realize that there are people far less fortunate than I am. I was taught to appreciate



VADIM GHIRDA/AP

Florin Catanescu walks through the ruins of the state orphanage that was his home as a child in Busteni, Romania. Now he runs a home for boys released from state care.

what I have and the good people around me lending me a hand."

As Catanescu deals with the present, Romania is also taking steps to settle its past, trying to bring some semblance of justice for the children who suffered so deeply.

Based on available records, as many as 20,000 children may have died in the communist-era orphanages.

Researchers at the Romanian Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes have documented the deaths of 771 children at just four state-run homes

during the communist era. They have also filed criminal complaints against those considered responsible, such as orphanage officials and staff, with the Attorney General's office.

Prosecutors will now investigate as well, gather additional evidence, file charges and seek guilty verdicts in court.

"When the first convictions start rolling in, we wish the Romanian state will recognize these children as victims of the communist regime and thus provide some help plan for them to lead a normal life," said Florin Soare, an RIICC

researcher.

Back in Catanescu's home, the boys, assisted by volunteers, have learned to cook a traditional Christmas meal.

Sitting all together for a Sunday lunch, Catanescu envisioned celebrating next Christmas with an even larger group — he is renovating a building with space for 30 more boys.

"It's hard for me to help myself. I find it much easier to help others," Catanescu said. "Since my life was tossed aside (by my family), I might as well dedicate myself to lending these kids a hand."



ALREN BERONIO/GETTY-AP

Residents create a makeshift shelter Thursday after their house was destroyed in Eastern Samar province, Philippines.

20 dead in Christmas typhoon in Philippines

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A strong typhoon that barreled through the central Philippines left at least 20 people dead and forced thousands to flee their homes, devastating Christmas celebrations in the predominantly Catholic country.

Typhoon Phanfone stranded many people in sea and airports at the peak of holiday travel, set off landslides, flooded low-

lying villages, destroyed houses, downed trees and electrical poles and knocked out power in entire provinces. One disaster response officer described the coastal town of Batad in Iloilo province as a "ghost town" on Christmas Day.

"You can't see anybody because there was a total blackout, you can't hear anything. The town looked like a ghost town," Cindy Ferrer of the regional Office of the Civil Defense said by phone.

The storm weakened

slightly Thursday as it blew into the South China Sea with sustained winds of 74 mph and gusts of 93 mph after lashing island after island with fierce winds and pounding rain on Christmas Day, the weather agency said.

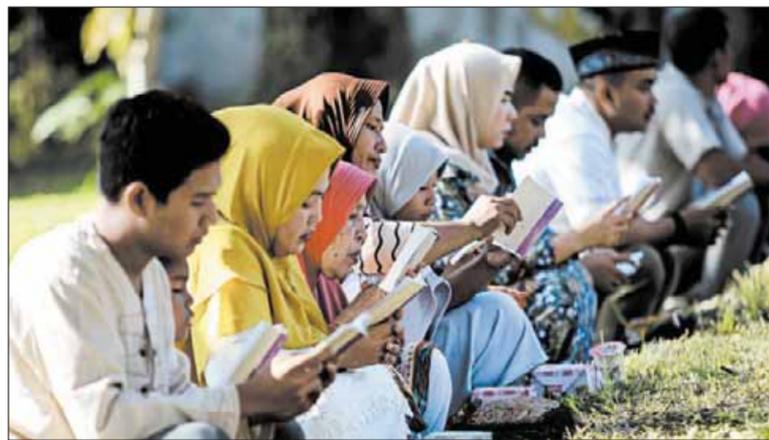
Most of the 20 deaths reported by national police and local officials were due to drowning, falling trees and accidental electrocution.

A father, his three children and another relative were among those missing

in hard-hit Iloilo province after a swollen river inundated their shanty, officials said.

The typhoon slammed into Eastern Samar province on Christmas Eve and then plowed across the archipelago's central region on Christmas, slamming into seven coastal towns and island provinces without losing power, government forecasters said.

Many people spent Christmas Eve, traditionally a time for family reunions, in bus terminals.



NURHASANAH/AP

Indonesians pray on the tsunami's 15th anniversary at a mass grave in Banda Aceh.

Indonesian, Thai ceremonies mark '04 tsunami anniversary

By YAYAN ZAMZAMI
AND NINIEK KARMINI
Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Thousands of people knelt in prayer in Indonesia's Aceh province at ceremonies Thursday marking the 15th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami, one of modern history's worst natural disasters.

The Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami was triggered by a magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra island. The giant wall of water killed about 230,000 people in a dozen countries as far away as East Africa. Indonesia's Aceh province, which was closest to the earthquake, was hit first and hardest.

More than 170,000 people died in Indonesia.

"No words can describe our feelings when we tearfully saw thousands of corpses lying on this ground 15 years ago," acting Aceh Gov. Nova Iriansyah said at a ceremony in Sigli, a town in Pidie district. "And now, we can see how people in Aceh were able to overcome suffering and rise again, thanks to assistance from all Indonesians and from people all over the world."

Weeping survivors and others attended religious services and memorial cer-

emonies. Relatives of the dead and religious and community leaders presented flowers at mass graves of victims in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh.

Shops and offices were closed, boats were not allowed to sail and flags were being flown at half staff in Aceh on Thursday.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago of more than 17,000 islands that is home to 260 million people, lies along the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

Thursday's commemoration came four days after the anniversary of last year's Sunda Strait tsunami, which followed the eruption and partial collapse of the Anak Krakatau volcano. That tsunami struck coastal regions of Banten on Indonesia's main island of Java and parts of southern Sumatra island, leaving more than 400 people dead and 14,000 injured.

In Thailand, hundreds of people attended a tsunami memorial ceremony at Ban Nam Khem, a small fishing village that lost about half of its population of 5,000 when the waves rolled in.

More than 8,000 people in Thailand died or went missing in the disaster, and the bodies of almost 400

victims remain unidentified and unclaimed.

Western visitors and local residents attended the service at the Ban Nam Khem Tsunami Memorial Park in Phang Nga province, where they viewed a photo display of victims.

The lucrative tourist industry centered around the island of Phuket was devastated by the disaster — as many as half of the victims were foreigners — but quickly bounced back and has grown much bigger.

Many local residents had their houses rebuilt and jobs restored, but still have to cope with the loss of friends and family.

Niwan Chantharawong left a floral offering at a commemorative wall in Ban Nam Khem. She recalled the horror of losing two children in the tragedy.

"I think they didn't die on the day that the tsunami hit. We couldn't find them until the 28th and their bodies hadn't decomposed at all," she told Thai PBS television, with tears welling up. "I often imagine how much they would have thought about me before taking their last breaths. But we could not find them, and we couldn't help them. This has stuck with me. And every time I think about it, it hurts."

Florida slave burial site poses questions for country club

By BOB CAINA CALVAN
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The rumors swirled for decades: A dark history long lay buried under the grassy knolls and manicured lawns of a country club in Florida's capital city.

Over the years, neat rows of rectangular depressions along the seventh fairway deepened in the grass, outlining what would be confirmed this month as sunken graves of the slaves who lived and died on a plantation that once sprawled with cotton near the Florida Capitol.

The discovery of 40 graves — with perhaps dozens more yet to be found — has spawned discussion about how to honor those who lie in rest at the golf course. And it has brought renewed attention to the many thousands of unmarked and forgotten slave cemeteries across the Deep South that forever could be lost to development or indifference.

"When I stand here on a cemetery for slaves, it makes me thoughtful and pensive," said Delaitre Hollinger, the immediate past president of the Tallahassee branch of the NAACP. His ancestors worked the fields of Leon County as slaves.

"They deserve much better than this," said Hollinger, 26, who is leading a push to memorialize the rediscovered burial ground. "And they deserved much better than what occurred in that era."

Wooden markers that had identified the graves have long since decayed. For years, golfers have unknowingly trod through the cemetery.

Leon County was the center of Florida's plantation economy during the antebellum days and had the state's highest concentration of slaves. Just before the Civil War, three of every four county inhabitants



BOBBY CAINA CALVAN/AP

Delaitre Hollinger, formerly of Tallahassee's NAACP branch, is proposing to memorialize the country club site.

were human chattel owned by elite white families.

The Houstons of Tallahassee was one such family. From the early 1800s through the Civil War, the family operated a 500-acre plantation. In modern times it has been parceled out to developers who transformed fields into an expanse of strip malls and residential neighborhoods, some sprouting stately homes.

A huge swath of the property became the Capital City Country Club, now an 18-hole golf course in one of Tallahassee's most sought-after communities.

"It's fair to say that the golf course is one of the reasons why this burial ground has been preserved as well as it has for so long," said Jay Revell, the country club's resident historian and the vice president of the region's Chamber of Commerce.

"A hundred years ago when the golf course was constructed, there was certainly no technology to decipher what was or wasn't here," he said during a recent visit to the country club.

There had long been talk among some Tallahassee old-timers about the long-gone plantation and its cemetery.

The stories piqued Hollinger's curiosity. He dug into newspaper ar-

chives, where he found clippings dating back to the 1970s that mentioned the burial site.

He contacted city officials for help, who in turn reached out to experts, including the National Park Service.

That's when Jeffrey Shanks, a park service archaeologist, took up the cause.

Earlier this month, after weeks of scanning 7,000 square meters of the golf course using ground-penetrating radar and two cadaver-sniffing dogs, Shanks issued his preliminary conclusion: The subsurface anomalies at the country club are indeed graves.

At the Capital City Country Club, there are no plans to exhume or disturb any of the rediscovered remains. But how the site will be memorialized is still up for discussion.

Hollinger, for one, wants to reroute golf carts and fence off the area so golfers won't tread over the graves. He also proposes a small memorial that will recount, he said, the unvarnished history of the property — including how it profited from the labor of slaves.

He doesn't want the history of these graves "to be prettied up" or romanticized. "I want us to be accurate and truthful in the story we tell."

Court

Continued from Page 1

and often insurmountable, level of legal scrutiny. The restriction must serve a “compelling government interest” and must be as minimal as possible.

Many revenge porn laws have survived these legal challenges.

Appeals courts in Wisconsin and Vermont rejected the First Amendment challenges and ruled that sexually explicit images deserved as much privacy as other forms of sensitive information, such as medical records and financial data.

In 2015, Texas passed a law requiring revenge porn images to have an identifiable victim and the victim to have had a reasonable expectation that the photos would remain private. The legislation was challenged, and the case is pending in the state’s highest criminal court.

Two years after Austin’s arrest, the Illinois trial court dismissed the charge, but the Illinois Supreme Court, in a 5-2 decision handed down in October, reversed its decision and ruled that distributing private sexual images without permission was not constitutionally protected free speech. The state’s revenge porn law, it said, was aimed not at prohibiting certain speech, but at protecting privacy.

“Viewed as a privacy



ERIC BARADAT/GETTY-AFP 2018

The U.S. Supreme Court has yet to hear a case on revenge porn, but the Illinois case could be the first.

regulation, (the law) is similar to laws prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure of other forms of private information, such as medical records, biometric data, or Social Security numbers,” the court said. “The entire field of privacy law is based on the recognition that some types of information are more sensitive than others, the disclosure of which can and should be regulated.”

In contrast to the Illinois decision, a Minnesota court of appeals ruled Monday

that the state’s law against revenge porn was unconstitutional and violated First Amendment rights. The only time the state may punish this behavior, the court said, is when the perpetrator intended to harm his or her victim.

Mary Anne Franks, president of the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative who drafted a model that has served as a template in most states, said there are many variations of these statutes.

Some laws have different words; others have varying

penalties.

The most significant difference in the statutes is that some states — like Minnesota — limit revenge porn to situations in which the perpetrator acts with the intent to harm or harass his or her target, something she called a “very serious mistake” that “fundamentally misunderstands the nature of the abuse” because most nonconsensual porn cases do not involve someone trying to harm the victim.

“You need a nonconsensual

pornography law to cover the gap between harassment and privacy violations,” Franks said.

Igor Bozic, attorney for Austin, said the Illinois revenge porn statute, which is broader than similar laws in many other states, “went too far.”

Bozic, in requesting that the Illinois Supreme Court stay the decision until he files a petition for a writ of certiorari at the U.S. Supreme Court, wrote of the statute: “It covers the woman who reacts to an

unwanted sexual text message by showing a friend. It covers the woman who tries to deter that toxic behavior by forwarding the unsolicited image to the sender’s mother or girlfriend. ... And of course, it gives controlling men — like Bethany Austin’s ex-fiance — yet another legal tool for victimizing their intimate partners.”

“Where do you draw the line with this law?” he said to The Washington Post.

But even if the Supreme Court does agree to take Austin’s case, many legal experts say she faces an uphill battle.

Andrew Koppelman, a law professor at Northwestern University who wrote a law review article on the constitutionality of revenge porn statutes, explained that the First Amendment allows the government to limit public disclosure of private, often intimate information without consent — such as medical or financial information.

The Illinois statute, he said, targets the specific harm it’s trying to remedy: distributing material when the disseminator knows, or should have known, that the person in the image did not consent to its distribution.

“There’s no good reason to construe free speech to protect malicious people who want to hurt people unless there’s no way to draw a line,” Koppelman said. “The Illinois statute shows there is a sensible way to draw a line.”



AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORP.

Wildfires burn Wednesday in South Australia state, which last week saw dozens of homes destroyed.

Heat wave heightens Australian wildfire fear

BY TRISTAN LAVALETTE
Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Firefighters battling wildfires in Australia’s most populous state attempted to make headway Thursday amid favorable conditions, before an “extreme heat wave” hits embattled areas on the weekend.

Thousands of firefighters in New South Wales took advantage of cooler weather and continued to strengthen containment lines. More than 70 fires,

however, were still burning across the state with areas in the south coast currently at the “watch and act” level issued by fire services.

About 12.35 million acres of land have burned nationwide over the past few months, with nine people killed and more than 950 homes destroyed. New South Wales has received the brunt of the damage, with around 850 homes razed in the state.

Authorities are bracing for conditions to deteriorate as high temperatures re-

turn. Sydney is forecast to hit 88 degrees Fahrenheit on Sunday before reaching 95 on Tuesday. The city’s western suburbs could reach 106 on Sunday.

Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Rose Barr said a heat wave was building in southern parts of New South Wales before worsening during the weekend.

“Some areas are forecast to reach extreme heat-wave conditions,” she said. “With the increasing heat and winds, the fire danger will worsen into the new week,

with Monday and Tuesday most likely to be the most significant fire weather days.”

Fire danger ratings remained very high in northwestern New South Wales and high in Sydney.

Meanwhile, South Australian firefighters Thursday were battling wildfires in Adelaide Hills, which has been downgraded to the “advice” level. South Australia state last week had 86 homes destroyed after wildfires flared in catastrophic conditions.

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Mexico accuses Bolivia of harassing its envoys in La Paz

MEXICO CITY — Mexican officials said Thursday that they would file a complaint against Bolivia in the International Court of Justice in The Hague over harassment of their diplomats in the South American country.

The Mexicans allege that Bolivian security forces have encircled the Mexican Embassy in La Paz, flown drones overhead and harassed the Mexican ambassador.

The Mexican Embassy

has given refuge to nine former officials from the administration of former President Evo Morales, the socialist stalwart who resigned in November amid allegations of election fraud.

Leftist Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador granted Morales asylum in Mexico, inflaming tensions with Bolivia’s conservative interim government. Morales has since moved on to Argentina.

First ads for '20 census launch in remote Alaskan villages

The first ads for the 2020 census launched this week in a remote part of Alaska with plans for an advertising campaign for the rest of the country slated for next month, the U.S. Census Bureau said Thursday.

The advertising launched this week is aimed at residents of 220 small native Alaskan villages where census takers will begin the once-a-decade head count next

month.

The count begins in January in these remote Alaskan villages because the ground is frozen then, allowing easier access than at other times of the year. The kickoff is the third week in January in Toksook Bay, a village on the Bering Sea west of Bethel.

The rest of the country will begin filling out the 2020 census questionnaire in March.

LA prosecutors are reviewing 8 cases against Harvey Weinstein

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors in Los Angeles are reviewing eight cases accusing disgraced film mogul Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault, an official said Thursday.

The Los Angeles and Beverly Hills police departments each brought four investigations to prosecutors, according to a spokesman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

The office will decide

whether to move forward with prosecution. No charges have been filed, Santiago said.

District Attorney Jackie Lacey created a task force more than two years ago to handle the surge in sexual misconduct allegations against entertainment figures after the accusations against Weinstein launched the #MeToo movement. He has denied allegations of non-consensual sex.



MAHESH KUMAR A/AP

Birds in Hyderabad, India, fly past a partial solar eclipse Thursday. The so-called annular eclipse, in which at least a thin outer ring of the sun is still visible, could be seen along a path stretching from India and Pakistan to Thailand and Indonesia.

US relents on pay demand for South Korea to host troops

SEOUL, South Korea — Days before a troop-funding deal was set to expire, Washington has dropped its demand that South Korea pay five times more to host U.S. military personnel after receiving assurances Seoul would purchase more American weapons, a newspaper report said.

The Trump administration also likely eased up after South Korea indicated it would step up its presence in the Strait of Hormuz, helping U.S. efforts to protect oil flows in the region, South Korea’s Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported Thursday, citing an

unidentified diplomatic source. The increase now may be about 10% to 20% above the current level of nearly \$1 billion, it said.

South Korea’s Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the report.

Last month, U.S. negotiators walked out of a meeting on troop funding in Seoul after South Korea balked at the fivefold increase to about \$5 billion and seen as exorbitant by many in the country. The breakdown raised questions about one of the United States’ closest alliances and a key piece of the Pentagon’s strategy for

countering North Korea and China. The talks resumed in December.

Even though the deal known as the Special Measures Agreement technically expires at the end of this year, both sides are likely to agree to some sort of temporary extension as they negotiate, allowing for the continued operations of the about 28,500 U.S. military personnel positioned on the peninsula.

The talks with South Korea could affect other countries that host U.S. troops, as the Trump administration is seeking increases from other allies.

Big redwood tree falls, kills hiker in Calif. park

MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT PARK, Calif. — A huge redwood tree fell and killed a man visiting Muir Woods National Monument Park in California, authorities said Thursday.

Subhradeep Dutta, 28, of Edina, Minnesota, died Tuesday while walking on a

marked dirt trail with two other people in the park north of San Francisco famous for its towering trees, according to the Marin County coroner’s office and a spokesman for the park.

Dutta was pinned by the trunk of the 200-foot-tall tree and died at the scene. The trunk measured more

than 4 feet in diameter.

A woman injured by falling debris was taken to the hospital.

“This is a very rare and isolated event that may have occurred due to wet ground from recent winter storms, around the roots of the tree,” said park spokesman Charles Strickfaden.

14 dead in Niger after militants attack convoy

NIAMEY, Niger — Islamic extremists on motorcycles killed 14 security force members who were escorting election officials in the West African nation of Niger, the first large attack there since 71 soldiers were killed in an ambush Dec. 10, authorities said Thursday.

The attack took place Wednesday night near Sanam, which is about 125 miles from the capital of Niamey, according to a government statement. Officials from the national electoral commission were in the area to conduct a census before next year’s vote.

The victims were seven military police officers and seven national guard members, authorities said.

Niger is vulnerable to Islamic extremism because it shares a border with Nigeria, where Boko Haram insurgents have been carrying out attacks for a decade.

In Russia: Security officers in Moscow raided the offices of Alexei Navalny, the most prominent foe of President Vladimir Putin and the governing United Russia party.

Navalny has been jailed repeatedly in recent years for organizing or participating in unsanctioned protests. His Foundation for Fighting Corruption organization has produced reports alleging corruption by top figures including Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

Navalny, who was barred from running in the 2018 presidential election, said on Twitter that he was dragged out of the office before being allowed to return. Before his brief detention, Navalny livestreamed the raid as police used power tools to saw through the door.

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EDITORIALS

In praise of Chicagoans who give back to their metropolis

You may or may not know who Richard and Roxelyn Pepper are. You probably know the company they're associated with — Pepper Construction. Its banners can be seen wrapping around construction sites all over the city. And we hope you know all about Richard and Roxelyn's latest philanthropic venture — the lion house at Lincoln Park Zoo.

The Peppers are pouring \$15 million into renovation of the Kovler Lion House, including its drab, goldenrod and beige-bricked interior. It's a gut job that will triple the amount of space the lions occupy. The Tribune's Steve Johnson writes that the rehab includes a new zip line system that should make delivery of food more interesting for the animals, and holding spaces to facilitate breeding. In all a better habitat for the lions, a better atmosphere for the humans observing them, and another spruce-up at one of Chicago's signature cultural experiences. Philanthropy well executed.

In this season of giving, it's appropriate to raise your mug of mulled wine in tribute to givers like the Peppers. Philanthropy serves a vital role, particularly when it comes to missions of culture and revival. That's all the more true at a time when overspent, overborrowed governments — and their heavily burdened taxpayers — are choking on debt.

The Pepper donation crossed our screens the same week that the Pritzker Traubert Foundation, led by Penny



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Visitors at the Lincoln Park Zoo visit the Kovler Lion House in 2017. A philanthropic venture will triple the amount of space the lions occupy.

Pritzker and Bryan Traubert, announced finalists for its \$10 million Chicago Prize competition, a project that aims to inject new life into South and West Side neighborhoods. Among the finalists: a bid to turn a former fire station in Little Village into a commercial kitchen and retail storefront for local food entrepreneurs; a plan to transform a vacant office building in

Auburn Gresham into a health center; and a proposal to build an early learning center, high school and affordable housing in Austin.

Earlier this year, hedge fund billionaire Ken Griffin donated \$125 million to the Museum of Science and Industry, now renamed the Kenneth C. Griffin Museum of Science and Industry. The donation

doubled the museum's endowment, and comes after his funding of a revamp for the lakefront bicycle and walking path.

Philanthropists like Griffin, Pritzker and Traubert, as well as the Peppers and many other charitable donors in metropolitan Chicago, aren't just giving — they're giving back. We can be cynical about mega-donations, kvetching that they're all about tax breaks or booster shots for big egos.

Maybe. But an essential exchange also is taking place: Chicago has served these individuals well in their ascent to the upper reaches of wealth. But they have no shortage of places and projects around the globe where their wealth could make a difference.

Yet they're reinvesting in the city. And we can't imagine Chicago and its surrounding region without the major gifts that generations of philanthropists have bestowed. If doing the right thing also makes sense for tax or business reasons, fine.

Metropolitan Chicago thrives for many reasons. They include its no-nonsense work ethic. Its sense of community. Its ambition for all things big and bold. And its citizens' willingness to give back. When philanthropists big and small invest in today's Chicago, they invest in tomorrow's Chicagoans. As the end of this year approaches, that generosity is something to toast. And to emulate.

Climate change and the incredible shrinking songbird

As polar vortexes loom and food grows seasonally scarce, there's more enduring bad news about the plight of birds. On the heels of a study that found North American birds in the throes of a steep population decline, new research concludes that this continent's songbirds have been steadily shrinking in size over a span of nearly four decades.

Fewer birds, smaller birds. Don't just give Polly a cracker. Give her the whole box.

What does this mean for the species that beams at the sound of a warbler's warble during a morning walk through the park, or gushes over the sight of a blue jay perched on the bough of a silver maple? Should homo sapiens be worried about a bird apocalypse? Should we fret that, if it can happen to them, it can happen to us?

First, a look at the science. University of Michigan scientists working with Field Museum researchers studied thousands of birds belonging to 52 species that crashed into high-rises in Chicago between 1978 and 2016, and were preserved at the museum's bird collection. Scientists took several measurements, including each bird's weight and wing length.

The measurements, reported this month by The Wall Street Journal, showed that, over that 38-year span, body size dropped significantly, while wings became longer. Why? Climate change. Which makes sense:



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Field Museum has a large collection of birds killed in collisions with Chicago buildings. University of Michigan scientists working with Field Museum researchers studied thousands of birds belonging to 52 species that crashed into high-rises in Chicago between 1978 and 2016. Scientists took several measurements, including each bird's weight and wing length. The measurements, reported this month by The Wall Street Journal, showed that, over that 38-year span, body size dropped significantly, while wings became longer.

Over these decades, temperatures rose nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit in the birds' summer breeding grounds north of Chicago. That corresponded with a drop in body weight of up to a couple of grams, and a rise of a few millimeters in wing length.

The causal link between climate change and bird size has to do with the scientific tenet that warm-blooded species often have larger bodies in places that are colder, and smaller bodies in warmer locales. A smaller, more compact body releases heat faster. Hence, birds are getting smaller because their world is getting hotter.

The scale of body mass loss is small enough that we don't have to worry about cardinals and robins shrinking to the point of being smaller than the insects they now rely on for a snack. It is, however, another red flag about the reach climate change has, and the need for mankind to stop turning up the temperature.

Many species have been adversely affected by global warming, and man's reluctance to move fast enough to protect the planet. Populations of polar bears are dropping because of melting sea ice. Coral reefs around the world are in decline due to climate change. The adverse impact is never abruptly cataclysmic; it's almost always gradual, and virtually imperceptible in real time.

But it's there. It's happening. And it's a warble of warning that we should heed.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

For many Democrats, former President Obama can be as maddeningly cerebral and detached as President Obama was. Obama has the most followed Twitter account in the world, but rather than use it as a political weapon, he acts more like a celebrity social media influencer. He's also a social media skeptic. One of his recent book recommendations was "The Shallows," Nicholas Carr's examination of how the internet is turning our brains to mush.

While many of his closest advisers are well-known Twitter combatants, Obama has consistently voiced skepticism about the partisan "silencing" that social media encourages. Obama's public initiatives still hew to his original strategy to serve as a removed ex-president, engaged but above the fray. "It's typical Obama," said presidential historian Douglas Brinkley, "he's trying to be the cerebral political thinker." ...

According to several people close to him, his experience campaigning during 2018 made him even more convinced that Democrats had to be careful not to mistake the passion and excitement on Twitter for candidates like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for where the public was ideologically, especially in the coming general election against President Trump. ... A close Obama adviser added: "There's a whole big country out there, so don't just go to a rally and everybody's cheering and you think that that's always the pulse of the country. Those are just the people who showed up to hear you."

Ryan Lizza, Politico

MICHAEL RAMIREZ



MICHAEL RAMIREZ/THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL



ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. 1st Army infantrymen plod through snowy woods in Belgium's Ardennes Forest as they advance to contact German forces at the start of the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

On the front line

A Chicago dad's story of the Battle of the Bulge, as told through his letters home

BY STEPHEN KULIEKE

Seventy-five years ago, at the height of World War II, the Christmas holidays were anything but jolly for U.S. soldiers in Europe. They had landed heroically on D-Day at Normandy in June and then in August had joined with Allied forces to liberate Paris, freeing it from four years of Nazi occupation.

At year's end, they fought in grinding and harrowing combat across the continent to defeat Adolf Hitler's armies and bring the long, devastating war to its inevitable end.

But Hitler had one last surprise: a major offensive, an assault of firepower and fighting forces just before Christmas to try to turn the war back in Germany's favor. The 40-day conflict from December 1944 to January 1945 became the bloodiest for the United States in WWII and is still the largest land battle ever fought by American forces.

One of the more than 600,000 American GIs seeing action at Christmastime 1944, in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge, was my dad, Pfc. Robert "Bob" Kulieke, of the 12th Infantry Regiment of the 4th (Ivy) Division of the U.S. Army.

Dad was a true son of Chicago: born and raised in Logan Square, a graduate of Schurz High School and the Chicago Teachers College. Married to my mom, Millie, he had recently become a public school teacher and a first-time father. In 1943, he was called into service like so many other young men.

It's extraordinary to recount the impact of WWII on America, and Illinois in particular. According to the official state publication, "Illinois in the Second World War," by the end of 1945 Illinois had registered nearly 2 million men for the armed services, more than any state except New York and Pennsylvania. And nearly 960,000 Illinois men entered the armed forces between 1940 and 46, two-thirds via Selective Service, like Dad.

So Dad became a soldier, writing letters from basic training in Florida, profusely thankful for the care packages sent from back home: "You can't realize how good candy tastes until you get in the Army. We spend all our free time eating." And adjusting to military life: "While it gets no easier, the Army life gradually breaks a fellow until he takes it in stride."

He also described military maneuvers in dense Florida swamps filled with snakes, palmetto trees and sharp-thorned, barbed wire-like vines that tear at uniforms and skin. Carrying rifles and light packs in eight-man patrols, he and his fellow soldiers would "try and detect each other as the 'enemy' ... and fire blanks at each other in 'warfare.'"

He trained as a radio operator and shipped overseas to the European Theater. An army "marches on its stomach," the saying goes, and he and his fellow GIs ate C-rations, developed by a military subsistence research laboratory in Chicago: cans of meats and vegetables opened with a key that are edible when heated, not always an option on the front lines. He chain-smoked Lucky Strikes cigarettes, included in his Army rations, and marched painfully on, his feet sometimes blistered and bloodied.

Deciphering Dad's Army experiences isn't easy. His surviving wartime letters provide a few clues, as do his Army papers and newspaper clippings. And I've been able to fill in some of the gaps through research, and with the help of a 12th Infantry historian and through books about his regiment specifically as well as the Battle of the Bulge generally, of which there are many.

Early in their marriage, my mom gave Dad a dictionary as a gift with the inscription, "To a guy who's never at a loss for words." But like many of his generation who fought in the war, he was tight-lipped when asked about it.

His face brightened when describing how the "Fighting Men of the Famous Fourth," the first Allied unit to enter Paris on Aug. 25, 1944, were greeted by the huge throng, who shouted, "Vive l'Amérique!" The book "History of the Twelfth



KULIEKE FAMILY PHOTO

Pfc. Robert Kulieke, December 1944, Luxembourg. Family photo provided by son Stephen Kulieke.

Infantry Regiment in World War II" describes a tremendous scene of the regiment's convoy of armored vehicles, trucks and jeeps arriving in the French capital and being covered with flowers by grateful Parisians — who showered U.S. soldiers with fruit, wine, kisses and handshakes.

His face darkened on the rare occasion that he mentioned the devastating Battle of the Bulge, four months after Paris was liberated. "They took the bodies away in truckloads" was my dad's blunt, terse epitaph of the battle.

An all-out stealth assault that followed a lull in hostilities, the German attack was launched Dec. 16 on a 75-mile front dividing U.S. and German forces, stretching from Belgium south to Luxembourg in the forbidding forests and rugged landscape of the Ardennes.

The weather was punishing, one of the coldest winters in memory: subfreezing temperatures, snow and icy fog. The morning quiet was broken when all hell broke loose and a thundering roar of German artillery — howitzer and mortar fire — hurled shrieking shells at the GIs. Following the sustained barrage, German tanks and soldiers pressed forward, breaking through the American lines, hence the "bulge" of the battle.

The Germans also engaged in clever deception, unleashing 2,000 specially trained English-speaking soldiers to masquerade as GIs in captured uniforms, to foster chaos behind American lines. To counter the subterfuge, U.S. soldiers began asking questions at checkpoints to ferret out the impostors: Who won the last World Series? What is Mickey Mouse's girlfriend's name? What's the capital of a particular state? When U.S. General Omar Bradley correctly identified Springfield as Illinois' capital, he was momentarily detained by a GI who thought it was Chicago.

My dad's regiment bore the brunt of the German assault in the battle's "southern shoulder" in their epic defense of Luxembourg. From icy ditches and dugouts, and adding blankets and burlap to their uniforms to fend off biting cold, the soldiers of the 12th and of U.S. regiments up and down the front stubbornly fought back — often surrounded and out of communication with their command posts.

On Dec. 22, Supreme Commander — and later President — Dwight Eisenhower sent a message to every member of the Allied Expeditionary Force exhorting them to defeat the enemy with their "proven bravery and fortitude."

Hitler was convinced that the American forces were undisciplined and unworthy and would capitulate to the onslaught. But the battle-weary GI foot soldiers showed their mettle and, supported by tank battalions and superior Allied air power, repelled the invading Nazis — with Christmas Day

the battle's turning point.

Although the conflict would continue for another month after Christmas, the Nazis soon were in retreat, sealing the battle's outcome and, ultimately, the outcome of the war itself. It was the "greatest American battle of the war" according to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The cost for the courageous U.S. forces was great: 89,000 American casualties (including those injured, captured, missing) of which 19,000 were killed.

Dad's regiment fought on in the spring of 1945 into Germany. In his March letter back home, he describes being "quite homesick like almost everyone else over here." But he says he has "little reason to complain" since his three older brothers all had been in the service longer overseas.

He is typically protective of the folks back home and keeps the tone of the letter light. He encloses a picture of himself, apologizing for how he looks and using droll language straight out of a dog-eared collection of "Jeeves" comic stories. These he carried throughout the war in his combat pack as an antidote to the horrors of war. (In his Army role as an orderly to an officer, he notes that he and Jeeves, the unflappable British valet-manservant, have "much in common.") Dad writes, "My seedy appearance is due largely to the fact that we had just emerged from the Hürtgen Forest — and I had not yet managed to give myself and my accoutrements a good scrubbing." Germany's Hürtgen Forest was the site of a series of protracted and brutal battles between American and Nazi forces.

Dad's letter expresses hope that with "the Germans on the run along the Western Front, a few breaks for the Allies may bring this War to a sudden and successful end."

End it did with Germany's surrender in May of 1945. In July, Dad arrived on a troop ship in New York City with 3,000 members of his regiment. He brought with him some "spoils of war" as he described them: a German knife and sword; a triangular fabric piece with an eagle atop a swastika, the symbol of the Nazi Party; and a nearly 4-foot-by-3-foot Nazi flag. Kept buried in a drawer all these decades, its red fabric is as brilliant as the day he recovered it in the snowy fields of the Battle of the Bulge.

He also brought back a bad case of infectious hepatitis, the scourge of many GI combatants in WWII. Jaundiced and weak, he was put on medical hold and held in an Army hospital until he was well. In his picture in the 12th Infantry Yearbook of 1945, he's smiling but gaunt, his face older and his expression changed from before the war.

During the American Civil War, they called it "soldier's heart." Later it was called shell-shock and today post-traumatic stress disorder. The fact that soldiers, then and now, suffer physiological, neurological and psychological reactions to war is not surprising, and my dad was among them.

He lived nearly 40 years after the war, dying in 1983. Dad was many things: a science teacher at Chicago's Lane Tech and Tilden high schools, a husband and father of three, and a stalwart in his Masonic lodge. He also was an incredibly funny guy when performing a skit or serving as master of ceremonies at a church event.

For two years and 11 days from 1943 to 1945, he was a citizen soldier in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Over Christmas of 1944, he and his fellow soldiers fought a crucial battle to defeat Hitler and fascism — far from home, in frozen foxholes, the outcome never certain.

Seventy-five years after a battle that must not be forgotten, I hold Dad in my heart and remember his service and that of his band of brothers — those who returned home at the war's conclusion, and those who did not.

In one of his last letters home from the front, he reflected on the effect of the wartime separation on soldiers like him. "We'll all appreciate more fully those many little things we used to take for granted."

This holiday season, treasure your loved ones, here and gone.

Stephen Kulieke is a retired journalist and communications professional who lives in Sacramento, California.

PERSPECTIVE

The best tweets and funniest tweeters of 2019



ERIC ZORN

As a public service, each week I collect and present online a list of the best quips that cross my Twitter feed. Readers then vote up a winner in a click poll, and that winner appears at the end of my Sunday column.

But despite the legendary discernment of my readers, the winner is seldom my personal favorite. So today I am asserting curator's privilege and offering, in no particular order and lightly edited in some cases, the 40 best tweets that showed up in my feed in the past year.

The writer who appeared most often in the list of finalists and earned the coveted title of Funniest Person on Twitter 2019 is a resident of Glasgow, Scotland, who uses the Twitter handle @wildethingy in honor, he told me, of witty Irish playwright Oscar Wilde.

Follow him along with runners-up @AndrewNadeau0, who was last year's winner, and @AmishPornStar1 for at least a few laughs in 2020.

- A day without coffee is like — just kidding, I have no idea (various users)
- My ex has had a really hard time moving on. From what I can tell through his blinds, he is currently eating (something we always did) (@MindyFurano)
- Driver's Ed: 10 and 2. Real Life: 7 and french fries (@blahdevivre)
- My friends asked me to go camping so I made a list of the things I will need: 1. New friends (@RobinMcCauley)
- I asked my husband if he ever thought about what his life would've been like had he married his previous girlfriend instead of me. Then we laughed and laughed at the absolute impossibility of him answering that question correctly (@Parker-lawyer)
- I'm starting to think my "coexist" bumper sticker isn't working (@meganamram)
- I never say "It's the least I can do." I know in my heart I can always do less (@Jake_Vig)
- I have pictures of random children in my house. When my kid misbehaves I gently remind him of the brothers and sisters who came before him and are no longer part of the family (@kriv_723)
- Fox News has done to our parents what our parents thought video games would do to us (@AllenCMarshall)
- When I run into an old friend and I have no idea what they've been up to, I just say, "I love your podcast." Haven't been wrong yet (@fimicolous)
- Gotta say, I love living by the sword. I hope there are no consequences for this (@InternetHippo)
- If buying new underwear is evidence of an affair, my husband has been faithful for at least nine years (@nerdreign)



YOUNGRAE KIM/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A day without coffee is like — just kidding, I have no idea (by various Twitter users).

- We need a follow-up song where Dolly Parton comes to her senses and thanks Jolene for taking that cheating dirtbag off her hands (@BoomBoomBetty)
- Having a bad vocabulary is very bad (@RyanThmps)
- Jesus loves you, but, honestly, he could do so much better (@bornmiserable)
- A recent medical study shows that women who carry a little extra weight generally live longer than the men in their lives who mention it (@Roweboat13G)
- My Magic 8 Ball contains a polyhedron that on all 20 sides says, "You're a grown man. Put this thing down." (@RickAaron)
- Imagine being a jolly good fellow and some jerk coming in trying to deny it (@Flora_Flora)
- So you're saying that if I fool you twice I'm off the hook? (@TheAlexNevil)
- My urologist said I have a healthy prostate. I was deeply touched (@Drstevenhobbs)
- God grant me the serenity to exploit my enemies' insecurities against them, the courage to drag them down into a hell of their own making and the wisdom to document it so I can enjoy it again at a future date (@SamGrittner)
- I'll tell you who gets a bad rap. Anyone who asks me to do a rap (@craiguito)
- What I've learned from the internet is that access to an almost limitless amount of information actually makes people dumber (@wildethingy)
- Never ever tell yourself, "my idea isn't good enough." The entire premise of Marmaduke is, "What if a dog was big?" And that nonsense has been going for more than 60 years (@_AlexHirsch)
- His last words were, "You seem upset." (@lloydrang)
- Establish dominance over your therapist by saying, "No, your time is up." (@TheAlexNevil)
- The "back" in "horseback riding" is probably unnecessary (@MrMatt-Thomas)
- I lost a contact at the gym, and while I was searching for it people started gathering around, and, long story short, I teach

yoga now. (@Darlinky)

- I hate to break this to you but if you just "bang on the drum all day," eventually it will start to feel like work (@MelvinofYork)
- I don't mind not being everyone's cup of tea because "everyone's cup of tea" seems unsanitary (@jamdugg)
- Taking my husband's last name doesn't mean I'm not a feminist, it means I don't want anyone I went to high school with to be able to find me ever again (@AsiaDNY)
- Keep your friends close and people who have photos of you from the '80s closer (@JohnLyonTweets)
- The chicken crossed the road for the same reason everyone else does — to avoid running into someone it knew (@minkpinkustink)
- Fellas, if you don't know what you did wrong, do not under any circumstances start guessing (@NotTodayEric)
- On your deathbed, tell everyone "pray for me." Then make sure to leave a note to be opened after you die that says, "pray harder next time" (@GrantTanaka)
- Those silica packets that say "do not eat" are part of a conspiracy to keep us from consuming them and becoming impervious to moisture (@abbycohenwl)
- I won a chocolate bunny at the carnival, but it was a hollow victory (@JohnLyonTweets)
- Fun game: Try to guess someone's name based solely on their face, the various conversations you've had with them and the many times they've actually told you their name (@wildethingy)
- Disney gave me unrealistic ideas about how I'd look after a nap (@MorticiaKate)
- Please allow children to believe in Santa. You believe in essential oils and no one is ruining it for you (@Mothernetic)

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Evangelicals are wrong about Trump

It is a terrible 21st-century malaise when evangelical Christians decide that President Donald Trump is the chosen one. As a person reared in an evangelical Christian household, I can say this is an appalling and egregious lie. My parents inculcated biblical values such as love and compassion, living in service to others, helping the less fortunate, and striving to live a life of empathy, compassion and humility. This is the Christianity imprinted on my siblings and me; Trump is far removed from that Christian path.

Trump lacks fundamental Christian values and spiritual characteristics; his past and present personal, professional and now "presidential" behavior reflect this. His abusive words and his dishonest conduct pose a period of trauma and stress for large segments of the nation. I doubt that any follower of Jesus Christ would have separated so many children from their parents as they fled social unrest, violence and political uncertainty. Ironically, according to biblical teaching, the birth of Jesus was possible because his parents fled (read: immigrated) to protect him from a malevolent king.

Also, I doubt that Jesus Christ treated women in the misogynistic, sexist and repulsive manner that is the Trumpian behavior code. And it is highly unlikely that Jesus would have mocked a disabled reporter, thrown paper towels at people recovering from a horrific hurricane or ridiculed a teen girl calling for action on the unfolding climate change predicament. In fact, when Jesus encountered a wayward woman, a leper, a tax collector or a disciple who betrayed him, he showed love and empathy, a sense of justice and absolute moral standards.

It is, therefore, reprehensible, hypocritical and a defining stain for evangelical congregations and their leaders — under the guise of God and Jesus — to support someone who commits sinful actions and deeds on an hourly basis. Shame on Christendom and shame on its false prophets who, like the ancient Pharisees, attempt to undermine Jesus and his teachings. A verse in the Book of Matthew is a warning to evangelical Christians and speaks directly to their current conundrum: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves."

— Esther Nieves, Chicago

The hypocrisy of judgment

I suspect columnist Mary Schlich would not quote from Christianity Today had it not asked that President Donald Trump be removed from office ("Magazine editor calls Trump editorial 'the right thing to do,'" Dec. 22). Does she also agree with the publication's views on abortion?

Note how the editor of that publication says Trump should be removed due to his immoral character. Well then, all presidents should be removed.

Was it moral for the Obama administration to spy on the opposing party, give guns to Mexican cartels or hand pallets of cash to Iranian mullahs? Should Franklin Delano Roosevelt have been removed for incarcerating Japanese citizens? Oh and what about Lincoln removing habeas corpus?

As usual, it's just more of "Trump Derangement Syndrome."
— Ken Nelson, Chicago

Trump has exposed corruption

I recently read an article that asserts impeachment will forever change President Donald Trump's legacy. That no matter what Trump accomplishes henceforth, the stain and humiliation of impeachment will scar his every doing. I'm not so sure.

Everyone wants to be recognized for their accomplishments and to be remembered for the good things they've done. But Trump didn't get into politics for his own gain, contrary to what the smear mongers would have you believe. Like our Founders, Trump knew exposing the corruption in our government would result in a nuclear-essque blowback from the scoundrels who have perverted our system for their own gain. Trump is the whistleblower.

— Mike Simon, Glen Ellyn

The reemergence of 'We the people'

"Make America great again": President Donald Trump used this slogan to woo voters, then slid back into making America more great for corporations and billionaires. We need to go back 40 years, to before the Supreme Court greenlighted the selling of our government to moneyed interests.

While the Democratic moderates seem to think little change is needed, the Elizabeth Warren-Bernie Sanders wing wants no such thing. The disaster that is Trump may just give us the opportunity to revisit where we the people used to have a say in our democracy.

— Lee Knohl, Evanston

As North Korea and China show, Trump is a terrible negotiator



STEVE CHAPMAN

I'm starting to wonder if Donald Trump, bestselling author of "The Art of the Deal," just isn't very good at making deals. His presidency has been a ceaseless torrent of promises about what he'll achieve from negotiations with foreign leaders. But time and again, he ends up high and dry.

Right now, the administration is waiting to find out what the North Korean regime meant when it made the ominous vow to give the United States a "Christmas gift" if talks didn't produce an agreement on nuclear weapons and economic sanctions by year's end. No such accord has been reached, which confirms the bankruptcy of Trump's strategy.

He started out in 2017 by threatening Kim Jong Un with "fire and fury" if he made threats. But then the two agreed to a 2018 meeting in Singapore — a made-for-TV spectacle that produced an agreement short on meaningful specifics. About all Trump got in return for giving Kim the propaganda opportunity was a halt in missile tests and the purported demolition of a test site.

At a second meeting in Vietnam in February, Trump walked out after failing to get what he wanted. That ploy didn't work. Since then, Kim has carried out several short-range rocket and missile tests. Trump's response? "He likes testing missiles," the president said last summer with peculiar nonchalance.

All indications are that he's been duped

by a wily opponent who is playing for time. Trump's former national security adviser, John Bolton, recently told NPR the North Koreans will never surrender their nuclear weapons.

"They're happy to sell that same bridge over and over again, but there's no serious chance they will ever voluntarily give it up," he said. "The more time they have, the more they can overcome all the technological and scientific difficulties to perfecting a deliverable nuclear weapons capability."

The China trade deal that Trump celebrated is underwhelming, leaving most of the important issues unresolved. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer had to admit it was just "a first step" — a far cry from the "epic" agreement Trump said was almost complete back in April.

Despite hitting China with an array of tariffs that hurt American consumers and companies, Trump has yet to get anything worth the cost he's inflicted on the U.S. economy.

As for the view from Beijing, The New York Times reported Dec. 14, "People close to China's economic policy making process say that as the trade talks progressed this past week, the mood among Chinese officials gradually shifted from deeply worried to cautious and finally, by late in the week, jubilant and even incredulous that the hard-liners' goals had been achieved."

When the Chinese refused to sign a deal unless the U.S. agreed to roll back tariffs, the administration said no — only to cave in the end. Lighthizer says Beijing agreed to buy at least \$40 billion in American farm products each year, but the Chinese themselves have made no such commitment publicly.

It just may be the administration is greatly exaggerating what it got. That's

what it did with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a modest update of NAFTA that Trump pretended was a radical overhaul.

His negotiating wizardry has also fizzled against Iran. He abandoned the agreement the Obama administration reached to block Tehran's path to the bomb, calling it "a horrible, one-sided deal." But Trump's attempt to use economic strangulation to force the other side to submit has failed.

In response, Iran has taken steps that are forbidden by the agreement. So thanks to Trump, the Iranians are closer today to getting a nuclear weapon than they would be had he stayed in the deal.

Meanwhile, attacks carried out by Tehran in response to U.S. pressure have forced the administration to contemplate sending 14,000 troops to the region. Instead of making the Iranians more compliant, he has made them more aggressive. Let's not forget the most conspicuous negotiating flop of all. Trump vowed over and over that we would build a wall on the southwest border and Mexico would pay for it. But Mexico has not paid anything and obviously never will.

The president brings to mind Samuel Johnson's comment: "Men who cannot deceive others are often very successful at deceiving themselves." Maybe Trump blustered his way into a few good deals during his time in private business. But when it comes to high-stakes negotiations with foreign adversaries, he's a lamb among wolves.

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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS

Mondelez aims to be a 'snacking powerhouse'

Maker of Oreo, Ritz wants to provide healthy, balanced choices

BY ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ

The world is snacking. And Mondelez International, the food giant behind megabrands Oreos and Ritz, is angling to be a "snacking powerhouse" ready with the right cookie, cracker or nutritious cluster to fuel people through their days.

In its first state-of-snacking report, released last month, Mondelez reported that 60% of adults, and 70% of millennials, said they prefer to eat many small meals a day rather than a few large ones. Their snack choices are driven primarily by convenience and quality, and 8 in 10 said they want healthy, balanced bites.

The report, based on a Harris survey of 6,000 people across 12 countries, came a year after Mondelez launched SnackFutures, an innovation and venture arm dedicated to developing next-generation snacks. This week Mondelez announced the hiring of Minsok Pak, who was head of strategy and innovation at Target, to lead Snack-



DEB LINDSEY/THE WASHINGTON POST

A variety of Oreo cookies, made by Mondelez International.

Futures and oversee mergers and acquisitions as chief strategy and transformation officer.

Other major moves to expand its snacking portfolio include last year's \$500 million acquisition of Tate's Bake Shop, a Southampton, New York-based cookie brand; and this year's majority stake in refrigerated nutrition bar startup Perfect Bar.

Not all of Mondelez's adventures in snacking have been successful. Two years after launching Vea, a brand of seed crackers, crisps and crunch bars meant to appeal to millennials with flavors like Thai coconut and no artificial ingredients, Mondelez this year discontin-

ued it.

The company, which in April will move its headquarters from Deerfield to Chicago's Fulton Market neighborhood, has seen its stock rise nearly 40% over the past year as revenue and profits improved. The North American business, which comprises about a quarter of the company's revenues and profits, grew 2.5%.

Helming the North American business is Glen Walter, who joined Mondelez in 2017. He previously was CEO of Coca-Cola in China and earlier in his career served as CEO of beer company InBev USA.

The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What are some of the challenges Mondelez's North American business faces?

A: We all shop in different ways. One of the opportunities we have in North America for profitable growth is to continue to expand our snacking footprint outside of our traditional retail universe — food stores and the mass channel. They will continue to be incredibly important to us, but expanding our snacking portfolio to where consumers are shopping, whether that be convenience stores, in e-commerce, whether it's pure play or omnichannel is an area of opportunity for us.

Q: Are there any unusual places where you want consumers to be able to find Mondelez's products?

A: The dream is obviously ubiquity. Wherever consumers are and want to snack we want to be within reach of that. We are expanding our food service business, so it could be an Oreo milkshake that shows up in an Uber Eats, to products you might find in the club store channel. Hopping on an airline — there are various airlines

now where you can find Oreos and Sour Patch Kids and belVita.

