



Militias end siege of US Embassy

Iraq attack raises tensions amid fears of further violence

By **QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA AND JOSEPH KRAUSS**
 Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iranian-backed militiamen withdrew from the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad on Wednesday after two days of clashes with American security forces, but U.S.-Iran tensions remain high and could spill over into further violence.

The withdrawal followed calls from the government and senior militia leaders. It ended a two-day crisis marked by the breach of the largest and one of the most heavily fortified U.S. diplomatic missions in the world.

The attack and its volatile aftermath prompted the Pentagon to send hundreds of additional troops to the Middle East and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to delay a European and Central Asian trip.

In an orchestrated assault, hundreds of militiamen and their supporters broke into the embassy compound, destroying a reception area, smashing windows and spraying graffiti on walls to protest U.S. airstrikes against an Iran-backed militia over the weekend that killed 25 fighters.

The U.S. blamed the militia for a rocket attack on an Iraqi military base in the northern city of Kirkuk last week that killed a U.S. contractor.

The protesters set up a tent camp overnight and on Wednesday set fire to the reception area and hurled stones at U.S. Marines guarding the compound, who responded with tear gas. There were no injuries on either side and no American staff were evacuated from the compound.

The Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella group of state-allied militias

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DAVID STERN
 1942-2020



JEFF GOLDEN/GETTY

Turned NBA into a global brand

The NBA's longest-serving commissioner, who oversaw the league's growth into a global powerhouse, died Wednesday. He was 77.
Chicago Sports

Police: Homicides fall for 3rd year

Police say 492 people were killed last year, a 13% drop from 2018 and the fewest since 2015. The number of shooting victims also fell.
Chicagoland, Page 4

Area executives to watch in 2020

Through legal pot, electric cars and neighborhood development on the South and West sides, these 10 leaders will shape the city's business scene.
Business



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Raul Campos, of Grayslake, raises his arms in celebration after purchasing \$69 worth of sour diesel sativa at Rise Mundelein on Wednesday.

Era of recreational pot dawns in Illinois

Is 'Just say no' now a no-go? How to talk to kids about pot

By **NARA SCHOENBERG**

What can you say when your favorite teenager hauls out the argument that recreational marijuana use is legal now in the great state of Illinois?

Plenty, as it turns out, starting with the basics.

"Legal does not equal safe," said Jim Scarpace, executive director of the Gateway Foundation drug treatment programs in Aurora and Joliet. Alcohol, he pointed out, has been legal since the 1930s, but there are still medical risks and psychological consequences.

In the case of weed, 10% to 20% of those who try it will develop a substance use disorder, Scarpace said.

Excessive use in adolescents has been linked to problems with learning, memory and mental health, Scarpace said. And experts are particularly concerned about the effects on young people, whose brains won't fully develop until their mid-20s.

With legalization of limited amounts of marijuana for recreational use, Scarpace cautioned parents against using outdated scare tactics, which are now believed to backfire, triggering a "This isn't going to happen to me" response — and actually increasing interest in drug use.

Instead, he urged parents to arm themselves with the facts, among them, that if you're under 21, recreational marijuana use

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ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Brian Hopkins smokes a joint containing legal marijuana at his home in Calumet City on Wednesday.

"This is the beginning of a new age, the end of an antiquated viewpoint. It's beautiful. I can't wait to tell my grandkids about it."

— Michael Lorimar, 24, while in line at Midway Dispensary

Long lines, gaiety mark first hours of legal sales in state

By **ALLY MAROTTI, ROBERT MCCOPPIN, JESSICA VILLAGOMEZ AND DAN HINKEL**

Thousands celebrated a new year by waiting in long lines to be among the first to legally buy marijuana for recreational use in Illinois on the day the state lifted its long-standing prohibition.