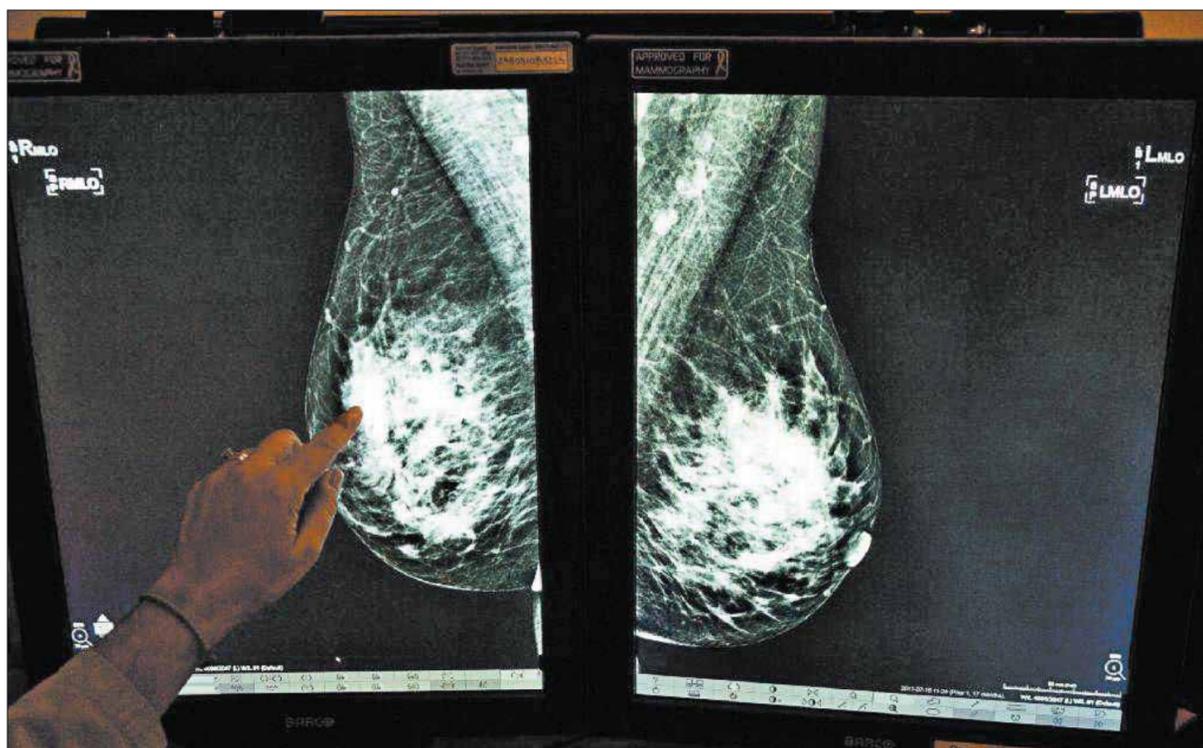
Q: What's notable about how Americans snack?

A: My wife and I have three kids who are 14, 11 and 8, and I think time is our most precious commodity and strain. As much as we'd love to sit down and have three square meals, people are eating very differently. Everybody is changing from three square meals to multiple smaller meals and snacks. And you can see that from boomers to millennials. The types of snacks are different. It could be meal replacement, could be an energy boost, could be a chance to connect with friends socially.

Q: Are you focusing more on healthy or indulgent snacks?

A: There's definitely a crossover. This whole idea of well-being, whether I want to have a delicious Double Stuf Oreo, one a night, as my chance to take a breath and have a simple indulgence for mental well-being. Or whether it's something you'd see with a Perfect

Turn to *Snacks*, Page 2



KRISTAN LIEB/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dr. Georgia Giakoumis Spear points to dense breast tissue on a mammogram at Skokie Hospital on Dec. 5, 2018.

Covering the cost

2020 law requires some insurers to pay for second mammogram

BY LISA SCHENCKER

No woman wants to be told that doctors found something questionable during a routine mammogram and need to take another look.

But, each year, about 10% of patients who receive routine mammograms get called back.

It's news that can hit hard emotionally, and financially, as some patients must pay hundreds of dollars for a second mammogram.

That, however, is about to change — at least for some patients in Illinois. A state law that goes into effect Jan. 1 will require insurers in many cases to fully cover the cost of second, or diagnostic, mammograms. Not all insurance plans will be subject to the new requirement, but advocates for women's health call it a start.

Many patients have delayed getting mammograms out of fear they'd be called back for follow-up diagnostic testing that can cost as much as \$700 out-of-pocket, said Dr. Georgia Giakoumis Spear, chief of breast imaging at NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Spear hopes the new law will encourage more women to get tested so that if they have breast cancer, they can catch it early.

"Cost is a huge, if not No. 1, issue of why women don't get the health care they need," said Spear, who testified in support of the change.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the U.S., according to



Dr. Georgia Giakoumis Spear, chief of breast imaging at NorthShore University Health System, testified in support of legislation to expand insurance coverage for diagnostic mammograms.

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An estimated 41,000 U.S. women die of breast cancer each year, the National Cancer Institute says. About 1,775 people died of the disease in Illinois in 2018, according to the state health department.

Death rates from the disease have been steadily declining thanks to new cancer treatments and screening, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, already makes routine screening mammograms free to patients. The American Cancer Society recommends women at average risk of the disease begin getting annual mammograms at age 45, though other groups recommend annual screening starting at 40.

And Illinois already has a law requiring insurance coverage of screening with an ultrasound or MRI for women who have dense breast tissue, which can make it

more difficult for mammograms to detect cancer.

But until now, diagnostic mammograms, which are often used to take a second look, could cost some patients significant amounts of money. Diagnostic mammograms provide a more detailed X-ray of the breast than screening mammograms.

In Illinois, patients with private insurance, such as through an employer, may pay more than \$600 out-of-pocket for diagnostic mammograms, according to a 2019 report by Susan G. Komen, a nonprofit organization that works to fight breast cancer and was the force behind the new law. Even when health insurance has covered the diagnostic mammograms, patients may have had to pay money out-of-pocket if they hadn't yet met their deductibles, or if they had co-pays.

Other states, including Texas, Colorado and New York, also bar insurance companies from

charging women out-of-pocket for diagnostic mammograms.

The law won't, however, apply to all women in Illinois.

Patients who are members of self-funded insurance plans, which are often offered by large employers, are excluded. That's because those plans are regulated by the federal government, not the state.

It's also not clear whether the law will apply to people with high-deductible health plans because of a conflict with federal tax law.

Still, supporters say it will undoubtedly help many Illinois women, chipping away at a financial barrier for many.

"We've heard countless stories about patients who get screening mammograms done, and there's something suspicious but they can't come up with the \$50 co-pay to get the diagnostic mammogram, so they avoid it," said Molly Guthrie, director of public policy and advocacy at Komen. "It's a starting point."

Initially, health insurance groups, including the Illinois Life Insurance Council and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, opposed the bill.

Eliminating out-of-pocket costs for all diagnostic mammograms could mean higher monthly costs for other members of a plan, said Laura Minzer, president of the Illinois Life Insurance Council, which also represents health insurers. "It begins to add up ... and can really inflate premiums pretty quickly," she said.

But she said language was added to the bill that defined diagnostic mammograms as those designed to evaluate breast

Turn to *Cost*, Page 2

Lordstown area pins hopes on electric cars

With steel's time over, it plans to become key hub for next-gen autos

BY JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

The day the steel mills in Youngstown, Ohio, began shutting down 40 years ago remains fresh in the minds of those who live in the blue-collar corner of the state. Community leaders don't want the recent closing of General Motors' massive assembly plant to leave that same lingering gloom.

The region is embarking on an ambitious plan to become a research and production hub for electric vehicles and carve out a new economy for itself by mixing its industrial past with emerging technology.

There are positive signs already. GM in early December announced it will form a joint venture and hire more than 1,100 people at a new plant that it says will be among the largest electric vehicle battery cell factories in the world. And the Lordstown assembly plant that

Turn to *Hopes*, Page 2

Restaurants may receive early 2020 presents

Survey shows some adults plan to give gift cards for the holidays

BY ANDRES GUERRA LUZ

Bloomberg

Restaurants may receive a belated holiday present in the first quarter, which is generally the sector's slowest time of year.

A survey from the National Restaurant Association showed about 47% of adults in the U.S. planned to give a restaurant gift card during the holidays. That's good news for the industry, which may face a difficult year with labor and commodity costs poised to climb further.

"If the recent gift card story is a prediction for potential pent-up demand in the first quarter, this could represent a positive start for restaurant sales," MKM Partners analyst Brett Levy said.

The National Restaurant Association survey also showed that about 72% of people want a restaurant gift card this holiday season. And the research revealed that about 20% of the diners plan to use the gift as soon as possible.

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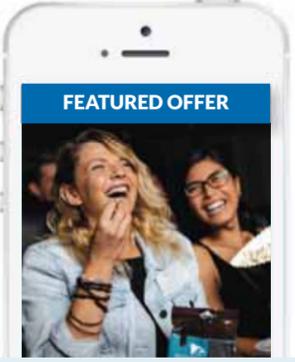
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Snacks

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Bar or Enjoy Life. We want to have a wide range of choices, whether in the types or products or the package sizes.

Q: What went wrong with Veal?

A: Veal would be a great example of something that the product itself was not a success but the learnings we had on consumer behavior, on the product itself, has been highly instructive.

Q: What did you learn?

A: There is a very real snacking ritual on munching. There's this idea of bag to mouth. That can be indulgent, that can be savory, that can be more pure well-being. There are clearly individuals who are moving from traditional bars into bites. Some of the insights we had around the consumer, they can be tactical things. Piece sizes — do they look too well-formed versus more natural clusters that can be broken into a home-made granola?

Q: What do you hold up as innovation successes?

A: Oreo is almost three brands within this master brand. We have the base Oreos and we continue to delight consumers with exciting new flavors, we have the Mystery Oreo campaign now where consumers are engaged and competing for a prize each month. We also

have Oreo Thins. Whether it's calorie content or they like something that's a bit less sweet, Oreo Thins has been really successful and incremental. The third pillar is more indulgent, with smaller piece sizes of the full-size Oreo, enrobing them in delicious fudge and chocolate.

The key in this is not innovating for the sake of innovating. It's understanding where is the consumer, how are they snacking, how do I understand my brand, where can I stretch that brand into a snacking demand space to try to create an incremental moment that consumers enjoy our brand.

Q: You were closely involved in Mondelez taking a majority stake in Perfect Bar. How did that come to be?

A: Refrigerated snacking is a growing category. I'm looking for brands that have got authentic stories behind them, passionate and engaged owners behind them, and I was fortunate enough to meet (co-founders and siblings) Bill and Leigh (Keith) in San Diego where they started this business. They had an incredible product, and a differentiated story. Their father was a visionary, preaching the gospel of well-being well before his day. Bill and Leigh have 11 siblings, and growing up they traveled up and down the West Coast in a bus or RV, they were home-schooled. How do you feed these kids and make sure they get their vitamins? Their father would grind up their vitamins into this paste

and add peanut butter and honey and throw them into balls and cellophane and put them in the cooler.

Q: After spending five years in China, was there anything notable about Chinese versus American consumers?

A: The speed at which disruption is happening in where consumers are buying their products. The size of e-commerce, speed of delivery, importance of how your brands are presented. Whether it's on Alibaba there, or here on Amazon, the pace at which they're looking for convenience and want to be able to purchase those snacks in alternative and different channels is happening very rapidly.

Q: You a few times have mentioned being "constructively discontent." Where did that come from?

A: I don't know where it came from but I would say that that's just been a mindset that I've had. I believe in laying out a bold ambition that's got to be grounded in facts. I do believe if you're going to lead anything, be the best at anything, this idea of being constructively discontent is certainly celebrating your wins along the way but always knowing there's more you can do and continuing to push and provoke, and we're trying to keep that balance in what we're doing.

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Hopes

Continued from Page 1

GM shut down in March has been sold to a newly formed company that intends to begin making electric trucks by late 2020.

But the Youngstown region, which for decades has been a symbol of the American Midwest's declining industrial might, faces plenty of competition from places

like Detroit, Silicon Valley and China — all of which also are positioning to be centers for electric and autonomous vehicles.

While the electric transformation within the auto industry is just beginning to take shape, it's clear that fewer workers and factories will be needed to make cars that require fewer parts. Where those next clusters of electric vehicle manufacturing will sprout is yet to be determined.

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, a Democrat who represents the Youngstown area, thinks being involved with the development of electric vehicles early on is the best chance his hometown has had in decades to restore what has been lost.

"For a long time in our community, we were chasing smokestacks, chasing things that were on the decline," he said. "We're starting to move in a good direction."

Economic development leaders point out that the Youngstown area already is home to an electric battery testing lab and business incubators that are focused on energy and additive manufacturing through 3-D printing. Youngstown State University is breaking ground on an advanced manufacturing technology center and wants to play a part in training students to work in the electric vehicle industry.

"We want to take charge of our future. An opportunity like this really plays to our regional strengths," said Mike Hripko, the university's associate vice president for economic development and government relations.

For decades now, those in the Mahoning Valley have been counting on "the next big idea" with investors promising to build factories that would make blimps, commuter airplanes and a new version of the Studebaker. The closing of the GM plant that had been

churning out cars for 50 years marked the loss of the biggest manufacturing anchor remaining in what once was Ohio's industrial core.

It will take more than a battery cell plant for the Youngstown region to become a hub for electric vehicles, said Brett Smith, director of research at the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think tank in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Technology and research will be centered largely in South Korea, China, Detroit, and California, he said. A big question is whether a place like Ohio that has had a big role in producing traditional engines and transmissions can stake a claim to a new way of making vehicles.

Both GM and Ford Motor Co. announced this year they are investing heavily in their Detroit-area factories, where they plan to build the next generation of electric and autonomous vehicles. Volkswagen is making Tennessee its North American base for electric vehicle production by expanding its plant in Chattanooga.

Where the manufacturing is centered will be determined by a number of factors, Smith said, including logistics, labor contracts, political influences, workforce training and how quickly car buyers embrace electric vehicles. Fully electric vehicles currently make up only 1.5% of U.S. new vehicle sales, and LMC Automotive forecasts that will rise to only 7.5% by the end of the next decade.

"We're still in the early days of this," Smith said.

Uncertainty also surrounds what will happen with the former GM assembly plant. It was bought by Lordstown Motors Corp., a new company that wants to begin making electric trucks by late 2020 but also needs more investors before manufacturing can begin.

Cost

Continued from Page 1

abnormalities, such as what a patient would get after a screening mammogram, as opposed to diagnostic mammograms done for other reasons, such as those regularly performed on breast cancer survivors. Minzer's group changed its stance to neutral once that and other language was added, she said.

But the bill's sponsor, Sen. Linda Holmes, D-Aurora, along with Guthrie of Komen said they still believe it will apply to all types of diagnostic mammograms.

Holmes said, if anything, the bill could save money by helping women catch breast cancer earlier, before their conditions become more complex and expensive to treat.

It simply doesn't make sense to fully cover screening mammograms but not diagnostic ones, said Rep. Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, who was the chief House sponsor of the bill.

"Why would we stand in the way of diagnosing what they're dealing with, when we know how devastating breast cancer would be?" Keicher said.

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SAVINGS UPDATE

ATM and overdraft fees continue their climb

The results are in from Bankrate's annual checking account and ATM fee study: What banks are charging customers for overdrafts, ATM transactions, and general account fees continues to climb steadily.

The cost to hold a non-interest-bearing checking account has risen from \$1.77 ten years ago (the lowest average over the study's 21-year span) to \$5.61 this year. That's up ever so slightly from last year, but a bit below the peak of \$5.86, seen in 2015.

The average monthly fee for interest-bearing checking accounts is almost triple that, though, averaging \$15.05 this year. Ten years ago, it sat at \$12.55.

Overdraft fees are also approaching highs. The 2019 average is \$33.36, which is a smidge higher than last year's average and just below the two-decade record set in 2017. The average non-sufficient funds fee has increased 19 times over the study's 21 years, rising more than 50 percent from \$21.57 in 1998.

The cost to access ATMs also saw new high in 2019, continuing a trend of 15 consecutive records. For in-network ATMs, the average fee was \$3.09 this year, rising 2 percent over 2018. A decade ago, the average was \$2.22.

But the total out-of-network ATM fee is now approaching \$5. After adding an average out-of-network surcharge of \$1.63, the 2019 average total charge for using ATMs belonging to other banks is \$4.72.

This is a record high for out-of-network ATM fees, with the average charge rising 18 times since 1998. Ten years ago, the average was \$3.54, and over the study's 21-year span, total ATM charges have averaged 4.25 percent annual growth.

In some good news from the study, the opportunities to avoid monthly fees and ATM charges have grown, with the share of free checking accounts reaching 42 percent, the highest proportion since 2011.

Rate Criteria: The rates and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 12/23/19. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. The institutions appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 740. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of \$165,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of \$484,351. Lock Days: 30-60. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. FHA Mortgages include both UFMP and MIP fees based on a loan amount of \$165,000 with 5% down payment. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. VA Mortgages include funding fees based on a loan amount of \$165,000 with 5% down payment. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. To access the NMLS Consumer Access website, please visit www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.

FAA drone proposal calls for new tracking network

Draft rules affect toys, larger devices amid collision, terror threats

By ALAN LEVIN
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — All but the smallest civilian drones would have to broadcast radio tracking data to ensure greater safety and prevent terrorism under a sweeping proposal unveiled by U.S. regulators Thursday.

The long-awaited draft rules call for a massive new tracking network for everything from toys to larger commercial drones so that law enforcement can spot the devices flying anywhere, from congested urban areas to the most rural zones.

The controversial measure by the Federal Aviation Administration, which is subject to public comment and could change before it becomes final, is a foundation to advance drone-driven commerce, including deliveries of consumer goods by companies such as Alphabet Inc.'s Wing and Amazon.com Inc.'s Prime Air.

"This is an important building block in the unmanned traffic management ecosystem," the FAA said in the proposal.

With only limited exceptions for groups such as model-airplane operators, all drones weighing more than 0.55 pounds would have to broadcast their position and operator's identity at all times under the FAA proposal.

The FAA is suggesting that private companies approved by the agency would set up tracking systems for drones, replicating the existing air traffic control system for traditional aircraft.

Law enforcement and homeland security agencies had demanded a tracking mandate in response to the growing number of drone threats, including a handful of close calls that halted airline flights near airports, collisions with other aircraft or use of the devices by terrorists around the world.

The issue has fractured the rapidly growing base of drone operators, at times pitting recreational fliers and different segments of the industry against each other even as the majority of users acknowledge the need for some type of tracking.

It also has raised concerns about

government monitoring of the public.

Under the FAA proposal, if drone operators want to operate freely, they would have to both broadcast their identity on a radio frequency that can be monitored nearby and simultaneously upload the information via the internet.

In that way, other nearby drones and aircraft can steer clear and local police equipped with tracking devices could identify rogue operators. At the same time, the devices could be monitored from a remote, central system.

Drone users can choose a more limited option of uploading the information to the internet only, but they would be restricted to flying within 400 feet of the operator.

The proposal wouldn't take effect for three years after it's finalized, meaning routine delivery flights and other commercial operations won't be possible until at least then. It typically takes a year or more to finalize a regulation.

Existing drones wouldn't have to install tracking equipment retroactively, but would in most cases be banned from operation after the rule becomes law.

Airline workers get setback in OT dispute

By DAVID PORTER
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — American Airlines workers at Newark's airport who claim in a lawsuit they've been shorted on overtime pay can't sue as a class, a federal appeals court ruled this week.

The three-judge panel's decision published Tuesday reversed a New Jersey judge's ruling that would have allowed the lawsuit to go forward and include all nonexempt hourly workers employed at Newark Liberty International Airport since April 2014.

Several employees, including mechanics and workers responsible for tasks such as cargo handling, filed the suit in 2016 and said American's timekeeping system automatically paid employees based on their schedules rather than on the hours they actually worked.

They also alleged managers regularly refused to authorize overtime pay for work performed before and after scheduled shifts and during scheduled 30-minute lunch breaks. The lawsuit sought back pay as well as punitive damages. American denied the allegations.

The appeals court sided with the airline, which argued that while the timekeeping system applied to all employees, it would be wrong to group all employees into a class because it would have to be determined on a case-by-case basis which employees worked overtime.

"For example, some employees testified that they began working immediately after clocking in," the court wrote. "Others testified that they chatted with co-workers or watched TV after clocking in but before their shifts began. Thus, whether they were actually working pre- and post-shift is an open and inherently individualized question."

Brett Gallaway, an attorney representing the employees, said in an email that his clients were considering their options.



ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP 2004

A younger generation — from ages 22 to 38 — is helping to breathe some new life into the catalog sector, industry officials say.

A flicker of hope for catalogs

Retailers return to mailings years after Great Recession

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Catalogs, those glossy paper-and-ink offerings of outdoor apparel, kitchenware and fruit baskets, are not yet headed for the recycling bin of history.

Until recently, the future appeared grim for the mailbox-stuffers. A one-two punch of postal rate increases and the Great Recession had sharply cut their numbers. Common wisdom had everything retail-related moving online.

But a catalog-industry rebound appears in the works, fueled in part by what might seem an unlikely group: younger shoppers who find it's sometimes easier, more satisfying and even nostalgic, flipping pages rather than clicking links.

Industry experts say that all those catalogs crammed into mailboxes over the holidays were a sign that mailings have stabilized — and may be growing — after a decline of about 40% since the Great Recession.

New companies are mailing catalogs. And even died-in-the-wool online retailers like Amazon and Bonobos are getting into the act.

"They're tapping out on what they're

able to do digitally," said Tim Curtis, president of CohereOne, a direct marketing agency in California. "They've got to find some new way to drive traffic to their websites."

Catalog retailers slashed mailings, and some abandoned catalogs altogether, after a major U.S. Postal Service rate increase and the start of the recession in late 2007. Catalog numbers dropped from about 19 billion in 2016 to an estimated 11.5 billion in 2018, according to the American Catalog Mailers Association.

The industry still faces challenges, but there's reason for some optimism, said Hamilton Davison, president of the mailers association.

Millennials who are nostalgic for vinyl records and all things vintage are thumbing through catalogs and dog-eared the pages. It's a new demographic roughly from 22 to 38 that's helping to breathe some new life into the sector, industry officials say.

Millennials are more likely than baby boomers to visit a store based on mailings, according to the U.S. Postal Service inspector general.

Sarah Johnson says she loves flipping through catalogs at her convenience — but gets her hackles up when retailers fill her email inbox.

"Promotion emails drive me crazy," said Johnson, 29, of Vernal, Utah. "When there's a catalog lying on the table, it feels

like it's my choice to pick it up and flip through it. When it arrives in my inbox it feels like it's imposing on me," she said.

Angela Hamann, another millennial, says she prefers catalogs because it's easier than scrolling through webpages to evaluate a retailer's offering.

"It's a great way to assess what a company has to offer without making a bunch of clicks," said Hamann, 37, of New Gloucester, Maine.

During the downturn, catalog retailers reduced the size of the catalogs, slashed the number of pages and became selective about their mailings, said Jim Gibbs from The Dingley Press, in Lisbon, Maine, which prints and mails about 330 million catalogs a year.

But catalogs never died off, as some began predicting during the dot-com bubble. Catalog naysayers didn't understand that a webpage is useless unless shoppers know about it, and catalogs are an important tool for driving customers online, Gibbs said.

These days, retailers like Amazon, Wayfair and Walmart are boosting their mailings, helping to offset companies that abandoned catalogs, and dozens of smaller companies are also getting into the act, Davison said. There's also a trend toward postcard fliers being mailed by companies like Shutterfly, Curtis added.

The tactile feel of catalogs creates a more meaningful connection, Curtis said.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Online shopping up again, boosting sales

NEW YORK — More people did their shopping online this year during one of the shortest holiday shopping seasons in years, helping to push total sales higher.

Retail sales in the U.S. rose 3.4% between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24 compared with last year, according to early data from Mastercard SpendingPulse.

Online sales rose at a faster pace, up 18.8% from last year. Online shopping made up nearly 15% of total retail sales.

Mastercard SpendingPulse tracked spending online and in stores across all payment types, including cash and checks. Sales of automobiles are not included.

Thanksgiving landed on Nov. 28 this year, which meant six fewer shopping days than last year.

China soybean imports surge in November

BEIJING — China's imports of soybeans surged in November following the announcement of an interim trade deal with the United States.

Imports rose 53.7% over a year earlier to 5.4 million tons, according to customs data. Imports of U.S. soybeans more than doubled from the previous month to 2.6 million tons, according to AWeb.com, a site that serves the Chinese farming industry.

China cut off purchases of American soybeans, the country's biggest import from the United States, after President Donald Trump raised import duties on Chinese goods in a dispute over Beijing's technology ambitions and trade surplus.

The two governments announced an interim "Phase 1" agreement in October but have yet to release details.

Shoppers' debt loads reach near-record levels

By RENAE MERLE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Americans have accumulated near-record levels of credit card debt over the last year as card companies have increased interest rates and fees.

The booming market is helping drive record banking industry profits but could become increasingly costly for consumers who don't pay off their bill every month or miss a payment, industry experts say.

JPMorgan Chase, the country's largest bank by assets, and Citigroup reported that credit card sales were up 10% and 5% respectively in the third quarter. Profits at Visa were up 17% in its most recent fiscal year, while Mastercard reported an 11%

profit jump in its most recent quarter.

"People like their credit cards. They use their credit cards far more than they use their debit cards," Jamie Dimon, chief executive of JPMorgan Chase, said in July. "I don't remember the last time I used my debit card."

To be sure, despite increasing debt loads, delinquency rates remain relatively low. About 6% of consumers were late on a payment this year compared with 15% in 2009, according to WalletHub. And consumers have yet to balk at the relatively high interest rates, industry experts say.

Credit card debt as a share of disposable income has been flat for the past six years, and many consumers pay off their bill every month, the American Bankers Association said in a November report. "Con-

sumers appear to be well-positioned to meet their financial obligations in the months ahead," Dan Smith of ABA said in a statement.

The industry has thrived despite the 2010 Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act, sweeping legislation that, among other things, limited the number of fees.

A record 182 million Americans have credit cards compared with 147.5 million in 2010, according to TransUnion, and are carrying more than \$1 trillion in debt. Consumers will add \$80 billion to their tabs this year, according to projections from WalletHub, with the average credit card debt per household hitting \$8,701 during the third quarter, up 4% compared with the same period in 2018.

Unemployment by state

Percent of civilian labor force that is unemployed, by month, seasonally adjusted

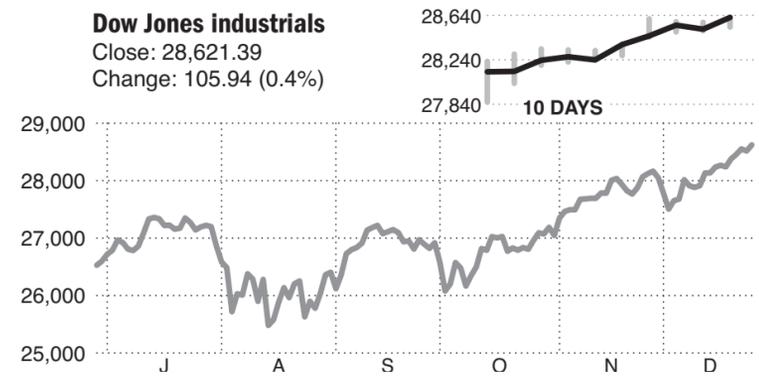
	U.S.: 3.5%	U.S.: 3.5%	
LOWEST		HIGHEST	
Vermont	2.3	Alaska	6.1
S. Carolina	2.4	Mississippi	5.6
Utah	2.4	W. Virginia	4.9
N. Dakota	2.5	New Mexico	4.8
CO/HI/IA/ NH/VA	2.6	AZ/LA	4.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

TNS

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow High: 28,624.10 Low: 28,535.15 Previous: 28,515.45



Nasdaq	S&P 500	Russell 2000
+69.51 (+.78%)	+16.53 (+.51%)	-.34 (-.02%)
Close: 9,022.39	Close: 3,239.91	Close: 1,677.67
High: 9,022.46	High: 3,240.08	High: 1,680.36
Low: 8,968.46	Low: 3,220.51	Low: 1,675.10
Previous: 8,952.88	Previous: 3,223.38	Previous: 1,678.01

10-yr T-note	Gold futures	Yen	Euro	Crude Oil
... to 1.90%	+10.20 to \$1,509.30	-13 to 109.65/\$1	+0.0168 to .9007/\$1	+57 to \$61.68

Major market growth and decline

5-day % change			30-day % change			1-year % change		
DOW +.86	NASD +1.52	S&P +1.08	DOW +1.62	NASD +3.64	S&P +2.74	DOW +23.69	NASD +3713	S&P +30.18

COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 20	540.75	552	540.25	549	+8
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 20	388	389	386.50	388.50	+1
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Jan 20	937.75	940	936.75	937.75	+1.25
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	Jan 20	34.15	34.58	34.12	34.38	+50
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	Jan 20	301.60	301.90	298.40	299.50	-2.30
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	Feb 20	61.20	61.83	61.06	61.68	+57
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, \$ per mm btu	Jan 20	2.184	2.297	2.184	2.294	+122
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Jan 20	1.7300	1.7581	1.7249	1.7537	+0267

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL STOCKS

Stocks listed may change due to daily fluctuations in market capitalization. Exchange key: N=NYSE, O=NASDAQ

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	87.28	...	Envestnet Inc	N	71.26	+10	McDonalds Corp	N	197.06	+39
AbbVie Inc	N	89.83	...	Equity Commonwith	N	32.57	+23	Middleby Corp	O	110.72	-30
Alstare Corp	N	111.60	+43	Equity Lifesty Prop	N	60.59	+36	Mondelez Intl	O	54.85	-14
Artargroup Inc	N	114.82	+09	Equity Residential	N	80.59	+21	Morningstar Inc	O	152.32	+67
Arch Dan Mid	N	46.20	+12	Exelon Corp	O	45.32	...	Motorola Solutions	N	161.38	-30
Baxter Intl	N	84.33	-36	First Intl RT	N	40.92	+34	Nisource Inc	O	106.57	-14
Boeing Co	N	329.92	-308	Fortune Brds Hm&Sec	N	65.49	+18	Nhrn Trust Cp	O	106.57	-14
Brunswick Corp	N	60.70	-57	Gallagher AJ	N	94.55	-01	Old Republic	N	22.15	-10
CBOE Global Markets	N	119.05	+08	Grainger WW	N	338.91	+153	Packaging Corp Am	N	112.23	-04
CDK Global Inc	O	54.73	-05	GrubHub Inc	N	49.06	+48	Payload Hldg	O	121.33	+43
CDW Corp	O	144.63	+1.66	Hill-Rom Hldgs	N	113.37	-49	RLI Corp	N	89.36	-37
CF Industries	N	48.46	+52	IAA Inc	N	46.79	+14	Stericycle Inc	O	64.39	+43
CME Group	O	201.35	+49	INDEX Corp	N	172.73	+84	TransUnion	N	85.23	-32
CNA Financial	N	44.30	+14	ITW	N	181.28	+110	US Foods Holding	N	41.60	+17
Cabot Microelect	O	144.35	+49	Ingredion Inc	N	93.50	+95	Ultra Salon Cosmetics	O	251.33	-16
Caterpillar Inc	N	148.22	+74	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	173.30	+164	United Airlines Hldg	O	89.26	+11
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	33.69	-36	Kemper Corp	N	76.93	+19	Ventas Inc	N	57.61	+24
Deere Co	N	174.80	+30	Kraft Heinz Co	O	31.63	-35	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	58.90	+55
Discover Fin Svcs	N	85.49	+21	LQJ Corporation	O	35.89	...	Wintrust Financial	O	71.16	-05
Dover Corp	N	115.80	+54	Littelfuse Inc	O	191.75	+123	Zebra Tech	O	254.42	+09

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Chesapck Engy	.95	+01
Gen Electric	11.23	+04
Ford Motor	9.45	-02
Rite Aid Corp	19.19	+3.05
Bank of America	35.52	+3.30
Aurora Cannabis Inc	2.00	+01
QIAGEN	32.91	-8.56
Snap Inc A	15.97	+36
Uber Technologies	30.67	+23
AT&T Inc	39.16	+20
China Rapid Finance	3.90	+2.07
McDermott Intl	1.24	+18
US Steel Corp	11.43	-46
Yamaha Gold Inc	3.90	+10
Vale SA	13.49	+02
Hecla Mng	3.40	+02
Wells Fargo & Co	54.15	+33
Macy's Inc	16.54	+42
EnCana Corp	4.66	+09
Transocean Ltd	6.60	+05
Citigroup	79.83	+1.24
Oi SA	1.01	...
Freepport McMoRan	13.17	+18
Teva Pharm	10.14	+09

NASDAQ STOCK MARKET

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Inpxon Corp	.08	+02
Adv Micro Dev	46.63	+09
FuelCell Energy	1.13	+31
Proteostasis Tehrep	2.44	+19
New Link Genetics	3.13	+80
Apple Inc	289.91	+5.64
Spectrum Pharmaceut	3.50	-5.25
Roku Inc	144.60	-97
Microsoft Corp	158.67	+1.29
Caesars Entertain	13.60	...
Micron Tech	55.11	-32
Yield 10 Bioscience	.19	+03
Acorda Therapeutics	2.75	+83
Comcast Corp A	44.97	+44
Onconova Therapeut	.31	+02
Intel Corp	59.82	+41
Cisco Syst	47.85	+07
Tesla Inc	430.94	+5.69
Helius Medical Tech	1.05	+03
Oasis Petroleum	3.21	+18
Acasti Pharma Inc	2.69	+48
Zynga Inc	6.30	-04
Facebook Inc	207.79	+2.67
Sirius XM Hldgs Inc	7.16	+02

FOREIGN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG./%
Shanghai	3007.35	+25.5/+9
Stoxx600	/...	/...
Nikkei	23924.92	+142.1/+6
MSCI-EAFE	2028.19	-1.1/-1
Bovespa	117203.20	+1339.9/+1.2
FTSE 100	/...	/...
CAC-40	6029.55	+2/...

LARGEST COMPANIES

Based on market capitalization

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
AT&T Inc	39.16	+20
Alibaba Group Hldg	216.38	+2.12
Alphabet Inc C	1360.40	+18.04
Alphabet Inc A	1362.47	+18.04
Amazon.com Inc	1868.77	+79.56
Apple Inc	289.91	+5.64
Bank of America	35.52	+30
Berkshire Hath B	226.45	+98
Exxon Mobil Corp	70.13	+11
Facebook Inc	207.79	+2.67
HSBC Holdings prA	26.69	+03
JPMorgan Chase	139.04	+1.46
Johnson & Johnson	145.83	-10
MasterCard Inc	299.20	+1.72
Microsoft Corp	158.67	+1.29
Procter & Gamble	125.22	...
Taiwan Semicon	58.25	+49
Visa Inc	189.16	+1.59
WalMart Strs	119.52	+01

TREASURY YIELDS

DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month disc	1.55	1.54
6-month disc	1.57	1.57
2-year	1.62	1.65
10-year	1.90	1.90
30-year	2.33	2.33

SPOT METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	\$1509.30	\$1498.20
Silver	\$17.894	\$17.515
Platinum	\$953.50	\$938.40

INTEREST RATES

Prime Rate	4.75
Discount Rate Primary	2.25
Fed Funds Target	1.50-1.75
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.57

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

A U.S. Dollar buys ...

Argentina (Peso)	59.7657
Australia (Dollar)	1.4399
Brazil (Real)	4.0615
Britain (Pound)	0.7688
Canada (Dollar)	1.3107
China (Yuan)	6.9973
Euro	.9007
India (Rupee)	71.271
Israel (Shekel)	3.4703
Japan (Yen)	109.65
Mexico (Peso)	18.9344
Poland (Zloty)	3.83
So. Korea (Won)	1161.91
Taiwan (Dollar)	30.10
Thailand (Baht)	30.10

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Based on total assets

FUND	NAV	CHG	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AMCPA m	33.72	+11	+29.1
American Funds AmcnBAlA m	28.56	+09	+20.9
American Funds CptWldGrInCA m	652.34	+19	+27.1
American Funds CptInclBldrA m	63.28	+11	+18.7
American Funds FdmTlInvsA m	62.23	+28	+29.9
American Funds GrfAmrCA m	51.44	+26	+30.0
American Funds InvCAMrCA m	39.72	+17	+26.2
American Funds NwPrsptvA m	47.40	+23	+32.3
American Funds WAMTInvsA m	48.30	+15	+28.1
Dodge & Cox Inc	14.03	+01	+10.3
Dodge & Cox IntlStk	43.66	+15	+23.9
Dodge & Cox Stk	194.59	+85	+26.9
DoubleLine TlRetBdl	10.67	...	+6.4
Fidelity 500ldxInvsPrrm	112.32	+58	+34.0
Fidelity Contrafund	13.79	+11	+32.9
Fidelity InvMGradeBdd	11.58	+01	+10.5
Fidelity TlMktldxInvsPrrm	90.85	+43	+33.5
Fidelity USBldxInvsPrrm	11.93	+01	+9.4
Franklin Templeton IncA1 m	2.35	+01	+16.8
Metropolitan West TlRetBdl	10.93	...	+9.6
PIMCO Inc2	12.07	...	+8.2
PIMCO IncInstl	12.07	...	+8.3
PIMCO TlRetInvs	10.34	-05	+8.9
Schwab SP500ldx	49.52	+25	+34.0
T. Rowe Price BCGr	125.34	+106	+33.3
T. Rowe Price GrStk	73.86	+61	+33.9
Vanguard 500ldxAdmrl	298.93	+155	+33.9
Vanguard BalldxAdmrl	39.32	+13	+32.6
Vanguard DivGrInv	30.60	+09	+33.6
Vanguard EqInAdmrl	79.61	+24	+27.5
Vanguard GrldxAdmrl	94.23	+75	+40.0
Vanguard HCAdmrl	88.25	-03	+25.6
Vanguard INTTEAdmrl	14.46	...	+6.9
Vanguard InslldxInvs	291.00	+152	+33.9
Vanguard InslldxInvsPlus	291.01	+151	+34.0
Vanguard InstlMtlInPls	68.86	+32	+33.4
Vanguard IntlGrAdmrl	103.12	+58	+32.7
Vanguard MDCpldxAdmrl	220.80	+55	+33.1
Vanguard PrrmCpAdmrl	145.10	+44	+30.8
Vanguard STInvmGrdAdmrl	10.72	...	+6.0
Vanguard SmCpldxAdmrl	79.60	+11	+29.7
Vanguard TrgtRtr2020Inv	33.71	+09	+18.8
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Inv	20.38	+06	+22.5
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Inv	37.36	+12	+21.0
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Inv	23.07	+08	+24.0
Vanguard TtBldxAdmrl	11.06	+01	+9.5
Vanguard TtBldxInvs	11.06	+01	+9.5
Vanguard TtInBldxAdmrl	22.66	+01	+8.2
Vanguard TtInBldxInvs	34.00	+02	+8.2
Vanguard TtInSldxAdmrl	29.84	+11	+22.4
Vanguard TtInSldxInvs	119.32	+43	+22.4
Vanguard TtInSldxInvsPlus	119.34	+42	+22.4
Vanguard TtInSldxInv	17.84	+07	+22.3
Vanguard TtSMldxAdmrl	79.92	+38	+33.4
Vanguard TtSMldxInvs	79.93	+37	+33.4
Vanguard TtSMldxInv	79.89	+37	+33.2
Vanguard WngtInAdmrl	77.12	+25	+24.3
Vanguard WlslyInAdmrl	66.24	+13	+17.7
Vanguard WndrInAdmrl	64.76	+24	+31.2

d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee. Source: Morningstar.

10 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT NEARLY EVERYTHING
A Collection of Fascinating Historical, Scientific and Cultural Trivia about PEOPLE, PLACES and THINGS
MARK JACOB & STEPHAN BENZKOFER
Illustrated by David

- FACT #84**

OBITUARIES

HERMAN BOONE 1935-2019

High school coach inspired 'Remember the Titans'

By **MATT SCHUDEL**
The Washington Post

Herman Boone, a football coach who led Alexandria's recently integrated T.C. Williams High School to a Virginia state championship in 1971 and was later portrayed in the Hollywood film "Remember the Titans" by Denzel Washington, died Dec. 18 at his home in Alexandria. He was 84.

The cause was lung cancer, said his daughters, Sharon Henderson and Monica Merritt.

Amid desegregation during the civil rights era, Alexandria merged its three high schools - George Washington, Hammond and T.C. Williams - in 1971, making T.C. Williams the city's only public high school for 11th- and 12th-graders.

Most people expected Bill Yoast, the coach of all-white Hammond High, to be named head coach at T.C. Williams. Instead, school officials chose Boone, who had been an assistant coach at T.C. Williams and had previously compiled a remarkable coaching record in North Carolina. He was, at the time, the only black head football coach in northern Virginia.

Boone told his players, he recalled to The Washington Post in 2000, "I'm not a black coach, I'm a coach who was born black. If you're going to play for me, you're going to play based on talent and character."

At first, some white players said they would refuse to play for an African-American coach. But when the Alabama-born Yoast agreed to become Boone's top assistant, the two coaches formed a powerful and effective duo.

Boone was fiery, voluble and profane - "I cussed, but I never cursed a child," he said - and Yoast was quiet and reserved. The bond they shared ultimately came to be reflected in the unity of their team, the Titans.

On a preseason training trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Boone noticed that the white players boarded one bus, the black players another. He ordered them to get off and share the buses equally. No one said a word on the trip, but it was a first step toward greater understanding.

In Gettysburg, Boone required every player to greet each of his teammates. Soon enough, the players were laughing and joking to-

gether and giving one another nicknames.

"When you nickname somebody, it's out of friendship," Boone later said. "We knew that we had the beginnings of a team that was trying to overcome their fears. Fears that were taught to them."

The bus trip back to Alexandria was filled with laughter and team spirit.

"When you live together you become more than acquaintances," Yoast, who died in May, told The Post in 2000. "When those kids came back from that camp, they were together. The student body wasn't, the parents weren't, the community wasn't. But those kids were."

On the field, the Titans were an unstoppable force. They swept through one team after another, shutting out eight of their 12 opponents on their way to the state championship game against Andrew Lewis High School of Salem, Virginia.

The Titans recorded their 13th consecutive victory and ninth shutout, winning 27-0. Some sportswriters considered them the best high school team in the country.

For Boone, however, the perfect season was only one aspect of the team's success, and perhaps not the most important one. He recognized the changes that could be made in society through a team working together on the playing field.

"It's the vehicle that transports people," he said, "that carries people who are willing - whether they know it or not at the time - to eat together, talk together, sit together and live together. It's the big bus that will carry us all."

Herman Boone was born Oct. 28, 1935, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, one of 12 children. His parents died when he was young, and he was largely raised by his older siblings.

He graduated in 1958 from North Carolina Central University, where he was not a star athlete but a keen student of teaching. He later received a master's degree in physical education from the university.

He began his coaching career in Blackstone, Va., where he coached football, basketball and baseball before moving to E.J. Hayes High School, a segregated school for African Americans in Williamston, North Carolina. Over a nine-year period as an assistant or

head coach, his football team had a record of 99-8. He came to T.C. Williams as backfield coach in 1969.

Boone retired from coaching football in 1979 but continued as a golf coach and physical education teacher for another decade.

When the screenwriter Gregory Allen Howard expressed interest in creating a movie about Boone's perfect season with the Titans, "I thought it was a practical joke."

But Howard saw something heroic in Boone and his team.

"Herman is Shakespearean," Howard said in 2000. "If you'd asked Herman when he took over T.C. Williams, 'Were you trying to make a point with these kids?' he would have said, 'No, I just want to win football games.' He had to get the players to get along to win football games. And it worked for just that reason - because it wasn't self-conscious. He did something quite great beyond what even he realized."

Washington, a former high school quarterback, starred as Boone in "Remember the Titans," which was produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and became a box-office hit in 2000.

Boone said the film took some liberties with the facts: It wasn't a brick that was thrown through his window, for instance - it was a toilet. On the whole, he and Yoast agreed that the movie captured the spirit of the team and times.

"Little did I know," Boone said, "that this wasn't a movie about a state championship. It was about how human beings can come together, and a state championship was just the icing on the cake."

His wife of 57 years, Carol Luck Boone, died in March. A daughter, Donna Dulany, died in 2014.

Survivors include daughters Sharon Henderson of Alexandria and Monica Merritt of Plymouth, Michigan; six grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

In recent years, Boone traveled throughout the country, often speaking on college campuses about "Remember the Titans" and the power of sports to transform the human heart.

"I don't think people outside sports believe it," he told The Post in 2000. "They don't want to believe sports does that. They need to think again."

Indonesia after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; 20 people were killed, including five of the attackers, who were slain by police and security personnel.

In 1994, four Roman Catholic priests - three French

and a Belgian - were shot to death in their rectory in Algiers, a day after French commandos killed four radicals who had hijacked an Air France jet from Algiers to Marseille.

In 1995, Israeli jeeps sped out of the West Bank town of Ramallah, capping a seven-week pullout giving Yasser Arafat control of more than 90 percent of the West Bank's 1 million Palestinian residents and one-third of its land.

In 1999, space shuttle Discovery and its seven-member crew returned to Earth after fixing the Hubble Space Telescope.

In 2001, U.S. officials announced that Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners would be held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2002, North Korea ordered U.N. nuclear inspectors to leave the country and said it would restart a laboratory capable of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons.

In 2004, the death toll continued to rise in southern Asia in the wake of a huge tsunami triggered by a monster earthquake underneath the Indian Ocean.

In 2007, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated by a gunman at a political rally in Rawalpindi.

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

Baio, Sam

Sam S. Baio, 93, of Gurnee, IL, peacefully passed away on December 23, 2019 at Highland Park Hospital. Sam is preceded in death by his beautiful wife of 42 years, Mary (2012). He was born in Chicago, IL on Sept. 2, 1926 to the late Antonio and Francesca Baio. Sam proudly served his country as a US Navy Seabee during WWII. In addition to his wife and parents, Sam was preceded in death by his siblings. He is survived by his son, Sam (Tabitha) Baio; 5 grandchildren, Heather, Marc (Amy), Emily, Nicholas, and Anthony; and one great grandchild, Milo.

Interment will take place at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Hillside IL, on Monday, Dec. 30 at 11AM. The family has been assisted by **Gurnee Salata Funeral Home**, 4190 Old Grand Ave, Gurnee, IL 60031. For information please call 847-244-1155.

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Becker, Marianna S.

Beloved wife of the late Duane. Loving mother of Mark (Susan), Denise (Henry) Looyer, Duane, Jr., and Philip Becker (Dee Hicks). Cherished grandmother of Mark, Jr., Scott (Allison), Jacob, and Zachary. Aunt of many. Visitation Friday, Dec 27, 2019 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Funeral Saturday, Dec 28, 2019 11:00 am from Sax-Tiedemann Funeral Home & Crematorium, 9568 Belmont Ave., Franklin Park to Our Mother Theodore Guerin St. Cyprian Church for mass 11:30 am. Interment Maryhill Cemetery. For information please call (847) 678-1950 or www.sax-tiedemann.com

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Blanc, Martin D. 'Mort'

Martin D. Blanc passed away at the age of 94. Mort was the beloved husband of his late wife, Janice. Mort is survived by his 3 children; Andy, David (wife Lori), and Lauren (husband Ike); grandfather of Aaron and Devin; great grandpa to Tate; uncle to Sue, Denise, Robin, Steve, Corey, Matt, and Alison; sister-in-law, Enid; and Caretaker, Jun Reyes, who was not only a caretaker, but a friend and "son" to Mort where they shared their love of music. Mort had a special and unique relationship with his late brothers, Bob and Yale, who were not just brothers, but friends and business partners throughout their lives. Mort was known first and foremost, a great friend to all. Mort carried an unparalleled reputation for love, compassion, public service, integrity, and technical competence. Mort, along with brother Yale, built Martin Yale Industries, a major manufacturing business machine company that continues well into the future. Mort was an extraordinary storyteller; as well as an avid outdoorsman; including that of being a hunter, pilot, boater, and fisherman. Mort was a B-17 Aviator in the US Air-Core [Air Force]. Mort was a recognized humanitarian through his life-long work with disabled children around the world through Variety Club International Charities. His love for friends from all walks of work life gave purpose and strength to those that knew him, and his smile will surely be missed. Mort understood his long life was a privilege and appreciated every moment with his family and friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Variety Club International would be greatly appreciated.

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Boeckenhauer, Melvin E.

Melvin E. Boeckenhauer age 91 passed away on December 25, 2019 in Prospect Heights. He was born on February 25, 1925 on his parents farm in Des Plaines.

Melvin was the loving husband of Eunice (nee Thon) for 65 years. Dear brother of the late Lyle (Edna), George and Paul. Proud uncle of Gerald (Barbara), Kathy, James, Judi (Ed), Kenneth, David and Lynn. Great uncle to Gerald Jr., Jennifer, Diana, Andrew, Kayla and Helen. Melvin was a graduate of Northwestern University. He worked for School District 68 in Skokie for 45 years where he served on many different boards. He was a very active member of Immanuel Lutheran church in Des Plaines and is an Army veteran having played in the Army band. Melvin will lie in state on Saturday, December 28, 2019 beginning at 1:00 p.m. until time of funeral service at 2:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 855 Lee Street, Des Plaines, Illinois. Interment in Town of Maine Cemetery, Park Ridge, Illinois. Memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church in his name. Funeral care provided by G.L. Hills Funeral Home. For info please call 847 699-9003 of gllhillsfuneralhome.com

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Byczek, Frank Stephen

Frank Stephen Byczek, 87, of Rogers, Ark and long-time resident of Chicago, passed Fri., Dec. 6. Mr. Byczek was born Dec. 26, 1931 in Chicago to the late Frank M. and Helen Nowak Byczek. He was also preceded by his sister and brother-in-law, Delores and Stanley Novak and his nephew Wayne Novak. Frank retired to NW Ark. from a career as a long-haul truck driver and owner-operator of a trucking business. He was a member of the Teamsters union. Survivors include numerous extended family members, business associates and dear friends. Funeral and interment in Resurrection Cemetery, Justice, will be at 12:00 pm, Sat, December 28, 2019. Arrangements by Rollins Funeral Home in Rogers, Ark. www.RollinsFuneral.com

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Calkins, Seamus O.

Calkins, Seamus, 46, of Kirkwood, MO, formerly northwest side of Chicago, graduate of Saint Patrick High School passed December 21, 2019. Loving father of Kelly, Annie and Maeve, husband for 19 years to Cheri with many years of friendship and love, Son of William and the late Anna Mae (nee Riley), brother of Patrick

(Margaret), Annamae (the Late Carlos) Martinez, Bill (John Joseph), Michael (Sally Samaan), Julie Brennan, the late Robert (Mary), John (Lynda) and Molly (Jim) Thompson. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, aunts, uncles and many dear friends. Seamus was the youngest of 9 children and the favorite of all. He loved all things Irish and had a keen sense of humor. As a child, he was adored and cherished by his family, especially Grandma Riley. After traveling to Ireland, he proudly obtained dual Irish Citizenship. He received his undergraduate degree from Quincy University and his MBA from Washington University. He had a successful professional career in medical sales. Seamus' one true passion was sharing his love with his three daughters, they were truly the light of his life. He will be remembered fondly and missed by all. A Memorial Mass will be held at 2pm on Saturday, December 28, 2019 at St. Peters Catholic Church, 243 W. Argonne Drive St. Louis, MO 63022. In lieu of flowers, a Memorial College Fund has been created for Seamus' daughters in the name of Cheri Calkins, RBC Wealth Management 2 mid America Plaza Suite 500 S Oak Brook Terrace, IL 60181-4715. Point of contact, Patrick Calkins at patrick.r.calkins@rbc.com. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois. Info, 800-622-8358



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Christensen, Jack F. 'Whitey'

Jack F. 'Whitey' Christensen, age 88 of Chicago, Korean War Navy Veteran; beloved husband of the late Patricia. Loving father of Connie, Deacon Thomas (Judith), Ann Ph.D (the late Reagan Miller) and Katherine (Rob Hardin) Christensen.

Devoted grandfather of Wilson, Sam and Elliot Miller and Ella and Evan Hardin. Dear brother of the late Jean (the late Loyal) Lundorf. Uncle of Joyce, Carol, Linda and Jack. Lying-in-state on Friday, December 27, 2019 at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, 1260 Franciscan Drive, Lemont, IL 60491, 12:30pm until 2:30pm. Visitation Sunday, December 29, 2019 2pm until 8pm at **RICHARD J. MODELL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES**, 5725 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago. Funeral Monday, 9am Chapel Service to St. Turibius Church, 5646 S. Karlov Avenue, Chicago, Mass 9:30am. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Former President of St. Turibius H.N.S., Usher's Club and Sports Boosters. Jack was in industrial sales for over 60 years at Packing Materials Corporation, Welch Packaging and Jack Christensen LTD. Jack was the founder of the Pack King's Softball Dynasties from 1971 until his retirement in the early 90's. Jack was a lifetime White Sox fan and touched many lives with his intelligence and sense of humor. It would make Jack and his family very happy if memorials would be made to Jack and his wife Pat's church, St. Turibius. Thank you to the staff at Mother Theresa Home at Franciscan Village in Lemont and Palos Hospice for their care of dad. 773-767-4730 or rjmodellfh.com.

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Cimaglia, Maureen B.

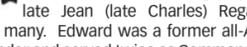
Maureen B. Cimaglia nee Geraghty. Beloved wife of the late John Cimaglia. Loving mother of John (Sheila) Cimaglia, Jeanne (Joe) Zurawski & Julie (David) Dillenbeck. Cherished grandmother of John (Kellie), Michael, Brendan C.P.D., Patrick, Joseph, Martin (fiancé Bailey Wuske), Liam, Daniel, Abbie, Daniel, Olivia & Joshua. Devoted daughter of the late John & Beatrice Geraghty. Dear sister of Joseph (Margie) Geraghty & the late Jack Geraghty. Fond aunt of many nieces & nephews. Funeral Monday 8:45 am from **Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home**, 5570 W. 95th St. Oak Lawn to St. Linus Church for Mass at 9:30 am. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Visitation Sunday from 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, please put forward an act of kindness or send someone a simple smile in memory of our mother. thompsonkuensterfuneralhome.com 708-425-0500

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Collins Jr., Edward Charles

Edward Charles Collins Jr., Age 89. Navy Veteran of Korean Conflict and 34-year veteran of C.P.D. passed away peacefully on Dec. 24, 2019. Beloved husband of Catherine (nee Bugajsky). Loving father of Edward C. III (Isabel), Mesa Collins, and Kathleen (Robert) Franklin. Dearest son of the late Edward and Pauline. Cherished grandfather of

Edward, Robert, Ana and Steven. Loving great grandfather of four. Dear brother of Edwina Coldstock and brother in law of John (Bessie) Bugajsky and the late Jean (late Charles) Regas. Fond uncle of many. Edward was a former All-American Commander and served twice as Commander of the VFW post 3579 in Niles, IL. Visitation Sunday Dec. 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels**, 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. Funeral Monday 10:00 a.m. from the funeral home to Immaculate Conception Church (Harlem & Talcott) for Mass 11:00 a.m. Interment Maryhill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donation to the VFW Post 3579 would be appreciated. Funeral Info: 708-456-8300 or www.cumberlandchapels.com.



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Chicago Daily Tribune

ON DECEMBER 27 ...

In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a voyage to the Pacific aboard the HMS Beagle. (Darwin's discoveries during the trip helped to form the basis of his theories on natural selection and evolution.)

In 1900, militant prohibitionist Carry Nation carried out her first public smashing of a bar, at the Carey Hotel in Wichita, Kan.

In 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York.

In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act granting sovereignty to

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS
Dec. 26
Lotto 09 16 36 39 43 48 / 12
Lotto jackpot: \$15.5M
Pick 3 midday 973 / 5
Pick 4 midday 5723 / 1
Lucky Day Lotto midday
03 24 31 32 33
Pick 3 evening 542 / 8
Pick 4 evening 3410 / 1
Lucky Day Lotto evening
07 11 31 43 44

Dec. 27 Mega Millions: \$50M
Dec. 28 Powerball: \$200M

WISCONSIN
Dec. 26
Pick 3 955
Pick 4 5631
Badger 5 02 14 25 28 30
SuperCash 05 09 11 13 18 28

INDIANA
Dec. 26
Daily 3 midday 155 / 3
Daily 4 midday 7203 / 3
Daily 3 evening 515 / 05
Daily 4 evening 7514 / 05
Cash 5 09 17 18 19 41

MICHIGAN
Dec. 26
Daily 3 midday 337
Daily 4 midday 1515
Daily 3 evening 506
Daily 4 evening 5946
Fantasy 5 09 13 16 22 38
Keno 01 03 04 05 06 10
13 17 19 22 23 27 28 34
42 48 60 65 67 68 75 77

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Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Conklin, James F.

James F. Conklin, Age 84, Born into Eternal Life on December 23, 2019. Beloved husband of Margaret Mary (nee Johnson) for 63 years. Loving father of James (Rasa), Colleen (Kevin) Callahan and Scott Conklin. Proud "Papa" of Alexander, Declan, and Gabriella. Devoted brother of Patricia Weakley and the late Leonard, Homer, Earl, Helen Eason, and Dorothy Remezas. Jim was also loved by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Longtime Teamsters Union Truck Driver for over 40 years, former member of Queen of Martyrs Holy Name Society, and Merrionette Park Little League Coach. Visitation Sunday, December 29, 2019, 12 Noon-3:00pm at **Curley Funeral Home (Heehey-Laughlin Directors)**, 6116 W. 111th St., Chicago Ridge, IL 60415. Chapel Service at 3:00pm. Private Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorials to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431 are most appreciated. Funeral Info: Heehey-Laughlin Funeral Directors, 708-636-5500 or www.heeheyf.com



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Docimo, John S.

John (Giovanni) Salvatore Docimo, 92, of Barrington Hills passed away on Christmas morning, 2019. He was the loving father to John Docimo (Earlene), Steven Docimo (Anne), the late Linda Kocian (Wayne Haas, former husband and friend Fred Kocian), and Susan Churchill (Robert); proud grandfather to Bradley Docimo (Amber), David Docimo (Kimberly), Jahna Docimo (Drew), Katherine Pett (Carl), William Docimo (Phoebe), Madeline Docimo, James "Dan" Docimo, Jessica Kocian (Christopher Cox), Steven Kocian, Olivia Churchill, Cole Churchill, John Churchill; great-grandfather to twelve; and dear brother-in-law of Mary. John was preceded in death by his beloved wife of nearly 50 years, the former Patricia Ann Proia; his parents William and Lucy Docimo; and siblings Anthony Docimo, Millie Sieja (Leo), and Marie Asta (Michael). John was the former Art Director for Hollister, Inc. in Libertyville, IL. Visitation will be held on Sunday, December 29, from 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM at **Kisselburg-Wauconda Funeral Home**, 235 N. Main St., Wauconda, and also on Monday, December 30 from 9:30 AM until the time of the Mass of Christian burial at 10:00 AM at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 135 S. Buesching Rd., Lake Zurich, IL 60047. Entombment will follow in Windridge Memorial Park, Cary. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association are appreciated. www.alz.org. For funeral information, call 847-526-2115 and sign the guest book at www.kisselburgwaucondafuneralhome.com.

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Dunn, Elizabeth Goldman

Elizabeth Goldman Dunn, age 59, of Chicago passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family in the early hours of December 22nd. Beloved wife of John W. Dunn for almost 30 years and loving mother of Kristen Dunn. Cherished daughter of Nancy (Don) Harrison and Isaac/Sandy (Jennifer) Goldman. Dear sister of Peter (Jessica) Goldman and fond aunt of Shoshana, Simon, and Lev Goldman. Throughout her life, Liz dealt heroically with her many health problems demonstrating courage and resilience. She will be sorely missed by her family and many friends. Friends are encouraged to share memories with the family from 10 AM Sunday, December 29, until time of funeral service at 11 AM, at **Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home**, 111 Skokie Blvd, Wilmette. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Scleroderma Research would be most appreciated: Northwestern Memorial Foundation, 541 N. Fairbanks Ct. Ste 800, Chicago IL 60611 (note in memory of Elizabeth Dunn in memo), or online at giving.nm.org/elizabethdunn. For info: 847-256-5700.

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Farley, Jr., Donald Curtis

Donald C. Farley, Jr., 97, died peacefully on December 21, 2019. Don is survived by his three daughters, Carol, Sarah (Betty), and Ginger (Bob); grandchildren Harley, Lydia (Sam), Owen, and Nora; step-grandchildren Gabe and Nate; and brother Russell. Don was preceded in death by his dear wife Martha Struthers Farley, and his brother Roger. Our beloved father - grandfather - friend will be so dearly missed and lovingly remembered. Don was born in Brookings, South Dakota in 1922, and completed life in his Evanston, Illinois home. Don's lifelong passion for learning encompassed degrees in history, cello performance, divinity, and teaching, as well as countless continuing education classes and study tours. Don viewed his time as an Oberlin teaching fellow in China (1948-51) as a pivotal experience. Over the years, Don and Martha hosted hundreds of long- and short-term guests from around the world, resulting in a worldwide network of lifelong friends. After beginning college at Oberlin, Don served in the Army Airways Communication System in the South Pacific as a radio telegraph operator (1943-1945), attaining the rank of staff sergeant. Throughout his military service, during free time, Don could be found at concerts, notably at the first performance of a symphony orchestra in Tokyo during the U.S. occupation of Japan. After the war he returned to Oberlin College, where he and Martha met. He later earned a Master of Divinity degree at Yale University. Don's professional work life began with ministry in the United Church of Christ, serving congregations in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Illinois over 20 years. During the 1970s, Don taught high school English. Music filled the Farley home. Don, a lifelong cellist, shared his love of music with every community of which he was a part. Sunday afternoon chamber music, annual "do-it-yourself" sing-along Handel's Messiah, singing as a part of every family gathering, and on and on: music was a constant from childhood to hospice. His love of music further bloomed in retirement with multiple amateur orchestra and recital performances, frequent concert attendance, and active leadership as an organizer of community music. A memorial celebration of Don's life will be held at Tuesday, January 7, 10:30 a.m. at Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Rd, Evanston, IL 60208. Reception to follow at The Mather, 425 Davis St., Evanston. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Don's memory may be made to the scholarship fund at Oberlin College and Conservatory, or to the American Indian College Fund.

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Finkel, Bernard

Beloved husband of Muriel "Matie" nee Horwitz. Loving father of Dr. Phillip (Ilene) Finkel, Dr. Calvin (Hindy) Finkel and Norman (Leslie) Finkel. Proud grandfather of Sarah (Shmullie) Schochet, Ira (Chaya) Finkel, Talia Finkel, Etan (Dr. Leah) Finkel, Ari (Dr. Miriam) Finkel, Donny Finkel, Rena (Yoey) Feigenbaum, Brian (Adi) Finkel and Rebecca (Bin) Dauber. Cherished great grandfather of Motti, Shaina Rochel, Dov Yehudah, Dovie, Nava, Yakira, Naomi, Ami, Gavi, Akiva, Yishai, Ari and Ivri. Cherished son of the late Sarah and the late Isadore Finkel. Dear brother of Harry (Shirley) and the late Diane) Finkel. Services were held. Memorials in his memory to Ida Crown Jewish Academy, 8233 Central Park Ave, Skokie, IL 60076, www.icja.org or Chicago Mitzvah Campaign, 2939 West Touhy Ave, Chicago IL 60645, chicagomitzvahcampaign.org or Hatzalah Chicago, POB 59816 Chicago, Illinois 60659 www.hatzalahchicago.org would be appreciated. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals**-Skokie Chapel 847.229.8822, www.cjfinfo.com.



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Iverson, Edward A.

Edward A. Iverson, Age 84 of Park Ridge. CEO of Chucking Machine Products, Inc. in Franklin Park since 1957. Beloved husband of Sandie. Loving father of Cathy (Rob Lewis) Demma, the late Scott (Frankie) Bloecker, the late Tracy (Paul Gordon) Iverson, the late Randy Bloecker and Stacy (Tim) Merrigan. Devoted grandfather of Kristina, Evan, Katie, Lynn, Allyson, Amanda, Abigail, Eddie, Ross, Matt, Danny, and Sean. Great-grandfather of Althea, Frances, Jack, Annie, Holly, Emmett, Layla, McKayla, and Ellie. Dear brother of Jerry (Judy) and John Iverson. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Also survived by his loving companion, Marco Polo. Visitation Sunday, Dec. 29, 9 a.m. until time of service, 1 p.m., at **Ryan-Parke Funeral Home**, 120 S. Northwest Hwy. (2 blks. S. of Touhy), Park Ridge. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Salvation Army, <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/> or Mayo Clinic, <https://philanthropy.mayoclinic.org/donate>, are appreciated. Info., www.ryan-parke.com.



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Jamrog, James I.

James I. Jamrog of Roseland, Illinois moved to the western suburbs of Chicago before raising his family in Michigan. Born March 24, 1942 passed away at age 77 on December 21, 2019. Dearest son of the late Ignatius and Adele. Beloved husband of Diana for many wonderful years. Loving father of James R. (Cathy) Jamrog, Donna (Eric) Smatana, Marci (Trip) Bonds and the late Richard Jamrog. Cherished grandfather of Blase, Lauren, Annie, Laura and Kylie. Dear brother of Carol (Bernie) Nemchousky. James was an outdoors man who loved to hunt and fish. He is a devout catholic and parish member of St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia.

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Jesko, Kathleen Sue 'Kate'

Kathleen (Kate) Sue Jesko, age 75, passed away peacefully December 22nd, 2019 surrounded by family and friends. She was born January 9th, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois to Paul and Anna Jesko. Kate completed her license as a Social Worker and dedicated her life to caring for others. She spent almost 30 years working at SHORE Community Services supporting individuals with developmental disabilities until her retirement in 2011. As a young woman and a free spirit, Kate spent time traveling through Europe and the United States. She was especially fond of the English Heritage and loved reading and collecting dolls and other memorabilia of the Tudor period of English kings and queens. Kate's purpose in life was always focused on caring for her family and community. She served as their moral compass through both the best of times and worst. Her mind was rarely still and she was always thinking of ways to make the life of other's easier and happier. Kate's expression of virtue, love, responsibility and balance may best be showcased through her favorite bird, the cardinal. Rest in Peace Kate. Until we meet again. Kate is survived by her sons Jason and Erik, her daughters-in-law, Kristin and Taryn, her grandchildren, Hunter, Brandon, and Gillian, as well as her brothers, Robert and Alan, and her sister-in-law, Jan. Family & friends will be received for a Memorial Service on Saturday, December 28th, 2019 at Unity Temple, 875 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL. 60301. The service gathering lasts from 1:00 pm until 4:30 with a eulogy at 2:30 pm. Donations in her memory can be made to SHORE Community Services Inc. to benefit Residential Services

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Klenske, Raymond R.

Raymond R. Klenske age 82. Beloved husband of the late Carolyn Nee Kaczmarek. Loving father of Laura (Tony) Besbekos and Cheryl (Roy) Peterson. Dearest Grandfather of Sean (Ashley) Peterson and Jaclyn (Sam) Bielawski. Great Grandfather of Westin Bielawski. Step Grandfather of Becky (Joe) Ryan and Georgi Besbekos. Cherished brother, uncle, cousin and friend of many. Funeral Monday December 30, 2019 at 2:00 pm at Matz Funeral Home 410 E. Rand Road, Mt. Prospect, IL. Visitation Monday 10:00 am until time of service 2:00 pm. Interment private. Info 847-394-2336 or www.matzfuneralhome.com

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Kotowski, Alice M.

Alice M. Kotowski (nee Bochnia), 86, a lifelong resident of Chicago passed away Dec. 24. She was a 25 year employee for Zenith Radio (Kostner) and a 13 year employee for Sargent-Welsh Scientific. Alice was the beloved wife of the late Richard S. (1981); loving mother of Greg R. (Cathy), James J. (Eileen), Renee S. Kuruc and the late Richard A.; cherished grandmother of Jeffrey (Jodi), Lauren, Samantha, Jonathan, Michelle, Jillian and Anthony; dear sister of Joan (Ken) Carpenter, Edmund Bochnia, the late Chester (late Wanda), the late Leo (late Jeanne), the late Raymond and the late Edwin Bochnia. Alice leaves behind many loving nieces, nephews and friends. Visitation Friday, Dec. 27 from 3pm-9pm at **Grove Memorial Chapel** 1199 S. Arlington Hts. Rd. Elk Grove Village. Chapel prayers Saturday at 9:00am followed by a 9:30am Mass at St. Julian Eymard Church, 601 Biesterfeld Rd. Elk Grove Village. Interment St. Adalbert Cemetery - Niles. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Info 847-640-0566 or grovememorial-chapel.com

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Kuhn, Anne

Anne Kuhn (nee King), 82, of Chicago, passed away December 21, 2019 at Wesley Place in Chicago.



Born in Detroit, Michigan on October 14, 1937, she was the daughter of Charles and Leonore (Nee Shaeffer) King. Her early life was spent in Detroit and then in Chicago, where she graduated from Nettelhorst Elementary and Francis Parker High School. She then graduated from UW-Madison in 1959. After a (clearly successful) blind date and a brief romance, she was married to James Kuhn at Temple Sholom in Chicago on October 8, 1960. Anne and Jim raised their family in both California and suburban Chicago, where Anne kept the family going through frequent moves and served as the "cool" mom to the good friends made along the way.

Anne worked as a social worker, teacher's aide and Head Start volunteer. All of her jobs were chosen based on her lifelong love for children, reading, and learning. In her later years she maintained her great love for children and for dogs, and enjoyed walks through her neighborhood where she could enjoy as many sightings as possible. She was a lifelong Cubs fan, and had fun sharing information about the looks of the Cubs players remembered from her early years ... not just their baseball skills. Anne was also an early adopter of "healthy eating" habits, while at the same time saving exclusions for her favorite treats as often as possible. Her survivors have inherited all of these traits.

Anne is survived by her children, Elizabeth Rose Kuhn and son-in-law Ken Edwards, and Julie Ann Kuhn; grandchildren Charles Raymond and Samuel Hunter Edwards-Kuhn; and beloved cousins Jeanne Gerson and Linda Delaney. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband James.

The family would like to send out a special thank you to Anne's wonderful friend and companion Gabriela Ocampo. Gaby helped care for Anne as her health declined, giving her many additional quality years, walks, restaurant adventures and other experiences that would not have been possible without her. The family also wishes to thank these kind and caring individuals: The Care Plan, Jaqueline Boyd and Nina Szidon; Wesley Place nurses and CNAs on 2; and JourneyCare, Nadya Eliah, Beverly Davis and volunteers. All made mom's final months as comfortable and loving as possible.

A burial will take place at Rochester (WI) Cemetery at a later date. In Anne's memory and to support the causes she loved as well as those who cared for her, contributions may be made to Sit, Stay, Read Chicago, sitsstayread.org OR the JourneyCare Foundation, journeycare.org.

Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home & Crematory

625 S. Browns Lake Drive
Burlington, WI 53105
(262) 763-3434
www.danielsfamilyfuneral.com

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Kula, Donald J.

Donald J. Kula, age 83: beloved husband of the late Virginia E. Kula; loving father of Ginny "Coco" (Pete) Aleman Kula, Donald J. (Marichi) Kula, John (Lisa) Kula, Tom (Lisa) Kula and Mary (Josiah Mazzaschi) Kula; cherished grandfather of Gabriela, Ben, Joey, Will, and Paul; dear brother of Steve (Kathy) Kula and Pete (the late Nancy) Kula. Donald was devoted husband, proud father and grandfather, devout catholic and graduate of St. Philip Neri grammar school, Mt. Carmel High School, and a former basketball player at the University of Illinois and Western Michigan University. Visitation Sunday, December 29th, 2:00PM to 8:00PM. Funeral Monday, December 30th, 9:15 AM from **Sullivan Funeral Home**, 60 South Grant St., Hinsdale to Notre Dame Church, 64 Norfolk Ave., Clarendon Hills. Funeral Mass 10:00AM. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. 630/323-0275 or www.sullivan-funeralhomehinsdale.com



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La Frey, Grace E.

Grace E. La Frey (nee Hann) age 86, formerly of Gage Park Area. Beloved wife of the late Robert. Loving mother of Dawn (Dan) Price, Denise (Richard) Vaughn, Robert (Sue), Michael (Mary), Debra (Frank) Barch, Stephen (Lori) and Dovette (Michael) Dolniak. Dear grandmother of 15, great-grandmother of 25. Dear sister of Carol (Dan) Flinn, the late Ruth (the late Jim) Luka and Phyllis (Ron) Johnson. Funeral Monday 11am at **RICHARD J MODELL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES**, 12641 W. 143rd St., Homer Glen. Visitation Sunday 3pm to 8pm. Interment Evergreen Cemetery. Retired owner of La Frey Florist of Chicago, IL. Donations to Multiple Sclerosis Society appreciated 708-301-3595 or rjmodellflh.com.

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Leonard, T. Wheeler

Leonard T. Wheeler, age 77 of Kaukauna, WI, passed away at home on December 20, 2019, He was the beloved husband of the late Jacqueline (nee Lattyak); devoted father of Michael (Amy) Wheeler; adored grandfather of Ella, Owen and Aiden Wheeler and loving son of the late Joseph and Katherine Wheeler. Visitation Saturday, December 28, 2019 3:00-8:00 p.m. at **Salerno's Rosedale Chapels** 450 W. Lake St. Roselle, IL. 60172 (3/4 mile west of Bloomingdale/Roselle Rd.). Interment Private. For info 630-889-1700 or www.salernofuneralhomes.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local animal shelter of your choice.



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Lindemann, Walter Frank

Walter Frank Lindemann, 91 of Chicago died peacefully in his sleep on December 21st. Son of Kai Lindemann and Alice (née Perkins) Lindemann. Loving husband of the late Mary Elizabeth (née Tempinski) married on September 27, 1952. Brother of George (Lois) Lindemann. Cherished father of Diane (Mark) Adams, Robert (Lisa) Lindemann, Michael Lindemann and the late Russell Lindemann. Loving grandfather of Nels (Heather) Adams, Arnora (David) Griffith, Jake Lindemann, Grant Lindemann and Sean Lindemann. Member of US Army National Guard (CW04 Retired), Retired from Illinois Bell & AT&T after 40 Years. There wasn't anything he couldn't fix. Golf, fishing and family were his favorite past times. Preceded in death by wife Mary 8/13/2014 and son Russell 11/3/2014. Visitation Saturday, December 28, 11 AM, **Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home**, 185 E Northwest Highway, Palatine, until time of funeral service at 1 PM. Interment private. Funeral info 847-359-8020



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Luka, Carol Lea

Carol Lea Luka nee Lonergan, age 72. Carol was a Legal Assistant for 50 years. Beloved wife of Thomas Luka; loving daughter of the late Stanley and Jean Lonergan nee Fisher; beloved mother of Tammi (Tim) Malinowski; fond grandmother of Jacob and Sydney Malinowski; dear sister of Suzan Baig; fond aunt of Jason and Justin Baig. Visitation Sunday December 29, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels** 8300 W. Lawrence Ave. Norridge, IL 60706. Funeral Services begin Monday 9:00 a.m. at the funeral home and will proceed to St. Maria Goretti for 10:30 a.m. Mass. Interment is private. For more info www.cumberlandchapels.com or 708-456-8300.



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Moran, Dennis D.

Beloved husband of the late Cecilia (nee Tansey). Loving father of Elizabeth (Michael) Moran Di Stefano, William Moran, Robert (Rosanne) Moran, and Barbara (Paul) Moran Goodrich. Proud grandfather of David (Sonia), Isabella, Kevin, Amanda (Grant), Lauren, Jacob, and Danielle. Cherished great-grandfather of James Everest Moran. Dear brother of Michael Moran, Judith (Bill) Coyle, and the late Kathy (late Dave) Miesmer. Fond uncle 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. Alexander Church, Mass 10:00 a.m. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Gary Goodgear Emergency Assistance Foundation, 4444 W. 147th Street, Midlothian, IL 60445 would be appreciated. www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878

Robert J.



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Murphy, Kenneth E.

On Christmas Eve, 12-24-2019, Kenneth Eugene Murphy went to heaven to meet his God and his wife Julianne. He was surrounded by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. His death was peaceful and full of love. Murph was born on August 25, 1930 to Patrick J. and Anna (Billie Bauba) Murphy. He served as a Fire Control Officer in the US Navy from August 1947 through September 1951.

On October 31, 1953 he married Julianne (Duchak) Murphy. They were blessed with one son, Kenneth Murphy (Karen), and 5 daughters, Julianne "Sissie" (Don) Moore, Andrea (Mark) Lozano, Annette (Jim) Sosnowski, Patricia "Patty" Murphy Swinski and Alison Murphy. Grandfather of 12 and great-grandfather of 8. Brother to Dean Murphy and Gloria Laff. Ken grew up in The Back of the Yards neighborhood and was a member of the Seneca Chiefs social club for many years.

It was only late in life that he formed a strong relationship with his God and wanted everyone to know he was a born again Christian and how blessed his life was. Visitation, Sunday, December 29, 2019, 3:00PM to 8:00PM at **Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium**, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice, Illinois. Funeral, Monday, December 30, 2019, 11:00AM Service and Time of Remembrance to be held at the funeral home. Cremation rites to be accorded. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifuneralhomes.com

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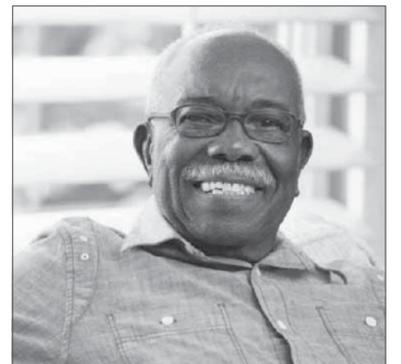
Murray, Marita

Marita Diane Murray, 84, of Chicago, IL, passed away on December 13, 2019. She was the cherished first cousin of Susanne Meany Kramer and John Meany. She was known and loved as "Aunt Marita" by Laura Kramer, John J. Meany, and Nora Meany. She was preceded in death by her sister Mary Camille Murray, and

her parents Dr. John C. Murray and Camille Bradley Murray. A registered nurse for over 50 years she held nursing positions at various hospitals and businesses. She retired from Northern Trust bank as Vice President of Human Resources in the 1990's. Visitation 9 AM to 9:45 AM Saturday Dec. 28, 2019 at **Wenban Funeral Home**, 320 Vine Ave, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Funeral Mass 10 AM, Saturday, Dec. 28, 2019 at the Church of St. Mary, 175 East Illinois Rd, Lake Forest. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Lake Forest. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Rush University Medical Center for the St. Luke's Training School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship. Please send memorial gifts to Rush University Medical Center, 1201 West Harrison St., Suite 300, Chicago, Illinois 60607 or visit <http://rush.convio.net/murray>. Info: **Wenban Funeral Home** (847) 234-0022 or www.wenbanfh.com



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Pros, Jr., Miles J.

Miles J. Pros, Jr., beloved husband of the late Kimberly, nee Rus; loving father of Christopher (Megan), Jeremy (Tricia) and Zachary (Kerry); dear grandfather of Zoey, Harlen, Penelope, Charlotte, Cosette, Mason and Miles; Visitation Saturday 3 to 8 p.m. at Linhart Funeral Home, 6820 W. Cermak Road, Berwyn. Cremation private. Info at www.linhartfuneralhome.com or (708) 749-2255



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Quigley, Sr., Francis Xavier

Francis Xavier Quigley Sr., 88, of Libertyville, US Army, passed away peacefully December 21, 2019 at Loyola Medical Center, Maywood. Francis was born and raised in Chicago graduating from St. Ignatius High School and attended Loras College in Dubuque Iowa. Francis loved God, his wife, his children and family unconditionally. He dedicated 45 years of loyal service to Bell and Howell and enjoyed retirement summering at Grand Beach, Michigan. Faith was one of the highest priorities he instilled in his family and was dedicated to his Catholic faith being a parishioner of St. Joseph Church for 46 years, participating in the vocational club and attending daily Mass. Francis is remembered as an accomplished pianist and for his great sense of humor that he maintained until his last breath. He was a great man and will be dearly missed.

Francis is survived by Margaret (nee Burke) his beloved wife of 63 years; his loving children Francis X. Jr. "Frank", James Francis (Carol), Margaret Mary, Anne (Jim) Bower, Eileen, John Francis (Kimberly) and Joseph Francis (Dalia); his adoring 14 grandchildren and his cherished 2 great-grandchildren. Francis is preceded in death by his parents John and Madeline and his 7 siblings.

Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11:30am Saturday December 28th at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 121 E Maple Ave, Libertyville. Visitation will be held at the church on Friday from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. In lieu of flowers memorials made to the Catholic Extension Society, 150 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606 or the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, 1000 E Maple Ave, Mundelein, IL 60060 would be greatly appreciated. Funeral arrangements by **McMurrough Funeral Chapel** (847) 362-2626. Please sign the guestbook at libertyvillefuneralhome.com. Celebrate the Irish...wear green.

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Robbs, James E.

Beloved husband of the late Mildred. Loving father of Jim (Rosie) and Clara. Cherished grandfather of Connor and Francesca. Son of the late Thomas J. and the late Anastasia. Funeral Saturday, December 28th, 9:00 A.M. from Johnson-Nosek Funeral Home 3847 Prairie Ave., Brookfield to Saint Dominilla Church. Mass 10:00 A.M. Entombment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Visitation Friday December 27th 4:00-8:00PM info 708-485-0214.

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Rogers, Irene A.

Irene A. Rogers (nee Danca) age 65; Beloved wife of Michael Rogers; Loving mother of Christopher (Heidi) and Joseph (Michelle) Rogers; Cherished grandmother of Isabella; Proud daughter of the late Charles and Irene Danca (nee Corso); Dear sister of Diane (the late Joseph) Mucia, Carol (Bruce) Aiello and Charlene (Garry) Eastwood; Kind sister-in-law of Joanne Rogers; Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Saturday 9:30 AM until time of Mass 10:00 AM at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church, 4107 W. 107th St.; Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Avid reader and artist. Retired CPS teacher. In lieu of flowers donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 1 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois, 60602, would be appreciated. Arrangements by **Andrew J. McGann & Son Funeral Home**, for info 773-783-7700

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Sanchez, Diana K.

Diana K Sanchez nee Wielinga Age 67 of Tinley Park, IL was called to God Peacefully in her own home on Dec. 07, 2019. Diana is and will be missed by all of her loved ones. Diana is Survived by her beloved Husband Paul; Loving Mother of Mark J Morris and Michelle (Dan) Price; Cherished Grandmother of Nathan Price; Loving Sister of Fran (Sam), Grace (John), Thelma and Rhea (Johan); Diana was Preceded in Death by her Parents Oscar & Thelma, Brothers Oscar & Mark and Her Son James Lloyd Morris III; Diana was a friend to all, she loved to cook for her family & friends. Diana Loved animals and Nature, took in strays, people and animals Alike.

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Schoenstadt, Ben F.

Ben F. Schoenstadt, 95, beloved husband of the late Gloria; loving father of Darryl (Dawn), the late Ron "Oz" (Lorraine) and the late Richard (Cynthia) Schoenstadt; cherished grandfather of Jewell Schoenstadt, Tyler Schoenstadt, Rose (Howard) Andron, Carly (Matthew) Finkelstein and Kate Schoenstadt; adored great grandfather of Sophia and Jacob Andron and Seth and Drew Finkelstein; dear brother of the late David (Julie) Schoenstadt; treasured uncle and friend of many. Chapel service Monday 12:15 PM at **Shalom Memorial Funeral Home**, 1700 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice. For information and condolences, (847) 255-3520 or www.shalom2.com



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Sheedy, Declan

Declan Sheedy, age 87; beloved husband of Susan Sheedy; loving father of Dermot (Cathy) Sheedy; proud grandfather of Colin & Nora; dear brother of Kieran (Terry) Sheedy; predeceased by loving siblings Leo Sheedy, Kathleen McDonald, Fr. Valentine Sheedy, Fr. Cyril Sheedy, Rita Sheedy, Dymphna Sheedy, & Dermot Sheedy; loving uncle and cousin of many. Visitation 3 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, December 29 at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 1025 W. 55th St., Countryside. Funeral prayers at 10:15 a.m. on Monday, December 30 from the funeral home to St. John of the Cross Church, Western Springs for 11 a.m. Mass. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside. Memorial donations in Declan's name to Loyola University Medical Center (<https://support.loyolamedicine.org/loyola/giving/>) or Mercy Home for Boys & Girls (<https://www.mercyhome.org/giving/>) are appreciated. See full obituary at hjfnerals.com. Funeral info: (708) 352-6500

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Simko, Jill

Jill Simko nee Polly; Loving wife of James for 51 years; Cherished mother of James Jr. (Karen), Jayne (Danny) Maher and Jeremy (Sue); Devoted grandmother of 9; Dear friend of many. Visitation Friday 5:00 - 8:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am until time of Service, 10:00 am at **The Oaks Funeral Home** 1201 E. Irving Park Road (at Prospect), Itasca. Interment Fairview Memorial Park. For funeral info: 630-250-8588 or www.oaksfh.com

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Sinderson, Jean M.

Jean Sinderson Nee Dvorak Age 86 passed away peacefully Sunday December 22, 2019. A resident of the Carillon Community in Plainfield, formerly of Lemont and Berwyn. Beloved twin sister of Joan Dvorak; daughter of the late Frank and Mae Dvorak, sister of the late Frank (Virginia) Dvorak and Eleanor (Edward) Lukes; loving wife of the late Joseph Belina and Thomas Sinderson; aunt of numerous nieces and nephews. She was a 42-year employee of the 3M company. Visitation Friday December 27, 2019 from 9 am to 10:30 am at **Anderson Memorial Chapel**, 606 Townhall Dr., Romeoville, IL 60446. Funeral Mass to follow 11 am at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Romeoville. Family and friends are invited to meet at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside for Committal Prayers at 1 pm, no procession. In lieu of flowers, contributions to Mercy Home for Boys and Girls (www.mercyhome.org) or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org) would be appreciated. (www.Anderson-Goodale.com) (815) 886-2323

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Sitkowitz, Betty J.

Betty J. Sitkowitz (nee Brunner), age 90, beloved wife of the late Elmer Sitkowitz; Loving mother of Donald (Susan) Sitkowitz, Susan (Paul) Vorel and Nancy (Thomas) Farrington; cherished grandmother of Bryan, James (fiancé Laura), Lauren (fiancé Spencer), Michael, Alyssa, Matthew, and Brett; dear sister of the late E. Irma Frank; fond aunt to many. Betty's memory will be cherished by many friends and neighbors on the Lawndale Avenue in Evergreen Park.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, December 29, 2019 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill Gardens South Funeral Home 11333, S. Central Ave., Oak Lawn. Funeral Monday, December 30, 2019. Family and friends gathering from 9:00 a.m. until time of service at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church 8550 S. Kedvale Ave, Chicago. Interment Chapel Hill Gardens South cemetery, Oak Lawn. For more information 708-636-1200 or visit www.chapelhillsgardensouth.com

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Slack, Patricia Mae

Patricia Mae Slack, nee Moreau beloved wife of the late Lowell E. Slack. Loving mother of Deborah (Skip) Curry-Boyd, David (Cathy) Slack, the late Douglas Slack, Diane (Terry) Greco, Daniel (Bari) Slack, Denise (Tom) Mortellaro-Ryan and Dayle (Ryan) Ellis. Cherished grandmother of Brian (Christine) Currey, David (Brittany) Currey, Catherine (Tyson) Beauchamp, Dillon Slack, Ashley (Brian) Curtin, Nicholas (Jackie) Greco, Trent and Brooke Greco, Jordan (Jim) Carey), Skylar and Ryan Slack, Sam, Rachael and Gabrielle Mortellaro, Audrey and Graham Ellis. Devoted great grandmother of Joseph, Gavin, Kinsley, William, Emerson, Cullom, Benjamin, Madilyn, Maeva, Breelyn, Finley and Hadley. Fond Sister of Lolly (the late Ralph) Buckingham and Aunt of Susan Buckingham (John Dwyer) and Mark (Bobbi) Buckingham.

Patricia was a long-time resident of Mount Prospect and member of St. Raymond de Penafort church, residing the past few years at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling.

Visitation Sunday December 29, 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at Friedrichs Funeral Home, 320 W. Central Rd., (at Northwest Highway) Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Visitation Monday December 30, 10:00 A.M. until time of Funeral Mass 11:00 A.M. at St. Raymond de Penafort Church, Elmhurst Rd. (Rt. 83) & Lincoln St., Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Interment All Saints Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations requested to Ronald McDonald House, Chapter Business Office, 1301 W. 22nd St., Suite 905, Oak Brook, IL 60523 rmhc.org or Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, 1140 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607 mercyhome.org Funeral info 847-255-7800 or www.friedrichsfh.com

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Smuda, Wanda

Wanda Smuda, age 92, beloved wife of the late Arthur Smuda; loving mother of Celeste (Gene) Gryniwicz; Art (Dianne) Smuda and Cathy (Tom) Ryan; cherished grandmother of Josh (Erika), Chris (Sarah), Kyle, Eric, Jacob and Matthew; dearest great-grandmother of Sean and Jessie; dear sister of the late Lillian Pilarczyk and Helen DeRose; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Friday 3-9 P.M. Funeral Saturday 9:30 A.M. from **Lawn Funeral Home** 7732 W. 159th St. Orland Park, to St. Julie Billiart Church 7399 W. 159th St. Tinley Park, Mass 10:00 A.M. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601. Funeral Info: 708 429-3200



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Sykes, Billy Gene

Billy Gene Sykes, age 87, of Lemont, IL formerly of Park Forest, IL, went to his heavenly home Christmas morning 2019. Visitation will be Saturday, December 28, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. until time of funeral services at 11:00 a.m. at the Lemont United Methodist Church, 25 W. Custer Street, Lemont, IL 60439. Private interment will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on a future date. For further info please visit www.markiewiczfh.com

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Velick, Naomi

What a woman! The daughter of Beatrice and Albert Witcoff. Naomi is back with her "Jer Bear", her husband and best friend of 34 years. Naomi was fiercely independent and believed in life-long learning. She attended Ida Crown Jewish Academy and Roosevelt Univ. and was the founder of the Illinois Workers Compensation Assoc. Always helping others, and a true leader, Naomi was a member of B'Nai Brith Women, National Council of Jewish Women and served two terms as President for Hadassah in Delray Beach. Naomi's legacy of strength, courage, helping others live through her grandchildren, Jordan, Sarah and Joseph; and children Tracy (Marc) and Robert. Mom, your advice, sharing a Flea Market knish, late night bobka or having a Crown & Cream Soda together will be missed! A special thanks to Rosa and Josie who helped her for so many years. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Hadassah. Gravesite services Friday, December 27 11am, Jewish Oakridge, Hillside. Funeral arrangements, Chicago Jewish Burial Society.

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Waage, Gerald A.

Gerald A. Waage, Army Veteran age 83; beloved father of Ken (Jody); cherished grandfather of Erica (Cezary); proud great - grandfather and friend to many. Visitation, Sunday from 5 to 8 P.M. **Nelson Funeral Home**, 820 Talcott Rd. Park Ridge, Interment Private. For info www.nelsonfunerals.com or (847) 823-5122



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Weinstein, Romlee P.

Romlee P. Weinstein nee Philipson, age 76. Beloved wife of Dr. Allan. Loving mother of Eric (Susan Charles) and Jeffrey (Jill). Proud grandmother of Avery, Devan, Jason, and Sam. Service Sunday 1PM at **Chicago Jewish Funerals**, 8851 Skokie Blvd (at Niles Center Road), Skokie. Interment Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Jewish United Fund, www.juf.org, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org, Wounded Warrior Project, www.woundedwarriorproject.org or Guitars 4 Vets, www.guitars4vets.org. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals** - Skokie Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjfnfo.com



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Westerman, Shirley

Shirley Westerman, nee Rosenstock, age 93, formerly of Northbrook, IL, passed away Dec. 22, 2019, beloved wife of the late Milton J. Westerman, devoted mother of Leslie Struggles (the late Kirk Struggles) & the late Andy Westerman, loving grandmother of Geoffrey (Ashley) Struggles, great grandmother of Caleb,

Nolan, Sloan & Dylan Struggles, also survived by nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and many special friends. Chapel service Sunday 10 AM at **Shalom Memorial Funeral Home**, 1700 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. Interment Shalom Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to American Diabetes Assn. or charity of one's choice. For information and condolences, (847) 255-3520 or www.shalom2.com

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Wozny, Ronald G.

Ronald G. Wozny, age 87, U.S. Army, Veteran Korea; beloved husband of the late Mary Jean; loving father of Steve (Kathy) and Tom (Michelle); cherished grandpa of Michelle, Matthew, and Hayden. Will be missed by a host of nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors. Avid collector, hobbyist, sportsman, marksman, and animal lover. Lifetime member of American Single Shot Rifle Association and National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. Flowers are welcome or memorial donations can be made to American Single Shot Rifle Association or National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. Visitation Friday from 4 to 9 P.M. Funeral Prayers Saturday 10 A.M. at **Nelson Funeral Home** 820 Talcott Rd. Park Ridge. Procession to Fairview Memorial Park Cemetery. For info www.nelsonfunerals.com or (847) 823-5122.



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Zion, Rosemarie

Rosemarie Zion (nee Hapac), age 79, beloved wife of the late Charles F. Zion; loving mother of Deborah (Richard) Strylowski and Steven (Debby) Zion; cherished grandmother of Alex (Diantha) Strylowski and Rebecca (Craig) Warner; dearest sister of Arlene (the late Gerald) Gongaware, Wayne (Catherine) Tolksan, Christine (Virgil) McCorkle, the late Emil Hapac, Roy (the late Nora) Tolksan and Robert Tolksan; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sunday 2-8 P.M. Funeral Monday 8:45 A.M. from **Lawn Funeral Home** 7909 State R. (5500W) to St. Linus Church Mass 9:30 A.M. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery. Funeral Info: 708 636-2320



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Zylinski, Judith L.

Judith L. "Judy" Zylinski, nee Christensen. Beloved wife of the late Scotty. Loving sister of Mary Ellen Harbuck. Dear aunt of Sean (Erin) Nolan and Melissa Kemmerer. Kind great aunt of Kate Leah Kemmerer. Visitation Monday 9:00 a.m. until time of prayers 10:30 a.m. at **Beverly Ridge Funeral Home**; 10415 S. Kedzie Ave. to St. Christina Church Mass of Christian Burial 11:00 a.m. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials to Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516. 773-779-4411



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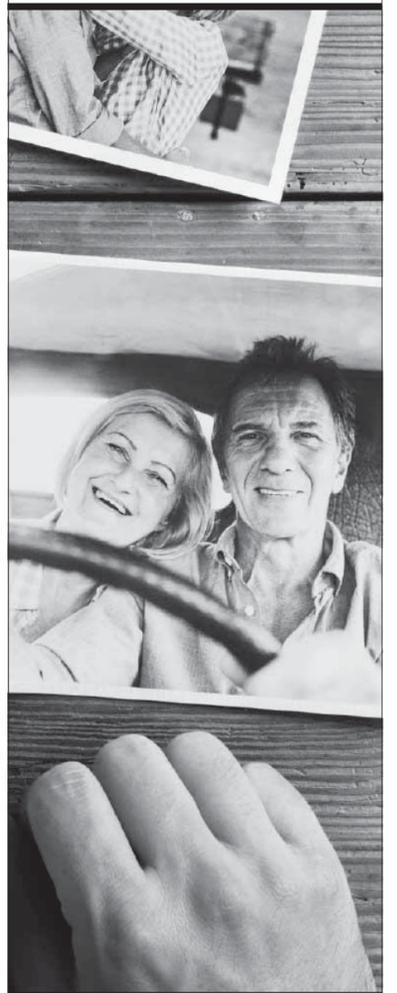


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COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINALS

Final 4 are ready for more

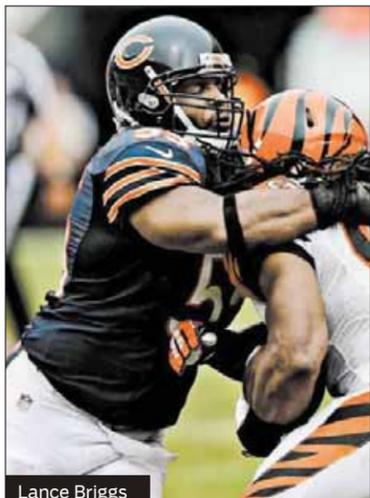
Teddy Greenstein's takeaways from Fiesta Bowl media day, **Page 3**. Plus a look at matchups and how the teams got here, **Page 4**.



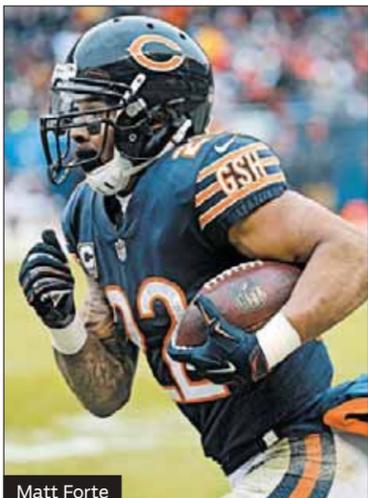
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CHICAGO SPORTS

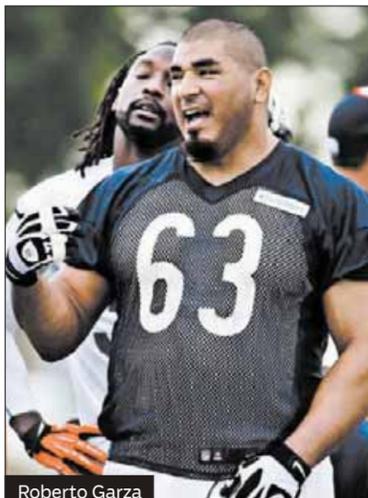
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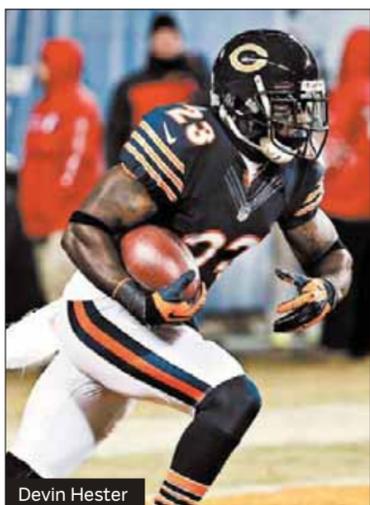
Lance Briggs



Matt Forte



Roberto Garza



Devin Hester

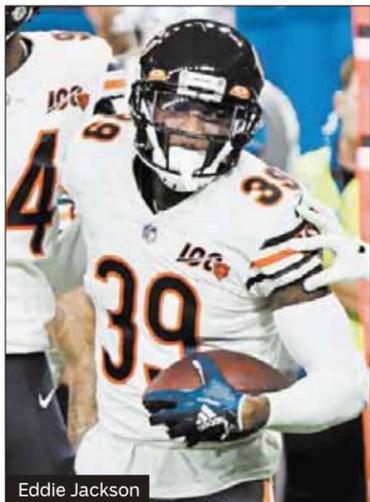
NFC NORTH
ALL-DECADE TEAM

They were 10s in 2010s

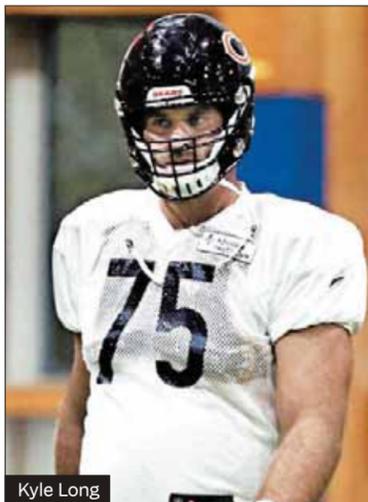
While the Bears had mixed results this season, the decade has brought some standout players. Ten of them and one coach made our NFC North All-Decade team. **Back Page**



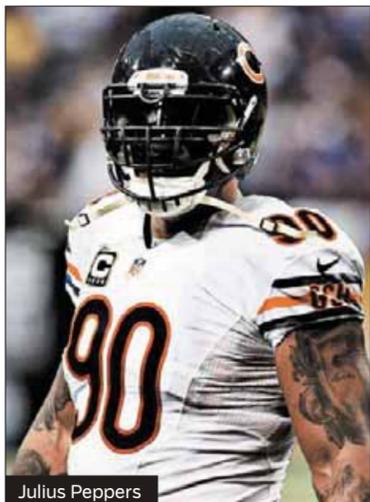
Akiem Hicks



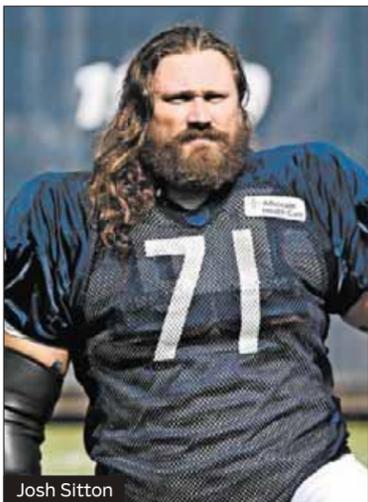
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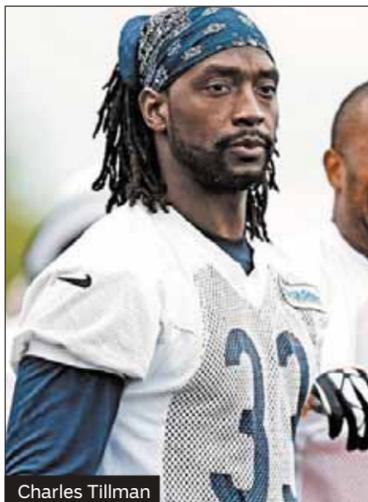
Kyle Long



Julius Peppers



Josh Sitton



Charles Tillman

CHICAGO TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS

New deal feels like classic Sox

Encarnacion signing a lot like past moves, only lower risk



PAUL SULLIVAN
On the White Sox

Ken Williams hasn't been the White Sox general manager since 2012, but his name was the first that sprang to mind Christmas night when news of the Edwin Encarnacion deal spread on Twitter.

This was, by all means, a Williams-patented move, even if his replacement, Rick Hahn, executed it.

Encarnacion, who turns 37 in January, isn't the sort of player you bring on to a rebuilding team with October dreams. He's the kind of veteran player you bring on to a contending team that needs one more piece to go to the next level.