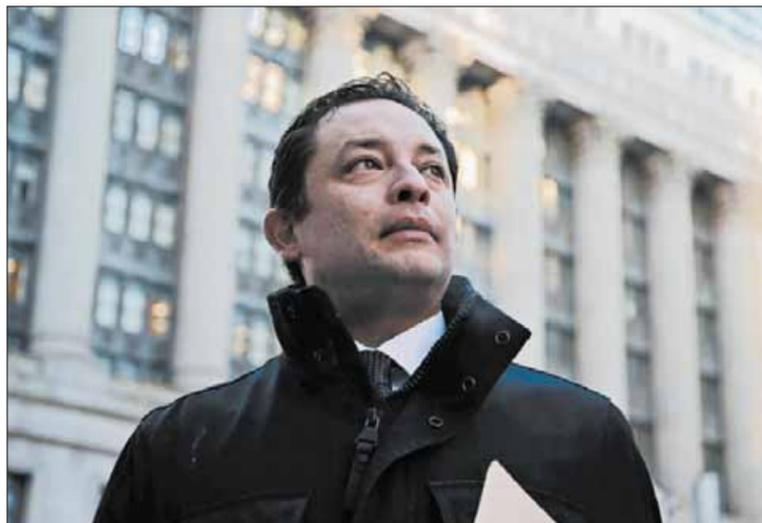
The mood was festive Wednesday as customers queued up — some overnight — to buy cannabis flower, gummies, chocolates and other products from the Chicago-area dispensaries among 37 state-sanctioned stores in Illinois that were ready to open. There were foreseen hiccups as the stores started selling a substance generally barred since the 1930s, but no serious incidents were reported as of late afternoon in the crowds that huddled on sidewalks and in parking lots on a bright, relatively temperate New Year's Day.

"It's history, so it's worth the wait," Damien Smith of Maywood said as he left MedMen dispensary in Oak Park with a bag of cannabis products after waiting in line for about four hours.

Illinois joined 10 other states and Washington, D.C., in legalizing recreational marijuana as the legislation took effect six months after Gov. J.B. Pritzker and his allies marshaled it through the statehouse. Amid softening attitudes toward marijuana, advocates pushed legalization as a just and financially sensible move in a state with

Turn to **Weed, Page 8**

To friends, he's 'Showpez.' To mayor, he's foe.



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A former skycap for Southwest Airlines armed with a contrarian streak, the 15th Ward's Ald. Raymond Lopez is a complicated figure in Chicago politics.

Meet Lightfoot's top City Council critic: The 15th Ward's Ald. Raymond Lopez

By **GREGORY PRATT**

As Ald. Raymond Lopez tells it, the political feud between him and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot is her fault.

During a rousing inauguration speech, in which Lightfoot talked about restoring trust and integrity in Chicago's city government, she declared that stopping public corruption would not only be in the city's interest, it would be in the City Council's interest. Then, Lopez points out, Lightfoot drew a standing ovation when she slowly turned to face the dignitaries seated behind her and motioned with her

arms, urging them to stand and applaud.

The interaction, Lopez says, was illustrative of the mayor's sometimes combative style with members of the City Council who don't fall in line. And, since Lightfoot was sworn in May 20, perhaps no one has been as unrelenting in questioning her and her administration as Lopez, whose onslaught has continued virtually nonstop.

"She can only exist with an opponent. She doesn't know how to exist in a world of collaboration," Lopez told the Tribune in a recent interview. "She has

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Remembering illusionist whose calling card was more than cards



REX HUPPKE

Simon Aronson had magic in him. Never without a deck of cards, he spent most of his life concocting tricks that lit up eyes, boggled minds and brought flashes of wonder into a world that could always use more.

When I first met him 16 years ago in his Lincoln Park home, he said something lovely: "The opposite of illusion is really disillusionment, and who would want that?"

Aronson was an icon in the international magic community, one of the behind-the-scenes minds who created the tricks many professional magicians use. He followed in the footsteps of Ed Marlo, a Chicagoan considered one of the grand masters of card tricks. After Marlo died in 1991, Aronson dutifully, with precision and wit, helped tend to Chicago's long-held reputation as a hub of close-up magic, which is often performed on bar tops and tables.

He was, as his wife, Ginny Aronson, puts it, a thinker, a creator and a performer, in that order.

Aronson died Dec. 10. He was 76, his death sudden and unexpected. Just days earlier, he and his wife had returned from a quick and happy vacation in Miami.

Aronson did magic on the trip, of course. It was reflexive.

"It's like you sit down, you're chatting and he'd pull out a deck and say, 'You want to see something?' and he'd blow their minds," Ginny said.

Late in the summer of 2003, I wrote a profile of Aronson. I called him "a whimsical man devoted to the illusion of impossibility, a showman whose nimble mind and agile fingers can make boring decks of cards jump to life."

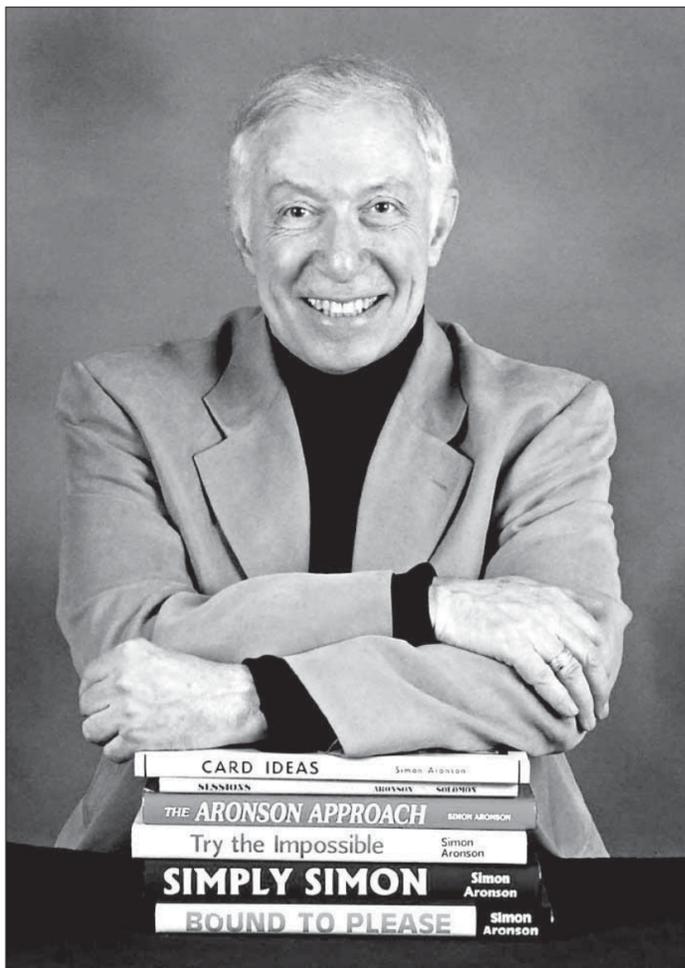
The story ran on the front page on Aug. 24 and then, as journalists do, I moved on to other tales. There have been plenty in the intervening years. But Aronson is one of those subjects who stuck with me.

I vividly remember sitting in his living room on the 29th floor of a Lincoln Park high-rise as he hypnotically shuffled a deck of cards and put on an impromptu magic show that left me dumbfounded. He was 59 at the time but had the enthusiasm of a child, as if the Aronson who first performed magic when he was 11 hadn't aged a bit.

He talked about magic with reverence, and with an intelligence that pulled the curtain back, just a little, on how much work it takes to create card tricks that make people believe the unbelievable.

"He had this kind of mind, a real mathematical bent, and he could just think of things that could be done to make a miraculous effect," his wife said. "Think of it like a lawyer preparing a case, where you have to think about every argument the other lawyer is going to make in favor of their client, and you have to have a response."

That approach made sense. Aronson was an attorney and built a career practicing real estate law at Lord, Bissell & Brook. He retired early, at 55, to focus more on writing magic books,



SCOTT DUJARDIN

In addition to a career practicing real estate law at Lord, Bissell & Brook, Simon Aronson was a close-up magic icon and even published books on the subject.

speaking at conventions and helping magicians young and old who sought his help.