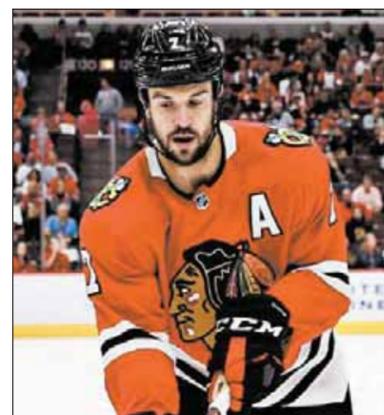
He could be the final piece to the Sox puzzle, or he could be the next Ken Griffey Jr. or another last-gasp veteran like Jose Canseco, Roberto Alomar or Omar Vizquel. He could be the next home-run-or-bust slugger like Adam Dunn.

Or maybe he's the next David Wells or Bartolo Colon, aging starting pitchers brought in as "difference-makers" who ultimately made no difference to the Sox's chances of winning.

Whatever he turns out to be, Encarnacion is a blast from the past.

Williams — now the Sox executive vice

Turn to **Sullivan, Page 5**



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Blackhawks defenseman Brent Seabrook during a game in September.

BLACKHAWKS

Seabrook, de Haan out for year

Both defensemen will undergo season-ending surgery Friday

BY JIMMY GREENFIELD

A season that hasn't gone as hoped took another unfortunate turn when the Blackhawks announced defensemen Brent Seabrook and Calvin de Haan will each undergo surgery Friday and miss the rest of the season.

De Haan's situation was not unexpected. He injured his right shoulder Dec. 10, and the Hawks had said he was getting more medical opinions before deciding how to proceed.

He had surgery on the same shoulder last spring and missed the start of this season.

The news about Seabrook was more of a surprise and potentially more severe. The Hawks said Seabrook will have surgery on his right shoulder Friday and also will have surgery on each hip, in January for the right side and in early February for the left.

Additionally, the Hawks said Brandon Saad will miss three weeks with a right ankle injury he suffered Dec. 19 against the Jets.

Seabrook's journey from being a healthy scratch on Dec. 18 to undergoing season-ending surgery without playing in

Turn to **Hawks, Page 5**



UP NEXT
Islanders at Blackhawks
7:30 p.m., NBCSCH

BEARS

Miller's future will be topic in offseason

Bears must decide if WR is all in on offensive repair effort

BY RICH CAMPBELL

Anthony Miller lay at the Bears 38-yard line Sunday night, alone with the football, waiting for some Chiefs defender to put him out of his misery.

Coach Matt Nagy had dialed up an end-around to the second-year slot receiver, but Miller took his eyes off the ball before Mitch Trubisky's toss hit his hands. Instead of a cunning misdirection play to keep the opening possession rolling, Miller's drop and the subsequent 10-yard loss killed the drive and set the tone for the offense in a 26-3 loss.

"We worked on that all week," Nagy lamented postgame. "Anthony Miller is



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears wide receiver Anthony Miller (17) runs after a catch against the Packers on Dec. 15 in Green Bay.



SEASON FINALE
Bears at Vikings
Noon Saturday, FOX-32

more frustrated than anybody, more upset than anybody that he dropped it. But those are the type of (mistakes) — because now you're second-and-long — we can't have that. We've got to be better than that."

Miller went on to catch one pass for 2 yards in the loss, the latest dip in a season that has been a perplexing roller coaster, a months-long oscillation between empty promise and promising production.

After Sunday's finale against the playoff-bound Vikings, the Bears will have to figure out what to make of Miller's growth

Turn to **Miller, Page 6**

TOP OF THE SECOND



PHIL ROSENTHAL

ESPN, you make me dizzy

Here are a couple of Christmas complaints, a tale of two cameras.

One was an unforced error in ESPN's approach to its prime-time ABC Clippers-Lakers telecast.

The other, involving a replay review in the same game, is a much bigger deal, not just because of its implications for all televised sports, but also because there's no easy answer for what to do.

Let's start with the simple one, the floating camera that moved up and down the court with the ball like some stupid video game.

This was not a good idea, especially after Christmas dinner.

It reeked of someone at ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn., brainstorming about how to put their stamp on a game.

As in: Why should LeBron and Kawhi and AD and Paul George get all the attention when viewers can be distracted by a dizzying camera angle!

Bad ESPN. Very bad.

With early NBA ratings in the toilet, you would think the league's TV partner would be especially careful in its treatment of games on Christmas, which traditionally has been when fans actually begin to care a little about the overlong regular season.

Clippers-Lakers, in prime time, was much anticipated, which is not something to be said about most matchups until after Groundhog Day.

It didn't need anything fancy. All viewers wanted was the game.

There was no need to spend the first two minutes with this camera angle almost as unsettling as Marley's ghost, and far more likely to cause indigestion.

The floating camera gimmick offered a perspective that could be useful for some replays if there were something specific to be said about off-ball movement, but it in no way enhanced the live coverage.

It's worth noting NBC tried a similar sideline camera on some football coverage this year and was similarly panned and ESPN even had dabbled with it a bit, so it's not as though it didn't know what it was getting into.

If ESPN were looking to break in this sort of thing to see if it is the future of TV, it would do everyone a favor by implementing it somewhere else first. Like maybe the ACC Network, which relatively few people see.



RINGO H.W. CHIU/AP

Lakers' LeBron James (left) and Clippers' Kawhi Leonard battle for the ball Wednesday.

Use it over and over to see if it's really a good idea and not just something to shake things up for the sake of shaking things up.

That sensible approach to experimentation, however, is not the ESPN way.

It likes to skip beta testing and go straight to rollout with elements that are in no way ready for the demands and scrutiny of programming that millions actually might care about.

The result has been national shakedown cruises for untested, unwanted and unredeemable "innovations" such as the short-lived use of the Booger Mobile and Jason Witten on "Monday Night Football," not to mention the graphic miscue that lasted exactly one half of one game this season.

(Don't get us started on whether Alex Rodriguez would be a better analyst if he had worked his way into the "Sunday Night Baseball" job and picked up the requisite experience along the way. Whole other column.)

The more complicated issue to arise during the Clippers-Lakers game stemmed from replay review in the closing seconds.

The Lakers' LeBron James attempted a 3-point shot in a bid to tie the game. The Clippers' Patrick Beverley knocked the ball from his hands. The ball went out of bounds. The refs ruled it Lakers ball.

But after exhaustive replay review, an angle eventually was found showing the

ball grazed James' fingertip, giving the Clippers the ball with 3.6 seconds to go.

A nearly imperceptible touch that would have gone unnoticed under most circumstances determined this critical play late.

Now, James gets plenty of breaks from officials.

Whether he gets this particular call is irrelevant in the scheme of things. But this isn't about him.

The question is whether a frame-by-frame analysis of any play in any sport is always worthwhile.

Apart from how replay review disrupts the flow of games and the fan experience, there are two other distinct problems with how it has played out in recent years.

One is the unwillingness, especially in the NFL, to accept what video seems to show.

The other, particularly in the NBA and MLB, is the exact opposite situation. It's the laser focus on getting calls down to the micron through everything short of DNA testing.

We see this improved technology gives us replays able to show a once-indiscernible gap between shoe and stolen base as a runner pops up from a slide or incidental contact like James' that wouldn't be noticed under any other circumstance.

But what are you going to do? What can leagues do?

LET'S PLAY 2

Sunday
@Vikings
Noon
FOX-32
END OF SEASON

Friday
Islanders
7:30 p.m.
NBCSCH
Sunday
@Jackets
4 p.m.
NBCSCH

Saturday
Hawks
7 p.m.
NBCSCH
Monday
Bucks
7 p.m.
NBCSCH

FRIDAY ON TV/RADIO

NBA
3 p.m. Cavaliers at Celtics NBA
6 p.m. 76ers at Magic NBA
9:30 p.m. Suns at Warriors NBA

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
11 a.m. North Carolina vs. Temple ESPN
2:20 p.m. Mich. St. vs. Wake Forest ESPN
5:45 p.m. Okla. State vs. Texas A&M ESPN
7 p.m. USC vs. Iowa FS1
9:15 p.m. Air Force vs. Wash. State ESPN

NHL
7 p.m. Wild at Avalanche NBCSN
7:30 p.m. Islanders at Hawks NBCSCH
WGN-AM 720

SOCCER
2 p.m. Wolves vs. Manchester City NBCSN

TENNIS
2 p.m. Hawaii Open Tennis

ASK THE REPORTER

BRAD BIGGS

How big of a priority is figuring out the tight end position? —@fridaysullivan

It needs to be very high on the list for general manager Ryan Pace and coach Matt Nagy. Trey Burton has \$4 million guaranteed for 2020, but the Bears can't put themselves in a position in which they are counting on him without having a quality backup plan. I would expand the Bears' needs to playmakers. They tout their playmakers and skill-position players, but they need upgrades and must develop better ways to utilize Tarik Cohen, who has been a nonfactor far too often.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields runs with the ball in the BIG Ten Football Championship Game against Wisconsin on Dec. 7.

FIESTA BOWL

Knee-to-know basis

OSU quarterback will not elaborate on status of injury

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, the first to take the podium Thursday at Fiesta Bowl media day, set the tone with his first words: “It is a great day to be alive.”

Had Swinney asked, he could have gotten an “Amen!” from those in attendance.

Both sides expressed genuine excitement about what promises to be an epic semifinal matchup Saturday night in the College Football Playoff.

Consider this: Clemson and Ohio State have the nation’s No. 1 and No. 2 defenses, based on total yards allowed. They also have quarterbacks Trevor Lawrence and Justin Fields, who could go No. 1 and No. 2 in the 2021 NFL draft.

“These are two great teams,” Swinney said, “that are kind of mirror images of each other.”

Ohio State coach Ryan Day put it like this: “You talk about a collection of power, speed and strength on both sides, it’s there. Clemson has speed. We have speed. They have a really good quarterback. We have a really good quarterback. It goes back and forth. It is an equated game. It will be fun to watch.”

Here are seven takeaways from media day.

1. Don’t ask Justin Fields about his left knee.

Fields gave an honest assessment Tuesday, saying it’s at 80% to 85% strength: “With treatment and just resting it every day, hopefully it will be better by the game.”

Fields said Ohio State coaches told him not to elaborate at media day, “so I’ll listen to them.”

The knee became an issue in the Buckeyes’ win at Michigan, where Fields had to exit for six plays and returned with a larger, metal brace that offensive linemen favor. He fired a scrambling touchdown pass on his first play back.

Wisconsin sacked Fields five times in the Big Ten title game, but he still threw for 299 yards.

2. Danny Kanell asked Trevor Lawrence, ‘Which receiver is your favorite?’

Kanell, the former Florida State quarterback and ESPN analyst who now hosts a SiriusXM Radio show, got a chuckle from Lawrence for asking a question that would seem to violate the quarterback code.

After Kanell audibled to different categories, Lawrence answered: The fastest is either Amari Rodgers or Frank Ladson Jr. Tee Higgins has the best hands. And Justyn Ross is the best route runner.

3. An Ohio native will take on Chase Young.

As a recruit, Jackson Carman was not shy about offering his thoughts on Ohio State.



RICHARD SHIRO/AP

Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence drops back to pass against Texas A&M on Sept. 7 in Clemson, S.C.

In September 2017 he tweeted that the Buckeyes “need to put in my bro @dh_simba7 and let him work.” That bro was quarterback Dwayne Haskins, then the backup to J.T. Barrett.

Three months later Carman stunned Buckeyes fans by decommitting from Ohio State to sign with Clemson. This was huge because Carman, a Cincinnati-area native, was the top-ranked player in Ohio in the Class of 2018 and the second-ranked offensive tackle in the nation in the 247Sports.com composite.

After Carman felt some backlash on social media, he tweeted: “I am sincerely bewildered at the negativity displayed by fans towards recruits and their decisions. A young man working hard, achieving his dream, and moving on to the next stage of his life whilst getting a free education — For what reason could a human possibly be mad at that?”

“Whilst” was not a typo. Now he’s Clemson’s starting left tackle, which means he’ll often duel Saturday with the nation’s top defensive end, Chase Young.

“I’m excited,” Carman said. “He is an amazing player.”

4. The game’s only Chicago-area native has made a name for himself.

Ohio State coach Ryan Day said this of his starting linebacker: “Yes, he’s tough. He didn’t have a choice.”

Didn’t have a choice because of what Kyle and Jeny Borland opted to name their son: Tuf.

“My dad threw it out there as a joke to my mom, and she went with it,” he said.

The birth certificate read Jared Tuf Borland, but after people mistakenly addressed him as “Jared” in elementary school, the family had it changed. Now Jared is his middle name. And no one calls him that.

Borland flourished at Bolingbrook High School, developing into the fourth-ranked player in Illinois in the Class of 2016 composite rankings. He drew offers throughout the Big Ten and chose Ohio State because “it was the whole package,” he said.

Borland is fourth on the Buckeyes with 52 tackles and received All-Big Ten honorable mention. He tore an Achilles tendon in spring practice in 2018 and didn’t miss a game that fall. So, yes, he has lived up to his name.

5. Robert Landers is an inspiration.

Ohio State’s 285-pound defensive tackle lost his father to gun violence when he was 10. Instead of expressing grief, he held it in. Finally, years later, he asked for help and has become an advocate for those who suffer from depression and anxiety.

His story was told exquisitely on Big Ten Network’s “The Journey,” and Landers said the reception was “amazing.”

“It did what I hoped it would — bring this taboo topic to the front,” Landers said. “It is allowing people to talk about it and express how they feel. The biggest message is: You’re not alone. Even people at the highest caliber on the highest stage struggle with this.”

Landers, who received All-Big Ten honorable mention this season, said of his upbeat, gregarious nature: “People say, ‘God gives you 24 hours,’ but even those 24 hours are not guaranteed. If God has allowed you to wake up, that’s a blessing. I try to count my blessings.”

And rib his teammates. After conducting interviews Thursday, he told defensive lineman Javontae Jean-Baptiste: “I’m teaching you how to do media. Take notes!”

6. The game’s best matchup will come with Clemson on offense.

But as Tigers coach Dabo Swinney sees it, it’s not Trevor Lawrence versus cornerback Jeff Okudah, a projected top-10 pick in the NFL draft.

“It’s must-see TV because our strength is our offensive line and their strength is their defensive line,” Swinney said. “They get a lot of sacks; we don’t give up many. They get a lot of tackles for loss; we don’t give up many.”

Robert Landers was not about to disagree, saying: “This will be won in the trenches. Their O-line is elite. This will be a good challenge for us.”

7. Trevor Lawrence is actually bad at something.

Golf. He couldn’t protest much after former Clemson receiver Hunter Renfrow told ESPN the Magazine: “He takes 10 practice swings, fixes his hair and takes four more practice swings. He’ll take 45 minutes and shank it.”

Lawrence loves the solitude of the game but acknowledged: “Yeah, I’m terrible, especially now because I haven’t played since the summer. I don’t think I’m that slow, but, yeah, maybe I am.”

CAMPING WORLD BOWL

Special gift for 2 ND walk-ons

Assaf, Grunhard awarded scholarships on Wednesday

BY MATT MURSCHEL

Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — With Santa and Mrs. Claus by his side, Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly spread some holiday cheer of his own when he awarded walk-ons Mick Assaf and Colin Grunhard scholarships Wednesday morning at the team hotel.

Kelly called the pair forward in front of the team to present them with wrapped gifts. They opened them to reveal a card that read, “scholarship.” Teammates rushed forward to celebrate with Assaf, a backup running back, and Grunhard, a backup center. The emotional celebration was captured on video and shared on the football team’s social media accounts.

“Two guys that have worked really hard in our program,” Kelly said Wednesday before practice for Saturday’s Camping World Bowl against Iowa State. “We have a period here where we have a couple of scholarships for the semester, so we were able to provide some aid for the rest of the academic year.”

The players were informed of the possibility of the scholarships before the end of the regular season, Kelly said.

“These guys have plans,” Kelly said. “This kid (Assaf) is going to be very successful. He’s got his own start-up company now and he can do some other things. He’s very valuable to us. He performs a lot of roles for us, from special teams to scout. He’s Ian Book’s private Uber driver. He does a lot of things well. He’s a valuable player. Well-liked. Well-respected by coaches and myself, so we thought it was appropriate to reward him.”

Assaf has played in all 12 games this season, primarily on special teams. He has nine carries for 34 yards, including a career-high 15 yards in the win over Bowling Green on Oct. 5.

The senior from Atlanta is already focusing on his post-football career, starting a company called Yoke, which Assaf told the South Bend Tribune would allow customers to pay for a chance to speak with celebrities on live FaceTime chats.

Receiver Chris Finke, a former walk-on himself, said Assaf’s reward has been a long time coming.

“He’s a high-energy guy all the time,” Finke said. “The best way to describe it relative to the team is that he cares so much about the team and all the people on it and he would give anything he has for it. That’s being rewarded, which is good to see.”

Kelly said he expected Assaf’s effusive response.

“He hugged me and almost broke my rib and (I) nearly took the scholarship back,” Kelly joked. “The reaction was what we thought it would be, overwhelming support from his teammates, and that’s the kind of kid he is.”

Focus on Cyclones: The Irish players spent Monday and Tuesday away from football enjoying the sights and sounds of Orlando, including a trip to Universal Studios as part of bowl-week festivities.

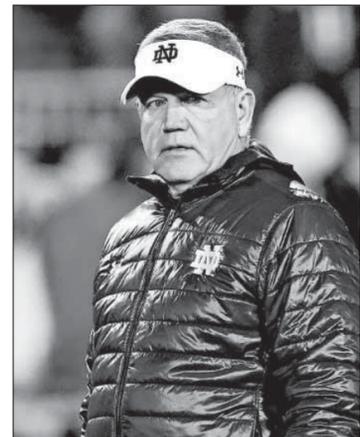
Kelly said while he wants his players to enjoy themselves, it’s time to turn the focus toward preparing for Iowa State.

“(Monday) was their chance to see Orlando and sow their oats and reward themselves for having a pretty good year,” Kelly said Wednesday. “In bowl game operations, we’ve given them that first night to go out and be college kids. They were college kids. They practiced (Tuesday) like they were out late.”

“So today, I challenged them that they have to be mature and professional the way they do their business, and I expect they will.”

Finke said it’s important for the players to separate when it’s time to work and when it’s time to have fun.

“We’ll see today,” he said. “Today’s practice will be very important.”



GERRY BROOME/AP

Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly looks on prior to a game against Duke in Durham, N.C., Saturday, Nov. 9.

UP NEXT
Camping World Bowl
Notre Dame vs. Iowa State
11 a.m. Saturday, ABC-7

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF
SEMIFINALS PREVIEW

There's an SEC blueblood that modernized its offense behind a Heisman Trophy-winning gunslinger. There's a Big Ten power guided by a first-year head coach and the best defensive player in the country. There's a Big 12 titan that has quickly become a CFP mainstay with yet another brilliant transfer QB. Oh, and don't forget the defending champs, with a 28-game win streak and a chip on its shoulder.

Fantastic four

Peach Bowl

LSU (13-0) VS. OKLAHOMA (12-1)
3 p.m. Saturday, ESPN
Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta



KEVIN C. COX/GETTY

LSU quarterback Joe Burrow

When LSU has the ball

Coaches like to talk about being aggressive offensively. That's how Heisman Trophy winner **Joe Burrow** and the Tigers play.

"Whether it's by tempo or by play design, they maintain their aggressiveness from play one until the last play of the game," Mississippi State coach Joe Moorhead said.

The Tigers often have five receivers on the field, relying on their front five to pass protect and Burrow's decision-making and mobility to avoid pressure. LSU's top three wide receivers (All-American **Ja'Marr Chase**, **Justin Jefferson** and **Terrace Marshall Jr.**) each have at least 10 touchdown catches.

Versatile running back **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** (50 catches and 1,290 yards rushing) is used frequently in the passing game as more than just an outlet.

"Even when you include the tight end (**Thaddeus Moss**), all their guys can win the one-on-one matchups," Moorhead said.

Edwards-Helaire is nursing a hamstring injury and might not play. His versatility would be missed, though probably not as much as Oklahoma will miss defensive end **Ronnie Perkins**.

Perkins, who leads the Sooners in sacks with six, is reportedly suspended for the playoff.

"The key to their defense is really to get pressure with their front, the line movement and the twists and all the things they do," Baylor coach Matt Rhule said of the Sooners.

When Oklahoma has the ball

If fans expect a typical fast-paced Big 12 offense, the Sooners might surprise them.

"They are not a high-flying tempo offense. They are pro-style, substitute personnel groupings, call two plays, getting into the right play at the line. As a result they can limit possessions," Rhule said.

Oklahoma's offenses under coach **Lincoln Riley** have always been balanced and among the best in the country on the ground. With Heisman runner-up **Jalen Hurts**, the quarterback is now the Sooners' primary ball carrier. The powerful senior ran for 1,255 yards behind a huge offensive line. **Kennedy Brooks** is the top tailback. Injuries and suspensions have depleted the depth behind him. Expect a lot of Hurts and Brooks, setting up play-action passes to All-America receiver **CeeDee Lamb**.

The Sooners don't have much chance of holding down LSU's offense without getting a bunch of turnovers. Slowing down the game might be OU's best bet.

But LSU's defense is healthier than it's been all season and their big bodies up front (**Glen Logan**, **Tyler Shelvin** and **Rashard Lawrence** all weigh over 300 pounds) are hard to move.

"They play the odd stack (three-down linemen), really kind of stuff up your interior gaps," Moorhead said.

Ralph D. Russo's pick

LSU 45-24



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts

Bowl history

LSU: Appearing in its 51st NCAA-sanctioned bowl game. This will be the Tigers' seventh trip to the Peach Bowl, their last coming in 2012 when they lost to Clemson 25-24.

Oklahoma: The 53rd postseason game for the Sooners, but their first appearance in the Peach Bowl.

How they got here ...

LSU

Aug. 31: Ga Southern, W55-3
Sept. 7: at Texas, W45-38
Sept. 14: Northwestern St., W65-14
Sept. 21: at Vanderbilt, W66-38
Oct. 5: Utah State, W42-6
Oct. 12: Florida, W42-28
Oct. 19: at Miss. St., W36-13
Oct. 26: Auburn, W23-20
Nov. 9: at Alabama, W46-41
Nov. 16: at Ole Miss, W58-37
Nov. 23: Arkansas, W56-20
Nov. 30: Texas A&M, W50-7
***Dec. 7:** Georgia, W37-10
**SEC championship game*

OKLAHOMA

Sept. 1: Houston, W49-31
Sept. 7: South Dakota, W70-14
Sept. 14: at UCLA, W48-14
Sept. 28: Texas Tech, W55-16
Oct. 5: at Kansas, W45-20
Oct. 12: Texas, W34-27
Oct. 19: West Virginia, W52-14
Oct. 26: at Kansas State, L48-41
Nov. 9: Iowa State, 42-41
Nov. 16: at Baylor, W34-31
Nov. 23: TCU, W28-24
Nov. 30: at Oklahoma State, W34-16
***Dec. 7:** Baylor, W30-23 (OT)
**Big 12 championship game*

Players to watch

LSU

QB Joe Burrow: 4,715 yards passing, SEC-record 48 TDs, 77.9 completion percentage.

WR Justin Jefferson: 88 receptions for 1,207 yards and 14 TDs.

RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire: 1,290 rushing yards and 16 TDs. Still iffy if he plays.

OKLAHOMA

QB Jalen Hurts: 3,634 yards passing, 32 TDs, 71.8 completion percentage, 1,255 yards rushing, 18 TDs.

WR CeeDee Lamb: 58 receptions for 1,208 yards and 14 TDs.

RB Kennedy Brooks: 976 yards and five TDs.

Last time they played ...

LSU defeated Oklahoma 21-14 in the Sugar Bowl for the BCS national championship (Jan. 4, 2004).

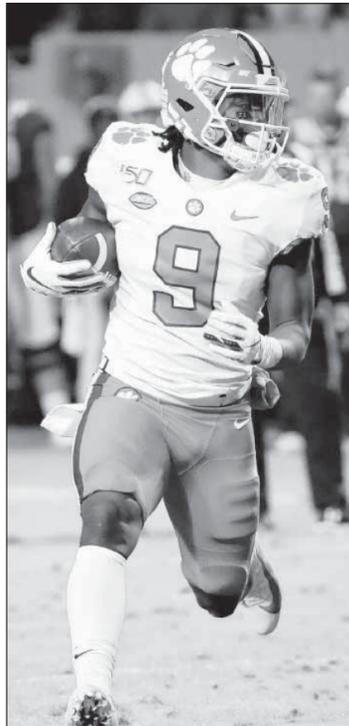
The line

LSU by 13½ | O/U 76



Fiesta Bowl

OHIO STATE (13-0) VS. CLEMSON (13-0)
7 p.m. Saturday, ESPN
State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Ariz.



KARL B DEBLAKER/AP

Clemson running back Travis Etienne

Bowl history

Clemson: 45th bowl appearance, 18th since 2005. Coming off 44-16 blowout win over Alabama in last season's CFP title game, capturing second national championship in three years.

Ohio State: 51st bowl appearance, eighth since 2014. Won Rose Bowl over Washington last season.

How they got here ...

CLEMSON

Aug. 29: Georgia Tech, W52-14
Sept. 7: Texas A&M, W24-10
Sept. 14: at Syracuse, W41-6
Sept. 21: Charlotte, W52-10
Sept. 28: at North Carolina, W21-20
Oct. 12: Florida State, W45-14
Oct. 19: at Louisville, W45-10
Oct. 26: Boston College, W59-7
Nov. 2: Wofford, W59-14
Nov. 9: at N.C. State, W55-10
Nov. 16: Wake Forest, W52-3
Nov. 30: at South Carolina, W38-3
***Dec. 7:** Virginia, W62-17
**ACC championship game*

OHIO STATE

Aug. 31: Florida Atlantic, W45-21
Sept. 7: Cincinnati, W42-0
Sept. 14: at Indiana, W51-10
Sept. 21: Miami (Ohio), W76-5
Sept. 28: at Nebraska, W48-7
Oct. 5: Michigan State, W34-10
Oct. 18: at Northwestern, W52-3
Oct. 26: Wisconsin, W38-7
Nov. 9: Maryland, W73-14
Nov. 16: at Rutgers, W56-21
Nov. 23: Penn State, W28-17
Nov. 30: at Michigan, W56-27
***Dec. 7:** Wisconsin, W34-21
**Big Ten championship game*

Players to watch



Lawrence

742 receiving yards on 55 catches and eight TDs.

CLEMSON

QB Trevor Lawrence: 3,172 yards passing, 34 TDs against eight interceptions this season.

RB Travis Etienne: 1,500 rushing yards and 17 TDs.

WR Justyn Ross: had 16½ sacks and six forced fumbles in monster 2019. Also had 31 solo tackles.



Fields

forced fumbles in monster 2019. Also had 31 solo tackles.

OHIO STATE

QB Justin Fields: 2,953 passing yards, 40 TD passes and only one interception.

RB J.K. Dobbins: 1,829 rushing yards and 20 TDs.

DE Chase Young: Heisman finalist had 16½ sacks and six forced fumbles in monster 2019. Also had 31 solo tackles.

Last time they played ...

Clemson 31, Ohio State, 0. (2016 Fiesta Bowl, CFP semifinal). ACC's Tigers embarrassed Big Ten's Buckeyes.

The line

Clemson by 1½ | O/U 63



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Ohio State defensive end Chase Young

When Ohio State has the ball

QB **Justin Fields** (40 touchdown passes and one interception) was a Heisman finalist, but **J.K. Dobbins** might be the Buckeyes' offensive MVP.

"He is the catalyst," Cincinnati coach Luke Fickell said of Dobbins.

Dobbins is tough inside and out and ran for 1,829 and 20 touchdowns. He is also effective as a receiver with 17 catches for 200 yards and two scores.

Dobbins will be attacking a Clemson defense that has been overhauled by coordinator **Brent Venables** this year. The Tigers don't dominate with their front four as they did last year. The back end of the defense is where the stars are, especially versatile All-American **Isaiah Simmons**. He is listed as a linebacker but shows up all over the field.

"They've evolved to kind of a three-safety defense," Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said.

And they rely on cornerbacks **A.J. Terrell** and **Derion Kendrick** to win on the outside against receivers.

The Buckeyes will be the first team this season that can really challenge Clemson with power up front behind All-America guard **Wyatt Davis** and third-team All-America guard **Jonah Jackson**.

Venables is not afraid to commit extra defenders to stop the run. That's where Fields' running ability can come in. A sore knee kept the 6-3, 225-pound Fields (10 touchdown runs) under wraps in the Big Ten championship game against Wisconsin.

When Clemson has the ball

The Tigers are making their fifth straight playoff appearance and have won two national titles in the last three years.

Still, this is the best Clemson offense the Tigers have had entering the playoff. The Tigers have gone from solid to elite along the line, led by second-team All-America guard **John Simpson** and sophomore left tackle **Jackson Carman**.

"If you ever try to lighten the box now you're dealing with a great offensive line and **Travis Etienne** (1,500 yards rushing and 8.24 per carry)," Clawson said.

That line, especially Carman, will be tested by college football's best pass rusher. Heisman finalist **Chase Young** had 16.5 sacks in 11 games. As teams began scheming to slow down Young, Ohio State moved him around the formation, particularly on third down.

Extra attention on Young means defensive linemen **Davon Hamilton** and **Jashon Cornell** have to be handled one-on-one. The Buckeyes challenge will be to get enough pressure to fluster **Trevor Lawrence**.

Lawrence led Clemson to a national title last year as a freshman. He has pinpoint accuracy and big targets in **Tee Higgins** and **Justyn Ross**, both 6-4. The Buckeyes are used to cornerbacks **Jeff Okudah**, an All-American, and **Damon Arnette** locking down outside receivers.

— Capsules by Ralph D. Russo, AP

Ralph D. Russo's pick

Clemson 42-35

WHITE SOX

Sullivan

Continued from Page 1

president — loved acquiring big-name players past their prime when he served as GM, hoping for one last surge to help fuel a championship season. Sometimes the moves worked, at least for what was expected. Other times they turned out to be a lot of hype that ended with little or no payoff.

Griffey came to the Sox from the Reds at the trade deadline in 2008 at age 38, a sure-fire Hall of Famer and one of the game's most marketable names.

He wound up with only three home runs and 18 RBIs in 41 games. His biggest moment came in the "Blackout Game" against the Twins, a one-game playoff for the American League Central title, when Griffey threw out Michael Cuddyer at the plate in the 1-0 win that propelled the Sox to their last postseason appearance.

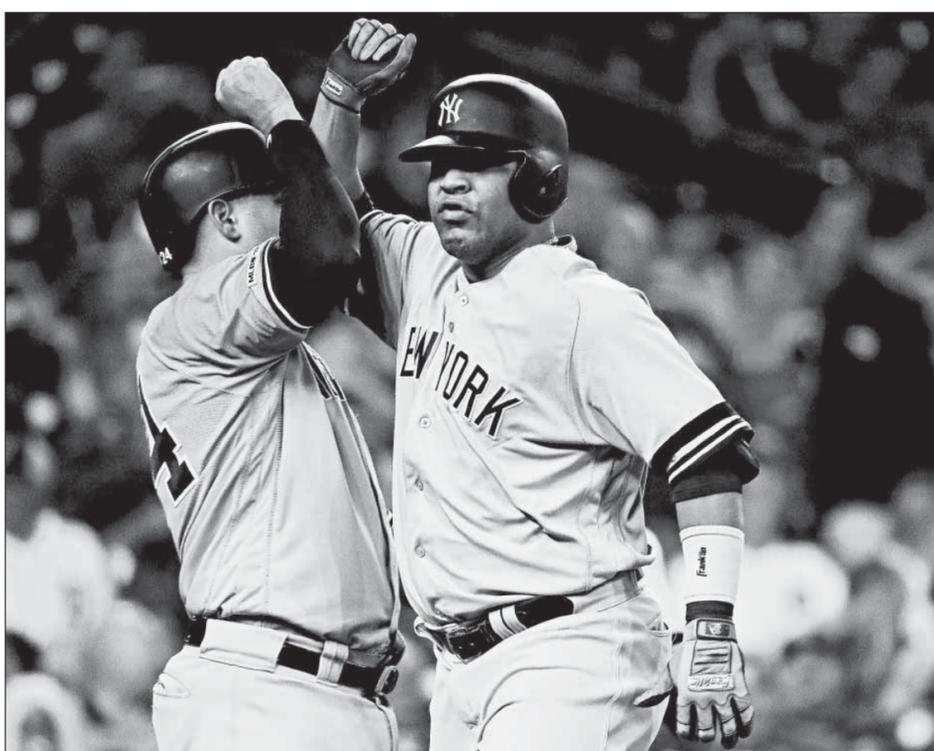
Dunn was only 31 when he arrived on a four-year, \$56 million deal before the 2011 season, but like many one-dimensional sluggers in their 30s, he was ready for a steep decline. Dunn batted .159 in his first season and hit .201 with 720 strikeouts in 528 games with the Sox, leading to his premature retirement at 34.

Encarnacion — who reportedly agreed to a one-year, \$11 million deal with a \$1 million signing bonus and a \$12 million club option in 2021 — doesn't have the star power of Griffey and won't have the pressure of being an expensive centerpiece like Dunn was during a forgettable four-year stay on the South Side.

Encarnacion comes in as a proven home run hitter who can fill the designated hitter spot on a daily basis, helping to balance the Sox lineup. He'll also strike out a lot, which is no surprise and apparently not a drawback in Hahn's mind.

Along with Jose Abreu, Yasmani Grandal, Yoan Moncada, Eloy Jimenez and top prospect Luis Robert, the Sox potentially have six hitters capable of cranking 30-plus home runs in 2020, which figures to raise the fireworks bill at Sox Park and should help increase attendance.

With the recent addition of starting pitcher Dallas Keuchel



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Yankees' Edwin Encarnacion, right, celebrates a home run with Gary Sanchez against the Tigers on Sept. 10.

and the November signing of Grandal, they also should be realistic contenders in a relatively weak division, though not a championship-caliber team.

The one little problem is this: The Sox already have a slew of players who either should be or could be used in the DH role, including Abreu, Jimenez, James McCann and Zack Collins, not to mention Grandal on days McCann or Collins is behind the plate.

It will make for some interesting lineup possibilities for manager Rick Renteria. But it doesn't give Renteria much of a chance to get Abreu off his feet, or improve his outfield defense by using Jimenez at DH on occasion, or give McCann the at-bats he needs to stay ready.

Trading McCann or returning Collins to Triple-A Charlotte is possible, but McCann's relationship with Lucas Giolito was instrumental in the pitcher's resurrection in 2019, and Collins is a former first-round draft pick with four minor-league seasons under his belt who should be ready to

contribute.

Perhaps it was too good of a deal for Hahn to pass up after everything else that has played out this winter, even if there was no urgent need for a 37-year-old DH on a team that lost 89 games last year and hasn't finished with a winning record since 2012.

The Sox have become one of the offseason's most talked about teams, adding Grandal, Keuchel and Encarnacion to their young core in an effort to end an 11-year playoff drought.

Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf has approved \$190 million worth of guaranteed contracts in those three free agents and the re-signing of Abreu. It's not exactly the level of spending that can compete annually with the Yankees, Red Sox and Astros — who should have three of the five AL playoff spots locked up for the foreseeable future — but it's a start. The Sox have to focus on competing only with the Twins and Indians for the time being and worry about the Big Three in 2021 and beyond.

One could sense Reinsdorf's

impatience at the winter meetings when he said, "I'm tired of being optimistic and then seeing my optimism was misplaced."

That optimism was misplaced as far back as 2001, when Williams, in his first big move as GM, acquired the 38-year-old Wells to add to a team that surprised almost everyone with a division title in 2000.

The Wells deal with the Blue Jays was interpreted as a sign the Sox were going for broke. But it turned into a nightmare when Wells not only bombed on the mound, but also blew up the clubhouse early in the season by attacking the character of injured slugger Frank Thomas.

Williams eventually learned from his rookie mistake and built the team that won it all in 2005.

He and Hahn won't have to worry about the low-key Encarnacion destroying the chemistry of the clubhouse on a would-be contender, and if it doesn't work out, at least the contract won't be an albatross on the blueprint for the future, as Dunn's four-year deal turned out to be.

BLACKHAWKS

Hawks

Continued from Page 1

a game appears curious. But considering he has rarely missed a game in his career, it's likely Seabrook was playing through a lot of pain.

Coach Jeremy Colliton cited "nagging injuries" as the reason Seabrook did not make the trip to Winnipeg to play the Jets last week. He has been one of the NHL's most durable players since 2005-06, having played in 1,114 of a possible 1,150 regular-season games (96.9%) before the Jets game.

Putting Seabrook and de Haan on long-term injured reserve immediately provides the Hawks with more than \$11 million in salary-cap relief that would allow them to add high-priced replacements. With Drake Caggiula and Andrew Shaw also on LTIR while out indefinitely with concussions, the Hawks have nearly \$13 million in available cap space, according to Capfriendly.

But with the Hawks near the bottom of the Western Conference standings and not flush with prospects as trade bait, general manager Stan Bowman might pass on the opportunity.

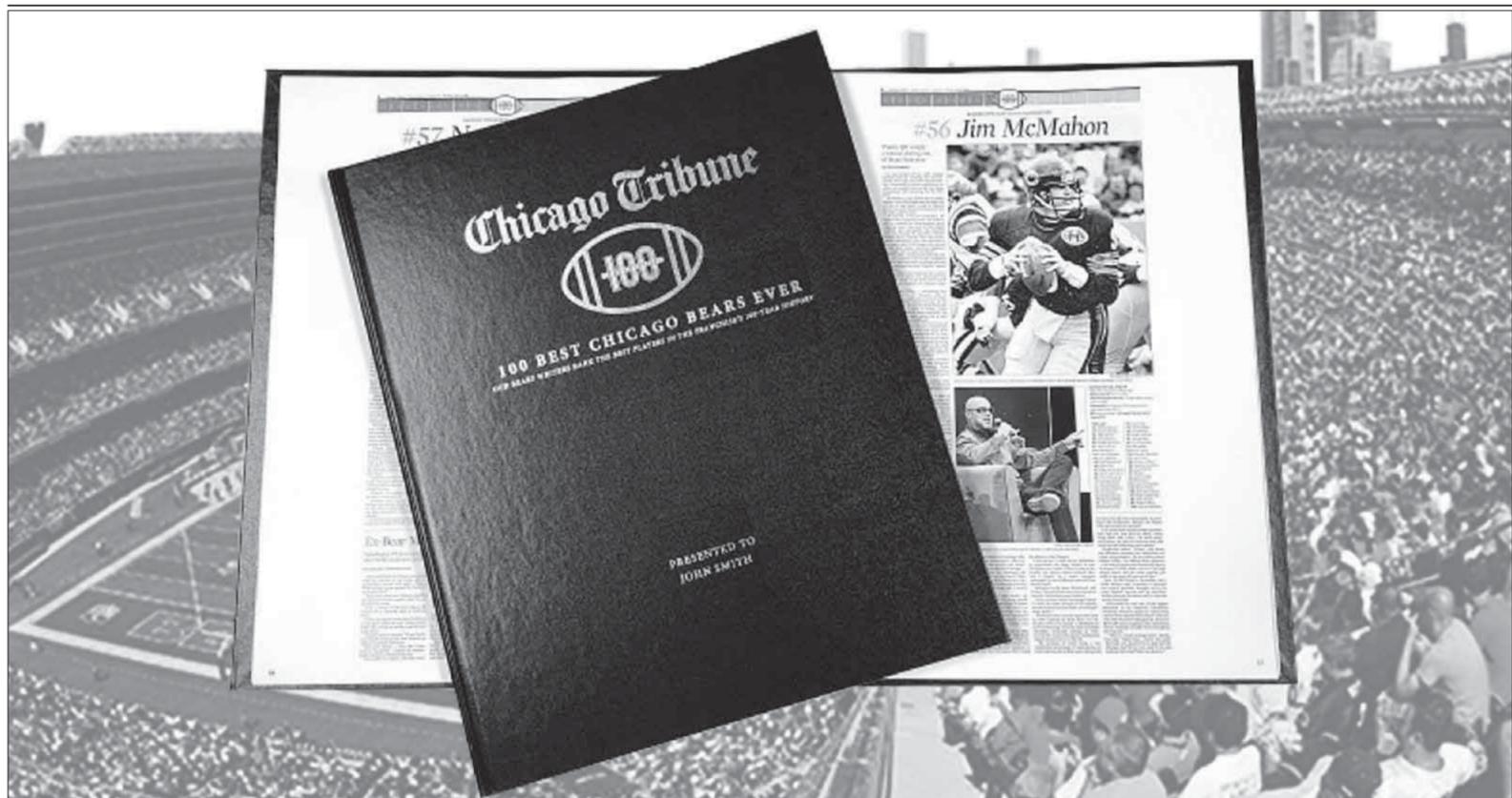
He has a little less than two months before the Feb. 24 trade deadline to decide if he will try to acquire veterans for a playoff push.

It's too early to know what this could mean for Seabrook's long-term status. He will be 35 in April and has four seasons left on a contract extension he signed in 2016 that carries a \$6.875 million cap hit.

The Hawks can get by with carrying Seabrook's cap hit — and might have no choice if he's healthy after the surgeries — but he might no longer have a spot in the lineup when he's healthy.

Veterans Duncan Keith, Olli Maatta, Connor Murphy and de Haan are under contract at least through 2021-22, and rookies Dennis Gilbert and Adam Boqvist appear to be part of the Hawks' future.

Whether Seabrook will be part of it remains to be seen.



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Six teams still vying for byes

News services

Six teams are still fighting for three important spots to ease their path to the Super Bowl.

While 10 teams have clinched playoff spots entering Week 17, only the Ravens (13-2) have earned a first-round bye. The Ravens secured the AFC's No. 1 seed for the first time in franchise history.

The Patriots (12-3) and Chiefs (11-4) are battling for the No. 2 spot.

In the NFC, the top two seeds are still up for grabs. The 49ers (12-3), Packers (12-3), Saints (12-3) and Seahawks (11-4) each have a chance to clinch home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

No team has reached the Super Bowl without a first-round bye since the 2012 Ravens. Eighteen of the last 25 Super Bowl champions have been either a No. 1 or No. 2 seed.

The 2010 Packers were the last wild-card team to advance to the Super Bowl.

Over the last 25 years, 39 of the 50 teams that played in the Super Bowl were either a No. 1 or a No. 2 seed. There were 13 No. 2 seeds, two No. 3 seeds, six No. 4 seeds, one No. 5 seed and two No. 6 seeds.

Ingram 'pretty sure' he'll be ready: Ravens running back Mark Ingram II said he's "pretty sure" he will play in the team's divisional round playoff game in two weeks after suffering what coach John Harbaugh categorized as a "mild-to-moderate" calf strain.

Ingram suffered the non-contact injury during the fourth quarter of Sunday's 31-15 win over the Browns. He didn't return to the game and left the stadium in a walking boot.

"I'm smooth. I'm good, so I'll be ready for the first playoff game," Ingram said Thursday, speaking to reporters for the first time since the injury. "I have confidence I'll be ready to go for that first playoff game."

Harbaugh announced Monday that Ingram, as well as quarterback Lamar Jackson and additional starters, won't dress for the regular-season finale against the Steelers.

Ingram said he was worried the injury may have been more severe than it ended up being after he heard "a little pop" and fell to the ground.

"I didn't have any indicators today, I was feeling good today," Ingram said. "For that to happen randomly on a step that I've taken 8 million times, it was kind of nerve-wracking."

"It just felt like somebody kicked me or hit me in the back of my calf. I didn't know if Lamar had clefted me when he ran by, but he didn't. I just felt like somebody kind of popped a balloon in my calf. You hear about that feeling ... when guys do more serious stuff, so I'm just happy it wasn't serious like that."

Raiders' Jacobs undergoes surgery: Raiders rookie running back Josh Jacobs underwent a minor surgical procedure on his left leg Christmas night, but the team still hopes he'll be able to play Sunday against the Broncos in Denver.

Jacobs delivered the surprising news in his Instagram story Wednesday night, including a video of him being wheeled out of surgery.

"This was random. I didn't plan on even being here. Surgery went great. Fastest surgery ever," Jacobs wrote.

Jacobs' surgery was to deal with an infection, not the result of an injury, the Raiders confirmed in a statement.

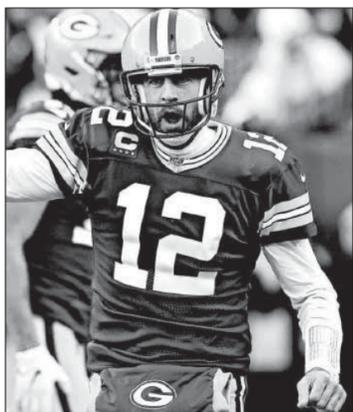
"Josh Jacobs woke up with discomfort in his leg on Wednesday and he was evaluated and treated for a superficial skin infection," the Raiders said.

NFL Network reported the Raiders are still hoping Jacobs can play Sunday as they try to clinch a playoff berth. Jacobs has missed two of the last three games due to the effects of a fractured shoulder.

Jacobs smashed the Raiders' all-time rookie rushing record this season with 1,150 yards.

Falcons rookie gets ban: Falcons rookie cornerback Jordan Miller was suspended for four games without pay for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancing substances.

Miller will miss the season finale and the first three games of 2020.



DYLAN BUELL/GETTY

QB Aaron Rodgers and the Packers enter Week 17 with a shot at securing a first-round bye in the playoffs.



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears wide receiver Anthony Miller (17) makes a 32-yard reception as Lions cornerback Justin Coleman defends at Ford Field Thursday, Nov. 28, in Detroit.

Miller

Continued from Page 1

and calibrate what they can depend on from him in the offensive rebuilding effort ahead.

"We all sat here in Week 1 trying to figure out why he wasn't on the field a lot," receivers coach Mike Furrey said Dec. 10. "It was more of the mental part. It was more of the maturity part than it was the ability. Throughout the process, he has been humbled enough to understand that you have to show up every day. You have to prepare. You can't just go out there and play playground on Sundays or you won't play."

Miller responded productively to the early season challenge. Through four games, he had four catches for 28 yards. Over the four games from Week 12 to Week 15, he had 27 catches for 377 yards and two touchdowns.

That four-game surge, extrapolated to 16, amounts to 1,508 yards on 108 catches, output that would put him among the NFL's best. As unrealistic as it might be to sustain that, Miller points to that production as proof of what he's capable of for a Bears offense that needs all the help it can get and can't afford to be picky.

"That's what I expected when I stepped in the league," Miller said two days before the Chiefs game. "I know the type of impact player I can be. I don't like bringing up old stuff, but if you go back and look at Memphis, I have the capability of taking over a game. If you just give me the opportunity, my attitude and how I bring intensity to the game, it's like: 'Throw me the ball and nobody can mess with me.'"

That word — opportunity — is central to any discussion about Miller.

The coaching staff has said Miller hadn't earned its trust at the beginning of the season and therefore didn't earn an opportunity to contribute as much as he has in the second half.

Said Furrey: "I think it was lack of trust from Mitch. I think it was lack of trust from us, making sure he's going to do what he's supposed to do. You can't put a guy out there doing things wrong with ... guys who understand the game, and then they're going to tell people how to get lined up. Then they've got to tell them what their assignment is. All those details."

Miller has a different perspective. "Early in the season, I can say I was messing up — but not to the extent of 'We can't play this guy,'" he said. "But, yeah, that had a little something to do with it earlier this season. But I guess I got right in their eyes."

As Miller sees it, the turning points in his season have coincided more with receiver Taylor Gabriel's two concussions. Gabriel's absence for Games 4 and 5 and then the last four games have created a void Miller has helped fill.

Furrey, though, attributes Miller's success in those opportunities to improved command of details.

"When you're not playing, you better figure out how to get in to play," Furrey said.

"I know the type of impact player I can be. I don't like bringing up old stuff, but if you go back and look at Memphis, I have the capability of taking over a game."

—Bears wide receiver Anthony Miller

"That's going out to practice, not lining up wrong, messing around or goofing around — the maturity part. Maturity-wise he has done a heck of a job. He has understood what it's like to be a pro."

Not that the growth has been linear. Miller has 651 yards on 51 catches, increases from 423 and 33 last season. His touchdowns, though, are down from seven to two.

In the loss to the Rams on Nov. 17, Trubisky was intercepted on a throw intended for Miller, who ran his comeback route 2 yards deeper than the play called for. As a result, he didn't come out of his break with enough time to react before the ball arrived, and the Rams picked off the deflection.

Then there was the delay-of-game penalty the Bears incurred against the Lions on Thanksgiving after Miller's second third-down catch on the game-winning drive. In celebrating his fantastic grab, the Bears' substitution between plays was delayed.

"Even though we've matured in the process, we're still in that process," Furrey said. "The passion is one thing out of Anthony I would never take (away). There's still going to be — not hiccups anymore — it's more going to be learning points of, OK, you've done that, here's what happens now. And you keep growing, which is what he's doing."

The payoff has been evident in 100-yard games against the Lions and Packers. On his catch-and-run for a touchdown against the Cowboys, Miller set up his blocks and spun through contact into the end zone, showing determination and savvy as a runner.

"He had a mindset that no one's stopping him getting to that goal line, and you felt it," Nagy said. "And you felt the energy after he scored. Another example of guys detailing leverage, detailing what they're supposed to do, executing and making us look like good coaches."

Consistency is Miller's next challenge. Understanding the Bears need more from him than flashes. They need Miller to be reliable, especially considering their trade up and second-round investment in him last year.

For Miller to go from 118 receiving yards against the Packers on Dec. 15 to 2 yards against the Chiefs on Sunday underscores the uncertainty he represents in their plan.

The finale against the Vikings is his chance to leave a strong lasting impression. One more game to prove his mastery of details and focus.

BASKETBALL

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Houston claims title in Hawaii

Associated Press

Houston coach Kelvin Sampson has seen steady improvement from his team over the first few months of the season.

The Cougars took another big step in the right direction Wednesday.

Fabian White Jr. and Caleb Mills scored 19 points each to help Houston rally to a 75-71 win over No. 21 Washington in the title game of the Diamond Head Classic.

The Cougars (10-3) trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half, but outscored the Huskies (10-3) 44-35 after halftime to win their fourth straight.

"We just kept chipping and chipping and chipping, but that's a really good team," Sampson said of Washington, which had won eight of its previous nine. "Early in the game they were hitting everything — easy shots, hard shots, medium shots — they were running it down our throat."

White shot 7 of 13 from the field and hit all five of his free throws to finish with a career-high in points scored and earn the tournament's most outstanding player honors.

Mills hit three of his team's eight 3-pointers.

"I was really proud of our young guys. Caleb Mills is a freshman, Marcus Sasser a freshman, Quentin Grimes a sophomore and Fabian White a junior — we only have one senior," Sampson said.

He added, "Earlier in the year you could tell we were trying to figure out who we were, just searching for an identity, but we hung in there and kept working and this is the key to our program: today is December 25th. We're a lot better on December 25th than we were on November 25th and we were a lot better on November 25th than we were on October 25th, but I do believe this, I think we're going to be a lot better January 25th."

Houston shot 17 of 18 (94.4 percent) as a team from the foul line.

Washington took a 35-21 lead with 6:01 left until halftime on Isaiah Stewart's free throw, but Houston closed out the first half with a 10-1 run to get within 36-31 at the break.