"I think one thing that really distinguished him was his willingness to help," Ginny Aronson said. "Whether we were at a magic convention with thousands of people or he gets a phone call or email, people always said how sweet he was and how he never said no. He said, 'OK, how can I help?' He'd get down on the floor with a 10-year-old and help him figure a trick out."

That enthusiasm is what stood out when I met him. You might meet people who love their work, but rarely do people and their work fuse together into one passionate being. Like I said, Aronson had magic in him, and there was no separating the two.

This is from the 2003 story:

Aronson's card tricks often take years to perfect. He's a student of his art, spending hours a day breaking down the old secrets of the 'pick a card, any card' genre and rebuilding them to his liking.

In a trick he calls Fate, Aronson shows a full deck of cards, shuffles them and tells a person to think of their birth date while they pick a card. The person can't look at the card and is instructed to place it in an envelope. Aronson then brings out a chart that matches different cards to dates of birth. Once the person finds the card associated with their birth date, Aronson recites his well-practiced patter, makes a few quips and then has the subject open the envelope.

Voila. It's the card matching the

birth date, a card, Aronson says, the person was destined to pick.

It was amazing. It was, simply, magic.

"That's what he wanted to create," Ginny Aronson said. "He just wanted to make people wonder and give them a different experience from what they have in their daily life."

For years, the Aronsons performed a show-stopping mind-reading act together. His wife watched countless Saturday sessions with Aronson and fellow magicians David Solomon, John Bannon and David Finkelstein sitting around their kitchen table, trying out new tricks and honing their craft.

She plans to keep the sessions going.

He'd like that, I'm sure. For Aronson, it was all about the magic. Always.

And the magic he created in his lifetime, the magic that flowed from his mind and deft fingers, will live on. And the people who knew him will remember.

Because he was someone you could never forget.

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With 2020 still a babe, a little baby boy is born

Stephanie Travis had already spent two days at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center when, just an hour into 2020, she gave birth to her first child. Her husband, Benjamin Brown, said the couple didn't think their son would arrive on New Year's Day — the due date was days away — but were excited at the possibility. "Once it happened, I was like, 'Wow,'" Brown said. The new parents spent Wednesday in the hospital bonding with their son, Phillip.

JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Illinois' role in 2020 campaign begins to take shape

2-day filing period for pols, delegates begins Thursday

BY JAMIE MUNKS AND RICK PEARSON

Springfield — Illinois' role in the 2020 presidential campaign takes a major step forward Thursday with the first of two days for Democratic and Republican White House contenders and their national convention nominating delegate candidates to file petitions to get on the state's March primary ballot.

Offices open at the State Board of Elections in Springfield at 8 a.m. Thursday. Like the filing for state offices in late November, candidates and aides in line at the opening will be entered into a lottery to deter-

mine the top primary ballot spot.

The same holds true in reverse on Friday when the filing period ends at 5 p.m. Those in line an hour before closing will be entered into a lottery, if necessary, for the final spot on the ballot.

The filing of candidacy petitions as well as a slate of delegate candidates is deemed a significant measure of organization in Illinois, which has an early filing period despite a rather late primary compared with other states.

By the time of Illinois' St. Patrick's Day primary, at least 27 states and territories will have selected just more than half the nationwide total of 4,535 delegates.

In Illinois, both Republican and Democratic presidential contenders need to

file candidacy petitions with a minimum of 3,000 valid signatures and a maximum of 5,000 to earn a spot on the ballot.

For the 101 elected Democratic convention delegate slots, divided among the state's 18 congressional districts, contenders need at least 500 valid signatures and, ultimately, approval of the presidential campaigns. As few as three and as many as eight delegates are elected in each district based on past Democratic voting numbers.

For the 54 elected Republican convention delegate positions, with three elected from each congressional district, the valid signature requirement varies from a minimum of 271 to nearly 1,400 based on the GOP vote in each district. Unlike Democrats, Republi-

can primary voters also will elect three alternate delegates in each district. Democrats will not elect alternate convention delegates.