Stewart finished with 25 points while Nahziah Carter added 15. Quade Green had 11 points and seven assists and Jaden McDaniels added 10 points in the loss.

Washington committed 15 turnovers to seven for Houston. There were five ties and 10 lead changes.

Houston saw leading scorer Grimes held to 14 points by the Huskies, but the sophomore guard still managed six assists and five rebounds. Grimes entered the game averaging 22 points in the Cougars' first two games of the tournament and 15.3 on the season.

Washington saw its three-game streak come to an end. The Huskies were seeking their ninth win in 10 games.

The loss will likely drop the Huskies a few spots, while the Cougars can expect to grab some votes when poll is released Monday.

Stewart, a preseason All-Pac-12 selection and likely lottery pick in June's NBA draft, took just three shots in the first half and had seven points at the break. He went on to score 18 points on 7-of-10 shooting from the field after halftime. He made nine of 10 from the free-throw line and recorded three of Washington's six blocks.

"Washington is not an easy team to guard because of Stewart and they played really, really well offensively," Sampson said. "Our defense rebounded, we played to our identity, our culture kicked in."

Stewart entered the game averaging a team-high 18.8 points and 8.9 rebounds per game. He was coming off of four consecutive double-double outings.

"He's an elite player, no getting around that, and other guys on our team gotta step up," Washington coach Mike Hopkins said. "We got some good opportunities, we missed some easy shots and at the end there was some hustle plays, second-chance baskets, full clocks, dribble-penetration (by Houston) and you can't allow that to happen."

It was the first meeting between the teams since Dec. 24, 2004, which Washington won by a score of 110-63. ... The Huskies had won three of the last four times against the Cougars and still lead the all-time series 5-3.



MARCO GARCIA/AP

Quentin Grimes attempts a 3-point shot during Houston's win in the final of the Diamond Head Classic on Wednesday.

BEARS

5 THINGS WE HEARD

Defense lacking big plays

BY COLLEEN KANE

Bears coordinators held their final media session of the season Thursday at Halas Hall. Here are five things we heard.

1. The Bears haven't had a takeaway in three straight games, but they're 'working on it.'

The only time the Bears forced a turnover in the last month was Eddie Jackson's interception to seal the Thanksgiving victory over the Lions, a "free one," Jackson said, as third-string quarterback David Blough launched a desperation pass. The Bears failed to record a takeaway against the Cowboys, Packers and Chiefs.

Granted, the Bears faced Aaron Rodgers and Patrick Mahomes in back-to-back weeks, and those two quarterbacks have combined to throw just seven interceptions all season. But the Bears aren't happy about the drought.

"We've been working on it," defensive coordinator Chuck Pagano said. "We've been talking about it. We show all the clips. We just haven't been able to force 'em. So we'll do the same thing. We'll go out today and work on intercepting the football, punching the ball out, attack the football and hopefully it will come. That's all we can do."

After totaling 27 interceptions last year, the Bears have just eight this year. If they don't get one Sunday against the Vikings, that would tie for the franchise low the Bears recorded in three straight seasons from 2015 to 2017.

Pagano, who took over for Vic Fangio this year, didn't have a definitive reason Thursday for why the interception total is down.

He said he'll be able to provide a better answer after the unit self-scouts in the offseason.

2. David Montgomery's competitiveness has left an impression on Mark Helfrich.

Even though the Bears haven't gotten what they wanted out of the running game this season, coach Matt Nagy said earlier this week he likes the growth in running back David Montgomery. The rookie has rushed for 776 yards and five touchdowns on 219 carries (3.5 yards per carry).

Nagy believes Montgomery taking his development to the next level next season will be important for the offense, and offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich believes that can start with Montgomery's competitive fire.

"He's a competitive dude in every way," Helfrich said. "We were just in a walk-through, and



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bears safety Eddie Jackson (39) intercepts a pass for Lions receiver Kenny Golladay (19) on Thanksgiving. It's the Bears' most recent takeaway.

he's asking questions about picking up this blitz and this angle. Stuff matters to him in every aspect, and you can see the hesitation in Week 2 or 3 or 4 is gone on this play, but maybe not on play X, Y and Z. (It's) just reps — reps and confidence and believing in himself and cutting it loose a little bit more."

3. Chris Tabor said the Bears have not talked about bringing in offseason competition for Eddy Pineiro, who Tabor thinks has 'grown immensely.'

Matt Nagy said Monday the Bears are "in a good place with" kicker Eddy Pineiro and have confidence in him going forward.

The rookie has made all of his kicks in the last four games: five field goals and eight extra points. Pineiro endured a rough five-game stretch earlier this season in which he missed four field goals and two extra points.

Special teams coordinator Chris Tabor said he believes Pineiro has stayed mentally focused on improving his routine and technique.

"You go all the way back to OTAs, looking at some of that tape, to where the product is right now, just with regards to his routine,

how he hits the ball, how he follows through, the trajectory — there are a lot of things that he's improved at," Tabor said. "And the thing that I'm still excited about, because he is a young player, he can still grow, and I see that in him. But I've been real pleased with where he's at."

That doesn't mean the Bears won't bring in another kicker in the offseason to compete with Pineiro, and Tabor doesn't necessarily think it would be a bad thing.

"I'll say this about all players, not just at that position: Competition breeds success," Tabor said. "If you're a true competitor, you always want to be able to compete. But I haven't even thought about any of that stuff, to be honest with you."

4. Leonard Floyd hasn't made many splashy plays this season, but Chuck Pagano continues to tout his every-down play.

If fourth-year outside linebacker Leonard Floyd doesn't record a sack Sunday against the Vikings, he would finish with a career-low three.

Before the season, Bears coaches expressed optimism that

Floyd's pass-rushing production could be on the rise. But even as teammate Khalil Mack takes on double and triple teams, Floyd hasn't capitalized. He has one sack in his last 14 games. While Pagano acknowledges Floyd and the defensive linemen need to take advantage of such opportunities, he also makes sure to note Floyd's contributions in other areas such as run defense and pass coverage, giving the Bears a complicated picture to consider as they weigh whether to bring him back at a high cost next season.

"He's been consistent," Pagano said. "Does he have the sack numbers that we all wanted? No. Does Khalil have 'em? No. The turnovers, we haven't produced in those areas the way we wanted to. But he's done a heck of a job. He comes in here every single day and prepares and practices hard and plays hard every single down."

"The splash plays that we all love to see, we didn't see as many of them, and he'd be the first one to tell you that. But down-in and down-out, he does a great job. He's always sacrificing for the team. It's never about him. It's never about numbers. It's always what's best for the team."

5. The Bears will focus on cleaning up Aaron Lynch's jumpiness at the line of scrimmage.

Outside linebacker Aaron Lynch has been penalized more this season than any time in his career. He has two offside penalties and four neutral-zone infractions, including a key one on third down Sunday that extended a Chiefs drive.

"He needs some ear plugs, I don't know," Pagano joked. "It's not intentional, we know that. He doesn't want to do that. He'll take some first and second (downs) in run-situation snaps off the guys, but a lot of times he's in on third down and he's there to rush the passer and go get the quarterback on the ground. With that comes the hard count and all this other stuff. It's something we'll focus on in the offseason to clean up."

Pagano took responsibility for helping Lynch avoid penalties.

"Just look at the ball," Pagano said. "We study tape. We give him a bunch of information — the mannerisms of the quarterback, the center's mannerisms. Everybody's trying to get a jump on the snap. We've just got to be better. I've got to do a better job with him."

Robinson receives Bears Media Good Guy award

BY COLLEEN KANE

Wide receiver Allen Robinson on Thursday was named the 2019 Bears Media Good Guy by the Chicago chapter of the Pro Football Writers of America. Local reporters vote on the annual award, which goes to the member

of the organization who most helps the media do their jobs.

Robinson received the award for consistently being available, professional and engaged with reporters. He was presented with the award Thursday at Halas Hall.

Quarterback Mitch Trubisky was the runner-up in voting as he

handled his news conferences during a tough season with poise.

Robinson said his approach to media responsibilities has developed with maturity and learning how to handle himself during some tough seasons with the Jaguars. In dealing with outsiders during the season, he said he

understands "fans want to come see good football, and the media has a job to do."

"I understand that (reporters) have a job to do," Robinson said. "Even if it's tough games or whatever it may be, I try to give as much time as I can when I'm in more of an upbeat mood. Because

I know sometimes after a loss or after something (tough), I may not be able to give you guys that much time. So it's just kind of understanding how it goes."

Robinson is the seventh winner of the award since the Chicago chapter of the PFWA began it in 2013.



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Chicago Tribune

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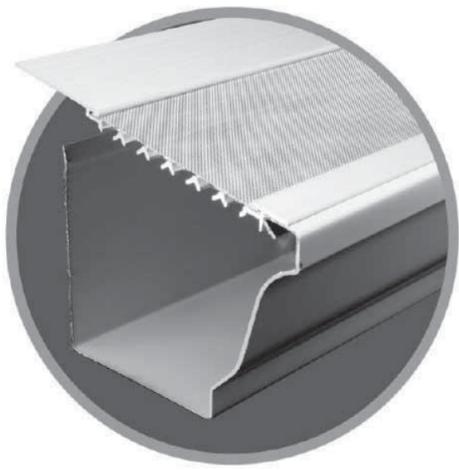
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SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	21	7	.750	—
Philadelphia	21	10	.687 ½	
Toronto	21	10	.677 ½	
Brooklyn	16	14	.533 6	
New York	8	24	.250 15	

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	22	8	.733	—
Orlando	13	17	.433 9	
Charlotte	13	20	.394 10½	
Washington	9	21	.300 13	
Atlanta	6	25	.194 16½	

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	27	5	.844	—
Indiana	21	10	.677 ½	
Chicago	12	20	.375 15	
Detroit	12	20	.375 15	
Cleveland	9	21	.300 17	

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	21	10	.677	—
Dallas	20	10	.667 ½	
San Antonio	12	18	.400 8½	
Memphis	12	20	.375 9½	
New Orleans	9	23	.281 12	

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	21	9	.700	—
Utah	18	12	.600 3	
Oklahoma City	15	15	.500 6	
Portland	14	17	.452 7½	
Minnesota	10	19	.345 10½	

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Lakers	24	7	.774	—
L.A. Clippers	23	10	.697 2	
Sacramento	12	18	.400 11½	
Phoenix	11	19	.367 12½	
Golden State	8	24	.250 16½	

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit 132, Washington 102
New York 94, Brooklyn 82
Memphis 110, Oklahoma City 97
Dallas 102, San Antonio 98
Minnesota at Sacramento, late
Portland at Utah, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Cleveland at Boston, 3 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Indiana at Miami, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Memphis at Denver, 4 p.m.
Indiana at New Orleans, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Houston, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
New York at Washington, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Sacramento, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Portland, 9 p.m.
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Oklahoma City at Toronto, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Houston at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 7 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

KNICKS 94, NETS 82

NEW YORK: Morris Sr. 8-16 5-5 22, Randle 14-26 0-0 33, Gibson 0-4 0-0 0, Barrett 2-10 0-0 5, Payton 6-12 0-1 13, Brazdelicis 0-0 0-0 0, Knox 11-3 2-2 4, Portis 0-4 2-2 2, Robinson 4-6 2-5 10, Dotson 1-3 0-0 2, K. Allen 0-1 0-0 0, Ntilikina 1-5 0-0 3. Totals 37-92 11-15 94.
BROOKLYN: Harris 3-12 0-0 8, Prince 1-10 0-0 3, J. Allen 0-2 4-6 4, Dinwiddie 5-15 12-17 25, Temple 2-2 1-2 7, Chandler 2-9 0-0 4, Kurucs 2-4 2-2 8, Luwawu-Cabarrot 2-3 4-4 10, Musa 1-2 0-0 2, Pinson 1-3 0-0 3, Ellenson 0-2 0-0 0, Jordan 2-6 4-5 8. Totals 21-78 37-92.

NEW YORK 24, BROOKLYN 15

3-Point Goals: New York 9-29 (Randle 5-9, Ntilikina 1-3, Barrett 1-4, Morris Sr. 1-4, Payton 1-4, Portis 0-4), Brooklyn 13-50 (Dinwiddie 3-9, Kurucs 2-2, Luwawu-Cabarrot 2-3, Harris 2-7, Temple 2-7, Pinson 1-3, Prince 1-10, Ellenson 0-2, Chandler 0-6). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** New York 60 (Robinson 10), Brooklyn 50 (Temple 9). **Assists:** New York 16 (Payton 4), Brooklyn 17 (Dinwiddie, Pinson 3). **Total Fouls:** New York 27, Brooklyn 19.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	22	7	9	53	130	100
Toronto	20	14	4	44	133	122
Montreal	18	13	6	42	121	117
Florida	18	13	5	41	127	121
Buffalo	17	14	7	41	115	119
Tampa Bay	18	13	4	40	124	111
Ottawa	16	18	4	36	106	123
Detroit	9	26	3	21	82	150

METRO.

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	26	7	5	57	137	111
N.Y. Islanders	23	9	3	49	105	91
Philadelphia	21	11	5	47	121	106
Pittsburgh	21	11	4	46	120	96
Carolina	22	13	6	46	124	102
Columbus	17	14	6	40	98	110
N.Y. Rangers	17	15	4	38	114	118
New Jersey	12	19	5	29	91	128

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	24	8	6	54	118	99
Colorado	23	11	3	49	134	103
Winnipeg	21	14	2	44	113	107
Dallas	20	14	4	44	100	97
Nashville	18	12	6	42	126	116
Minnesota	18	15	5	41	118	126
Chicago	15	17	6	36	105	125

PACIFIC

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Arizona	21	14	4	46	117	99
Vegas	20	14	4	46	122	118
Edmonton	20	16	4	44	117	124
Calgary	19	15	5	43	104	116
Vancouver	19	15	4	42	124	115
Anaheim	15	18	4	34	96	114
San Jose	16	20	2	34	101	133
Los Angeles	15	20	4	34	99	124

2 pts for win, 1 pt for shootout/OT loss

THURSDAY'S RESULT

No games scheduled.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Boston at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Toronto at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Columbus at Washington, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Nashville, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Anaheim, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Jose, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Washington at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Colorado at Dallas, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Florida, 6 p.m.
Nashville at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Arizona at Vegas, 9 p.m.
Philadelphia at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Winnipeg at St. Louis, 2 p.m.
Chicago at Columbus, 4 p.m.
New Jersey at Ottawa, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Buffalo at Boston, 6 p.m.
Montreal at Florida, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.
Dallas at Arizona, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Anaheim, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 8:30 p.m.

GOLF

2020 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS SCHEDULE

Jan. 16-18: Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, Hualalai GC, Ka'uapulehu-Kona, Hawaii
Jan. 30-Feb. 1: Morocco Champions, Samanah GC, Marrakech, Morocco
Feb. 14-16: Chubb Classic, The Classics CC at Lely Resort, Naples, Fla.
Feb. 28-March 1: Colouard Classic, Omni Tucson National (Catalina Course), Tucson, Ariz.

March 6-8: Hoag Classic, Newport Beach CC, Newport Beach, Calif.
March 27-29: Rawparc System Classic, Fallen Oak, Biloxi, Miss.
April 17-19: Mitsubishi Electric Classic, TPC Sugarloaf, Duluth, Ga.
May 1-3: Inspecity Invitational, The Woodlands CC (Tournament Course), The Woodlands, Texas

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW AP MEN'S TOP 25 FARED

Thursday

1. Gonzaga (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Detroit, Monday, Dec. 30.
2. Ohio State (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25 West Virginia, Sunday.

3. Louisville (11-1) did not play. Next: at No. 6 Kentucky, Saturday.
4. Duke (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Brown, Saturday.

5. Kansas (9-2) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Sunday.
6. Oregon (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama State, Sunday.

7. Baylor (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Jackson State, Monday, Dec. 30.
8. Auburn (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Lipscomb, Sunday.

9. Memphis (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. New Orleans, Monday.
10. Villanova (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Monday, Dec. 30.

11. Michigan (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. UMass Lowell, Sunday.
12. Butler (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Louisiana-Monroe, Saturday.

13. Maryland (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Bryant, Sunday.
14. Michigan State (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Western Michigan, Sunday.

15. San Diego State (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Cal Poly, Saturday.
16. Virginia (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Navy, Sunday.

17. Florida State (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. North Alabama, Saturday.
18. Dayton (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. North Florida, Dec. 30.

19. Kentucky (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Louisville, Saturday.
20. Penn State (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Cornell, Sunday.

21. Washington (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. UCLA, Jan. 2.
22. West Virginia (10-1) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Ohio State, Sunday.

23. Texas Tech (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. Cal State Bakersfield, Sunday.
24. Arizona (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Saturday, Jan. 4.

25. Iowa (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Kennesaw State, Saturday.

MEN'S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

EAST
Coppin St. at Mt. St. Mary's, 6 p.m.
Mass.-Lowell at Loyola (Md.), 6 p.m.
SATURDAY
EAST
American U. at Georgetown, 11 a.m.
Bucknell at La Salle, 1 p.m.
Coll. of Charleston at Drexel, 1 p.m.
Marist at Columbia, 1 p.m.
Northeastern at Towson, 1 p.m.
Fairfield at Wagner, 3 p.m.
Longwood at George Washington, 3 p.m.
Niagara at Syracuse, 6 p.m.
UNC-Wilmington at Delaware, 6 p.m.

SOUTH

Brown at Duke, 10:30 a.m.
Alice Lloyd at Morehead St., 11 a.m.
Long Beach St. at Florida, 11 a.m.
Piedmont at W. Carolina, 11 a.m.
Milligan at Mercer, noon
Milwaukee at N. Kentucky, noon
St. Peter's at Hampton, noon
New Orleans at Memphis, 12:30 p.m.
Wisconsin at Tennessee, 12:30 p.m.
N. Alabama at Florida St., 1 p.m.
Thomas (Ga.) at UAB, 1 p.m.
Louisville at Kentucky, 2:45 p.m.
E. Kentucky at E. Carolina, 3 p.m.
Hofstra at James Madison, 3 p.m.
Mobile at S. Alabama, 3 p.m.
Carver at Jacksonville St., 4 p.m.
William Peace at UNC-Greensboro, 4 p.m.
Piedmont Intl. at
Charleston Southern, 4:30 p.m.
Belmont at W. Kentucky, 6:30 p.m.
Cumberland at Murray St., 7 p.m.

MIDWEST

Cent. Michigan at Purdue, 11 a.m.
Youngstown St. at IUPUI, 11 a.m.
Cent. Arkansas at Marquette, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Wright St., 1 p.m.
Toledo at Bradley, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 2 p.m.
FIU at Minnesota, 3 p.m.
Louisiana-Monroe at Butler, 3 p.m.
Cleveland St. at Ill.-Chicago, 3:12 p.m.
Midland at Creighton, 5 p.m.

SOUTHWEST

Paul Quinn College at
Stephen F. Austin, 2 p.m.
Our Lady of the Lake at UTSA, 3 p.m.

HOW AP WOMEN'S TOP 25 FARED

Thursday

1. UConn (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Wichita State, Thursday, Jan. 2.
2. Oregon (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Corban, Saturday.

3. Oregon State (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Cal State Bakersfield, Sunday.
4. South Carolina (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 Kentucky, Thursday, Jan. 2.

5. Stanford (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. UC Davis, Saturday.
6. Baylor (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Morehead State, Monday, Dec. 30.

7. Louisville (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse, Sunday.
8. Florida State (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Sunday.

9. N.C. State (11-0) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Sunday.
10. UCLA (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Sunday.

11. Texas A&M (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Sunday.
12. Maryland (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 Michigan, Saturday.

13. Kentucky (10-1) did not play. Next: at No. 5 South Carolina, Thursday, Jan. 2.
14. Indiana (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 19 Michigan State, Saturday.

15. Mississippi State (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Little Rock, Sunday.
16. DePaul (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Sunday.

17. Gonzaga (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Portland, Sunday.
18. Arizona (11-0) did not play. Next: at Arizona State, Sunday.

19. West Virginia (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Cornell, Tuesday, Dec. 31.
20. Arkansas (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. UT Martin, Sunday.

21. Missouri State (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. William Jewell, Tuesday, Dec. 31.

22. Tennessee (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Howard, Sunday.

23. Michigan (9-2) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Maryland, Saturday.

24. Miami (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Sunday.

25. Texas (7-4) did not play. Next: vs. NW State, Sunday.

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

EAST
NC Cent. at LIU Brooklyn, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Penn St., 1 p.m.
Michigan at Maryland, 7 p.m.
SOUTH
N. Dakota at New Orleans, 11 a.m.
Yale at N. Carolina, noon
Florida A&M at LSU, noon
Holy Cross at N. Florida, noon
Presbyterian at UNC-Asheville, 1 p.m.
Central Michigan at
Bethune-Cookman, 1 p.m.
Charleston S. at SC-Upstate, 1 p.m.
Hampton at Winthrop, 1 p.m.
High Point at Campbell, 1 p.m.
Gardner-Webb at Longwood, 2 p.m.
Alabama St. at Mississippi, 2 p.m.
Jacksonville St. at Auburn, 2 p.m.
Md.-E. Shore at Charlotte, 3 p.m.
Faulkner at S. Miss., 4 p.m.
Cumberland University at
Murray St., 5 p.m.

MIDWEST
Purdue at Ohio St., 11 a.m.
Oakland at Detroit, 11 a.m.
IUPUI at Youngstown St., noon
Iowa at Nebraska, 1 p.m.
N. Kentucky at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
UIC at Cleveland St., 1 p.m.
Chicago St. at Valparaiso, 2 p.m.
Wright St. at Milwaukee, 2 p.m.
Rutgers at Wisconsin, 2 p.m.
Northwestern at Illinois, 2 p.m.
Texas Rio Grande Vall. at Kansas St., 2 p.m.
Michigan St. at Indiana, 5 p.m.

SOUTHWEST

New Mexico St. at
Abilene Christian, noon
Grand Canyon at California, 9 p.m.

NFL

AFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	396	198	6-1-0	6-2-0	8-3-0	4-0-0	5-0-0
x-Buffalo	10	5	0	.667	308	245	4-3-0	4-2-0	7-4-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
N.Y. Jets	6	9	0	.400	263	353	5-3-0	1-6-0	3-8-0	3-1-0	1-4-0
Miami	4	11	0	.267	279	470	3-5-0	1-6-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	1-4-0

SOUTH

BEARS

NFC NORTH ALL-DECADE TEAM

Kings of the North

BY DAN WIEDERER

10 Bears players, one former coach honored on the Tribune's NFC North All-Decade Team for the 2010s. The decade comes to a close next week. So in this time of reflection, it's only natural to recognize some of the brilliance across the division over the last 10 years. Here's the official unveiling of the Tribune's NFC North All-Decade Team of the 2010s. This team was assembled to reward excellence and production in the decade alone and took into consideration only what players did while playing for an NFC North team. This is not a place for those who enjoyed brilliant careers that peaked in the 2000s before winding to a close in the 2010s. Here's our list of 28 players and three coaches on the team. Digest. Dissect. Discuss. (Players' seasons in the NFC North this decade listed in parentheses)

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK

Aaron Rodgers, Packers (2010-present): No selection to this team was easier. Rodgers won a Super Bowl in 2010, then added MVP awards in 2011 and 2014. He helped the Packers to six division titles plus nine playoff victories and has been named to the Pro Bowl seven times this decade. His regular-season stats from the 2010s are mind-blowing: a .649 completion percentage, 37,822 passing yards, 303 touchdown passes, 62 interceptions and a 104.0 rating.

Honorable mention: Matthew Stafford, Lions

RUNNING BACK

Adrian Peterson, Vikings (2010-16): On Christmas Eve 2011, Peterson suffered a career-threatening torn ACL in his left knee against the Redskins. At the time, no one knew how quickly the Vikings running back would need to rehab or if he would have the same superstar explosion when he returned. The next year he won the NFL rushing title and the MVP award with 2,097 yards, just 8 yards shy of Eric Dickerson's single-season league record. Peterson has spent the last three seasons out of the division — with the Saints, Cardinals and now Redskins. But he has cracked the top five on the all-time rushing list with 14,138 yards and continues charging toward the Hall of Fame.

Matt Forte, Bears (2010-15): In his six seasons playing in the NFC North this decade, Forte averaged 4.4 yards per carry and 109.1 yards from scrimmage per game. He scored 48 total touchdowns and had 20 100-yard rushing performances. In 2014, Forte set a single-season NFL record for receptions by a running back with 102. After finishing his career with two seasons with the Jets, Forte signed a one-day contract in 2018 to retire as a Bear. His legacy in Chicago is on solid ground.

Honorable mention: Eddie Lacy, Packers; Jordan Howard, Bears

WIDE RECEIVER

Calvin Johnson, Lions (2010-15): Johnson's 2016 retirement at age 30 was a surprise. But it was a chance for one of the game's most dynamic receivers to walk away on his terms. This month, Johnson was left off the NFL 100 All-Time Team — a debatable decision given that his 11,619 receiving yards in nine seasons were the most all time for a receiver through his first nine years. From 2010 to 2015, Johnson averaged 90 catches, 1,425 yards and 10 touchdowns per season. Wow.

Jordy Nelson, Packers (2010-17): In a five-season span from 2011 to 2016 — excluding his missed 2015 season because of an ACL injury — Nelson averaged 79 catches, 1,220 yards and 11 touchdowns per season. He had incredible chemistry with Aaron Rodgers and was a pest with his speed, sure hands and back-shoulder savvy.

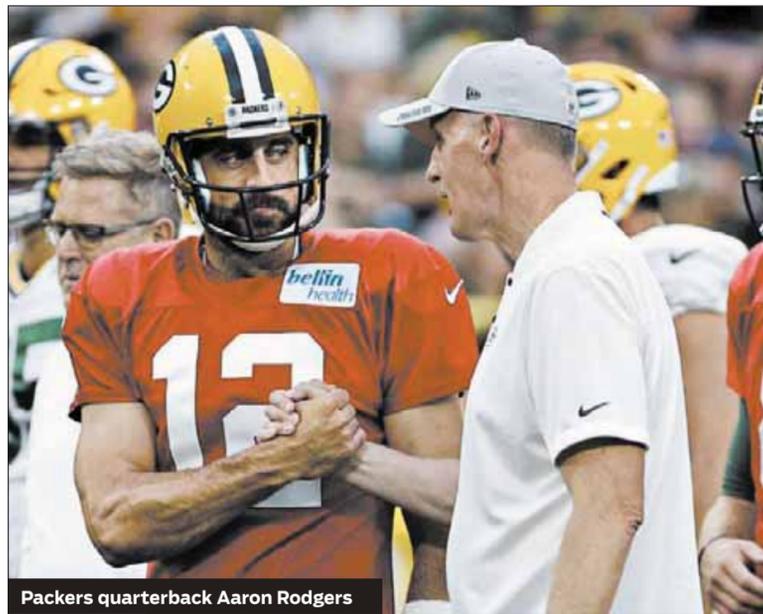
Davante Adams, Packers (2014-present): Adams was the ninth receiver to come off the board in the 2014 draft and needed time to develop into the complete receiver he is now. But with his partnership with Aaron Rodgers now well-established, his career trajectory remains on the ascent. Adams had a career year in 2018 with 111 receptions for 1,386 yards and 13 touchdowns. His 43 career TDs give him the edge for this team over some notable playmakers on our honorable-mention list.

Honorable mention: Stefon Diggs, Vikings; Adam Thielen, Vikings; Brandon Marshall, Bears; Golden Tate, Lions

TIGHT END

Kyle Rudolph, Vikings (2011-present): It's a longevity honor for Rudolph, a second-round pick in 2011 who is finishing his ninth season in Minnesota and continuing to produce. His career totals: 425 catches, 4,154 yards and 47 touchdowns. Rudolph was also the MVP of the Pro Bowl after the 2012 season.

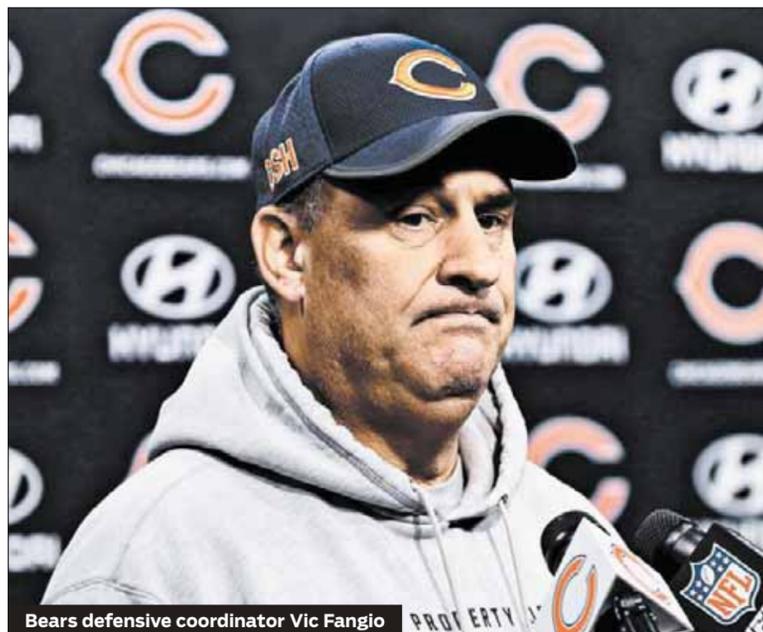
Honorable mention: Martellus Bennett, Bears and Packers



Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers



Packers outside linebacker Clay Matthews



Bears defensive coordinator Vic Fangio

ASSOCIATED PRESS (RODGERS), CHRIS SWEDA (MATTHEWS), JOHN J. KIM / CHICAGO TRIBUNE (FANGIO)

OFFENSIVE LINE

David Bakhtiari, Packers (2013-present): Bakhtiari is one of the most respected pass-blocking left tackles in the league. He was a first-team All-Pro in 2018 and a second-team selection in 2016 and 2017.

Josh Sitton, Packers and Bears (2010-17): Opponents often raved about Sitton's combination of strength, power and football intelligence. He was a key piece in some of the Packers' best lines of the 2010s. Sitton was named to Pro Bowls with the Packers in 2012, 2014 and 2015 and with the Bears in 2016.

Roberto Garza, Bears (2010-14)

Garza's solid 14-season career included a 10-year run with the Bears from 2005 to 2014. After Olin Kreutz's departure, Garza made a smooth transition from guard to center and became the anchor on the line for his final four seasons in Chicago. Garza wound up starting 145 career games for the franchise, the fourth-most for an offensive lineman in Bears history.

Kyle Long, Bears (2013-present): Before a wave of injuries took Long's career off track, he was a rising star, a rare athlete with incredible feet and a nasty, competitive mean streak. Long has three Pro Bowls on his resume and was selected this summer as one of the top 100 players in Bears history by both the Tribune (No. 85) and the Chicago Bears Centennial Scrapbook (No. 74).

Bryan Bulaga, Packers (2010-present): Bulaga, of Woodstock, made his 110th career start Monday night, still a reliable tackle who has been a key cog in the Packers' offensive success this decade.

Honorable mention: T.J. Lang, Packers and Lions; John Sullivan, Vikings; Joe Berger, Vikings; Rob Sims, Lions

DEFENSE

EDGE RUSHER

Julius Peppers, Bears and Packers (2010-16): In four seasons with the Bears, followed by three with the Packers, Peppers recorded 62½ sacks. He finished his terrific career with two seasons back with the Panthers and climbed to No. 4 on the league's all-time sacks list with 159½. Peppers' arrival in 2010 helped propel the Bears to the NFC championship game.

Clay Matthews, Packers (2010-18):

Matthews played 10 seasons in Green Bay, the last nine in the 2010s. He recorded 74½ sacks with the Packers and forced 14 fumbles. Matthews' athleticism was always impressive. His ability to convert speed to power has long been praised. And his motor made him special.

Honorable mention: Jared Allen, Vikings and Bears; Danielle Hunter, Vikings

DEFENSIVE LINE

Ndamukong Suh, Lions (2010-14): Suh was the first player drafted into the division this decade, the No. 2 pick in 2010. He was named the league's top defensive rookie, the first Lions player to receive Rookie of the Year honors since Barry Sanders in 1989. Over Suh's five seasons in Detroit, he was an absolute terror for opponents. He was a force against the run. He was named to the Pro Bowl four times as a Lion and totaled 36 sacks and 66 tackles for a loss.

Akiem Hicks, Bears (2016-present): Hicks has 24 sacks in 53 games with the Bears. His presence also has been an energizing force for the defense since his 2016 arrival. Well-rounded as a pass rusher and run stopper, Hicks draws the attention of every offense he faces. His on-the-field passion is contagious.

Linval Joseph, Vikings (2014-present): Somewhat quietly, the two-time Pro Bowl selection has put together a terrific six-season run in Minnesota as a formidable nose tackle who helps everything else run efficiently.

Honorable mention: Mike Daniels, Packers; Eddie Goldman, Bears; Kevin Williams, Vikings

LINEBACKER

Lance Briggs, Bears (2010-14): Briggs' career fizzled to an end during the Marc Trestman era in 2013 and 2014. But don't let that overshadow the memories of how much of an every-week force he was under Lovie Smith. Briggs was named to the Pro Bowl in 2010 and 2011.

Anthony Barr, Vikings (2014-present): The ninth pick in 2014, Barr made four consecutive Pro Bowls from 2015 to 2018. His versatility and football intelligence have made him a respected leader on the Vikings defense. Barr has 15 career sacks and seven forced fumbles.

Chad Greenway, Vikings (2010-16): As difficult as it was to leave Hall of Famer Brian Urlacher off this team, Greenway gets the nod based on his body of work in this decade.

While Urlacher was still really good in his final three seasons — he was a second-team All-Pro in 2010 — Greenway was more productive in his final seven years in Minnesota.

Honorable mention: Brian Urlacher, Bears; DeAndre Levy, Lions; Eric Kendricks, Vikings

CORNERBACK

Charles Tillman, Bears (2010-14): If you need a tutorial on the "Peanut Punch," just call up the highlight montage of Tillman's Pro Bowl season in 2012. That year he forced 10 fumbles, including four in a November blowout win over the Titans. In a victory over the Lions a month earlier, Tillman was brilliant against Calvin Johnson, limiting him to three catches and 34 yards.

Darius Slay, Lions (2013-present): Slay will be heading to his third consecutive Pro Bowl next month, and his growth over seven seasons in Detroit has been impressive. He had eight of his 19 career interceptions in 2017.

Honorable mention: Tramon Williams, Packers; Xavier Rhodes, Vikings

SAFETY

Harrison Smith, Vikings (2012-present): When Smith was drafted at the end of the first round in 2012, some critics wondered whether his lack of top-end speed might hinder his NFL ascent. Smith is headed to his fifth consecutive Pro Bowl.

Eddie Jackson, Bears (2017-present): While current teammate Ha Ha Clinton-Dix had more ball production this decade with 16 interceptions, the consensus around the division is that Jackson has been better overall. He has nine interceptions in three seasons plus four forced fumbles and five recoveries.

Honorable mention: Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, Packers and Bears; Glover Quin, Lions

LONG SNAPPER

Don Muhlbach, Lions (2010-present): With apologies to Patrick Mannelly, Muhlbach's reliability and longevity give him the nod. He has been the Lions' long snapper for 16 seasons and didn't miss a game in the 2010s.

Honorable mention: Patrick Mannelly, Bears

KICKER

Mason Crosby, Packers (2010-present): Crosby has played every game for the Packers this decade and has 241 field goals and 1,167 points in the 2010s.

Honorable mention: Robbie Gould, Bears

PUNTER

Sam Martin, Lions (2013-present): In his seventh season, Martin has averaged 46 yards per punt with a 41-yard net average.

Honorable mention: Pat O'Donnell, Bears

RETURN SPECIALIST

Devin Hester, Bears (2010-13): Hester was at his peak in the 2000s, an electric game-changer who had the respect of everyone he played with or against.

Honorable mention: Cordarrelle Patterson, Vikings and Bears

HEAD COACH

Mike McCarthy, Packers (2010-18): McCarthy's resume from the final nine of his 13 seasons in Green Bay: an 87-50 record, seven playoff appearances, three trips to the NFC championship game and a Super Bowl title after the 2010 season.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Joe Philbin, Packers (2010-11, 2018): Yeah, yeah. We get it. Mike McCarthy was the play caller and offensive mastermind in Green Bay. But Philbin had a strong connection with Aaron Rodgers in two stints as the Packers offensive coordinator (2007-11, 2018).

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Vic Fangio, Bears (2015-18): It's hard to find a coordinator anywhere who was more admired by his players and more respected by those who had to face him.

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Redskins interim head coach Bill Callahan can only hope that if he gets the chance to coach the team permanently, it will learn from this season's significant struggles.

Lessons of a lost season

BY SAM FORTIER
The Washington Post

The iron man cracked on a cool October evening in 2016. Joe Thomas had never missed a snap in his nine years as the Cleveland Browns' left tackle, and he had always harbored hope for progress despite the team's historic struggles. But after a blowout loss to the New England Patriots sent the Browns to 0-6, Thomas climbed into his car, parked in the depths of FirstEnergy Stadium, and had what he calls "a mental breakdown."

His tears surprised Thomas' wife, Annie. She asked what was wrong. Had he had a bad game? Joe cried for about 45 seconds, unable to explain how this year felt different, how he felt daunted and depressed, how he knew what they all knew: This team was built to fail.

"I was emotionally drained from trying to convince myself that this team was good enough," Thomas said. "I was just broken."

Every year, dozens of players experience the nightmare of a lost season. Their teams bottom out early, by accident or design, and stare down schedules promising nothing but pain. Those in Washington, Miami and Cincinnati — who enter the season's final week with three wins, four and one, respectively — have felt it this year.

Money helps, and bruised egos heal, but losing in the NFL is different than other sports. Players can't passively participate in a rebuild process, as they might in the MLB, NBA or NHL. Football's violence exacts its physical toll no matter the result. Players, coaches and executives who have endured such seasons — 5.7% of teams have finished 3-13 or worse since 1970 — describe them as the hardest experience of their professional lives.

Losing recalibrates the demanding expectations necessary in the NFL. The lessons players and coaches learn during those seasons — how to stay motivated, where to look for growth, who to trust in the future — are crucial. The losses pile up, but if the team withstands them, can serve as a building block for the future. If the team withstands them.

"(That type of losing), it's different," said Paris Lenon, a linebacker on the 0-16 Detroit Lions in 2008 and the 1-15 St. Louis Rams in 2009. "It's not just the locker room. It's the staff, it's the front office, it's the coaches. It's just so much added pressure."

Hue Jackson went on the radio in July and claimed Cleveland was "probably some of the best coaching I did." The internet guffawed; his Browns record was 3-36-1, the lowest winning percentage for any coach with one team in 40 or more games. Jackson thought the ridicule revealed how little people understood about leading, and his former players and contemporary coaches agreed. Many said they didn't find the statement ridiculous because, to stay sane, they too once learned to stop defining success by wins and losses.

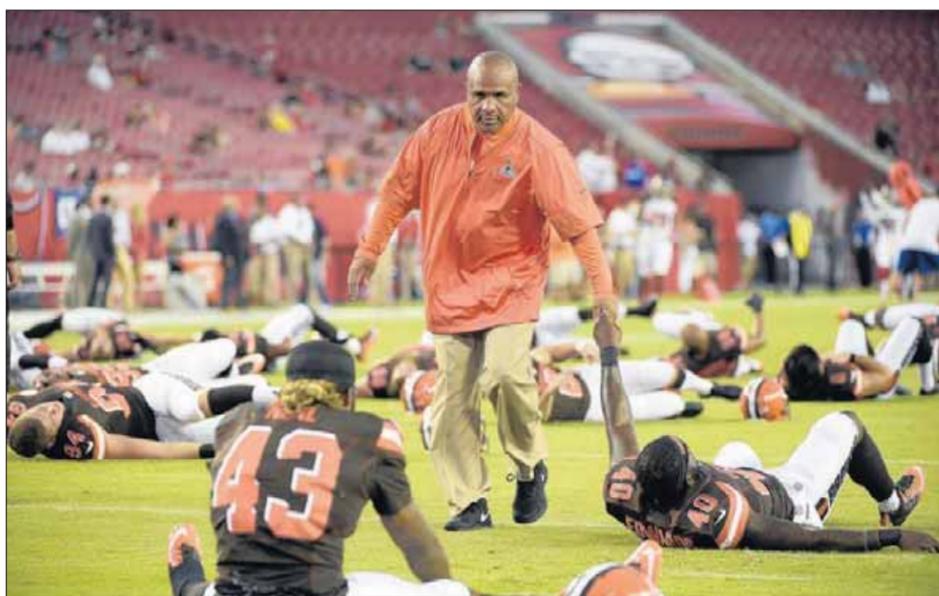
Losing taught Jackson to evaluate himself in other ways. He measured his coaching by the progress of players at individual skills, and the ability to inspire full effort from downtrodden players in meaningless games. Jackson tried to prevent losing from becoming bad behavior. Earlier that summer, Jackson read about behavioral tendencies of successful-but-struggling alpha males and learned "they're going to find their wins other ways," including alcohol, drugs or violence. He safeguarded against these tendencies by hiring two psychologists, one for him and one for the team.

"I studied all that," Jackson said of how losing affects mentalities. "I had to keep a firm, firm hand on the whole situation."

One of the most important lessons teams learned was to find purpose without winning. It was critical because, without it, players and coaches remembered seeing seasons quickly spiral out of control. They saw players who might have once stayed until 6 p.m. start to cut out at 5:30 or 5. They knew some spent more time partying or playing video games than training or studying the playbook.

Paris Lenon still recalls the suffocating pressure he felt pulling up to the facilities for the Lions and Rams. Randy Mueller, the general manager of the 1-15 Miami Dolphins in 2007, remembered how even team employees on the business side treated him like he was fragile. Jackson stopped going to his favorite restaurants in Cleveland at first, then quit going to the team cafeteria. He couldn't bear the faces of the staff who wanted wins he wasn't giving them, he said.

For motivation, Thomas and other Browns veterans resolved to mentor younger players and build a foundation for the future. Mike Riley, coach of the 1-15 San Diego Chargers in 2000, rewarded hard



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Hue Jackson was 3-36-1 as Browns coach and hired psychologists for himself and his players, aware of the effects losing could have on the organization. "I had to keep a firm, firm hand on the whole situation," he said.

workers with plays schemed to highlight them. Mueller, the Dolphins GM, consoled himself by showing the team a steady demeanor that allowed few to see the frustration beneath it.

"The Titanic was a beautiful boat," Mueller said. "They don't have to know you're bailing water like a son-of-a-buck inside."

In many cases, lost-season leaders are replaced by their teams the following year. The people hired to replace them often come from outside the building. But Martin Mayhew was a notable exception. He took over as the Lions' GM in 2009 having been with the organization for seven years, knowing that the team needed substantial change.

He understood how hard it was to overcome a losing culture. Mayhew came up as a player in the late 1980s with the Redskins, and the team there — led by Doug Williams, Darrell Green and Russ Grimm — helped him understand what winning took. He knew a business-as-usual offseason wouldn't resonate with his players, so he embarked on a radical review.

Mayhew evaluated the entire organization. He researched everyone by interviewing those who interacted with them daily, including equipment managers, trainers and videographers. He watched players' game tape (were you playing hard all game every

game?) and studied position coaches (how many of your players got better this season?). He met with the personnel and coaching staffs, and they weighed the player's talent along his contributions to team culture. They spent hours sorting every player into three categories: Keep, on the fence ("good enough but upgrade if possible") and need to go.

Mayhew knew the Lions would be a tough sell for free agents, so the team targeted players in trades. They prioritized talent and resilience at the draft, selecting quarterback Matthew Stafford with the No. 1 overall pick. They later added safety Louis Delmas and linebacker DeAndre Levy, two even-keeled, successful college players who they thought wouldn't be fazed by losing.

They hired Jim Schwartz as coach because of his swagger, confidence and experience with successful teams. They signed players with experience to have one or two veterans in each position room who could learn the scheme and lead. This gave talented young players trusted resources.

"They don't have to be great players," Mayhew said of the veterans. "They need to have leadership ability and be professional."

The Lions, three years after the 0-16 season, finished 10-6 and made the postseason. They remained competitive with that

roster but never won a playoff game. They fired Mayhew in 2015 and the GM, though disappointed with the results, was proud of his work there.

Mayhew joined the San Francisco 49ers' front office in 2016 and, after the team's 2-14 finish, helped engineer a similar turnaround that culminated in this year's 12-3 breakout start. But not every team has found the same success. Look no further than the Lions, mired in a three-win season that included a season-ending injury to Stafford, or the Browns, who were preseason darlings but enter Week 17 with a 6-9 record.

Thomas, the former Browns star, was talking to Michael Irvin earlier this year when the former Cowboys receiver said something that struck him. Thomas had retired and was now a member of the NFL Network's "Thursday Night Football" broadcast. Irvin told Thomas that "hope equals effort."

Irvin verbalized what Thomas always knew. Players and coaches on playoff teams need no added motivation to practice well. Thomas realized hope was the intangible ingredient necessary to pair with an organizational reconstruction like Mayhew's. It is perhaps the most important lesson, players and coaches from lost seasons say, that struggling teams need to learn.

"When you have a losing culture," Mayhew said, "it's so hard to overcome that."

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —

How the Warriors got their groove back



TONY AVELAR/AP

The Warriors' Stephen Curry reacts to a 3-pointer by Draymond Green during the second half against the Rockets on Wednesday in San Francisco.

Let's establish this from the gun: the tank is still on.

Yes, the Warriors — despite having won three straight games, including an impressive, improbable, and downright cathartic win over the Houston Rockets on Christmas Day — are still going to select a player early in the 2020 NBA Draft.

But these young Dubs are no longer a pain to watch. In fact, they're pretty fun.

The Dubs' talent level is still lacking, but Golden State's coaches and players have come together to make something worthwhile.

Golden State serving as a reminder that tanking is a product of circumstance, not a state of mind.

Don't call it a turnaround or the start of something big — even though the Warriors are only being 6.5 games back of the No. 8 seed in the Western Conference standings — but the Dubs' nice little run is impressive enough to deserve some scrutiny.

So why is Golden State playing better ball? Well.

Steve Kerr is an elite coach

This is the big one. Kerr was at the helm of the great dynasties in modern professional sports. His offensive system helped revolutionize the NBA — for better or for worse. His defensive systems are just as important. He's been named the NBA's Coach of the Year twice before.

But this season might be his best coaching job yet.

The Warriors have won only a quarter of their games this season and they do have notable players in D'Angelo Russell and Draymond Green, but there have been few — if any — games where they have equal or more talent than their opponents.

This is a team filled with castoffs, two-way players, rookies and one-trick ponies.

And, yet, every time that talent gap isn't laughable, they seem to come out on top.

That's not luck. That's good coaching.

Kerr is squeezing blood from a stone this season by coaching every game like it's Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

You saw this in the Christmas Day win

over the Rockets, when assistant Jarron Collins' defensive game plan called for double-teaming James Harden when he crossed half court, knowing that Harden wouldn't burn Golden State by making cuts after passing the ball and that his Rockets teammates — Russell Westbrook, specifically — wouldn't be able to capitalize on the 4-on-3 opportunity.

Those are playoff tactics, not regular-season ones. A lesser coach wouldn't be putting in so much effort amid a tight calendar in a lost season. A lesser coach wouldn't empower his staff to think of such radical measures. A lesser coach wouldn't be implementing them.

The Warriors coaches are throwing the kitchen sink at every game — giving just as much effort as their young players. It's wonderfully admirable.

And on the macro level, you can see the incremental improvements that the team is making — the evidence of all the behind-the-scenes work they're doing. Those signs of progress will likely only be truly appreciated in the years to come for those who remain with the team, but they're evident.

Camaraderie is high. The defense — once on pace to be the worst in NBA history — is improving. Green is buying into being a coach, not just the emotional heartbeat of the team. Russell is buying into playing the game the Warriors' way. The Warriors way is adapting to bring out the best of his skillset.

These guys might not be all that good, but they're playing the game the right way and seem to enjoy doing it, despite all the losses.

They're giving fans something to root for this season.

And that's not possible without Kerr's leadership.

The Dubs are pushing the pace

The truth behind the Dubs' three-game winning streak is that they have played two bad teams and a Rockets team that soils itself anytime it sees an engaged Draymond Green on the court.

But dig a bit deeper in those contests and you can see that Golden State is pushing the pace a bit more — they're playing more like



TONY AVELAR/AP

Warriors guard Jacob Evans (10) shoots over Rockets guard Austin Rivers (25) during the second half Wednesday. The Warriors won 116-104.

the Warriors we've come to know and love in recent years.

Green, of course, is at the helm of this. He has been outstanding on the defensive side (with some newfound help — more on that in a moment) and when the Dubs are getting stops on that side of the court, they can open the throttle and run. Golden State averages average 1.17 points per transition possession, the second-best mark in the NBA, but are 11th in the league in transition points per game.

They're deadly when they can run, and they've been running a lot more over the last three games, averaging roughly four more possessions per game.

The Warriors are getting back to pace-and-space, and that's helping in the half-court game, too.

When the Warriors were so injured that they were down to nearly the NBA minimum of active players, Kerr cut the pretense and started Green at point guard.

The pretense is back on, but Green remains, in practice, the Warriors' point guard, and he's developing a nice two-man game with Russell, who is no longer playing like a knock-off version of Harden.

Russell has an elite effective field goal percentage when he possesses the ball for fewer than two seconds before shooting. He is one of the few dozen players in the NBA that can truly create his own shot, but he's a clean shooter on a team that lacks shooting — the Warriors need both skills to be successful, but the latter one is more important in the short and long term.

Russell was one of the slowest offensive players in the NBA before coming to Golden State and at the start of his Warriors career.

But in the last three games, 79% of Russell's shots have come off of possessions where he's held the ball for less than six seconds, an uptick of 10%. It's a small sample size, but the eye test tells me that he seems to be playing faster and thriving — and firing — off of Green perimeter picks.

It's a solid Steph Curry impression. (If only Curry ran as much pick-and-roll.)

Green sets a pick — if the defender goes under him, Russell shoots from distance. If he goes over, Russell drives past him and gets to his floater, which is elite.

The guard's defense is still suspect — he's

yet to earn the D in front of his first name — but you can see how a new, up-to-speed Russell will work with Green, Curry, and Thompson in the future.

The big men have made a big impact

In his post-game ESPN interview Wednesday, Green credited center Willie Cauley-Stein for the team's improved defense as of late. As per usual, Green is 100% on point when it comes to praising Cauley-Stein, whose rim protection has freed Green to freelance more. That's where Green is at his best and where he can protect the Warriors' less-than-stellar perimeter defenders — he no longer has to be in five places at one time, just four.

Cauley-Stein is a solid defender — he's buying into what the coaching staff and Green have been preaching and that, paired with his length is allowing him to be an asset.

And with the increased offensive pace that comes from the improved defense has also been a boon to the former Sacramento King.

The 26-year-old true 7-footer has the reputation of being a pick-and-roll big man because he's an outstanding rim runner and because no one saw him play in the state's capital.

Cauley-Stein is a gazelle — he's at his best when he can run. Few big men traverse the court as gracefully, and no one is going to stop the big man, with momentum, at the rim.

It's evident now why the Warriors signed him this offseason — he hasn't needed to adjust, the new Warriors did. But now we're seeing him in his prime state.

In the half-court, the Warriors coaches have done a strong job in allowing Cauley-Stein to run to the rim off pick-and-roll without being the pick-setter. It's not the most complicated offense — I doubt it'd work in the playoffs — but it's effective in the regular season.

Add in the at-times impressive play of Marquese Chriss — a strong rim-runner himself and a not-half-bad-rim protector, too — and you have two cost-controlled centers that the Warriors can buy into long-term.

Chicago Tribune
A+E
 MOVIES



WILSON WEBB/COLUMBIA PICTURES

Greta Gerwig's production of "Little Women" stars, clockwise from top right, Laura Dern, Emma Watson, Florence Pugh, Eliza Scanlan and Saoirse Ronan.

'Little Women' through the years

Even in its earliest movie versions, Alcott novel still holds up surprisingly well

By **CAITLIN GIBSON**
 AND **MONICA HESSE**
 The Washington Post

In 1868, Louisa May Alcott published "Little Women," her seminal novel about four sisters in Civil War-era Massachusetts. Approximately 150 years later, two Washington Post journalists — namely, us — lost our minds.

In the interim, there were remakes and fan fiction and debates about Beth, Meg, Jo and Amy and their mother, Marmee. Should aspiring writer Jo have turned down boy-next-door Laurie's marriage proposal? Would Laurie really have then ended up with self-centered Amy?

Hollywood got involved. "Little Women" adaptations plopped onto screens nearly once a decade; watching them became a rite of passage. Mothers and daughters, sisters and friends wept into their popcorn in crowds full of other women weeping into their popcorn. A new entry into the canon landed on Christmas: a Greta Gerwig production already hyped as the best "Little Women" ever.

In preparation, we decided to stress-test the classic bonding ritual. We locked ourselves in a suburban living room for 15 hours to assess every adaptation we could find. Working our way through this archive in close quarters would require perseverance, determination and grace, but we would stop at nothing.

In accordance with the book's sardonic instructions: "Dear me, let us be elegant or die."

Hour 0: Rules of Play

I. In the interest of time management, only feature films would be considered; no miniseries.

II. Films would be assessed on their quality as well as their adherence to the spirit of "Little Women," with a top score of five Marmees.

III. The only permitted witness to this effort would be Monica's dog, Sheba.

IV. Thematically relevant provisions, provided by Caitlin, would include:

A. Currant jam, which Meg disastrously makes as a new bride.

B. Bread, which Beth toasts in the fireplace for dinner.

C. A Duraflame log for our own fireplace.

D. Pickled lemons, standing in for the pickled limes that were the rage at Amy's school, which we purchased from a mysterious seller online and which arrived with the seal broken and which might therefore be poisonous. If consuming the pickled lemons ever became a real option, it would mean this Little Womarathon had taken us to a truly weird place.

E. A bonnet.

Hour 2: Buon giorno, Professor Bhaer

Bad news, fellow Womarathoners. The first version George Cukor's

Turn to **Women**, Page 4



JOAN MARCUS

Adante Carter and Danielle Wade in "Mean Girls."

IN PERFORMANCE 'Mean Girls' ★★★

Life lessons with The Plastics

Pursuit of popularity, cruelty of cliques comes to life in spirited show

By **CHRIS JONES**

CLEVELAND — Without "Pretty in Pink," "Sixteen Candles" and "The Breakfast Club," Tina Fey's "Mean Girls" would not exist. By comedic intention, Fey's droll dissection of the tribal doings in her lightly fictional amalgam of Evanston Township High School and New Trier walks many of the same streets as the great John Hughes films, probing the pursuit of popularity and the cruelty of Chicagoland cliques.

But whereas Hughes' films were amoral, patriarchal, non-prescriptive and fundamentally observational of the American teenager in its natural habitat, "Mean Girls" came with a moral message. Fey

wanted to tell girls not to pretend to fail math to get a boy, to not terrorize the helpless tech geeks and band-freaks, and definitely not sell your insecure sisters down the river for a seat among the Plastics at lunch.

High school privilege, the Gospel According to Fey observed, is as fleeting as it is destructive. And that's why, now that "Mean Girls" has become a Broadway musical, replete with a book by Fey herself and a score by her husband Jeff Richmond and the lyricist Nell Benjamin, you see so many mother and daughter pairings in the audience, Gen X and Gen Z, sharing a living artifact they can both love.

Around me in Cleveland on a recent Wednesday night (I caught the new national touring cast a week early and 350 miles east to get ahead of the bizarre holiday opening of this same show and cast in Chicago), audience members weren't singing the lyrics to the songs, which is common at Broadway musicals, but recit-

ing their favorite lines from Fey's screenplay ("Get in loser, we're going shopping" or "I'm not like a regular mom, I'm a cool mom"), most of which are in the show.

Which is, all things considered, pretty fetch. And very, very funny.

Of course, moralistic high school shows are everywhere now. But here's the thing about Fey: She has never lost her actual sense of humor, as honed in a more permissive era at Second City, and thus "Mean Girls" does not play like the boring Twitter feed of a righteous, humor-challenged Millennial. It is irreverent and snarky enough to actually be funny, even at the expense of the terrifying table of "woke seniors." The show points us toward the right choices, but it also thinks we should laugh at life's pious prophets, too.

Thus, for example, when Cady Heron, Plastics wannabe turned math geek, deliv-

Turn to **Plastics**, Page 3

Despite 'Star Wars,' a slump at theaters

What worries theaters most is midbudget movies moving to various streaming services

By **RYAN FAUGHNDER**
 Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood's staggering revenue disparity at the box office was on full display as 2019 neared its close.

"Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker," the latest film in the 4-decade-old science fiction saga, grossed an estimated \$176 million in domestic ticket sales on its opening weekend, according to Disney, which owns the lucrative franchise. It made space dust out of Universal Pictures' widely panned adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Cats," which collected \$6.5 million, less than half what analysts were predicting.

With the opening results of "Skywalker" and "Cats" in the bank, 2019 is on pace to close with a total of roughly \$11.4 billion in the U.S. and Canada, down 4% from last year's record levels, according to industry estimates.

The results from the two major new releases reflect a vexing problem for North American cinema owners, who have grown increasingly concerned about the vast delta between the haves and have-nots at the box office — and the lack of a middle ground between the two.

Yes, this was the year of "Avengers: Endgame," which became the highest-grossing global title ever (not adjusting for inflation), as well as Disney's "Lion King" remake and "Frozen 2." But it was also a year of historic flops. "Playmobil: The Movie," for example, grossed just \$656,000 in the U.S. and Canada in its opening weekend. Meanwhile, the Warner Bros. adaptation of "The Goldfinch" collected a mere \$5 million, domestically.

Every year has its share of clunkers, but



LUCASFILM

Adam Driver as Kylo Ren in a scene from "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker."

to many, the theatrical market is becoming a business that's dominated by intellectual-property-powered blockbusters, at the expense of almost everything else, including the midlevel films that used to keep theaters humming year-round.

This year, a huge chunk of total sales went to a handful of titles. The top 10 films at the domestic box office have accounted for 38% of ticket sales so far this year, according to data firm Comscore. That's up from 33% in 2018 and 24% five years ago.

"There's a pretty diverse content slate, but sometimes the big movies do suck the life out of the room," said Chris Johnson,

chief executive of Illinois-based Classic Cinemas, which operates 121 screens. Attendance at his theaters for the year is down about 1% from 2018, as of last week, while revenue is essentially flat, he said.

There are several clear reasons for the divide. As the studios become increasingly risk-averse, much of the market for mid-budget comedies, dramas and rom-coms has migrated to streaming services such as Netflix. Studios are loath to risk the embarrassment of a flop, and streamers are more than happy to use such content to draw subscribers.

Turn to **Theaters**, Page 3

CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services

Keri Russell found power in 'Star Wars' role

Keri Russell's career was already riding high, with her multi-E Emmy-nominated turn on "The Americans," when she heard from an old friend.

It was J.J. Abrams, who two decades earlier provided her breakout role on TV's "Felicity," which he co-created. His email posed a simple question: Do you want to join "Star Wars"?

The offer a couple of years ago, though, came with a caveat. The character she would play in "The Rise of Skywalker," a spice smuggler named Zorii Bliss, would never remove her helmet, which covers her entire face, except occasionally her eyes. So "I can see everyone, but no one can see me," Russell said.

"There's a real power play to that," she said, describing how her nimble scoundrel of a character — who has a past with the dashing pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) — would be a distinct change of pace after her starring roles. She jumped at the chance to disappear into Zorii.

While Abrams was co-writing the character, though, he didn't even have his old pal in mind.

"You're really not thinking about specific actors," Abrams said. But then, "We started to cast the picture and suddenly there was an opportunity to work with Keri again.

"So she was the first person I reached out to" about Zorii, "just to say: Listen, there's this pretty fun character."

Because Russell has training as a dancer, Abrams knew that the actress could readily play the quick, agile Zorii. And he was quite confident that Russell could deliver Zorii's sly humor.

Yet the "Rise" director also wanted someone who could communicate with simply their voice.

"The biggest thing is the conveying of emotion," Abrams said. She is able to have "a connection to a character (that) is usually weirdly sort of deep and abstract."

From a creative standpoint, Russell said, "I can't think of anything more fun than getting to do this part."

— The Washington Post



JONATHAN OLLEY/LUCASFILM

Keri Russell plays Zorii Bliss in "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker," a role in which you never see the actress's face.



Russell



Abrams

'Star Wars' scene removed: SPOILER ALERT — Don't read further if you haven't seen "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker." A brief scene showing a celebratory same-sex kiss between two minor characters has been removed from screenings of the film in Singapore. The clip was removed so Disney, the movie studio behind the sci-fi saga, wouldn't receive a higher age rating. Sex between two men is illegal and punished by law in Singapore, and films depicting LGBTQ content are subject to censorship. In an interview with MovieZine, director J.J. Abrams defended the subtlety of the kiss, saying that the scene "felt like an opportunity to show (an LGBTQ kiss) without it being heavy-handed or making too loud of a deal. ... 'Star Wars' is for everyone." — *New York Daily News*



Chalamet

Dec. 27 birthdays: Actor John Amos is 80. Guitarist Mick Jones is 75. Singer Tracy Nelson is 75. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 71. Jazz drummer T.S. Monk is 70. Singer Karla Bonoff is 68. Guitarist David Knopfler is 67. Actress Tovah Feldshuh is 66. Actress Maryam D'Abo is 59. Actor Ian Gomez is 55. Actress Theresa Randle is 55. Actress Eva LaRue is 53. Actor Wilson Cruz is 46. Actor Masi Oka is 45. Actress Emilie de Ravin is 38. Actor Jay Ellis is 38. Singer Hayley Williams is 31. Singer Shay Mooney is 28. Actor Timothee Chalamet is 24.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

New mom is over unsolicited advice

Dear Amy: I am a first-time mom with a 10-month-old daughter. Beginning in my pregnancy, I discovered that everyone loves to give unsolicited advice about how to care for and raise my child.

I understand that people are well-intentioned and want to save me from some unsavory experience, so I try to accept their tips graciously and say thank you. However, this is beginning to grate on my nerves. I don't always agree with the advice, and I am also just trying to navigate motherhood like everyone else, as my husband and I decide what is best for our family.

The worst offenders are: co-workers I barely know, my best friend who seems to think that her one extra year of parenting makes her an expert, and my mother-in-law, who passes on advice that is either contrary to our pediatrician's recommendations or comes from her friend's daughter (who I have never met). How should I continue to deal with so much unsolicited advice?

Can you please ask your readers to stop acting like they know how every new mom should care for their children?

— *New-ish Mom*

Dear Mom: Well, through the magic of this column, you have asked people to back off so ... problem solved! Except, it isn't.

One way to head off unsolicited advice is to not share personal details with people who are likely to offer it. For instance, your child is teething. Unless others witness a teething crisis, they will know that you were up half the night

with a fussy baby only if you tell them. So maybe you should be more circumspect.

You could also communicate, respectfully and candidly, about her behavior: "I realize you are trying to be helpful, but we're receiving a lot of conflicting advice. Please understand that we are proud of how we are figuring things out. We'll definitely ask you if we need help, but otherwise I hope you'll just enjoy your grandchild and not worry too much about choices we are making."

Be equally honest with your best friend: "I know you have more experience here, but all of the unsolicited advice is driving me crazy. I'll definitely ask you if I believe I need help."

This is a frustration for many parents. You will have to accept that many people simply can't stop themselves. They may have been helped by advice and are trying to pass along some wisdom. Your job as a parent is to use your best judgment, and that includes occasionally accepting outside information.

Dear Amy: During the winter, it is dark during my commute in both the morning and the evening.

I am grateful that joggers and cyclists generally protect themselves with reflective strips on their clothing or gear, but for some reason, dog walkers are much less careful.

Amy, please remind your fellow dog lovers to take precautions when they are out and about in the dark.

— *Concerned*

Dear Concerned: I am running your letter as a PSA, inspired in part by a

close call I had last night, as a hardworking UPS deliveryman dashed across the road to deliver a package. His brown uniform and van disappeared into the nighttime void.

In northern states, this is the deepest, darkest time of year. Everyone walking along a roadway should wear reflective strips and/or carry a flashlight.

Dear Amy: I'm responding to the letter from "Upset Friend," whose drunken male friend grabbed her crotch. You are feeding into the national ridiculousness of suing someone over every infraction.

The grabbing can be handled personally, without a lawyer. It seems you are becoming one of those who can't settle things without resorting to a court to decide. The woman has her own power and her own voice. Her crotch being grabbed isn't going to ruin her life. She can get over that and deal with her friend herself. The courts are overloaded with such petty infractions because everybody is offended by something, and you added to the ridiculousness of it.

I believe you did this woman wrong by taking away her power.

— *Disappointed*

Dear Disappointed: Maybe you were too enraged to read my response, where I encouraged "Upset" to start by communicating with the friend.

Yes, legal action is an option, as I pointed out.

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TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

PARENTS GUIDE

Advice about films kids may want to see — whatever the rating — in theaters or opening soon

By KATIE WALSH | Tribune News Service

'SPIES IN DISGUISE' ▲ PG

What it's about: A super-spy voiced by Will Smith is transformed into a pigeon in a freak accident.

The kid attractor factor: It's an animated film with plenty of kid-friendly humor and action.

Violence: Some action and fighting scenes with weapons — shooting, knives, explosions, etc. Some clever nonlethal methods are also deployed by nerdy lab tech Walter (Tom Holland).

Language: None.

Sex: Some animated nudity played for laughs.

Drugs: None.

Parents' advisory: Appropriate for most kids.

'LITTLE WOMEN' PG

What it's about: Four sisters growing up and learning and loving in Concord, Massachusetts.

The kid attractor factor: Young girls may be drawn to the material through prior films or the novel.

Violence: Some romping and sisterly fighting. An ice skating incident.

Language: None.

Sex: Some kissing between newlyweds.

Drugs: A pipe smoked here and there.

Parents' advisory: Appropriate for older kids and teens.

'STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER' PG-13

What it's about: The final (ninth) film in the "Star Wars" saga (we're sure there'll be more). Will Rey discover her true power? Will Kylo Ren leave the Dark Side? Tune in to find out.

The kid attractor factor: It's "Star Wars"!

Violence: Some lightsaber battles, for sure, as well as spaceship battles, crashes, intergalactic action.

Language: None.

Sex: None.

Drugs: Some references to "spice running" ... gotta be drugs.

Parents' advisory: Too violent and scary for younger kids but great for older kids and teens.

'TEMBLORES (TREMORS)' ★★★

Fresh, angry ways to dive into hypocrisy

A Guatemalan man gets torn between his family and lover

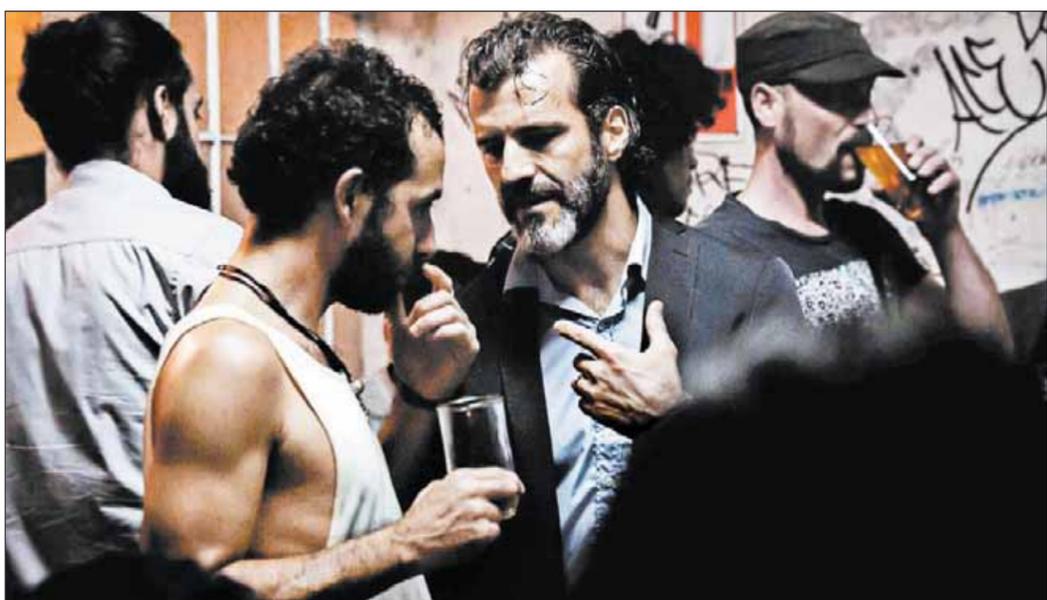
By GUY LODGE
Variety

"Love knows nothing improper," chides a zealous preacher in "Temblores (Tremors)." Ostensibly, she says it to an entire rapt church; more pointedly, she's addressing mild-mannered family man Pablo, as he's dragged through a terrestrial hell for the cardinal sin of falling in love with another man. What's the greater impropriety, then: same-sex love or the victimization of its practitioners, to the point of denying them jobs or access to their children? As the latest in a long line of films to examine the hypocrisy-laden clash between gay rights and evangelical Christian ethos — including the recent U.S. double bill of "Boy Erased" and "The Miseducation of Cameron Post" — this strong second feature from Guatemalan talent Jayro Bustamante doesn't ask new questions, but its

sensuous, reverberating atmospherics find fresh, angry ways to answer them.

"Temblores" is a weighty, promise-fulfilling follow-up to Bustamante's dream debut, the radiant folkloric fable "Ixcanul."

A bravura opening sequence, lashed with rain and seaisick with back-of-head tracking shots, immerses us rivetingly into crisis mode, as Pablo (Juan Pablo Olyslager) returns to a household in hysterical disarray, his extended family weeping, wailing and slamming doors at a pitch that might register as "a bit much" even on the telenovela scale. Has someone died? No, something far worse, at least as far as everyone but Pablo and his two bewildered young children are concerned: he's been outed as gay. That isn't revealed in so many words, as his God-fearing parents and wife Isa (Diane Bathen) can't even say the truth out loud through their tears. But it becomes increasingly plain as the conflict escalates, per the title, to literally ground-shaking levels — when a



GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

The coming out of an evangelical father shatters his family, his community and uncovers a profoundly repressive society.

sudden, slight earthquake amplifies the chaos.

The symbolism is clear enough: in church-bound Guatemala, where homosexuality is legal but still broadly taboo, the nature of this uncovered infidelity is a violent familial rupture. Bustamante's script doesn't deal in the back story of how 40-year-old Pablo, a well-to-do financial adviser, and out-and-proud Francisco (Mauricio Armas Zebadúa) began their affair, or how they were caught. It's clear enough that the former, superbly played by Olyslager with a colliding blend of nervous reticence and inner seething, has been living a

lie for decades. "I'm embarrassed, but I feel almost good," he admits as, evicted from his home and fired by his sanctimonious employer, he embarks on a new life with Francisco and his queer bohemian circle in a scuzzy inner-city apartment.

A first act is far too soon for a happy ending, however, and Pablo soon finds his world vengefully closing in on him. When Isa, understandably upset but brainwashed by extreme Christian doctrine, bars him from seeing his children unless he submits to radical gay conversion therapy, he's trapped in an impossible bind. It's here that

"Temblores," already chilling in its portrayal of mar-shaled family malice, escalates into a kind of domestic horror movie, with the church as its all-consuming boogeyman.

Bustamante doesn't skimp on the emotional brutality of the situation, though a charred streak of morbid humor seeps into its depiction of the therapy in question: a grotesque obstacle course of physical humiliations and psychological torture games.

If anything, "Temblores" builds its surreal mood to a brilliant fault: the outside world is so effectively and oppressively shuttered out that the national political

No MPAA rating

Running time: 1:47

Opens: Friday at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. www.siskelfilmcenter.org

context in which Pablo's individual tragedy plays out is rendered a little hazy. Still, hot protest is still present in its aggressively close-up character study, as Pablo is buffeted between the impulses of sexual and paternal love to the point that even he's not sure who he is, or what he desires. Love knows nothing improper by the time it knows nothing at all.

Theaters

Continued from Page 1

For example, Noah Baumbach's critically acclaimed film "Marriage Story," which is likely to receive multiple Oscar nominations, went to Netflix. Disney recently released an Anna Kendrick Christmas flick and a "Lady and the Tramp" remake on its streaming service Disney Plus.

When studios do think a movie is suited for the big screen, they spend tens of millions of dollars to market them as large-scale "events," making it harder for smaller films to get attention.

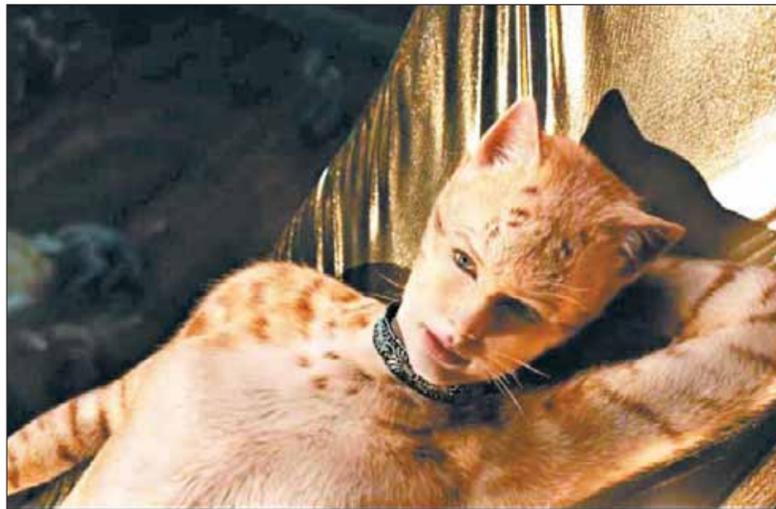
"The studios are more corporate-driven and guided by marketing and bean counters than ever before, and the ability to invest in originality is all moving toward streaming," said Rick Cohen, who runs the five-screen Transit Drive-In in Lockport, New York. "But they still have \$200 million to throw at 'Dark Phoenix.' You could have made 10 original movies for that budget."

Social media have also played a crucial role.

"Cats," in particular, struggled because of harsh reviews, as well as a quick and brutal online response to its marketing materials, including its first trailer that was released in July. Many critics were unnerved by the "digital fur technology" used to turn performers including Taylor Swift and Judi Dench into CGI cat-human hybrids. If a movie is seen as bad on social media before it opens, it's difficult, if not impossible, to recover.

Nonetheless, Universal is hoping the picture will reach its target audience, including older viewers, during the holidays.

"The story isn't necessarily over on how 'Cats' is going to play domestically," said Jim Orr, president of domestic distribution at Universal Pictures. "This audience group doesn't



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Taylor Swift is Bombalurina in "Cats," which netted \$6.5 million on its opening weekend.

necessarily rush out on opening weekend."

An unprecedented chunk of the business was driven by a single giant: Walt Disney Co.

Disney's movies have accounted for 32% of ticket sales in the U.S. and Canada, the highest market share in the modern entertainment business, according to Comscore. Counting movies from 20th Century Fox and its specialty arm Fox Searchlight, which Disney acquired in March, the company's market share is 37%.

Disney again relied on its popular brands. "Endgame," the culmination of a 22-film arc from Marvel Studios, grossed nearly \$2.8 billion worldwide (unseating "Avatar" as the record-holder, unadjusted for inflation). Seven of the top 10 domestic movies were released by Disney. Two of them, "The Lion King" and "Aladdin," were remakes of 1990s animated classics. Another pair, "Toy Story 4" and "Frozen 2," were animated sequels. "Captain Marvel" was, well, a Marvel movie.

"It's certainly been a banner year," said Disney theatrical distribution President Cathleen Taff. "Each of our studios have contributed to the results in a major way. That's the only way

you can get to a number like this."

The latest "Star Wars" film closes out the nine-movie arc of the Skywalker family that began with George Lucas' "Star Wars" in 1977. Its opening represents a powerful start for the J.J. Abrams-directed movie's run, though it debuted lower than the previous chapters in the trilogy that started with "The Force Awakens" in 2015.

"The Rise of Skywalker" opening was down 20% from the debut of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," the 2017 installment written and directed by Rian Johnson, which opened with \$220 million in the U.S. and Canada and eventually grossed \$1.3 billion worldwide. Critics were mixed on "The Rise of Skywalker," which attempts to not only tie together the various threads of the franchise, but do so in a way that satisfies "Star Wars" devotees. Though "The Last Jedi" was a hit with critics, its creative choices divided fans.

"The Rise of Skywalker" is the fifth "Star Wars" movie Lucasfilm, run by Kathleen Kennedy, has produced since selling to Disney for \$4 billion in 2012.

In all, Disney films have

collected a record \$3.5 billion domestically this year, which is more than double its nearest rival, Warner Bros.

AT&T Inc.-owned Warner Bros. had some big hits, including "Joker," "It Chapter Two" and "Shazam." But the Burbank studio also released multiple duds, including the Clint Eastwood-directed movie "Richard Jewell," about the security guard wrongly suspected in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bombing. The movie, which was sharply criticized online for its inaccurate and stereotypical portrayal of a female journalist, opened with less than \$5 million.

Several flops proved that certain franchises have sputtered. Sony Pictures' "Charlie's Angels" reboot bombed with \$177 million domestically. The movie was one of many misbegotten sequels, including Paramount Pictures' "Terminator: Dark Fate," Lionsgate's "Rambo: Last Blood" and Sony's "Men in Black: International."

A handful of original films were breakout hits, raising hopes that fresh ideas can still thrive.

Surprise successes included "Hustlers," STX Entertainment's well-reviewed Jennifer Lopez

movie about a crew of strippers with a Robin Hood-esque scheme. Neon's "Parasite," South Korean director Bong Joon-ho's thriller with a sharp critique of class divisions, has continued to draw audiences thanks to enthusiastic reviews and word-of-mouth hype.

"People are continuing to show up for two categories," said former Imax Entertainment CEO Greg Foster. "Big blockbuster titles with massive scope that you can only get in a movie theater, and also the thought-provoking films made by filmmakers that care deeply about the theatrical experience."

Some movies bucked conventional wisdom. Sony gambled by making Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" a major summer release. Universal Pictures' "Good Boys," a raunchy comedy starring adolescents, delivered a strong performance despite predictions that the R-rated comedies are dead.

"We continue to do original titles very, very well," said Universal Pictures' Orr. "We're bringing a wide variety of people from many walks of life."

Another original film, "Knives Out," a star-studded murder mystery from "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" director Rian Johnson, has collected an impressive \$89.6 million so far. That has been a boost to Lionsgate, which has pivoted to midbudget commercial fare as bigger studios focus on spectacles. Its latest release, "Bombshell," starring Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman and Margot Robbie as the Fox News women who battled Roger Ailes, opened with a modest \$5.1 million.

"When you look at the top 50 movies of the year, there's an argument that the audience has an appetite for original stories well-told," said Joe Drake, chairman of Lionsgate's motion picture group. "'Knives Out' is a perfect example."

The success of the middle market is essential for cinema owners such as Brian Schultz, founder and CEO of Studio Movie Grill. His chain includes a recently opened location in Glendale, California, which caters to cinephiles and draws patrons with its dine-in theater offerings.

"The midmarket movie is really critical to the exhibition business being healthy," said Schultz, whose company operates 34 theaters with about 350 screens. "We're going to be working with diligence so that the midlevel films get the screens they need and the promotion they need for them to be successful."

The volatile box office outlook has put some pressure on the major theater chains' stock prices. Shares of Leawood, Kansas-based AMC, the biggest exhibitor, have declined 37% so far this year to less than \$8. Plano, Texas-based Cinemark Holdings is down 3% since the beginning of 2019, trading at about \$35.

And next year could prove more challenging for exhibitors. The studio lineup for 2020 features fewer major attractions than 2019. Paramount's "Top Gun: Maverick," Marvel's "Black Widow" and Warner Bros.' "Wonder Woman 1984" should all perform well, but none is expected to reach the heights of "Endgame" and "Skywalker."

Many expect that the box office will be down more sharply in 2020, given the lack of obvious blockbusters, even from Disney. Additionally, media companies are bringing even more streaming services to market, including HBO Max and Peacock, which will be vying for viewers' leisure time.

On the other hand, Disney's hold on the box office market share should loosen as it goes a year without a "Star Wars" or "Avengers" movie. That could give other studios more of a chance to make a splash of their own.

Plastics

Continued from Page 1

ers some bromide about sisterhood and how the math tourney is not really competitive but a chance for sisterhood, but a chance for sisterhood, but an ensemble member pop up and point out that this is, actually, a competition, thus offering what they used to call a "treacle cutter" in TV sitcoms. Thanks also to a certain directorial irreverence from Casey Nickolaw (of "Book of Mormon" fame), "Mean Girls" has a

whole lot of similar saccharine snipping moments, which is only honest, really, considering that the meanest girls are the most interesting characters and the reason the movie was such a hit.

Cady — the nice, malleable, home-schooled girl from Africa who finds herself thrust into the predators' habitat — is the author's representative, of course. And when you first see the lead performer in this new touring cast, Danielle Wade, you'd swear the casting directors were told to find a young Fey type, as

close as possible to the real thing. Creepily so, actually. But the good news is that Wade also has a fabulously supple voice and a potent emotional presence — she actually sounds a lot like a young Jessie Mueller, and that deepens the musical element of this show.

You'll also like the outcasts, very richly and empathetically played by Eric Huffman and Mary Kate Morrissey. Fey turned these snarky outsiders into the narrators when she converted the movie to the musical, offering a cautionary tale to unsuspecting,

incoming freshmen. The new Plastics — Mariah Rose Faith as Regina George, Megan Masako Haley as Gretchen Wieners and Jonalyn Saxer as Karen Smith — are just fine, although they feel more muted than was the case on Broadway. Faith could, in places, hit a lot harder: Regina has to have real power for the show to fully work.

"Mean Girls" will not be remembered as some great musical in the formative sense; the songs are likable, funny ditties in a paradoxical style, familiar to those of us

who enjoyed Richmond's early work in Chicago, but they're not reaching for the stylistic stars so much as reflecting the regular teenage characters who get to sing them. That's also true of the digitally dominated design, which could give anyone over 40 a persistent headache. Unless, of course, they have a teenage daughter.

One last thought from Cleveland. It is hard to overstate the debt that American comedy of the last quarter-century owes to this one woman, as funny a writer as Chicago

When: Through Jan. 26

Where: James M. Nederlander Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St.

Running time: 2 hours, 30 mins.

Tickets: \$30-\$131.50 at 800-775-2000 or broadwayinchicago.com

has ever launched.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

cjones5@chicagotribune.com

'63 UP' ★★★ 1/2

Truth and death for subjects of 'Up' docs

BY KENNETH TURAN
Los Angeles Times

Filmmakers, especially those who do documentaries, like to talk about how long they've been working on a given project. Michael Apted, however, has got them all beat. By a lot.

"63 Up" is the ninth film in a series that Apted has been working on for 56 years. As doc fans know, nothing like it has been done in the history of film, and likely nothing will.

It all started in 1964, when Britain's Granada TV gathered a group of 7-year-old schoolchildren from divergent economic backgrounds and asked them to talk about their dreams, their ambitions, their ideas about the future.

That 40-minute program went so well that future director Michael Apted ("Coal Miner's Daughter"), who was a researcher on "7 Up" and helped select the

original participants, has returned to interview the same group every seven years since.

On a grand scale the project considers if there is any truth to the class-conscious idea behind the original film, the Jesuit notion of "Give me the child until he is 7 and I will give you the man."

But also being presented is a chance to see what the passage of years has done to the mind-set and the lives of individuals we have spent so much time with over so many decades they've become a quasi-family.

(People new to the "Up" series need not worry: Apted has included enough clips from the earlier films to nicely catch everyone up.)

While some of those earlier films had a jaunty-ness inevitable to youth, "63 Up" is perhaps the first where mortality makes its presence known.



MUSIC BOX THEATRE

Director Michael Apted revisits the same group of British-born adults after a seven-year wait, as he's done with each of them since they were 7 years old.

Nick, a farmer's son who ended up an academic in the U.S., reveals that he is seriously ill with cancer of the throat, and death itself, including that of one of the original group, is a factor in many lives.

On the other hand, many of the participants seem truly happy, often those

who are in stable marriages or long-term relationships.

These include Sue, one of the original film's trio of girls from London's East End, who has been engaged to the same man for 20 years ("we're going to set a record"), and Bruce, who has devoted his life to teaching and whose

No MPAA rating

Running time: 2:18

Opens: Friday at the Music Box, 3733 N. Southport Ave., www.musicboxtheatre.com

amused wife says, "I won't divorce him but I may well murder him."

Continuing a trend first visible in the previous film "56 Up," "63 Up" reveals a shift in power dynamics between filmer and filmed, with the nominal subjects being less reticent about expressing grievances toward their venerable director, who is himself 78.

Lively East Ender Tony, for instance, a resilient study in candor, who ended up happily married and driving a London cab, remembers Apted's lack of belief in him.

"You had visions of me in the nick," he says with a bit of irritation. "You made quite a mistake, Michael."

Even more irritated is Jackie, another of the former East End girls, who voices frustration at the way Apted's questions for the young women were mundane and domestic in nature while men were asked about possible careers.

Still, almost everyone involved felt enough loyalty to the process and the end result to show up for this latest iteration.

Aside from Tony, who starts the film, the person whose story is most involving is always Neil, who went from being homeless in Scotland to a success in local politics in the London borough of Hackney, and whose articulate, forceful ruminations always hold our interest.

As a whole the entire series, and "63 Up" in particular, is completely enveloping. In the final analysis, we see our lives reflected in theirs, and that is a remarkable thing.

Women

Continued from Page 1

standard-bearing 1933 adaptation is not good. It fools you into thinking it's good. It stars Katharine Hepburn, after all.

Her Jo is perfection, with jaunty physicality and devil-may-care delivery. Beth is sufficiently melancholy, Amy is sufficiently petulant and Laurie is charming enough, although he sports an entirely indefensible helmet of gelled hair, which we shall spend the entire movie referring to as "the gelmet."

But even while the script hits the key plot points, it's lacking deeper emotional resonance. Was acting just stilted in the 1930s?

Further distraction: The actor playing the ostensibly German Professor Bhaer appears to have ... an Italian accent? French? (IMDB tells us the actor is actually Hungarian. Go figure.)

Regardless, we are pleased to have established a baseline.

Marmeemeter: "Little Women," 1933.

Caitlin: 3 Marmees. But only for Hepburn.

Monica: 3.25 Marmees. Bonjour. *Estoy muy Profesora Bhaer!*

Hour 3.5: The Laurie paradox

Literary analysis include! Midway through Mervyn LeRoy's 1949 version, as Laurie issues his ill-fated proposal to June Allyson's Jo, let's pause to ask the question that "Little Women" fans have gnawed on for 150 years: Should Jo have said yes to Laurie, or was she right to choose Professor Bhaer?

On the one hand: A consistent aspect of Jo's character is wanting things to stay as they are. So perhaps the rejection isn't entirely about Laurie — it's also about Jo's fear of change.

On the other hand: Maybe Jo appreciates that while Laurie views her as a lover, the professor sees her as an intellectual. Laurie is the guy who says, "Your plays are great!" Jo wants someone to say, "I know you can do better."

Then there's the matter of sibling loyalty. There's a scene in the book where Jo sees Beth admiring Laurie. Beth is actually just envying



RKO RADIO PICTURES

The 1933 classic version of "Little Women," from RKO Pictures, starred, from left, Frances Dee, Jean Parker, Katharine Hepburn and Joan Bennett.

Laurie's vitality because she's sick, but Jo thinks Beth is in love. Does Jo refuse Laurie to protect her favorite sister's feelings?

In another scene in the novel, Jo insists that Meg can't really be in love with John (her eventual husband) because she's not acting nervous and silly enough, which might mean that Jo has a rather flawed, fantastical idea of what romantic love is. She doesn't realize it can just be hanging out with your best friend.

So maybe Jo could have been happy with Laurie. But she didn't realize that she could have been happy, so she couldn't have been happy. The Laurie paradox.

Marmeemeter: "Little Women," 1949.

Caitlin: 3.75 Marmees. This Professor Bhaer's hotness makes it easier to accept Jo's choosing him, although he also seems to have an Italian accent? Do any of the Professors Bhaer have appropriate accents?

Monica: 3 Marmees. IMDB says this actor is from Bologna, but mostly I'm down-ranking this movie because it lacked pickled limes.

Hour 5: Life After Beth

Lest you think we're messing around here, we are treating this Womarathon as a serious journalistic endeavor.

Enter into evidence: Did you know there was a 1958 made-for-CBS musical version, starring Florence Henderson (aka Carol Brady from "The Brady Bunch")?

Do you know how hard

we tried to get a copy? We scoured Amazon and eBay. We contacted CBS. We contacted Warner Bros., which owns CBS' back catalog. We called the Library of Congress.

The original producer is dead, but his son sent us to the estate lawyer, who sent us to a private library, which has what might be the only existing copy — but it was all the way in New York.

Ultimately, we made do with an audio recording of the soundtrack. It pains us to tell you that this is a real lyric that appeared in a real song called "Party Shoes," which aired on real television: "Sure as my name is Maaarch/naw I've got fallen aarch-es."

It's a whole song that Meg sings, in a weird kazoo voice, about bunions. Bunions. Sheba hates this song so much she leaves the room.

Even more egregious: In a plot change worthy of public shaming, BETH DOES NOT SEEM TO DIE. Repeat: We've got a Living Beth situation. Not that we're rooting for a teenage girl to croak, but without this formative event — which catapults the living sisters into adulthood — the version might as well be called "Little Girls."

We repudiate it. **Marmeemeter:** "Little Women," 1958

Caitlin and Monica: Zero Marmees. This version deserves no Marmees whatsoever.

Hour 6.25: You can have it all, including scarlet fever

Three versions in, carb-loaded on Duraflame-toasted bread, let's take a break to digest.

Why do we think "Little Women" is a classic? What do we get out of remaking it time and again?

The themes at the heart of the story — the bonds of family, the growing pains of youth, the impossible desire to stop time at moments when we believe we are happiest — are quite timeless. It was also mercifully ahead of its time — no flagrantly cringe-inducing moments, flippant racism or heinous misogyny.

And Jo, Amy, Meg and Beth offered a rather astonishing range of possibilities for female lives: You could

be an ambitious career woman, an artistic society gal, someone who wants to build a family or, like Beth, you could get scarlet fever and die. And the story finds validity in all those paths (aside from the dying option).

Jo is the protagonist — Alcott mirrored the character after herself. But Alcott treats Meg's desire for domesticity as worthy. She treats Amy's love of art and beauty as worthy. She treats stereotypically "female" tenderness as a true strength: Marmee is one of the most empathetic characters in literature, and she's also the unflappable foundation of her entire community.

The interests and pursuits of all of the characters deserve society's respect and the reader's time. "Little Women" is an urtext of feminism for its varied portrayals of what it means to live a meaningful life as a woman.

Have we unlocked the secret? Do we even need to keep watching? (Yes.) Is it pickled lemon time yet? (No.)

Hour 9.5: Beam me up, professor

OK, the 1978 version is technically a miniseries, which violates Article I of our rules. But we have decided to watch it due to a little-known part of Womarathon law known as the "Shatner Exemption."

Yes, Captain James T. Kirk has traveled through time and space to marry Jo (played by Susan Dey of "The Partridge Family"). He's playing Professor Bhaer, but actually Professor Bhaer seems to be playing William Shatner, who is talking in the — same, bizarrely emphatic WAY ... he always ... talks. (His bluff at a German accent involves saying "ting" instead of "thing," and that's basically it; it's possible this is actually just a lost "Star Trek" episode in which the crew teleports to the Civil War.)

Anyway, Laurie in this version looks like your friend's weird dad, so we're not sad about Jo refusing him this time.

Also! Speaking of American TV stars from the 1960s and '70s, Jan from "The Brady Bunch" is playing Beth, which means that we have now watched back-to-back versions of "Little Women," from different eras, both starring women

from "The Brady Bunch."

The explanation for this strikes us as simple: The arrival of 1970s Shatner to 1860s New England (and, simultaneously, our 2019 Womarathon) has left a hole in time-space. Did we prepare for this?

We don't have helmets. We don't even have gelmets.

We do have a bonnet, so we put that on.

Marmeemeter: "Little Women," 1978

Caitlin: 2.745 Marmees. I can't do it, Captain. I don't have the power.

Monica: 2.745 Marmees. I'm exactly agreeing with you because I'm buttering you up for what's next.

There comes a time in every woman's life in which she has to find out of what she's made.

Pucker up. It's lemon o'clock.

Hour 10: When life gives you pickled lemons ...

We have encountered a nightmare, and we have eaten it.

The pickled lemons — they are fetid rubber bands and Satan himself. They are eyeballs marinated in goat bile. Why did the children of the 1860s eat this? Were they monsters? Suddenly, Beth's exit seems advisable: When life gives you pickled lemons, die.

Onward, Womarathoners! We must watch this Japanese anime version of "Little Women" from 1981, which opens with a military-style musical number in which Jo is lifted into the air by a bouquet of pigeons and, oh God, we think these lemons might be hallucinogenic. Are they hallucinogenic?

Shhhh, no, it is fine. We are fine. Marmee's here, but Marmee's NOT here, for if she were she would stop Jo from leaping into this horse-drawn carriage, and the horse is jumping off a cliff, but now it's flying? In the background, the martial musical number continues and a shrill woman's voice is wailing at us: "OooooOOOOOOoooooo Little Womennnnnnn! Little Womennnnnnn! Little Wom —"

Marmeemeter: "Little Women," 1981

Caitlin: 1.8 Marmees. I did not know "Little Women" could be a horror movie. Also why is Sheba wearing the bonnet?

Monica: 2.4 Marmees. Let us never speak of this again.

Hour 12: Redemption!

At last, it is time for our reward: a "Little Women" that a) doesn't have William Shatner and b) isn't a cartoon that makes us feel high.

The Holy Grail of "Little Women" remakes is the 1994 classic starring Winona Ryder, Claire Danes, Kirsten Dunst and Susan Sarandon. This movie arrived at the height of our teenage era. It is hard to explain what it meant at the time, but if you owned a VHS copy, it was probably worn out from rewinding

Laurie's speech — and you know exactly what speech we're talking about.

Glad tidings! Christian Bale, Winona Ryder — this entire movie holds up. It absolutely distills the essence of what the story should be about, what it means, how it should make us feel.

What a relief. We'd worried that nostalgia had rose-tinted our memories of this movie or that its impact would now feel diluted. But the opposite is true. Here we are, closer to Marmee's age than Jo's, and we have never cried harder for Beth.

We are also feeling more moved than we expected — not only by this remake but by the whole marathon. It's remarkable to have watched 85 years' worth of women figuring out what it means to be a woman. To see 1860s feminism filtered through the 1930s, the 1950s, the 1970s. Not even feminism, but humanity: We're very moved by our collective and cosmic willingness to wrestle with how to live a good life.

It turns out you can go home again, if home is the March family house in Concord, Massachusetts.

Marmeemeter: "Little Women," 1994

Caitlin: 5 Marmees. And 27 Kleenex.

Monica: Marmees infinitum.

Hour 15: The Womarathon is never over

There were a few more stops and detours: the 2005 Broadway adaptation, as performed by a Pennsylvania Christian community center and recorded on shaky camcorder (it's on YouTube). A reality TV series called "Little Women: LA" that turned out to have nothing to do with Alcott's book and was instead about women with dwarfism living their best lives. A 2018 version set in the present day, giving our beloved 19th-century characters a contemporary makeover.

But here's the thing about "Little Women": It doesn't need to be set in the modern era to feel relevant. The characters are timeless. It's the films that are bound by time.

To us, the 1933 adaptation felt archaic, and the 1978 one felt hokey because they weren't ours. The 1994 version arrived just when we needed it (then as now). Newer remakes will be made for the little women who need this story down the line, until the idea of watching the entire archive in a single Womarathon becomes not just inadvisable but impossible.

We embrace the endless succession. Greta Gerwig has a legacy to uphold, but we've already pre-ordered our tickets.

As for now, we are not elegant, but we are not dead either. We've been in this room for 15 hours. The fire is dying, our brains are pickled lemons and the dog is wearing a bonnet.

But our hearts are full. We award ourselves maximum Marmees.

MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

<p>CITY — NEAR NORTH</p> <p>MUSIC BOX THEATRE 3733 N. Southport MusicBoxTheatre.com 773-871-6604</p> <p>LITTLE WOMEN- 1:15pm, 4:10pm, 7:05pm, 10:00pm 63 UP- Noon, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00</p>	<p>PICKWICK MEGA-THEATRE NOW OPEN 847-604-2234</p> <p>FREE REFILLS ON LARGE POPCORN AND LARGE DRINKS</p> <p>STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER MEGA-THEATRE (PG-13) 1:30 4:15 7:30</p> <p>LITTLE WOMEN (PG) 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:30</p> <p>JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL (PG-13) 1:45 4:30 7:00 9:20</p> <p>SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG) 1:30 3:45 6:00 8:20</p> <p>CATS (PG) 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:15</p> <p>Buy tickets at www.pickwicktheatre.com</p>
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Enjoy the Theater Tonight

Enjoy a Movie

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G—Suggested for **GENERAL** audiences

PG—**Parental Guidance Suggested**
Some material may not be suitable for children

PG-13 **Parents Strongly Cautioned**
Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

R—**Restricted Persons under 17 not admitted**
unless accompanied by parent or adult guardian

NC-17 **No children under 17 admitted**

WATCH THIS: FRIDAY



Nancy Wilson

"America Salutes You Presents Guitar Legends 3" (7 p.m., CW): This all-star benefit concert aims to promote and support charities that work with veterans and first responders to ensure their mental wellness. Host Billy Gibbons performs and also welcomes such musical guests as George Thorogood, Warren Haynes, Nancy Wilson, Steve Lukather, Charlie Starr, Ellis Hall and Kenny Aronoff.

"Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors: Circle of Love" (7 p.m., NBC): A sequel to "Coat of Many Colors," this 2016 drama movie continues the saga inspired by a song by Parton, who's an executive producer here. Jennifer Nettles, Rick Schroder and (as the young Dolly) Alyvia Alyn Lind all return as the members of the rural Tennessee family who face new challenges, including a holiday blizzard and the patriarch's financial struggles to give his wife a proper wedding ring.

"The Wrong Tutor: After School" (7 p.m., 11 p.m., LIFEMOV): If you're a regular Lifetime Movies viewer and that title sounds familiar, you're not hallucinating: This melodrama starring Ivy Matheson as a young woman who persuades an unsuspecting mother (Vivica A. Fox) to hire her as her son's tutor previously aired on this channel last summer. This time around, however, it features an alternate ending. Jackée Harry, Jason-Shane Scott and William McNamara co-star.

"The Darkest Minds" (7 p.m., Cinemax): Amandla Stenberg, Harris Dickinson, Mandy Moore and Gwendoline Christie head the ensemble cast of Jennifer Yuh Nelson's 2018 adaptation of Alexandra Bracken's dystopian young adult novel about some teenagers forced to go on the run from the government after they develop superpowers in the wake of a plague that kills 90 percent of other children.

"Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" (8 p.m., 11 p.m., Food): Host Guy Fieri opens Season 32 of his road show by embarking on a quest to find truly inventive eats in a premiere called "Creative Creations." Among the more ingenious fare he finds are mac-and-cheese pancakes at a funky joint in Burlington, Vt., and, at a down-home spot in Richmond, Va., grits and biscuits that are truly extraordinary.

"Ghost Loop" (9 p.m., 1 a.m., TRAVEL): Among several different types of hauntings, a "ghost loop" refers to repetitive supernatural cycles in which a paranormal entity keeps appearing in the same location, often repeating the same behavior each time. In this new series, paranormal investigator and medium Sean Austin, empath Kris Star, tech advisor Chris Califf and others on their team visit such sites and attempt to restore peace to the restless spirit by breaking these cycles of trapped occult activity.