For the Democratic presidential campaigns, filing a full slate of 101 delegates statewide often provides an indication of early support in Illinois. And with the lengthy field of candidates seeking the Democratic nomination, it's not unlikely that more than 80 delegate contenders, each affiliated with a candidate, could appear on the ballot in Democratic strongholds like Chicago's South and West sides and on the North Shore, in districts that elect just eight delegates.

Democratic voters select both a presidential candidate and national convention delegates pledged to a

presidential candidate. Presidential candidates are awarded a proportional share of delegates based on how well they do in each congressional district.

A candidate who fails to get 15% of the vote receives no delegates. If a candidate is entitled to delegates but didn't field any in that congressional district, the party will assign them in April.

The delegates elected on March 17 are part of an Illinois Democratic convention delegation of 184 members that will go to the party's national nominating convention in mid-July in Milwaukee.

On the Republican side, the voting for president and delegates is more straightforward. The votes cast for the GOP presidential nominee in Illinois have no

bearing on the election of delegates. Instead, the 54 delegates are directly elected by voters.

With his support from the Illinois Republican Party, President Donald Trump is expected to file a full statewide delegate slate. On Wednesday, the Trump campaign announced that Republican U.S. Reps. Darin LaHood of Peoria and Mike Bost of Murphysboro would file the president's Illinois campaign papers on Thursday morning.

The 54 GOP elected delegates from Illinois are among a total delegation of 67 that will travel to the Republican National Convention in late August in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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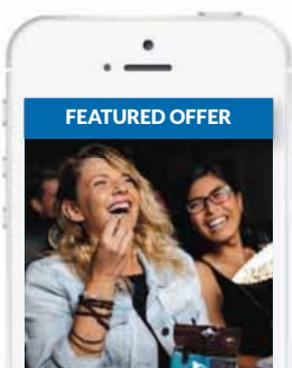
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Chicago Tribune CHICAGOLAND

Homicides, shootings declined for 3rd year

Chicago Police Department says 492 were killed in 2019, a 13% dip

BY JEREMY GORNER

Homicides fell below 500 last year in Chicago for the first since 2015, marking the third consecutive year of double-digit decreases, official Police Department statistics show.

The department said Wednesday that 492 people were killed last year, a 13% drop from 567 in 2018 and the fewest since 490 in 2015.

The number of shooting victims fell as well, though shy of double-digit levels. For the full year, 2,611 people were shot, an 8% decline from 2,838 in 2018, the department said. Shooting incidents fell to 2,151 last year, a 9.7% drop from 2,381 in 2018.

In a statement, the city credited new investments in street outreach efforts, data-driven policing strategies and strengthened community partnerships for the decline in violence to the lowest levels since 2015.

"Make no mistake, our work will not end until Chicago is the safest big city in the country," Mayor Lori Lightfoot said in the statement. "By investing in our South and West side neigh-

borhoods and addressing the root causes of gun violence, we can build on this progress in 2020 and continue making meaningful gains in public safety in communities throughout the city."

Police officials also touted an improvement in detectives' rate for solving homicides — known as the clearance rate — to about 53% in 2019, up from about 29% in 2016, crediting improved technology designed to help detectives work more efficiently with video and the addition of about 300 detectives to its ranks. These rates are a combination of homicides solved during the same year they occurred as well as cases from past years that were also solved in 2019.

Police consider a case cleared when they make an arrest or identify a suspect that they can't charge for myriad reasons, often because Cook County prosecutors found the evidence insufficient. According to city crime data through Dec. 23, Chicago police made arrests in 103 out of 486 homicides, a rate of 21% for 2019.



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Police officers examine where a boy was shot at a Popeyes in the 7400 block of South Stony Island Avenue on Dec. 27.

The continued drop in violence for 2019 marked a significant turnaround for Chicago from a disastrous 2016 when nearly 780 people were slain and more than 4,300 people shot, the most violent year in two decades.

Still, the city has far to go to match New York City and Los Angeles despite each being more populous than Chicago. By contrast, NYC and LA totaled just over 1,800 shooting victims combined, far fewer than Chicago by itself, according to their latest figures. Through Dec. 22, New York has posted 311 homicides, while Los Angeles reported 252 homicides through Dec. 21.

Chicago's homicide tally for 2019 could climb a bit if

some of its pending "death investigations" are later reclassified as slayings. In addition, the Police Department does not count shootings or homicides that are considered in self-defense or happen on state expressways or other state property.

Chicago police officials attribute the continuing declines in homicides and shootings in part to the technology centers in most of the department's 22 patrol districts used to better predict where shootings might occur and help respond quicker to the gunfire.

In an interview with the Chicago Tribune last month, Lightfoot called the department's increased reliance on technology "a

game changer," citing how video from surveillance cameras led to the arrest in September of a bike-riding suspect who shot a woman out for lunch in the Fulton River District in the downtown area.

She and her handpicked interim police superintendent, Charlie Beck, have separately touted the department's use of major citywide anti-violence programming that offers jobs, gang conflict mediation and victim support.

In a separate interview with the Tribune last month, Beck, a former long-time police chief in Los Angeles, said those street workers also played a key role in reducing violence in LA. When police show support for such "unlikely allies," Beck said, that will help build trust between officers and those distressed communities.

"The main value of it is that it reaches out to primarily young men — because that's what the demographic is for violence — in a way that cops cannot, to get them to start changing," he said.

Patrol districts covering some of Chicago's toughest neighborhoods saw significant drops in gun violence in 2019.

According to official police statistics through Sunday, homicides in the Calumet District on the South Side dropped nearly in half to 33 from 60 during same period in 2018. Shooting incidents fell to 164, a 15% drop from the year earlier period.

On the West Side, shooting incidents in the Austin District dropped to 149, down 19% from 184 a year earlier, but homicides fell more modestly to 40, down from 46.

But there were exceptions. Shooting incidents in the South Side's South Chicago District jumped 32% over a year earlier.

In one of the city's safest areas, the North Side's Lincoln District didn't record a single homicide for the year. But in another historically safe area, killings skyrocketed to 10 through Sunday in the Jefferson Park District on the Northwest Side, compared to just two in 2018, statistics show. That was largely the result of the killing of five people in a condo building in the Dunning community. Krzysztof Marek, 67, who faced eviction from the building, was charged in those slayings.

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City's night sky about to become an orange memory

LED street light swap nearly done, but charm may go

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI

For almost two generations of Chicagoans, orange has been the color of night.

High pressure sodium vapor lights, which create a glow reminiscent of a tire fire, have lit Chicago since the 1970s. They have provided the backdrop for crime scenes, romantic encounters and waiting for a bus after a late shift. Chicago, viewed from the air, looked like a year-round Halloween display.

But in 2017, the city started swapping out the sodium vapor lights for energy-efficient LEDs, which create a whiter radiance. When the project is complete in 2021, the city will have replaced 270,000, or 85%, of its streetlights. As of mid-December, 185,000 fixtures had been replaced, said Chicago Department of Transportation spokesman Michael Claffey.

The new lights are saving the city \$100 million over 10 years in electricity costs, Claffey said. They've also created better nighttime visibility and made streets safer for drivers, pedestrians, and bike riders, he said.

But the new fixtures use more of the shorter wavelength "blue" portion of the visible light spectrum, and questions have been raised about whether this could be harmful. Studies have shown that exposure to artificial sources of blue light, which is also emitted by personal electronic devices, can disrupt sleep patterns. The sun is the main natural source of blue light.

The new lights also have changed the look of the city. Not everyone thinks it's for the better.

Ben Gonzales, a photographer and videographer, said that for his profession, the lights are good, and will probably help the television crews working all over town.