TALK SHOWS

"The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (10:34 p.m., NBC): Actor Jon Hamm; actress Keri Russell; Gary Clark Jr. performs.*

"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (10:35 p.m., CBS): Actor Robert De Niro; filmmaker J.J. Abrams.*

"Jimmy Kimmel Live!" (10:35 p.m., ABC): Actor Kevin Hart; actress Julia Fox; Finneas performs.*

* Subject to change

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FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 27

	PM	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00
BROADCAST	CBS	2	Hawaii Five-0: "E'ao lu'au a kualima." ©	Magnum P.I.: "Winner Takes All." ©	Blue Bloods: "Meet the New Boss." ©	News (N) ♦		
	NBC	5	Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors: Circle of Love (NR,'16) ** Jennifer Nettles. ©		Dateline NBC: "Bad Blood." ©	NBC 5 News (N) ♦		
	ABC	7	American Housewife	Fresh Off the Boat	20/20: "The Bobbitts: Love Hurts." ©		News at 10pm (N) ♦	
	WGN	9	black-ish ©	black-ish ©	Last Man Standing ©	Last Man Standing ©	WGN News at Nine (N) (Live) ©	WGN News at Ten (N)
	Antenna	9.2	Alice ©	Alice ©	B. Miller	B. Miller	Johnny Carson ©	3's Comp.
	Court	9.3	♦ Closing Arguments		Closing Arguments with Vinnie Politan © ♦			
	PBS	11	Chi. Tonight: Review (N)	Washington Week (N)	Check, Please!	Jay's Chicago	Craft in America: "Quilts." (Season Premiere) (N) ©	Craft (N) ♦
	CW	26.1	Guitar Legends 3 (N)		Popstar's Best of 2019 (N)	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Seinfeld ©
	The U	26.2	Dr. Phil ©		Tamron Hall (N) ©	Steve Wilkos Show (N)	Cops ©	
	MeTV	26.3	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Green Acres	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero
	H&I	26.4	Star Trek ©		Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9	Star Trek ♦
	Bounce	26.5	The Game	The Game	Lottery Ticket (PG-13,'10) ** Bow Wow. ©		All About ♦	
	FOX	32	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (N) (Live) ©				Fox 32 News (N)	Bears Un-leashed
	Ion	38	NCIS: Los Angeles	NCIS: Los Angeles			NCIS: Los Angeles	NCIS: LA ♦
	TeleM	44	Decisiones: unos (N)		La Doña (N) ©		El señor de los cielos (N)	Chicago (N)
	MNT	50	Chicago P.D. ©		CSI: Miami: "See No Evil."		CSI: Miami: "Manhunt."	Chicago ♦
	UniMas	60	10,000 B.C. (PG-13,'08) **	Steven Strait, Camilla Belle.			Noticiero (N)	Apocalipsis
	WJYS	62	Kenneth Cox Ministries	Joyce Meyer	Robison		Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
	Univ	66	♦ (6) Ringo (N)		El dragón (N)			Noticias (N)
CABLE	AE		Live PD: Rewind ©		Live PD: "Live PD -- 12.01.18." © ♦			
	AMC		♦ (4:30) The Godfather (R,'72) ****		The Godfather, Part II (R,'74) **** Al Pacino. © ♦			
	ANIM		The Zoo: San Diego (N)		The Zoo: San Diego (N)		The Zoo: San Diego - Inside (N)	
	BBCA		(7:10) Doctor Who ©		(8:35) Doctor Who ©			Norton (N) ♦
	BET		♦ (5) Creed ('15) *** ©		Enough (PG-13,'02) ** Jennifer Lopez, Billy Campbell. © ♦			
	BIGTEN		Michigan Football Classic		Big Ten Elite ©		Ohio State (N)	Ten's Best
	BRAVO		The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13,'06) *** Meryl Streep. ©				The Devil Wears Prada ♦	
	CLTV		News at 7	News (N)	News at 8	News (N)	Chic.Best	S.E.E. Chi
	CNN		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		CNN Special Report ©	AC 360 ♦
	COM		♦ South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park
	DISC		Gold Rush: "Make or Break." (N) ©					Man-Bear ♦
	DISN		Sing (PG,'16) *** Voices of Matthew McConaughey.		Gabby		Sydney-Max	Raven
	E!		♦ (6:30) 13 Going on 30 (PG-13,'04) ***		Knocked Up (R,'07) *** Seth Rogen. © ♦			
	ESPN		♦ College Football (N)				College Football: Cheez-It Bowl (N) ♦	
	ESPN2		Madden NFL 20 Club (N)		Tetris World Champ.		SC Featured (N)	SportCtr (N)
	FNC		Tucker Carlson (N)		Hannity (N) ©		The Ingraham Angle (N)	Fox News
	FOOD		Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive
	FREE		Simpsons	Simpsons	Matilda (PG,'96) *** Mara Wilson, Danny DeVito. ©			700 Club ♦
	FX		American Made (R,'17) *** Tom Cruise, Domhnall Gleeson. ©				American Made (R) *** ♦	
	HALL		A Shoe Addict's Christmas (NR,'18) ©				Christmas Town (NR,'19) Tim Rozon. ♦	
	HGTV		Dream	Dream	Dream (N)	Dream	Dream	Dream
	HIST		Ancient Aliens ©		(8:02) Ancient Aliens: "Return to Mars." ©			Aliens ♦
	HLN		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
	IFC		Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men
	LIFE		Unforgettable (R,'17) ** Rosario Dawson, Katherine Heigl. ©				The Perfect Soulmate ♦	
	MSNBC		All In With (N)		Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word (N)	11th Hour (N)
	MTV		Ridic. (N)	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.
	NBCSCH		Pregame (N)	NHL Hockey: New York Islanders at Chicago Blackhawks. (N) (Live)				Postgame
	NICK		SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends ©	Friends ©
	OVATION		♦ (6) Road House (R,'89) ** Kelly Lynch		XXX: State of the Union (PG-13,'05) ** Ice Cube.			
	OWN		20/20 on OWN		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	20/20 ♦
	OXY		Dateline: Secrets (N)		Killer Siblings ©		Killer Siblings: "Brileys."	Killer Sib. ♦
	PARMT		♦ Museum	Jumanji (PG,'95) ** Robin Williams, Bonnie Hunt. ©				Goonies ♦
SYFY		♦ Chronicles	Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13,'14) *** Chris Pratt. ©				Futurama	
TBS		♦ (6) Hitch (PG-13,'05) ***	The Hangover (R,'09) *** Bradley Cooper. ©				ELEAGUE	
TCM		All That Heaven Allows (NR,'55) ***	(8:45) The Little Foxes (NR,'41) *** Bette Davis. ♦					
TLC		90 Day Fiancé: "Nicole & Azan: The Full Story." (N)					90 Day ♦	
TLN		Quentin Rd. Church		The Three	Life Today	Dare	Homeless ♦	
TNT		Divergent (PG-13,'14) ** Shailene Woodley, Theo James. ©					Insurgent ♦	
TOON		♦ LEGO NINJAGO		Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Burgers	Burgers	
TRAV		Ghost Nation: "Dark History Wakes the Dead." (N) ©				Ghost Loop (Series Premiere) (N) ©	Tren. Fear	
TVL		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	
USA		Law & Order: SVU (N)		Law & Order: SVU (N)		Law & Order: SVU (N)	Mod Fam	
VH1		Coming to America (R,'88) *** Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall. ©				Tower Heist ('11) ** © ♦		
WE		Love After Lockup ©		Love After Lockup ©		Love After Lockup ©	Love- Loc. ♦	
WGN America		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	
PREMIUM	HBO		A Star Is Born (R,'18) *** Bradley Cooper, Lady Gaga. ©				Just Like Heaven *** ♦	
	HBO2		Succession: "DC." ©		Succession ©		(9:15) Hellboy (R,'19) ** © ♦	
	MAX		The Darkest Minds (PG-13,'18) ** ©		(8:45) Lights Out (PG-13,'16) **		Casino R ♦	
	SHO		♦ New Order: Decades ©		Duran		Flack (N) ©	
	STARZ		♦ Men in Black		Dublin Murders ©		(9:02) My Days of Mercy (R,'17) ♦	
STZNC		♦ (6:26) Happy Gilmore **		Field of Dreams (PG,'89) *** Kevin Costner.			Bull Dhm ♦	

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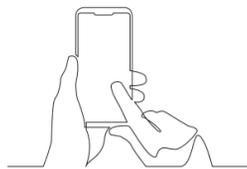
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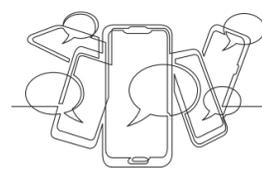
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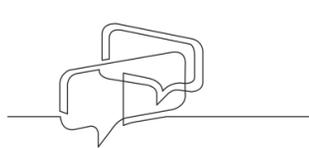
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Horoscopes



Today's birthday (Dec. 27): Listen to your heart this year. Consistent focus and practice generate a personal win. Reach a powerful winter peak before adapting to partnership changes. Peaceful introspection next summer reveals missing elements, inspiring new levels of collaboration and romance.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is an 8. Reinforce foundational supports for a professional possibility. Connect with teammates and potential allies. Do research and get the money together. Express the vision.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 8. Travel, study and investigate. Make long-distance connections that develop and feed your inquiry. Strengthen foundational structures.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. A profitable initiative can benefit your shared accounts. Simplify and clarify goals and objectives, roles and responsibilities.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. Share the load. Share resources, information and support with your partner. Focus on practical objectives. Strengthen the ties that bond you together.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 9. Practice your moves. Your physical work and fitness reach new performance levels. A lucky break offers new opportunities. Prepare to show your stuff.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Have fun with people you love. Play your favorite games and sports. Get out and move your body. Share a walk somewhere beautiful.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 7. Home and family draw you in. Domestic projects and arts provide satisfying results. Create something delicious, beautiful or soothing to share with your dear ones.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 8. Creative communications flourish. Develop an idea or thought. Articulate your vision and views. Write a compelling story and share it far and wide.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 9. Maintain positive cash flow by energizing your actions. Stick to what you know works. Carefully work within your budget. Track costs and benefits.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 9. Assume authority. Take leadership in order to realize a personal dream. It could get lucrative. Confirm your intentions. Imagine what could be possible and go for it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 7. Rest and consider. Review the past and imagine what you'd love to see for the future. Update plans and schedules. Adapt your course to new possibilities.

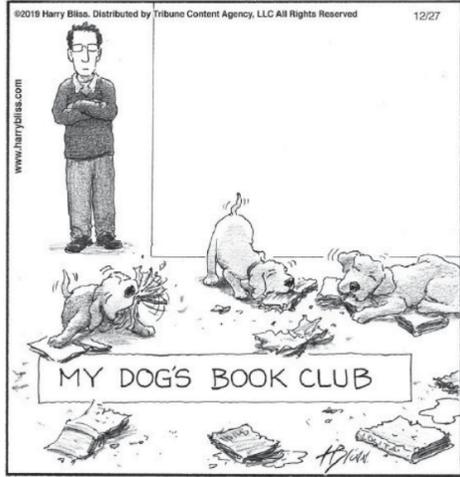
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 8. Participate in team projects and invite others to join. Teamwork gets outside results, and enticing opportunities appear. Celebrate with friends and colleagues.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn



Bliss By Harry Bliss



Bridge

East-West vulnerable, East deals

North
 ♠ AK974
 ♥ Void
 ♦ 853
 ♣ 109752

West
 ♠ 10832
 ♥ AQ1072
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 643

East
 ♠ J
 ♥ K863
 ♦ KQJ97
 ♣ KQ8

South
 ♠ Q65
 ♥ J954
 ♦ A1042
 ♣ AJ

North-South in today's deal were two young men from Australia, where players are constantly experimenting with new bidding ideas. Such experiments, alas, are frowned on in North America.

Repeated heart leads, attacking dummy's trumps, would have worked better, but West reasonably led his singleton in partner's suit. South won with his ace and led the queen of spades, felling the jack from East. He successfully led a spade to dummy's

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1♦	Pass	1♥	2NT*
3♥	4♣	Dbl	All pass

*5-5 in spades and clubs

Opening lead: Six of ♦

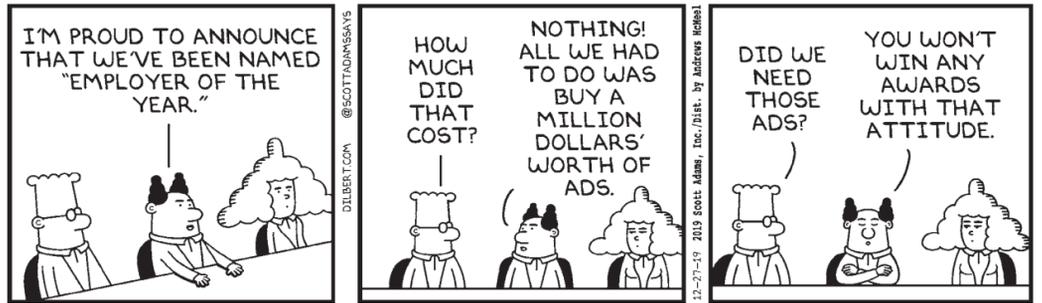
nine and then led a low club from dummy. East split his honors and South captured the queen with his ace.

South now drew the last two trumps but had to choose a discard on the fourth trump. Should he discard a red card and lead a club toward his jack, East could defeat the contract by brilliantly ducking his king. With only one trump left in dummy, the clubs would be useless and the contract would fail. To prevent this, South discarded his jack of clubs! He now needed clubs to split 3-3 or the eight of clubs to fall. He followed by leading dummy's 10 of clubs and the defense could not prevail. Nice play!

Note that South had to draw all the trumps before leading a second club, or West would have discarded a club on one of East's diamonds and scored a club ruff to defeat the contract.

— Bob Jones
 tcaeditors@tribpub.com

Dilbert By Scott Adams



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin



Frazz By Jef Mallett



Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz



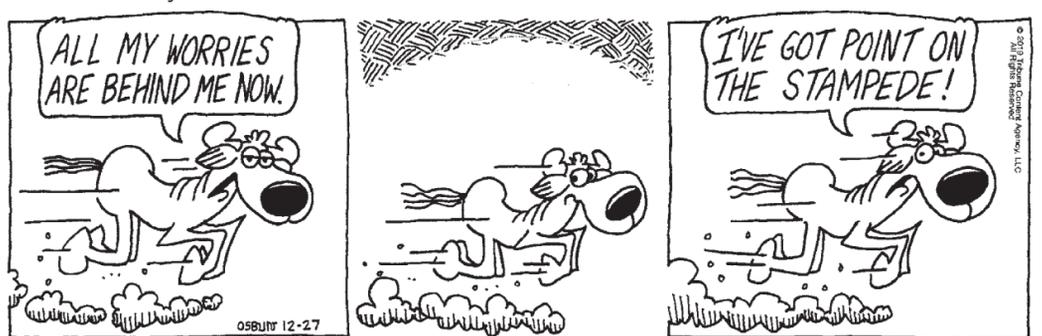
Pickles By Brian Crane



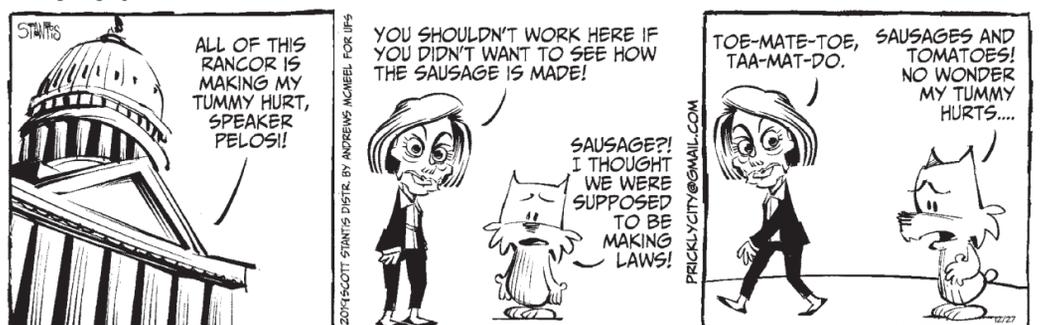
Dick Tracy By Joe Staton and Mike Curtis



Animal Crackers By Mike Osburn



Prickly City By Scott Stantis



Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



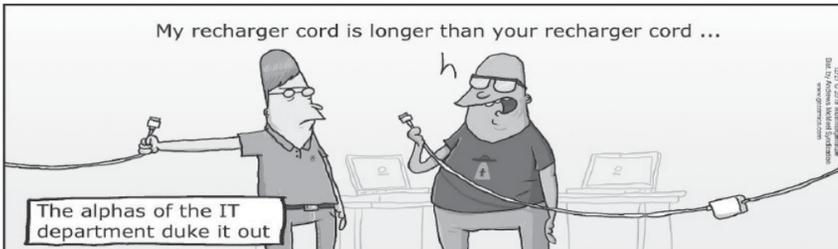
Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



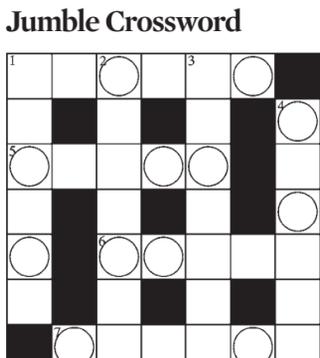
Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers



Trivia Bits

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen" is the opening line of what 20th century novel?
 A) "Brave New World"
 B) "Fahrenheit 451"
 C) "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"
 D) "Nineteen Eighty-four"
 Thursday's answer: Andorra.
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Jumble Crossword



12-27-19

CLUE: This is where the first franchised Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant opened in 1952.

BONUS

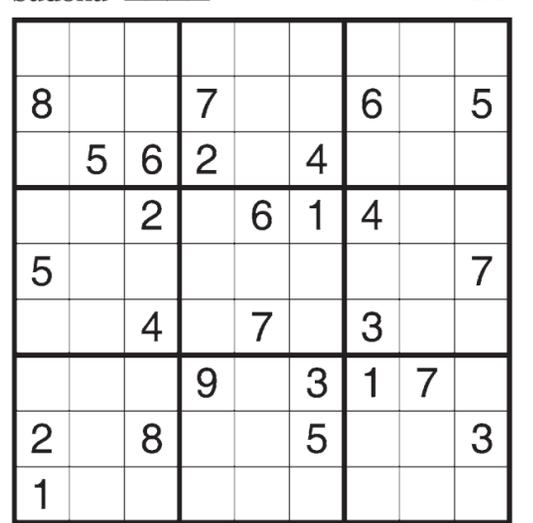
- ACROSS**
- CLUE**
- Probable
 - Get it off your _____
 - Greek epic poem
 - Concurred
- ANSWER**
- ELKLIY
 SCHTE
 ILDAI
 EEADGR
- DOWN**
- CLUE**
- Setting
 - Retaining
 - Lavatory
 - Swapped
- ANSWER**
- LEOLAC
 NEKPEGI
 NAERITL
 ARDDTE

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.

ANSWERS: 1-A-Likely 2-A-Host 2F-Keeping 3D-Lavatory 4D-Trade 5-D-Salt Lake City
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 By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1 2 3 4

12/27



3	9	1	2	4	6	8	7	5
2	4	5	9	7	8	3	1	6
6	7	8	1	3	5	4	2	9
7	1	9	8	5	4	2	6	3
4	6	2	3	1	9	5	8	7
5	8	3	6	2	7	1	9	4
1	2	7	5	6	3	9	4	8
8	3	6	4	9	1	7	5	2
9	5	4	7	8	2	6	3	1

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Thursday'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.

UAOTQ

CANTE

LOCLRS

BLYAFB

Answer here

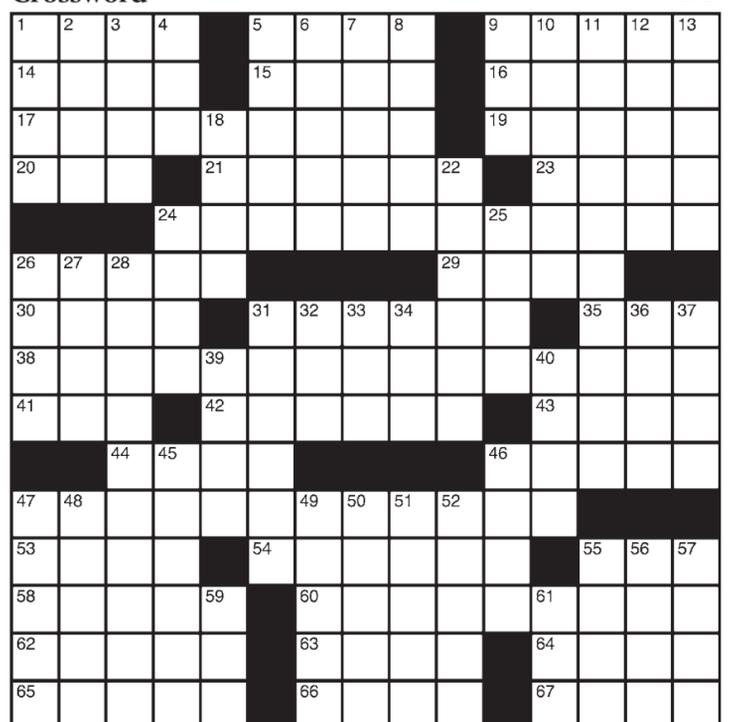
Thursday's answers

Jumbles: IMPEL PRAWN VERBAL DENOTE
 Answer: The horse that won lots of money for his owners was a thorough — "BRED" WINNER
 By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.



Crossword

12/27



- Across**
- Stop lying
 - Suburban expanse
 - Comes impressively into view
 - One may be pitched to a publisher
 - Canal that helps connect the Great Lakes to the Atlantic
 - Capital SSW of Damascus
 - A vat, some cloth, etc.?
 - Surprise in a bottle
 - Shade tree
 - Jazz saxophonist — Cobb
 - Angle or angler's necessity
 - One in a Mesoamerican clean-up crew?
 - Not from around here
 - Any of four palindromic emperors
 - Gels
- Down**
- Moody
 - Object of podiatric study
 - Apothecary's concern?
 - Serious misdeed
 - Not on the fence
 - Tupac Amaru, e.g.
 - Beige look-alike
 - Big celebrations
 - Large cat romantically interested in opposite-sex large cats?
 - Oxen group
 - Ex ___: out of nothing, in Latin
 - Saddlebag carrier
 - Make over
 - Surprisingly genteel outbreak of lawlessness?
 - Being dragged behind
 - Largest human joint
 - Not doing anything
 - No longer hip
 - Fax button
 - Like some pockets
- Express contempt**
 18 Indian bread
 22 With 10-Down, breakfast choice
 24 Tableland
 25 Suffix with cigar
 26 Egyptian serpents
 27 City near Provo
 28 Nomadic sorts
 31 Call into question
 32 Member of the 2019 World Series champs
 33 Request from a Midwestern cheerleader, maybe
 34 God with a flute
 36 Barely at all
 37 LAX postings
 39 Actress Petty
 40 Compartment
 45 Hitchcock was known for them
 46 Deluded one
 47 Denude
 48 Singer — Marie
 49 2006 "American Idol" winner Taylor —
 50 Yours, once
 51 Animate
 52 Sheepish admission
 55 Assistant
 56 Cobbler's concern
 57 Dance part
 59 "SmackDown" org.
 61 Unburden

Thursday's solution



By David Alfred Bywaters. Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis. © 2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Down

- Lift
- Pastoral verse
- Appear
- Facial projection
- Not sure (of)
- Sports venue
- Increase in girth
- Fits one within another
- Hang back
- See 22-Down
- Capable of anything
- Nearly half of New England

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Chicago Tribune

ON THE TOWN



AMY HARRIS/INVISION

Michael Bishop as Blothar of GWAR performs during Louder Than Life at Highland Festival Grounds in Louisville, Kentucky.

HEAVY METAL METTLE

Gwar's Blothar on late frontman Brockie and the band's new reality **BY ALLISON STEWART**

When Richmond, Virginia-based thrash metal group Gwar released its first album in 1988, Michael Bishop was in the band, playing bass in the role of Beefcake the Mighy.

He would go on to earn a Ph.D. in music from the University of Virginia, where for years he taught American music history. Gwar would go on to become beloved shock metal icons. When the band's longtime frontman Dave Brockie (Oderus Urungus) died of a drug overdose in 2014, Bishop returned to the fold, taking over lead vocal duties as Blothar the Berserker.

The band has released one official album under his auspices, "The Blood of Gods," in 2017. In a phone call from the Copenhagen date of the band's European tour, Bishop discussed the band's new reality, the scourge of modernity and why Gwar is like "Cats." (He takes a vague stab at conducting the interview in character, as

Turn to *Gwar*, Page 5

Take 10

BY ADAM LUKACH

1. Still feeling festive?: Try ice skating! Strap on some of that leftover holiday spirit and some skates this weekend and hit the rink for a quintessential winter activity. Chicago makes it easy, with several different ice-skating options scattered throughout town. Prices vary, with many free options as well. *Various locations offer daily hours throughout the winter season, admission and skate prices vary; chicagoparkdistrict.com*

2. Jingle bell rock: L.A. noise rockers Cherry Glazerr head a bill with power pop group Charly Bliss, out of New York, as part of the Lincoln Hall 30/10 concert series. Both bands released well-regarded albums this year. *7:30 show Thursday, 8:30 show Friday, Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., \$20; lh-st.com*

3. Glampin' it: Tents on a patio is nothing like camping, but it's too cold for that anyway, so Camp Zachary is a perfectly fine way to pretend like you're treating yourself to the great outdoors in the middle of winter. *Three two-hour seatings 4-9 p.m. weekdays, four two-hour seatings 1:30-9 p.m. weekends, daily through Feb. 16, Hotel Zachary, 3630 N. Clark St., reservations available for groups up to 10, \$150+; resy.com*



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2015

People take to the ice at the Maggie Daley Skating Ribbon in Millennium Park.

4. 'An Evening Of the Music of The Cars': Local man Michael Shannon joins musicians Jason Narducy, Matt Walker and Scott Lucas to celebrate the late Ric Ocasek of The Cars with a one-night show. *Doors open 7:30 p.m. Sunday, The Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave., \$15; eventbrite.com*

5. Couch 'Smash': If you were planning to kick back and enjoy some video games this weekend, Marz Brewing hosts its monthly "Super Smash Bros." tourney. Rules are N64, five stock and no items on

the Hyrule and Dreamland stages. *5-9 p.m. Sunday, Marz Community Brewing, 3630 S. Iron St., free; facebook.com/MarzCommunityBrewing*

6. Saturday morning cartoons: You enjoy brunch; your kids watch "Winnie the Pooh" — it's a win-win — "Win." Davis Theater's direct-connect theater system makes monitoring and transitioning from theater to restaurant easier. *10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon Sunday, Carbon Arc Bar, 4620 N. Lincoln Ave., reservations*

recommended; resy.com

7. More holiday lights: Lincoln Park Zoo has ZooLights, but Brookfield Zoo also has a blinding holiday light extravaganza: Holiday Magic offers a dazzling display including a 41-foot talking tree and 10-foot light orb. *Times vary Thursday through Tuesday (Dec. 26-31), Brookfield Zoo, 8400 W. 31st St., Brookfield, \$15-\$16 kids, \$21-\$22 adults; czs.org*

8. Happy New-ish Year: Take to the lake for an early New Year's celebration, courtesy of Chicago Party Boat. Your ticket includes a free buffet, one drink at the afterparty, live music and giveaway entry. Full bar available a la carte. *9-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Board at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., \$30-\$40; eventbrite.com*

9. New Year, neo-soul: Soulful husband-wife duo Kindred the Family Soul brings good vibes this weekend, running through their hits and sharing the stage with son Aquil Dawud, who recently released his debut. *7-9:30 p.m. Friday, The Promontory, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave., \$27-\$37; eventbrite.com*

10. House-attached garage: U.K. garage-house duo Gorgon City brings its sound across the pond for a show in the birthplace of house music. *8 p.m. doors Saturday, Concord Music Hall, 2051 N. Milwaukee Ave., \$30-\$35, eventbrite.com*

TURN IT UP

Making their most soul-baring music yet

For Charly Bliss and singer Eva Hendricks, the song is the thing and performing is a form of communion

BY DAN HYMAN

Where songwriting is therapy for many artists, for Charly Bliss singer Eva Hendricks performing is a form of communion. With her songs getting ever more personal and vulnerable, seeing fans rejoice upon hearing them in the live setting is a supreme validation to her. “I feel like whatever I give to them they will reflect back to me in this really beautiful way,” the thoughtful musician said one recent afternoon via phone from her native New York City. “That validation and support I receive from them definitely makes me feel even more confident in what I do and a tremendous sense of trust in them.”

Hendricks’ willingness to bare her soul has resulted in Charly Bliss’ most effective — and critically acclaimed — music yet. Where the group’s 2017 debut full-length album, “Guppy” hinted at a band able to wrap diary entries in pop-rock confections, this year’s “Young Enough” was definitive proof.

“On ‘Guppy’ I turned to humor when I felt too vulnerable,” Hendricks explained of her former songwriting approach, “or I would dodge something that felt uncomfortable for me or maybe made me too nervous or exposed.” And despite battling depression and anxiety when writing for the new album, “on ‘Young Enough’ I really tried to do the opposite — I tried to push myself really hard to say what felt difficult to say. To say the things that felt embarrassing and that I wasn’t proud of and face them head on.

To that end, on this year’s “Chat Room,” Hendricks confronts her own demons via a dangerous lover. “I was chaste in the chat-room, talkin’ about you / Everybody knows you’re the second comin’ / Wasted a summer slappin’ my face, well / I wanna see you stripped down, naked.”

Hendricks continued, “So I think of the Charly Bliss records as this little series of memoirs of my life as I get older which is sometimes really beautiful and sometimes makes you cringe a little bit. Some of it you’re like ‘Wow, I’m really proud of her!’ I’m proud I got through that! Or ‘I forgot that I did that!’ And sometimes you’re like ‘Oh god! No!’ because you don’t feel that way anymore.”



EBRU YILDIZ

After years grinding it out to get here, singer Eva Hendricks and Charly Bliss are making their most soul-baring music yet.

When: 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday (w/ Cherry Glazerr)

Where: Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: \$20; 773-525-2501 or www.lh-st.com

What’s helped Hendricks’ growing lyrical self-assurance is knowing she has her three bandmates’ full support. Of course, it helps when your main collaborator is a blood relative. “We are *always* working together and just have so much admiration for one another,” she says of the band’s drummer and her brother, Sam Hendricks. “So when I come to the band — which includes guitarist Spencer Fox and bassist Dan Shure — “and bring a song and (Sam) says it’s the best thing I’ve ever written it makes my heart soar versus anyone else’s compliment. We’re probably each other’s biggest fan and biggest critic as well. That’s a really wonderful relationship to have with a collaborator.”

It’s also helped to come armed with a

keen sense of humility. Having been a band for nearly a decade and, especially in the early years, played gigs to virtually no audience, for Charly Bliss, who play Schubas Tavern on Friday and Saturday, any positive feedback the group receives now is even more appreciated. “It’s been a slow, slow build,” she said, with a laugh, of Charly Bliss’ trajectory. “But I feel gratitude for that because we’ve really never taken it for granted when we’ve played somewhere and we have an audience there that is excited to hear us and cares about our songs and sings the songs back to us. That is something that never gets old. It’s really powerful for us.”

Naturally, seeing an audience singing her lyrics back to her is the most direct way Hendricks can tell things are progressing in a positive direction for Charly Bliss. “But then again, it’s like anything in life,” she offered. “Sometimes you’re able to see what’s happening and sometimes you’re not and you have to have faith that you’re building something. And really the best evidence of that is hard work. Focusing on

the things I can control. I love writing so much for that reason and the more I do this career the more I appreciate the aspects of it that I can control myself. If I go and write for seven hours I *did* that. It’s the other things where you have to just cross your fingers and hope and try to see it clearly and know that everything moves in waves.”

For Hendricks, the most satisfying way to continue moving forward is to perform near every night and watch how her intimate, soul-baring songs affect listeners. Looking out into a Charly Bliss crowd, “I don’t feel like they’re just dancing,” she said of her band’s audience. “I feel like it’s this underlying communication between us and them of knowing what the song’s about and knowing I need to feel love and support and they’re going to show it to me. I can never really describe the strength the people who care about our music has given me.”

Dan Hyman is a freelance writer.

ct-arts@chicagotribune.com

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LOCAL SOUNDS

Laying down psychedelic soul like life depends on it

BY BRITT JULIOUS

“Everything I write, record and sing is an extension of myself,” said Manasseh Croft, an r&b and psychedelic soul musician who performs simply as Manasseh.

Perhaps because his work is such an extension of himself, Croft takes meticulous care on each new piece of music he releases. Consider his new album, tentatively titled “Monochromatic Dream.”

“The apple of my eye is my album,” he said. According to Croft, the album has been a two-and-a-half year work in progress. Although all of the music has been recorded, Croft has no plans to release the album until next summer. Like the song creation and recording process itself, there is no rush for Croft.

Many of Croft’s songs start in an unusual place: Google Keep. While working his day job, Croft will often make voice memos to himself using the app. He’ll also jot down numerous lyrics (or scraps of lyrics) to examine at a later point in time. Sometimes it’ll be that night and others, it’ll take days or weeks or even years. Croft is more dedicated to what works best rather than what works most quickly.

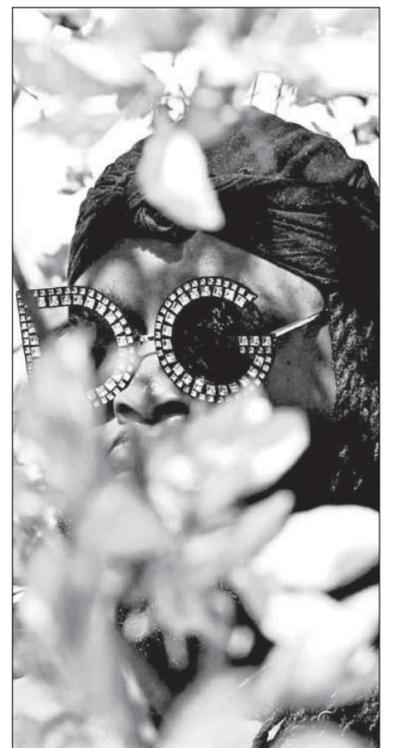
“There ain’t no telling when I’m going to use what I’m writing, but I just want to get it right when it’s fresh. I have to get it in my possession or it floats to someone else,” he said.

“Getting it right” means being obedient to his creativity. Obedience drives Croft, who said the lessons he picked up in his childhood, growing up in a religious home and in the church, continue to inform his artistic practice.

“Obedience is always better than sacrifice,” he began. “Sometimes, the completion is not always in your hands, in your efforts. Sometimes you do need to call in reinforcements. You can’t do everything by yourself. And a lot of times, the purpose of that is to allow other people the chance to tell their side of the story. And that is how you receive your blessings, I believe.”

Many of these lessons came from his mother, who Croft said instilled in him the importance of patience. “Growing up in a house with her and just hearing her tell me what to do, instructing me on what to do, really be patient with me ... Growing up with that really helped me be able to pay attention to myself and others,” he said. After his mother passed, it was Croft’s other family members who helped reiterate the lessons his mother taught him.

This patience — in himself, in his craft — will finally come to fruition with the release of “Monochromatic Dream.” The



MANASSEH CROFT

Manasseh Croft is a psychedelic soul musician.

When: 9 p.m. Jan. 10

Where: The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.

Tickets: \$10-\$12 (21+); eventbrite.com

title, according to Croft, means that we dream in color, but solutions are black and white. Dreams don’t always get straight to the point. Sometimes you have to put in a little effort to figure out what’s going on. That’s what he did, and what he wants others to understand, too. The wait was surely worth it.

“I describe it as stew in a crock pot. You put your ingredients in there one by one and you just let it simmer until everything’s tender and married together,” he said. “And once you’ve done that, once you’re obedient to the process, the reward is delicious.”

Britt Julious is a freelance writer.

ct-arts@chicagotribune.com

What are you doing New Year's eve weekend?



HOWARD REICH
Tribune arts critic

Before trumpeter Roy Hargrove's death in 2018, at age 49, he ended each year with a residency at the Jazz Showcase.

It always was one of the club's biggest engagements, drawing capacity crowds, and for good reason: Hargrove combined a nimble technique with a profound lyric sensibility. Even as health problems robbed Hargrove's work of its youthful virtuosity and tonal heft, there was no mistaking the poetry and sophistication of his compositions and improvisations.

New Orleans trumpeter Nicholas Payton played the Showcase's end-of-year engagement in 2018, devoting his sets to Hargrove's memory. Payton drew turn-away crowds, and he's back this year.

This new tradition is a boon to Chicago jazz lovers, for Payton stands as a singular figure in American music. He can evoke the stratospheric brilliance of Louis Armstrong in historic repertory, yet he also pushes at the stylistic boundaries of what's possible in 21st century music-making.

For this engagement, he'll be joined by vibraphonist Steve Nelson, pianist Christian Sands, bassist Vicente Archer and drummer Mark Whitfield,

Jr. 8 and 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday; 4 and 8 p.m. Sunday; 8 and 10 p.m. Dec. 30; 8 and 11 p.m. Dec. 31; and 8 and 10 p.m. Jan. 1; at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Court; ticket prices vary; 312-360-0234 or www.jazzshowcase.com

Shemekia Copeland

The majestic Chicago blues singer owns an immense instrument and knows what to do with it. That she also has been emerging as an eloquent songwriter whose works unflinchingly address our troubled times only deepens Copeland's appeal, as her most recent album, "America's Child," attests. She'll close out the year in her adopted hometown, performing with guest Kevin Burt. 8 p.m. Friday at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St.; \$38-\$52; 312-733-9463 or www.citywinery.com

Battle of the Saxes

Another great Chicago jazz tradition continues at the Green Mill, which years ago pitted tenor giant Von Freeman against the younger, fire-breathing tenor man Edward Petersen. Freeman died in 2012, at age 88, but the spirit of those jousts continues, now with former Chicagoan Petersen facing off against longtime Chicago tenor ace Eric Schneider. Who's likely to win? The listeners, as they can savor Petersen's hard-edged tonal brilliance and



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

New Orleans trumpeter Nicholas Payton will swing in the New Year at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Court.

harmonic daring alongside Schneider's gutsy, deep-swinging soliloquies. They'll be joined by another former Chicagoan, pianist John Campbell, plus bassist Brian Sandstrom and drummer Kyle Swan. 9 p.m. Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 31 at the Green Mill Jazz Club, 4802 N. Broadway; \$15 Friday and Saturday; \$30 Dec. 31; 773-878-5552 or www.greenmilljazz.com

Cheri Coons and Beckie Menzie

Two greats of the Chicago cabaret scene ring in the New Year with original songs and enduring standards. They're joined by guest Mark Hawbecker in a show titled "Optimistic Voices," which may be exactly what we need as we head into the new decade. 8 p.m. Dec. 31 at Davenport's, 1383 N. Mil-

waukee Ave.; \$28 plus two-drink minimum; 773-278-1830 or davenportspianobar.com

Patricia Barber

What a year the inimitable Chicago singer-songwriter-pianist has had. She released one of the most deeply introspective recordings of her career, "Higher," which includes her haunting song cycle, "Angels, Birds and I ..." — a suite years in the making. Barber's triumphant European tour and induction to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences added to the luster of her recent achievements. Through it all, Barber has held down the Monday-nights slot at the Green Mill Jazz Club whenever she's in town, reaffirming her stature as a Chicago musical treasure who attracts listeners

from around the world. She'll play her last engagement of the year leading a trio with bassist Patrick Mulcahy, drummer Jon Deitemyer and guest saxophonist Jim Gailloro. 9 p.m. Monday at the Green Mill Jazz Club, 4802 N. Broadway; \$8; 773-878-5552 or www.greenmilljazz.com

Denise Thimes

The former St. Louis singer has made Chicago her home and Winter's Jazz Club her venue of choice when she's in town. As in the past, she'll help the club close out the year with a series of shows. Considering Winter's intimate scale, Thimes' larger-than-life voice and personality tend to fill every square inch of the place. "Here's to the Gentlemen ... Johnny, Joe, Tony" — a tribute to Johnny Hartman, Joe Williams and Tony

Bennett — at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; \$20-\$25 plus one-drink minimum. New Year's Eve show with Chicago guitarist Henry Johnson, among others: 8 and 11 p.m. Dec. 31; \$15-\$85 plus one-drink minimum; at Winter's Jazz Club, 465 N. McClurg Court (promenade); 312-344-1270 or www.wintersjazzclub.com

Spiccia/Abney

New Year's Eve at Andy's Jazz Club will feature a double-bill. Singer Angel Spiccia at 7 p.m.; trumpeter Mario Abney at 9 and 11 p.m. Dec. 31; \$40-\$50; reservations by phone only; Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St.; 312-642-6805 or andysjazzclub.com

Howard Reich is a Tribune critic. hreich@chicago.tribune.com

FINAL WEEKEND | MUST CLOSE DEC. 29

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NEW YEAR'S EVE PREVIEW

Chicago's diverse musical reflection

Ring in 2020 with someone else singing

BY STEVE KNOPPER

Whether you're the type who kisses along to "Auld Lang Syne" at midnight or a lonely-hearts who needs to get lost in a crowd, Chicago's diverse New Year's Eve lineup is packed with just the right amount of noisy reflection (veteran indie-rockers American Football are at Schubas) and quiet reflection (country-blues singer-songwriter William Elliott Whitmore is at Sleeping Village). There's less out-and-out pop music on the docket this year — no major hip-hop acts are scheduled, at least for now, other than an open-mike night at Subterranean — but don't go to bed early and miss these acts:

Richard Thompson. Some 40 albums into his career, the British folk-rock pioneer who started out with Fairport Convention continues to spew out songs and tours as potent as any of his singer-songwriter contemporaries. He's better than just about anybody at capturing the Saturday-night party and the Sunday-morning hangover in the same song — last year's "13 Rivers" album opens with a Bo Diddley beat and, through clasped teeth, the line "I'm longing for a storm to blow through town." Of course he closes everything with a diamond-cutting guitar solo. 8 p.m. Saturday-Tuesday, Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston; 847-492-8860 or www.evanston.space.com; all shows sold out. (Note that he finishes at 11 p.m. on Dec. 31.)

Mt. Joy. "Angels smoking cigarettes on rooftops in fishnets" goes the first line of this Philly-by-way-of-Los Angeles duo's breakthrough streaming hit "Astrovan." (It's up to 20 million Spotify plays.), complete with laid-back vibe. Touring with a full band, singer Matt Quinn and guitarist Sam Cooper nicely balance emo melancholy and rock 'n' roll hopefulness. 9 p.m., Metro, 3730 N. Clark St.; \$40-50; 773-549-4140 or www.metrochicago.com

John McCutcheon. A singer-songwriter so associated with folk music that his official website is www.folkmusic.com, Wausau, Wis.-born McCutcheon took up guitar in the '60s, then hitchhiked to the Appalachian Mountains to study fiddle, banjo, guitar and his primary instrument, the hammered dulcimer, from pioneers such as Roscoe Holcomb. In the



Andrew W.K. performs at the Vic Theatre in Chicago on Saturday, May 12, 2018.

CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Avery Sunshine

DEREK BLANKS

early '80s, he explored the connection between folk and children's music, putting out a series of excellent albums like "Howjadoo" and "Mail Myself to You," eventually evolving into children's books. This year's "To Everyone In the World: A Celebration of Pete Seeger" is upbeat and fast-paced, focusing on standards and collaborations with country, folk and bluegrass fixtures like Hot Rize, BeauSoleil and Suzy Bogguss. 9:30 p.m., WFMT Studio, 5400 N. St. Louis

Ave.; \$225; www.wfmt.com

Andrew W.K. It seems like forever ago that Andrew W.K.'s brilliant album "I Get Wet" reminded us how to party, in over-the-top metal style, just two months after Sept. 11. Built on thrash-metal riffs, tinkly synths and supersonic melodies, the album briefly turned this Palo Alto, Calif., personality into a white-clad media hero, and he has been coasting on that image ever since. The cover of last year's "You're Not Alone"

has Andrew in the same outfit and the songs, slightly less compact these days, still have titles like "The Power of Partying" and "The Party Never Dies." He's peddling a Party Hard Blend coffee, does motivational speaking and it's hard to imagine a better New Year's Eve soundtrack. 8 p.m., Concord Music Hall, 2047 N. Milwaukee Ave.; \$30; 773-570-4000 or www.concord-music-hall.com

The Aggrolites. Once a fixture on the late Warped Tour, Los Angeles' Aggrolites have a natural punk-rock spirit, thanks mostly to the ragged aggression in frontman Jesse Wagner's voice even when he's playing the Jamaican soul man in this year's "Say Or Do." But the Aggrolites are fully committed to ska, down to the echoey production and happy bursts of keyboards throughout one of the band's best-known albums, 2006's "The Aggrolites." The super-tight quintet departed from formula but only slightly — it has done reggae songs before, on this year's "Reggae Now!" 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont; \$22; 773-281-4444 or www.beat-kitchen.com

Avery*Sunshine. In 2019, this Chester, Pa., R&B and gospel singer spent equal time fertilizing

her live business with steady touring, and her showtune resume (playing herself as a musician-healer in Washington, D.C., musical "I've Cried the Blues" last summer). She's a reliably inspirational New Year's Eve fixture in Chicago, performing for three straight nights, with two shows on the 31st. 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, City Winery Chicago, 1200 W. Randolph St.; \$38-52. 7:30 and 11 p.m. Tuesday; \$65. 312-733-9463 or www.citywinery.com/Chicago

Windy City Soul Club. Beginning in a fourth-floor Lincoln Park loft just a few years after New Year's Eve, in 2009, Windy City Soul Club has evolved into a club-packing DJ outfit that is equal parts obscure Northern soul singles from the '60s and '70s, and classic Motown hits like Martha and the Vandellas' "Nowhere to Run." The five-man unit's core remains Istanbul-born Aret Sakalian and Ben Pirani, who put out a nice classic-soul (obviously) album last year called "How Do I Talk to My Brother?" 9 p.m., Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Blvd.; \$25; 773-252-6179 or www.logansquareauditorium.com

Steve Knopper is a freelance writer. ct-arts@chicagotribune.com

Gwar

Continued from Page 1

the band's members like to do, but mostly it's a normal conversation).

The following is an edited transcript:

Q: You were in the band for years, but you went away and came back. Do you still feel like the new guy?

A: I don't feel like the new guy. I've been a part of Gwar since I was in high school, these are people I've known since I was 15. It feels like home to me. There's a lot of people who ... haven't seen Gwar with Oderus, they've only ever seen Blothar sing. I'm sad for them, because Gwar with Oderus was pretty great.

Q: I interviewed Oderus in 2013, and he told me he thought that Gwar could go on indefinitely, like "West Side Story," just with (new) cast members.

A: (Laughs) I'd compare it more to "Cats." I get what he's saying. I disagree, to be honest. I know why he said it, but the truth of the matter is that Gwar will last as long as the visual artists who create the visual side of it are interested in doing it. That's how long the band will last. That's what Oderus wasn't accounting for.

Q: Can you make a decent living, being in Gwar?

A: You make a living. I don't know about decent.

Q: Do you ever think to yourself, "I have a Ph.D.?"

A: Constantly (laughs). No, certainly not. It qualifies me for this job. (My degree was in) musicology. ... I learned how to listen deeply, and how to identify the vocabulary of vocal styles Oderus used. I don't know if I would have been able to do that without having the training I got. I have



GWAR performs during Louder Than Life in Louisville, Ky.

AMY HARRIS/AP

When: 7 p.m. Monday (doors)

Where: Concord Music Hall, 2047 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: \$20 (17+); www.Eventbrite.com

another job as a technical writer. I work while we're on the road.

Q: When you first come in as Blothar, is there a feeling of, "This is wrong, I can't take over for Oderus"? You must have had complicated feelings.

A: I did. First of all, it felt like a mission, and a kind of service to the memory of Dave Brockie, to learn that material. It felt like a mediation on him that really helped me deal with the loss of his voice. Going through and

listening and trying to find ways that I could translate what he was doing was pretty intense. I didn't imagine that I could do it at first, but once we started performing, it became clear that the fans do accept me in that role, some of them, more than they would somebody else that was just coming in cold. I'm the only current member of the band that was on the first record, even though I'm on it in a different capacity.

Q: Were there talks about whether the band would even continue, and were you involved, if there were?

A: Absolutely, yeah. Sure. Basically, the minute that Dave died, pretty much everyone that was ever in Gwar showed up at the Slave Pit (studio). It was like a homing beacon went off. I litera-

lly dropped what I was doing, got in the car and drove to Richmond, because I knew they would need something. There were other people in the band who did the same. Gwar has handled a lot of members, and it is an odd ensemble effort and always has been. That's why it was able to survive Dave's death.

Q: Do you ramp up Gwar's general insanity in response to the craziness in the world? Or tone it down?

A: We stopped trying to compete. We were way ahead on things like climate change. In our mythos, it was created by the hole in the ozone layer caused by rock stars using hairspray. Gwar has always been a critique of modernity, and a pretty powerful one. As that reality changes, the subject

matter changes, but we no longer feel we're in a race to ramp up our violence and gore. We're more interested in ramping up the absurdity, and finding some way to register meaning with what we're doing. It is difficult to shock in the modern world. ... We frequently have the question of, Is this too far? Are we doing something that people will understand, and not misinterpret?

Q: What is too far?

A: I don't know. We used to say, if it made us laugh, we did it, but there were limits. I can't really say what those were — Gwar tended to stay away from themes of race — but it's a different world, for sure.

Allison Stewart is a freelance writer.

WEEKEND DINING

JUST OPENED



MANNA KITCHEN

The cauliflower Buffalo wings, a vegetarian version of the popular appetizer, features crispy cauliflower bites tossed in hot sauce.

Plant-based dining comes to suburbs

BY GRACE WONG

After 10 years of making bread and nut butters through Manna Organics in Lisle, Markus and Shanti Schramm have opened Manna Kitchen, a plant-based restaurant that they said was sorely lacking in the western suburbs.

After their kids left for college, the Schramms were looking for ways to expand their business. They were vendors at the annual Veggie Fest in Lisle, and customers shared their woes of having to travel to the city to dine at a vegetarian or vegan restaurant. So the Schramms decided that they would be the ones to open one nearby.

"We've taken international comfort foods and made very flavorful plant-based versions," Shanti Schramm said. "We feel the flavor is paramount, and if we can nail authentic flavors to keep people coming back, then



Manna Kitchen's rainbow quinoa salad features greens, avocado, apple, scallions, cranberries and red onion in a maple vinaigrette.

we're making a small, minor contribution to helping the environment."

Appetizers are meant to be shared. Consider the cauliflower Buffalo wings — crispy cauliflower bites tossed in Buffalo sauce and served with ranch dressing — or the poutine

(a nod to Shanti Schramm's Canadian background) which features gravy and a creamy golden cheese sauce. You'll also find tacos with seitan chorizo or tempeh chorizo as well as crispy "crab" cakes, made with jackfruit and heart-of-palm and served with coleslaw and ranch

dressing.

For more substantial fare, go for the rainbow quinoa salad, with red quinoa, greens, avocado, apple, scallions, cranberries and red onion in a maple vinaigrette, or the panang curry, with tofu, sweet potatoes, string beans and napa cabbage in a coconut curry broth, served with brown rice and microgreens. But Markus Schramm's favorite dish is the schnitzel platter, which he's been eating since his mother made it for him as a child. His version is made with tofu and battered in vegan sour cream with herbs and spices.

"If you like food, if you like any type of food, come to Manna Kitchen and you'll be very happy," he said. "There's something on the menu you'll recognize and want to have."

2801 Ogden Ave., Lisle, 630-946-4485, mannakitchen.net



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bartender Justin Wilkinson pours a beer at Ballast Point tap room.

EAT

Beer lovers can rejoice and enjoy a holiday dinner just for them this weekend, as Ballast Point hosts its Hoppy Holiday Beer Dinner, a five-course meal with a whopping 10 beverage pairings. The decadent lineup begins with a Parisian flan with D'Anjou pears and candied cherries, then three savory rounds: duck roulade, wilted watercress salad and braised beef shank. A chocolate soufflé is the dessert closer. Beverage pairings cover a wide spectrum of mostly barrel-aged brews. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Ballast Point, 212 N. Green St., \$85 (includes tax and gratuity); ballastpoint-brewingandspirits.com



JULIEN CELICE/GETTY

DRINK

Brush up on your bubbly before the New Year during Foxtrot's Poppin' Bottles sparkling wine class this weekend. Foxtrot sommelier Dylan Melvin will guide guests through a tasting of six sparkling wines, providing background and tips for enjoyment. The event also features cheese and charcuterie bites, as well as special pricing on sparkling bottles. 7-9 p.m. Friday, Foxtrot Market, 1562 N. Wells St., \$20; eventbrite.com

WHERE TO EAT NOW

Restaurant reviews and profiles from Tribune food critic Phil Vettel, staff reporters and freelance writers. Reviewers make every effort to remain anonymous. Meals are paid for by the Tribune.

Dutch and Doc's Boka Group's Dutch and Doc's, located next door to Wrigleyville's Hotel Zachary, offers incomparable views of Wrigley Field's iconic marquee, a postcard-worthy vista. Though there are plenty of TV screens, it would be wrong to characterize the neighborhood grill as a sports bar. Chef Chris Pandel's menu offers light bites, sandwiches and shareable snacks, bolstered by chef-y entrees and steaks. Note-perfect classic Buffalo-style chicken wings and sticky pork ribs with pho-inspired spices make up solid offerings, and Dutch and Doc's has a nice range of heartier dishes (see the pasta entrees). Lunch and dinner daily; brunch Saturday-Sunday. Prices: Entrees \$15-\$32; steaks \$34-\$60. 3600 N. Clark St., 773-360-0207. — Phil Vettel

El Che Bar The sequel to John Manion's La Sirena Clandestina is even better than the first. An open hearth is the visual and culinary focal point, from which come an array of grilled and roasted proteins, including superb steaks and surprises such as grilled oysters and fried cheese. Alexis Chabert's wine list has an apt, New World focus. Open: Dinner daily. Prices: Main courses \$14-\$45. 845 W. Washington Blvd., 312-265-1130. — Phil Vettel

Elske Danish is more a state of mind than of menu at David and Anna Posey's West Loop restaurant, named for the Danish word for "love" and as warm as a lingering hug. Choose the tasting menu or order a la carte, save room for Anna Posey's desserts and prepare to be wowed. Open: Dinner Wednesday-Sunday. Prices: Tasting menu \$90; a la carte dishes \$15-\$25. 1350 W.

Randolph St., 312-733-1314. — Phil Vettel

Ena At this bright, summery spot, chef CJ Jacobson applies his veggie-focused California style to Mediterranean dishes. Use pieces of naan-like bread to scoop up hummus (especially the version with lamb ragu), then move on to such dishes as baked halloumi with stonefruit. Open: Dinner daily; lunch Monday-Friday. Prices: Entrees \$17-\$25. 74 W. Illinois St., 312-527-5586. — Phil Vettel

Etta Picking up from the hearth-grilled steaks at executive chef Danny Grant's Maple & Ash, his latest project, Etta, excels in flame-kissed cooking. We begin with the Pig Picnic, a shared entree of tender pork shoulder and crisped pork belly that perfectly embodies Grant's simple, flavor-forward ethos. Pizza preparations are impressive, and pastas range from the marvelously complex mafaldine with manila clams, king crab meat and 'nduja butter to the beautiful-in-its-simplicity bucatini cacio e pepe. For more substantial dishes, you'll find fork-tender lamb and lightly smoky wood-roasted chicken. As she does at Maple & Ash, Aya Fukai handles the pastry work, and does so brilliantly. Dinner daily, brunch Saturday-Sunday. Prices: Pastas and entrees \$14-\$39. 1840 W. North Ave., 312-757-4444. — Phil Vettel

Everest For 30 years, chef/partner Jean Joho has kept his food at the same lofty level as his 40th-floor dining room in One Financial Place. You won't find 23-course tasting menus here, but you will find a well-managed six-course degustation (\$165) of exquisite balance and substantial portion (no two-bite courses here, excepting the trio of "les preludes" that get the meal off to a lovely start). There are three- and four-course prix-fixe options (\$98 and \$130) as well, and an impressive wine list highlighted by a selection of bottles from



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Lamb loin with duck sausage, confit cabbage, rosemary jus and micro mustard greens at George Trois.

George Trois Fans of Michael Lachowicz's brilliant restaurant can be forgiven if the details of George Trois' makeover eluded them; it would take an observant eye to notice the new white-marble fireplace surround, the new lighting and new carpeting. The real change was that Restaurant Michael, the more casual concept that operated side-by-side with George Trois, was remade into two restaurants — Aboyer and Silencieux — putting Lachowicz and his staff in charge of three restaurants. You'll spend the most money at George Trois, where the 12-course menu checks in at \$215. Two courses see-saw between the earthy (a cornmeal cake alongside a craggy container of hot corn broth) and the heavenly (a dome-shaped potato panier guarding osetra caviar and creme fraiche). The hits went on from there, including one or two I'll deliberately omit so as not to spoil the visual surprises. Open: Dinner Wednesday-Sunday. Prices: 12-course menu, \$215. 64 Green Bay Road, Winnetka. 847-562-6105. — Phil Vettel

Joho's native Alsace. Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. 440 S. LaSalle St., 312-663-8920. — Phil Vettel

Flora Fauna Fans of assertive flavors are likely to enjoy themselves immensely at this River North restaurant. Flora Fauna is the brainchild of chef Jonathan Meyer (W Hotel, Broken Shaker, Beatnik) and mixologist Liz Pearce. The two aim to wed their disparate culinary travels — he to Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico, she to various ports of call in Southeast Asia — into intriguing, geographically fluid dishes. The approach is most evident in the Stone Bowls, a combination of protein-forward molcajete dishes and brothy Asian hot pots. They contain cactus paddles, braised

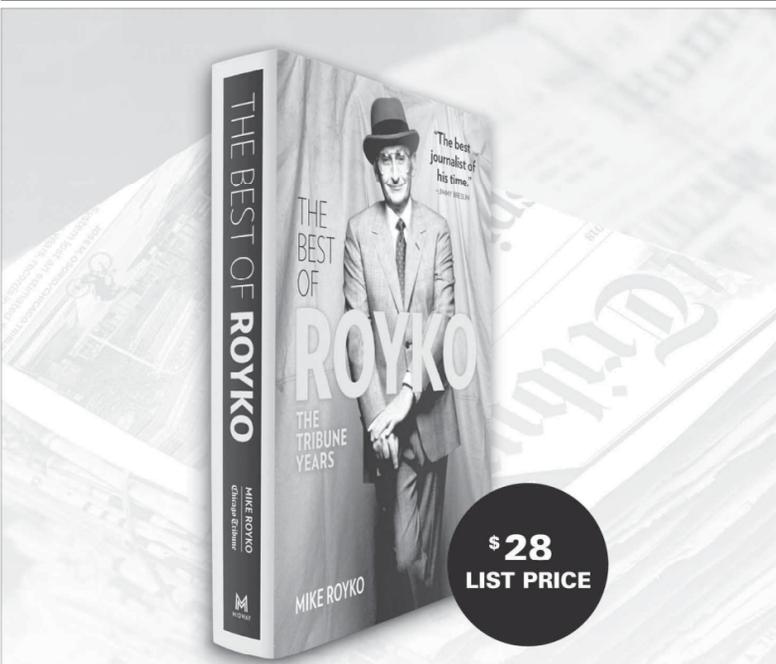
greens and panela cheese; the supporting broth is more Asian inflected, with a warm chile oil undercurrent. The rest of the menu consists of 10 small plates and five "larger format" platters. Among the veggie options, Dandan "noodles" of green papaya mingle with braised jackfruit and an assertive spice presence. On the fauna side, the seared octopus is a star. Pearce's cocktails have a beachy feel. Open: Dinner Monday-Saturday. Prices: Large plates \$17-\$52. 11 W. Illinois St., 312-624-9276. — Phil Vettel

Free Rein Free Rein is the Where's Waldo of Chicago restaurants, hiding behind a wall of shaded glass on Michigan Avenue. There are seafood towers sized for two, four or six — pricey,

naturally, but in line with what steakhouses charge. Breakfast includes grab-and-go pastry options by ex-Sixteen's Evan Sheridan, who also helms the dessert menu. Breakfast, lunch, dinner daily. Prices: Entrees \$35-\$38. 224 N. Michigan Ave., 312-334-6700. — Phil Vettel

Funkenhausen Chicago doesn't have a ton of Southern restaurants and barely any German ones; Funkenhausen attempts to check both boxes. Purists of these styles of cooking are unlikely to be satisfied with this mashup, but for the rest of us, there's much to admire. The dining room gives off a German beer-hall vibe, albeit one warmer than you'd expect. The must-have dish here is the Piggy Plate, a charcuterie and pickled vegetable assortment that arrives on a pig-shaped slate slab. The selection varies from week to week, but expect a German-Southern blend of pork tongue, bratwurst and sausages with pickled okra, bread-and-butter pickles and, perhaps, some rib tips. Dinner daily; brunch Saturday-Sunday. Small plates \$6-\$15, main courses \$24-\$27. 1709 W. Chicago Ave., 312-929-4727. — Phil Vettel

Galit Zach Engel won a James Beard Award for his work at Shaya, the modern-Israeli restaurant in New Orleans, before he moved to Chicago and, with One Off Hospitality alum Andres Clavero, opened Galit in Lincoln Park. Much of Galit's menu bears echoes of Shaya, but Engel's gastronomic net is cast more widely; you'll find dishes of Turkish, Iraqi, Greek and Tunisian origin. The menu is divided into hummus creations, of which there are four; Salatim, five small cold dishes, served together (\$22); and (Mostly) Over Coal, which are the small to large plates produced by the kitchen's charcoal hearth and wood-fired oven. Don't miss the crunchy falafel, set off by pickled turnips and "funky mango" labneh. Open: Dinner Tuesday-Sunday. Prices: Large plates \$16-\$27. 2429 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-360-8755, reservations.via.resy.com. — Phil Vettel



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THE THEATER LOOP

By CHRIS JONES



Biggest moments, stories of the year

Goodbye, Year of Chicago Theatre 2019. You sure kept things interesting.

Here's a year of theater-watching and news chronicling in a single column.

State's Attorney Kim Foxx started to prosecute Hamlet, only to leave after her opening speech. (The moody Dane got off.) Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau improbably appeared in the audience at The Second City, watching his mother Margaret spill the stories of her rich life. A perplexed Canadian press went wild, wondering what was going on in Chicago; Trudeau looked up lovingly and generously at his performing mom.

A Michael Jackson jukebox show was announced, and scotched. A Britney Spears jukebox show was announced, and then, oops, postponed. "The Devil Wears Prada" insisted it still was planning to try out in Chicago before Broadway, but it would be a year late. Meanwhile, "Dear Evan Hansen" cleaned up, just by waving through a window. And "Come From Away" was met with an ecstatic response, a reminder of how people look to the theater not so much to see what divides people as what brings us together.

Brendan Coyle, Mr. Bates of "Downton Abbey," played a boozy theater critic at the Goodman Theatre and had a blast. A cheapened "Jersey Boys" came back to town, a shadow of its former self. Eddie George came through in Chicago. (Go Buckeyes!) The Broadway director



TRIBUNE PHOTOS

From left, Lin-Manuel Miranda opened "Hamilton: The Exhibition" in April; Playwright Ike Holter opened both "Red Rex" and "Exit Strategy" to conclude his Rightlynd saga; and Teatro ZinZanni opened its dinner-cirque show with a bang in July.

David Cromer, the pride of Skokie, came home to direct "Next to Normal" at Writers' Theatre. The theater-loving chef Rick Bayless announced he always had wanted to be a playwright.

The Oriental Theatre became the Nederlander Theatre, acknowledging the name that controls show business in Chicago's Loop. The Chicago-based Jam Theatricals was sold to, yep, the Nederlanders. Steppenwolf Theatre broke ground on its new \$54-million theater complex — an auditorium in the round and, for Steppenwolf, a whole new deal. Definition Theatre said it would move to a church in Woodlawn.

Teatro ZinZanni pitched its tent inside a long-forgotten Loop theater, hidden away at the Cambria Hotel. Steppenwolf, in a strange internet promotion, sold some tickets really, really cheap.

The Jeff Awards went on and on and on, as acceptance speeches turned into Shakespearean monologues of self-regard.

And we thought construction would start on the glorious Uptown Theatre, only to find that this long-running saga of theater restoration has yet to reach its final act.

Ike Holter completed his remarkable, seven-play, Rightlynd saga, set in Chicago's fictional 51st ward —

but not before he had taken aim at the complacency of Chicago theater itself.

"Hamilton" Inc. spent millions of dollars gambling that the show's fans would also support a historical exhibition about Alexander Hamilton himself. The big bet was lost — despite Lin-Manuel Miranda taking a temporary job in a Chicago doughnuts truck — but those who bothered going got a unforgettable experience. So did the people of Puerto Rico, once Lin-Manuel Miranda showed up there with his "Hamilton," raising a small fortune for hurricane relief.

Rahm Emanuel, a good friend of the Chicago thea-

ter, made his exit. Lori Lightfoot took up the city's starring role.

Lucy Darling wowed the Magic Lounge. And Lips, a sassy drag club, opened for business in Motor Row, charming its audience, one tipsy bachelorette at a time.

In the latest chapter of the Chicago theater's decadeslong attempt to capitalize on the city's love of its sports teams, the Chicago Cubs got their own musical.

Chay Yew announced his departure from Victory Gardens after nine years. The founders of the Halcyon Theatre, Tony and Jennifer Adams, moved to Maine. Strawdog Theatre

lost its space (again), but Raven Theatre pushed up its second stage. Craig Taylor, who saw it all at Second City, hit the blackout button one last time before retiring. And Rebecca Gilman, Chicago playwright, moved to Texas.

Tandy Cronyn came to town to remind everyone what great, old-school acting looks like. And Hollis Resnik, irreplaceable, refused to ever say goodbye.

Steep Theatre turned Equity and opened a bar to celebrate. "Six" was such a hit on Navy Pier, the sister-wives of Henry VIII got their own berth on Broadway. Joan Jett Blakk ran for president again at Steppenwolf. And the Mekons' Jon Langford indulged in a few alien conspiracy theories in the guise of a play.

John Kelly Connolly, a Gift Theatre actor who loved the theater of his very own neighborhood, made a final exit. Stanley H.

Freehling, a patron of the arts for the ages, was lost. Malcolm Ewen, a beloved stage manager, called his last cue. Hal Prince, who adored coming to Chicago, won't be back again.

And, after more than three years and enough stories to sink a British battleship, "Hamilton" said it would wave Chicago goodbye on the first Sunday of 2020.

Happy New Year, valued readers.

Much more to come.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic. cjones5@chicago.tribune.com

CHRIS JONES RECOMMENDS

"Beauty and the Beast" ★★★★★

You really have to see director Amber Mak's spectacular new production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" with the mindset that this homegrown Paramount musical is giving families just what they desire for the holidays, a big night out. It's nothing revelatory, but I was surrounded by young theatergoers whose mouths felt open at Jeffrey D. Kmiec's fairytale set design. This is far and away the best local staging of "Beauty and the Beast" to date, thanks also to be some very experienced artists in its cast. It is beautifully sung, and Beth Stafford Laird all-in as Belle, all night long.

Through Jan. 19 at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora; \$36-\$77 at 630-896-6666 and www.paramountaurora.com

"Blue Man Group" ★★★★★

"Blue Man Group" has been playing at Briar Street since 1997, a remarkable run of 20-plus years. This remains a fine gateway for the young into the arts. If you've never had the pleasure, go. Open run at the Briar Street Theatre, 3133 N. Halsted St.; \$49-\$69 at www.ticketmaster.com

"Do You Believe in Madness?" ★★★★★

Tired of Brexit? The Second City's 108th mainstage revue brings you Florida, a divorce plan for Florida. See ya! You certainly sense that the young, activist cast of "Do You Believe in Madness?" would be happy to live in a world apart from the Sunshine State. And from Republicans. In one joyous hoedown, the name of every exiting member of the Trump administration is read out. There are a lot of names. These fresh-faced cast members will only improve with experience, so keep an eye on Andrew Knox, the anchor of the show and a guy with a lovely shirt from UNTUCKit. Open run on the Second City mainstage, 1616 N. Wells St.; \$31-\$108 at 312-337-3992 and www.seconcity.com

"Every Brilliant Thing" ★★★★★

Can you count your reasons for living? If your list could use some expansion, let me recommend a trip to "Every Brilliant Thing," a really beautiful show that has buoyed me, amused me and challenged me in the time since I left the theater at Windy City Playhouse South. This 80-minute, one-woman performance was written by Duncan Macmillan and the British comedian Jonny Donahoe. Its narrator talks to the audience about growing up with a suicidal mother whose first attempt to take her own life occurred when the narrator was just seven years old. The narrator, here the charming Rebecca Spence, directed by Jessica Fisch, creates a list of all of the reasons for her mother to live. No. 1 is ice cream. No. 4 is the color yellow. The story continues from there. Open run at Windy City Playhouse South, 2229 S. Michigan Ave.; \$55-\$75 at 773-891-8985 and www.windycityplayhouse.com

"Grinning From Fear to Fear" ★★★★★

Despite the title — or maybe because of the title — there's a real warmth to "Grinning From Fear to Fear," the revue from Second City's e.t.c. company and director Anneliese Toft. This show is both funny and forgiving, understanding the delicate art of optimistic comedy and the political power of empathy. Open run at Second City e.t.c. Stage, 1608 N. Wells St. in Piper's Alley; \$21-\$58 at 312-337-3992 and www.seconcity.com

"Hamilton" ★★★★★

This heartland "Hamilton" is more in touch with the fundamental scrappiness of the early years of a rebel colony turned into a spectacular democratic experiment. That Chicago-style sensibility is led by Miguel Cervantes, the superb actor in the title role. Through Jan. 5, 2020 at CIBC Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St.; \$65-\$400 at 800-775-2000 and www.broadwayinchicago.com



LIZ LAUREN

Solea Pfeiffer, left, and Renée Fleming play a mother and daughter on an Italian vacation in "The Light in the Piazza" at the Lyric Opera House.

HOT TICKET

"The Light in the Piazza" ★★★★★

Adam Guettel's "The Light in the Piazza" is the most soul-satisfying score written for Broadway so far this century and you can currently hear it in Chicago at the Lyric Opera, much of it sung by Renée Fleming, no less. "Piazza" is based on a 1960 novella by Elizabeth Spencer and follows Margaret Johnson (Fleming), a North Carolina mother on a grand Italian tour with her daughter, Clara (Solea Pfeiffer). A young Italian man (Rob Houchen) becomes enamored with Clara, but we come to see she has suffered trauma in her childhood and is not all she first seems. Should Margaret still allow her a chance at happiness? This new production, directed by Daniel Evans, deserves to end up on Broadway. He gets the emotional key of this exquisite piece of theater precisely right. And the show was very ably cast. Exceptionally so. Through Dec. 29 at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive; \$35-\$219 at 312-827-5600 or www.lyricopera.org/light

"I Am Not a Comedian ... I'm Lenny Bruce" ★★★★★

The comedian Lenny Bruce once wisely observed, "the truth is what is, and what should be is a fantasy." Good advice. The truth of Bruce, of course, is that he was found dead on a bathroom floor in 1966. In Ronnie Marmo's solo show, Bruce's demise is the uncensored start of the evening and has the effect of turning Bruce into a sacrificial figure. Marmo and his celebrity director Joe Mantegna clearly are arguing here that without Bruce's work, there would be no Richard Pryor. But Marmo's great achievement is his ability to replicate not just Bruce's essential vulnerability but his furious mind, forever fated to rail about the lack of intellectual honesty in America. Through Jan. 5 at the Royal George Cabaret Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted St.; \$69-\$79 at 312-988-9000 and lennybruceonstage.com

"Love, Chaos and Dinner" ★★★★★

Teatro ZinZanni has opened "Love, Chaos and Dinner" in the heart of Chicago's theater district, delivering an inclusive, approachable, PG-13 rated Big Loop Night Out as it has been understood for decades by suburbanites and tourists. You eat a bit, talk a bit, eat a bit more, watch some circus acts up-close. And when it comes to putting an audience volunteer at ease, no one is better than Frank Ferrante as the incomparable Caesar. Open run at the Cambria Hotel, 32 W. Randolph St.; \$99-\$189 (includes dinner) at 312-488-0900 and www.zinzanni.com

"Mary Poppins" ★★★★★

You can't do a decent "Mary Poppins" without a tip-top chief nanny and Drury Lane has found an immaculate lead in Emilie Lynn. She not only sings the role as well as you will

ever hear, she excels as the complicated role of family therapist and dances, as Mary must, on the edge of Eros with Bert (James T. Lane). Not everything works in director Marcia Milgrom Dodge's sometimes clunky production, and be aware if you have young kids that "Mary Poppins" is a long musical. But this is still a fine choice for a family holiday outing. Through Jan. 19 at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace; \$60-\$75 at 800-530-0111 or www.drurylanetheatre.com

"Oliver!" ★★★★★

In director Nick Bowling's excellent new production of "Oliver!" at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Kai Edgar, who I saw play Oliver Twist, is eight years old. Patrick Scott McDermott, who plays the Artful Dodger, is 10. Both are terrific. The presence of these boys makes this an "Oliver!" very much about

the Victorian mistreatment of actual children. But there is another striking performance on view here: Lucy Godinez as Nancy, a Broadway-caliber singer and actor. There is nothing dated about "Oliver Twist" as conceived by Charles Dickens. It also carries the idea that goodness can survive where even the smallest chance abides.

Through Dec. 29 at Marriott Theatre, 100 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire; \$50-\$60 at 847-634-0200 or www.marriotttheatre.com

"The Steadfast Tin Soldier" ★★★★★

The tin hero of this gorgeous holiday show, back for another season at Lookingglass Theatre, is tormented by a big baby, chased by a rat and incinerated. Mary Zimmerman's adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" is barely more than an hour long and does not use a lick of human speech. But this is a major new work, with the message that we don't die, we merely change shape. It's one holiday experience you don't want to miss. Through Jan. 26 at Lookingglass Theatre in the Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave.; \$35-\$85 at 312-337-0665 or www.lookingglasstheatre.org

"Working" ★★★★★

"This is Howard, as far as this train goes." So sayeth the CTA prophet at the top of Theo Ubique's new production of "Working," the musical celebration of Studs Terkel's book about everyday folks, from housewives to venture capitalists to industrial cleaners. In this show, directed by Christopher Chase Carter, "Working" is very much a Chicago story. Carter has put tables for his audience all around the space with different staging areas for his working actors. Kiersten Frumkin does a lovely job with "Just a Housewife," the most famous song in the show, and I especially liked Stephen Blu Allen's treatment of "A Very Good Day," written by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Through Jan. 26 at Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, 721 Howard St., Evanston; \$42-\$57 (diner optional) at 773-347-1109 or www.theo-u.com

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Gridlock solutions — driverless cars, flying taxis & more

Can anyone envision a future without gridlock? Yes, and many of those optimistic, innovative people gathered in Miami recently to share their plans for obliterating traffic, launching flying taxis, rolling out self-driving vehicles, improving public transit and building cities where it will not be necessary to own a car.

While none of the 735 transportation technology leaders at the seventh annual Florida Automated Vehicles Summit described a world that will resemble "Blade Runner" or "The Jetsons," they do see a mobility revolution coming, although not as fast as predicted.

"We're not setting any hard timelines," said Miriam Chaum, Uber's head of public policy for self-driving cars. "Autonomous vehicles present one of the greatest technological and engineering challenges of our time. Interacting with it, sharing the road with it, seeing it yield or stop for three seconds at the stop sign builds confidence and trust. We're committed to doing this the right way."

Safety, and proving to drivers accustomed to operating conventional cars that computer-operated cars are safe has proven to be the highest hurdle. Mass deployment of AVs did not happen in 2019 and won't happen in 2020.

"Progress will be incremental," said Reggie McKnight, head of state public policy for WAYMO, a self-driving tech development company that is a subsidiary of Alphabet, Google's parent company. "We've been testing methodically for 10 years over 10 million miles on public roads and we've learned a lot of lessons. Safety has to be our prime focus."

Among the companies giving demonstrations at the summit were Beep, Voyage, Lyft, Uber, JUMP, Lime, Starsky Robotics, Ford/Argo AI, Luminar, SPIN and Connected Wise.

Uber Elevate will soon be testing its Vertical Takeoff and Landing vehicles in Los Angeles and Dallas. But one of its current innovations is earning praise: A journey-planning app that incorporates public transit and other transportation options.

"On one trip you can plan how to use a ride share option at the start, a public transit option in the middle and a scooter option at the end," said Uber spokesman Javier Corroso.

Smart infrastructure and smart city planning is the key to curing the misery of the long commute.

"The way our roads were created — they are still dumb," said WGI President Greg Sauter. "We'll eventually have vehicles that can talk to each other, to pedestrians and to intersections so we can control traffic throughout the entire city instead of one corner at a time."

"It's about preserving the freedom of the car that is getting eaten away by traffic and parking hassles."

For those who still love to drive and drive fast, there will be a place where you can indulge your old-fashioned, polluting passion in the future, maybe during vacation.

"I may be investing in car ranches," said Robert Grant, vice president of government affairs for Cruise. "Come on out and drive."

— Linda Robertson, Miami Herald

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4x4 #200243
MSRP: \$29,990⁺
Lease: \$169 PER MO. | 36 MOS.[^]



NEW 2019 RAM
1500 Big Horn/Lone Star
Crew Cab 4x4 5'7" Box
#191782 MSRP: \$52,490⁺
Lease: \$329 PER MO. | 42 MOS.[^]



NEW 2020 JEEP
Gladiator Sport
#200018
MSRP: \$43,965⁺
Lease: \$259 PER MO. | 36 MOS.[^]



NEW 2020 JEEP
Cherokee Latitude
PLUS 4x4 #200114
MSRP: \$31,285⁺
Lease: \$199 PER MO. | 39 MOS.[^]



NEW 2020 JEEP
Grand Cherokee Limited
4x4 #200486
MSRP: \$43,350⁺
Lease: \$289 PER MO. | 42 MOS.[^]



NEW 2019 RAM
2500 Big Horn
Crew Cab 4x4 6'4" Box
#191705 MSRP: \$66,770⁺
Sale: \$55,972

NEW 2020 CHRYSLER
Pacifica #200471
0% APR x 60 MONTHS*



NEW 2019 RAM
1500 Tradesman
Crew Cab 4x4 6'4" Box
#190741 MSRP: \$44,830⁺



NEW 2019 RAM
1500 Rebel
Crew Cab 4x4 5'7" Box
#191365 MSRP: \$60,690⁺
Sale: \$47,499

\$10,798 Off MSRP!

Sale: \$31,874

\$12,956 Off MSRP!

\$13,191 Off MSRP!



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*Plus tax, title, license and doc. fee. ^Lease months/amount due at signing/miles per year plus tax, title, license & doc. fee on select models to qualified buyers. Select leases may require acquisition fee. *20 Wrangler 36 mo/\$5000/10K; *20 Compass Latitude 4x4 36 mo/\$5000/10K; *20 Gladiator 36 mo/\$5000/10K, must finance thru US Bank; *19 RAM 1500 42 mo/\$2499/10K; *20 Cherokee Latitude Plus 4x4 39 mo/\$5000/10K, must finance thru Ally; *20 Grand Cherokee Ltd., 42 mo/\$5000/10K, +MSRP may not be the price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area. Sale prices include all rebates and incentives. Buyers must finance through Chrysler Credit Corp unless noted. 0% APR figured at \$13.88 (72 months) or \$16.67 (60 months) or 17.48 1.9% (60 months) per \$1000 financed to qualified buyers on select models. Dealer sponsored buy-downs on select vehicles. ~FCA Midwest Rank Retail Sale Report November 2019. Photos for illustration purposes only. Great effort is made to ensure accuracy of this ad, however, errors do occur. Offers/pricing may change per manufacturers. Please verify information with a customer service rep or visit the dealership. All offers and pricing expire 3 days from publication.

SEASON'S BEST

SALES EVENT

These Cadillac specials are for a limited time only. Stop in today for the best selection.



2019 XT5 FWD Premium Luxury CTV
ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES
\$299 PER MONTH
39 MONTHS
\$3,999 DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS
No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Mileage charge of \$.25 per mile over 10,000 miles/year.



2019 XT4 AWD Sport CTV
ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES
\$249 PER MONTH
39 MONTHS
\$3,999 DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS
No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Mileage charge of \$.25 per mile over 10,000 miles/year.

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED



2016 ATS SEDAN
Stock #Z1592
2.0L I4 AWD Luxury Collection
MSRP² \$19,700



2016 SRX SUV
Stock #C90211A
FWD 4Dr Luxury Collection
MSRP² \$22,369



2016 XTS SEDAN
Stock #Z1582
3.6L V6 AWD Premium
MSRP² \$26,700



2018 XT5 SUV
Stock #Z1599
AWD 4Dr Premium Luxury
MSRP² \$28,600



2017 XT5 SUV
Stock #Z1580
AWD 4Dr Platinum
MSRP² \$33,498



2016 ESCALADE
Stock #Z1594
4WD Luxury Collection
MSRP² \$43,988

Payments are for a 2019 XT5 FWD Premium Luxury with an MSRP of \$56,415 monthly payments total \$27643.40. 2019 XT4 AWD Sport with an MSRP of \$52,660 monthly payments total \$25,803.40. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. XT5 must qualify for lease loyalty Costco pricing and XT4 must qualify for lease loyalty or conquest. Take delivery by 1/2/20. Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 10,000 miles/year. Lessee pays for maintenance, excess wear and a disposition fee of \$595 or less at end of lease. Not available with some other offers. ²Price plus tax, title, license and doc. fee with qualifying credit.

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Our unmatched service and diverse Cadillac inventory have set us apart as the preferred dealer in Lincolnwood. Visit us today to discover why we have the best reputation in the Lincolnwood area.
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Fri 7am-6pm
Sat 8am-4pm

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CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

Winter Pre-owned Supersale

Check out these Certified Specials Sale Ends Soon.



2017 Buick Encore
Preferred FWD
Stk #Z1603A
\$15,489



2017 Buick Enclave
Convenience FWD
Stk #Z1581
\$19,700



2016 Buick Enclave
Premium AWD
Stk #Z1606
\$26,600



2016 GMC TERRAIN
SLE-1 FWD
Stk #Z1558
\$13,999



2019 GMC ACADIA
SLT-1 AWD
Stk #Z1540
\$27,799



2019 GMC ACADIA
SLT-1 AWD
Stk #Z1571
\$28,999



2017 GMC ACADIA
DENALI AWD
Stk #Z1605
\$30,100



2017 GMC YUKON
DENALI 4WD
Stk #Z1593
\$45,988

Price plus tax, title, license and doc. fee with qualifying credit.



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FRI 7AM-6PM
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HURRY IN FOR THE BEST SELECTION!

WINTER PRE-OWNED SUPERSALE

THIS SALE ENDS SOON!



2010 Ford Fusion
4Dr Sdn SEL FWD Stk #B90338A
\$4,445



2011 Chrysler 300
Limited RWD Stk #Z1308A
\$6,988



2012 Dodge Journey
FWD 4Dr SE Stk #C90252A
\$7,845



2007 Lexus RX 400H
AWD 4Dr Hybrid Stk #B90484A
\$7,991



2011 Hyundai Sonata
4Dr Sdn 2.4 Auto Ltd Stk #C90039B
\$7,999



2009 BMW 335i xDrive
Coupe Stk #Z1535B
\$8,900



2010 Buick LaCrosse
CXL 3.0L AWD Stk #B90419B
\$8,999



2012 Chevy Cruze
Sedan 2LT Stk #Z1612A
\$8,999



2013 Hyundai Elantra
4Dr Sdn Auto Ltd Stk #B90382A
\$8,999



2013 Kia Optima
4Dr Sdn LX Stk #M20008A
\$9,658



2013 Town & Country
4Dr Wgn Touring-L Stk #M20155A
\$9,899



2018 Nissan Sentra
SV CVT Stk #Z1604
\$10,994



2014 Buick Encore
FWD Convenience Stk #B90351A
\$11,489



2015 Ford Taurus
4Dr Sdn SEL FWD Stk #Z1575
\$12,389



2015 Jeep Patriot
4WD High Altitude Stk #Z1471A
\$12,899



2014 GMC Terrain
FWD SLE-2 Stk #M90412A
\$13,489



2016 GMC Terrain
FWD SLE-1 Stk #Z1558
\$13,999



2014 Ford Edge
4Dr SEL FWD Stk #Z1517A
\$13,999



2018 Nissan Murano
AWD SV Stk #Z1519
\$15,489



2015 Toyota RAV4
AWD, 4Dr, XLE (Natl) Stk #Z1597
\$16,500

Price plus tax, title, license and doc. fee with qualifying credit.

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SAT 8AM-4PM



SEASON'S BEST

SALES EVENT

Under New Ownership



2019 CADILLAC XT5
FWD Premium Luxury CTV

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES

\$299 / 39 MONTHS / **\$3,999**
PER MONTH¹ / DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS

No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 10,000 miles/year.



2019 CADILLAC XT4
AWD Sport CTV

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES

\$249 / 39 MONTHS / **\$3,999**
PER MONTH¹ / DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS

No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 10,000 miles/year.

Payments are for a 2019 XT5 FWD Premium Luxury with an MSRP of \$56,415 monthly payments total \$27643.40. 2019 XT4 AWD Sport with an MSRP of \$52,660 monthly payments total \$25,803.40. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. XT5 must qualify for lease loyalty Costco pricing and XT4 must qualify for lease loyalty or conquest. Take delivery by 1/2/20. Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 10,000 miles/year. Lessee pays for maintenance, excess wear and a disposition fee of \$595 or less at end of lease. Not available with some other offers.

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EXPERIENCE THE NEW BUICK



STOP IN TODAY - UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!



2019 BUICK ENCORE PREFERRED
FWD #B90391

LEASE:

\$99

PER MO. / 24 MONTHS*



2020 BUICK ENVISION PREFERRED
FWD #B20046

LEASE:

\$149

PER MO. / 24 MONTHS*



2020 BUICK ENCLAVE ESSENCE
FWD #B20038

LEASE:

\$199

PER MO. / 24 MONTHS*

*24 month/ 10K miles per year lease. \$3,999 due at signing plus tax, title, license fee and 1st months payment of \$99 (Encore); \$149 (Envision); \$199 (Enclave). Must qualify for lease loyalty. See dealer for complete details. Photos for illustration purposes only. Great effort is made to ensure accuracy of this ad, however, errors do occur. Offers/pricing may change per manufacturers. Please verify information with a customer service rep or visit the dealership. All offers and pricing expire 3 days from publication.

GMC DENALI SEASON TO UPGRADE



GET THESE GREAT LEASE OFFERS ALL MONTH LONG
STOP IN TODAY - UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!
OUR SHOWROOM IS LITERALLY TRANSFORMING BEFORE YOUR EYES!



NEW 2020 GMC
TERRAIN SLE
AWD STK #M20031 LEASE:

\$129

PER MO./24 MONTHS*



NEW 2019 GMC
ACADIA SLE-2
FWD STK #M90434 LEASE:

\$149

PER MO./24 MONTHS*



NEW 2019 GMC
SIERRA 1500
STK #M90438 LEASE:

\$199

PER MO./24 MONTHS*

*24 month/ 10K miles per year lease. \$3,999 due at signing plus tax, title, license fee and 1st months payment of \$129 (Terrain); \$149 (Acadia); \$199 (Sierra). Must qualify for lease loyalty. Photos for illustration purposes only. Great effort is made to ensure accuracy of this ad, however, errors do occur. Offers/pricing may change per manufacturers. Please verify information with a customer service rep or visit the dealership. All offers and pricing expire 3 days from publication.

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OVER 1,000+ VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM[^]

2019

IS ENDING...

BIGGEST SAVINGS OF THE YEAR

BUT WE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST

THANKS TO OUR CUSTOMERS OF THE YEAR:

BACK TO BACK

DEALER of the YEAR
in North America



TAKE **\$5,000** UP TO **\$15,000** OFF



MSRP* on Most New 2019 Models!

*Based on combined Ray and Raymond Auto Group inventory. +On select models. *\$15,000 off MSRP on a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado, Stock # 39011 and 2019 Ram 1500 Big Horn/Lone Star, Stock # R1679. Includes all manufacture incentives & discounts. Offers expire 1/2/20.

AVOID

DOUBLE TAXATION

**NEW ILLINOIS TAX CODE MAY COST BUYERS
\$\$ THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN 2020 \$\$**

With year-end pricing & lower taxes on your trade-in, the time to buy is now & the place is
RAY AUTO GROUP IN FOX LAKE

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RAYCHEVROLET.COM
847.587.3300

FOX LAKE

23 N. ROUTE 12 FOX LAKE
RAYCDJR.COM
855.299.1528

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FOLLOW US!

SALES: MON-FRI 9-9, SAT 9-7 SERVICE: MON-THURS 6:45-7:00, FRI 6:45-6:00, SAT 7-2

SALES: M-F 9-9 • SAT 9-7 SERVICE: M & W 6:45-7 • T, TH & F 6:45-6 • SAT 7-2

We C.A.R.E.
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STUFF WANTED

Motorcycles Wanted Cash Paid! All Makes! Will Pick Up. Reasonable. 630-660-0571



BUYING RECORD ALBUMS! Rock, Jazz & Blues. Also vintage baseball cards! 847-343-1628

BUYING TOY TRAINS LIONEL, AMERICAN FLYER, HO, BRASS, OLD TOYS, COIN OPERATED GAMES, COKE MACHINES, SLOT CARS, OLD SIGNS! Dennis 630-319-2331

Wanted Paying Cash for Military Items, American, German, Japanese & Other Countries from Any Period. Marx Play sets, Toy Soldiers, Trains, Miscellaneous Toys & Antiques. Gary, 708-522-3400

WANTED FREON R12 R50 R81. We pay CASH. Cert. professionals. 312-291-9169 RefrigerantFinders.com/ad

Wanted: Oriental Rugs Any size any condition - for cash. *** CALL 773-975-8088 ***

WE BUY COMIC BOOKS! Top Prices Paid - Will Come To You 888-88-COMIC ComicBuyingCenter.com

We Buy Old Cars With or without titles all over Chicago! We pay \$ the best price. 773-410-2135

STUFF FOR SALE

AUCTION 1000's of GUNS up for AUCTION! Wednesday, January 1st 9AM 2001 Lakeland Blvd Mattoon, IL S&W * Browning * Colt * Winchester * Ruger * Remington * Savage * More! (217) 273-5056 www.bauerauction.com

Bears Seat Licenses - Buy & Sell at PSLSource.com or 800-252-8055

DOGS

Golden Doodles 217-246-5728 Arthur, IL \$850 M & F Cute Golden-doodle Puppies, UTD Shots, & Wormed, Vet Checked, Ready Dec 24th!

Great Dane Puppies 219-405-4007 Westville, IN \$1500 M & F Fawn, Brindle, AKC, Shots, Micro chipped. \$1250. 219-405-4007.

Labrador Retriever Puppies 708-271-7898 Chicago 900-1,200 M/F AKC, 1st shots, Micro chipped, Yellow. Ready 01/30.

Mini Goldendoodles 1-574-780-4808 Tyler, Indiana \$1000 2 females and 1 male Adorable 7 week mini Goldendoodles ready 12/29 2 females 1 male. Vet checked healthy shots current Call 574-780-4808

Weimener 815-922-2477/815-695-2057 Clifton, IL 600-800 F/M AKC. 4 Blue Female. 1 Blue Male. 1 Silver/Grey Female. Ready 12/22!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Partial Rent Payment Willing to pay 1/4 of rent for someone who needs a place to live & wants to rent a mobile home in Sunset Village Mobile Home Park in Glenview, on Waukegan Rd. 847-724-7196

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. Y19002757 on the Date: December 9, 2019 Under the Assumed Name of: **CHICAGOLAND ACCORDION ACADEMY** with the business located at: 915 W. 55TH ST, SUITE 202 Western Springs, IL, 60558 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **MARY ANN COVONE 500 52ND PLACE Western Springs, IL, 60558 12/20, 12/27, 1/3/2020 6549573**

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. Y19002775 on the Date: December 11, 2019 Under the Assumed Name of: **CHARLOTTE'S CHARMING CREATIONS** with the business located at: 9710 SOUTH KEDZIE AVE APT 1W EVERGREEN PARK, IL, 60805 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **Charlotte Brown 9710 South Kedzie Ave Apt 1W EVERGREEN PARK, IL, 60805 12/20, 12/27/2019, 01/03/2020 6548702**

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. Y19002730 on the Date: December 4, 2019 Under the Assumed Name of: **My Own Boss** with the business located at: 1438 E. 146th St. Dalton, IL, 60419 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **Charlene Williams 1438 E. 146th St. Dalton, IL, 60419 12/13, 12/20, 12/27/2019 6541296**

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 **Arianna Moore**

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF **Darnesha Campbell (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: 19JA00349

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Darnesha Campbell (Mother)** and **Lafayette Moore (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **April 9, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Patrick Murphy** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/17/2020 at 10:00 AM** in CALENDAR 1 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS **December 27, 2019 6554789**

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 **Larry Mack, Jr**

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF **Jenesis Ortiz (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: 19JA00634

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Unknown (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **June 14, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Shannon O'Malley** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/17/2020 at 10:30 AM** in CALENDAR 6 COURTROOM F, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS **November 13, 2019 6525404**

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 **Michael Garcia AKA Michael John Garcia**

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF **Danielle Untz (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: 17JA01368

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Danielle Untz (Mother)**, and **Cooper Garcia (Father) AKA Cupertino Garcia**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **July 18, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOX** 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 **01/17/2020, at 10:30 AM** in CALENDAR 10 COURTROOM J, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS **November 7, 2019 6525422**

FORECLOSURES

F19080207 SLS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee relating to Chevy Chase Funding LLC Mortgage Backed Certificates Series 2006-2 Plaintiff, vs. Corey E. Meyer aka Corey Meyer; Kimberly R. Meyer aka Kimberly Meyer aka Kimberly Rene Meyer; Pond Gate Farm Homeowners Association; Dream House Mortgage Corporation; United States of America; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendants. CASE NO. 19 CH 13740 809 Magnuson Court, Barrington, Illinois 60010 Horan Calendar 61 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Dream House Mortgage Corporation, and UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit: PARCEL 1: LOT 11 IN POND GATE FARM SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PARTS OF SECTIONS 19 AND 30, TOWNSHIP 42 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 30, 2001 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 0010456380, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. PARCEL 2: A PERPETUAL, NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARCEL 1 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER THE AREAS MARKED AS PRIVATE STREETS ON THE PLAT OF POND GATE FARM SUBDIVISION RECORDED MAY 30, 2001 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 0010456380, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. P.L.N.: 01-19-000-000 Said property is commonly known as 809 Magnuson Court, Barrington, Illinois 60010, and which said mortgage(s) was/were made by Corey E. Meyer and Kimberly R. Meyer and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document #1202557087 and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending. NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Cook County on or before January 13, 2020, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit: <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/e-file-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Steven C. Lindberg ANSELMO LINDBERG & ASSOCIATES LLC 1771 W. Diehl Rd., Ste 120 Naperville, IL 60563-4947 630-453-6960 | 866-402-8661 | 630-428-4620 (fax) Attorney No. Cook 58852, DuPage 293191, Kane 031-26104, Peoria 1794, Winnebago 3802, IL 03126232 ilpleadings@anselmolindberg.com THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR. 12/27/2019, 1/3, 10/2020 6553457

FORECLOSURES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION Seggio Capital, LLC an Illinois limited Liability company Plaintiff, v. ROBERT WALBERG a/k/a Robert C. Walberg, individually, ROBERT C. WALBERG, successor trustee under the terms and provisions of a certain Trust Agreement dated March 10, 2017, and designated as the Milton D. Walberg Declaration of Trust, APPLE LANDSCAPING LTD., MIDLAND TRUST CO., as custodian FBO Elizabeth Schwartzberg #170729%, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. CASE NO. 2019CH14063 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, UNKNOWN TENANTS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit: LOT 1 AND THE WEST 4.185 FEET OF LOT 2 IN MURRAY'S RESUBDIVISION OF LOT 2 IN ARTHUR J. GREENE'S STRATFORD PARK RESUBDIVISION OF LOT 7 (EXCEPT THE EAST 99.0 FEET) IN ARTHUR T. MCINTOSH'S ARLINGTON HEIGHTS FARMS, A SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 42 NORTH, RANGE 11 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Commonly Known As: 1611 E. Campbell Street, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 Property Index Number: 03-28-314-013-0000 and which said Mortgage was made by Robert Walberg as Mortgage(s) to Seggio Capital, LLC, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 1920557087 and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending. NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Cook County on or before January 13, 2020, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Wendy Kaleta Gattone McFadden & Dillon P.C. 120 S. LaSalle Street, #1920 Chicago, IL 60603 Atty# 26370 12/13, 20, 27/2019 6541290



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Friday, January 10, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held before the Executive Director of the Illinois Finance Authority (the "Authority"), or his designee, in Suite 501, of the law offices of Hart, Southworth & Witsman, One North Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701, as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, regarding a plan of finance by the Authority to issue its Revenue Bonds, The University of Chicago, in one or more series, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$400,000,000, over the longest period permitted by law (the "Bonds").

The Bonds will be issued for the purpose of providing The University of Chicago, an Illinois not for profit corporation (the "University"), with all or a portion of the funds necessary to (i) finance, refinance or reimburse the University for all or a portion of the costs (including capitalized interest, if any) of the planning, design, acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement, expansion, completion and/or equipping of certain of its facilities constituting "educational facilities," as defined in the Illinois Finance Authority Act, 20 ILCS 3501/801-1 et seq., as supplemented and amended (the "Act"), (ii) refund and redeem all or a portion of the outstanding Illinois Finance Authority Adjustable Rate Revenue Bonds, The University of Chicago, Series 1998B (the "Series 1998B Bonds"), (iii) refund and redeem all or a portion of the outstanding Illinois Finance Authority Adjustable Rate Revenue Bonds, The University of Chicago, Series 2001B (the "Series 2001B Bonds"), (iv) refund or provide for the payment of all or a portion of the Illinois Finance Authority Revenue Bonds, Series 2012A (the "Series 2012A Bonds"), and collectively with the Series 1998B Bonds and the Series 2001B Bonds, the "Prior Bonds", (v) refinance certain taxable commercial paper (the "Commercial Paper") issued to finance, refinance and reimburse the University for all or a portion of the costs of the planning, design, acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement, expansion, completion and/or equipping of certain of its educational facilities, (vi) pay certain working capital expenditures if deemed desirable by the University, (vii) fund one or more debt service reserve funds required to be maintained (if any) in accordance with one or more trust indentures between the Authority and one or more trust companies or banks having the powers of a trust company, as trustee, and (viii) pay certain costs relating to the issuance of the Bonds, including the costs of bond insurance or other credit or liquidity enhancement, if any, and certain costs incurred in connection with the refunding of the Prior Bonds and refinancing of the Commercial Paper, all as permitted under the Act.

The proceeds of the Prior Bonds were used by the University to: (i) refund certain other then outstanding tax-exempt bonds previously issued for the benefit of the University and certain taxable indebtedness, the proceeds of which were used to finance the construction, renovation, improvement and equipping of certain educational and health care facilities; (ii) finance, refinance and reimburse the University for the costs of the acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement and equipping of certain educational and health care facilities, including, among other things, the renovation of residence halls, academic buildings and research facilities and various other campus improvements, and (iii) pay a portion of the costs of issuance of the Prior Bonds.

The educational facilities being financed or refinanced with proceeds of the Bonds are or will be owned by the University and the University is and will be the principal user of such facilities. The health care facilities being financed or refinanced with proceeds of the Bonds are or will be owned by the University or The University of Chicago Medical Center ("UCMC") and UCMC is and will be the principal user of such healthcare facilities. The educational and healthcare facilities are or will be located on land owned by the University at the following locations:

With respect to the educational facilities:

(i) the University's Hyde Park Campus in Chicago, Illinois, generally bordered on the north by 47th Street, on the east by Lake Shore Drive, on the south by 61st Street and on the west by Cottage Grove Avenue, which boundary area includes, without limitation, the Eckhardt Research Center located at 5630-50 S. Ellis Avenue, the Laboratory Schools located in various buildings at 1362 E. 59th Street and 5800 Stony Island Avenue and the building located at 5757 S. University Avenue, all in Chicago, Illinois (the "Hyde Park Campus") (not more than \$400,000,000 of the proceeds of the Bonds will be used, directly or indirectly, for assets to be located on the University's Hyde Park Campus);

(ii) 10910 S. Langley Avenue, 11030 S. Langley Avenue and 27 E. 110th Street, all in Chicago, Illinois (not more than \$20,000,000 of the proceeds of the Bonds will be used, directly or indirectly, for assets that are or will be located at any one of the immediately preceding addresses);

(iii) 450 N. Clybourn Plaza Drive, in Chicago, Illinois (not more than \$10,000,000 of the proceeds of the Bonds will be used, directly or indirectly, for assets to be located at the immediately preceding address); and

With respect to the healthcare facilities:

(iv) on land owned by the University and situated within the Hyde Park Campus and leased to, operated by and principally used by The University of Chicago Medical Center (formerly known as The University of Chicago Hospitals) (not more than \$60,000,000 of the proceeds of the Bonds will be used, directly or indirectly, for assets to be located on such land within the Hyde Park Campus).

The Bonds are special, limited obligations of the Authority, payable solely out of the revenues and other funds pledged and assigned for their payment in accordance with one or more loan agreements each between the University and the Authority and the one or more indentures pursuant to which the Bonds are issued. The Bonds do not constitute a debt of the Authority or of the State of Illinois within the meaning of any provisions of the Constitution or statutes of the State of Illinois or a pledge of the faith and credit of the Authority or of the State of Illinois or grant to the owners thereof any right to have the Authority or the General Assembly levy any taxes or appropriate any funds for the payment of the principal thereof or interest thereon.

The above notice of public hearing is required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. At the time and place set for the public hearing, residents, taxpayers and other interested persons will be given the opportunity to express their views for or against the Bonds and the proposed plan of finance. Written comments may also be submitted to the Executive Director of the Authority via email at publiccomments@ifa.com or (i) at his office located at 160 North LaSalle Street, Suite S-1000, Chicago, Illinois 60660 (overnight delivery), or (ii) at P.O. Box 641249, Chicago, Illinois 60664 (mail) until January 8, 2020.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), if any person with a disability as defined by the ADA needs special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, then not later than January 9, 2020, he or she should contact the Authority at (312) 651-1300.

NOTICE DATED: December 27, 2019. By /s/ Christopher Meister, Executive Director, Illinois Finance Authority

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s):

Buyer (Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: December 20, 2019 through January 17, 2020. **Examination Date:** February 1, 2020 at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of buyer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under supervision, acquires routine services, supplies and materials utilizing the informal bid process for services with a dollar value less than \$10,000 and materials, supplies and equipment with a dollar value less than \$25,000. **Pay:** \$77,075.12 per year

Senior Buyer (Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: December 20, 2019 through January 17, 2020. **Examination Date:** February 1, 2020 at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of senior buyer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under direction, acquires complex services, supplies and materials utilizing the formal bid process for services with a dollar value of more than \$10,000 and materials, supplies and equipment with a dollar value of more than \$25,000. **Pay:** \$87,792.38 per year

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2019 XT5 AWD • Demo • MSRP \$47,195
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[^]Cadillac will pay up to 4 payments, \$3,000 maximum for current lessees. Offer valid towards a purchase or lease of a new Cadillac. Must have a current Cadillac lease through Ally or GM Financial.

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Stk. #200208
LEASE FOR... \$206
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