"Having brighter light is always going to be more beneficial as far as getting truer colors. The issue becomes that there's been character that is lost when you switch away from the sodium vapor lights," said Gonzales, of Humboldt Park, who owns Gopho Collective. "There's this charm in the deeper amber color."

Al Yellon, managing editor of the BleedCubieBlue.com web site, spends a lot of time around Wrigley Field, where the



TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The city of Chicago is swapping its sodium vapor streetlights for LED streetlights. The lights on Irving Park Road at Laverne Avenue are seen on Dec. 5, 2019. The nearest lights are LED and emit a neutral light while the more distant lights are sodium vapor and emit a yellowish light.

"Having brighter light is always going to be more beneficial as far as getting truer colors. The issue becomes that there's been character that is lost when you switch away from the sodium vapor lights. There's this charm in the deeper amber color."

— Ben Gonzales, a photographer and videographer who owns Gopho Collective

lights were installed last summer. He's a fan of them. "What a difference driving from an area where the lights light up everything to an area with those awful orange lights," he said.

Yellon said he's also noticed that the new lights are more focused downward, so they don't shine in his bedroom window like the old ones did.

Bernadette Libao of Logan Square, said she expected to be more nostalgic for the yellow lights, but isn't bothered by the LEDs.

"I think they've grown on me," Libao said.

The downward focus of the new lamps could cut light pollution and help people in Chicago see the stars better, though it's too soon to know for sure, said Andrew Johnson, vice president of astronomy and collections at the Adler Planetarium.

The Adler plans to send up balloons over the city to see the effects of the new LED lights versus sodium

vapor lights, and how much the light goes down instead of up.

The LEDs have been installed in multiple city wards on the South, West and North sides, including the Lakeview, Austin and Englewood neighborhoods, and along many major arterial streets, such as Irving Park Road, 55th Street and Cicero Avenue. Large portions of the Northwest and Southwest Sides, as well as the Loop and areas around the Loop, are still waiting for lights.

They consume 50 to 75% less electricity than the sodium lights, which is equivalent to taking 2,400 cars off the road for a year, according to the city. The new system also gives the city greater ability to respond to service requests, and allows lighting levels to be controlled remotely.

They provide a brightness level of 3000 Kelvin, which is how light's color temperature is measured. High pressure sodium va-

por lights are at around 2200 Kelvin.

Sodium lights first were installed on the Dan Ryan Expressway in 1969, replacing blueish mercury vapor lights, and went up around the city in the mid-1970s. Then-Tribune architecture critic Paul Gapp strongly objected to the sodium lights, comparing their light to the "bizarre paintings of Hieronymus Bosch, the frightening futurism of Stanley Kubrick's 'A Clockwork Orange,' and other nightmares."

To replace the sodium vapor lights, the city considered 4000K LED lights during the procurement process, city spokesman Claffey said. The 4000Ks were tried in big cities like New York City and Seattle, where residents complained that they created the ambiance of a prison yard.

In 2016, an AMA report recommended that cities use 3000K or lower lighting. Dr. Mario Motta, a cardiologist and trustee with the

American Medical Association, who co-authored a 2016 AMA report on LED lights, commended Chicago for choosing 3000K lighting, which was the best the city could get at the time.

"We wanted to be in compliance with the AMA report," Claffey said.

Motta said the city "did the right thing."

But Motta said if he were writing the report today, he'd recommend LEDs that produce even less blue light, which have become more widely available.

"Nowadays, we can do better," Motta said.

Blue light creates more "scatter," which makes it more difficult for drivers over age 40 to see, Motta said. It also suppresses melatonin, the hormone that helps people sleep, and harms insects and other animals, Motta said.

"It's environmentally toxic," Motta said. "The lighting industry was completely oblivious to the harm they're doing with high blue lighting."

Audrey Fischer, past president and current board member of the Chicago Astronomical Society, has been passionately vocal about her concerns, contacting city officials about what she sees as the need to swap out the current 3000K lights with LEDs with minimal blue light. Fischer has cited research that more exposure

to blue light could increase the risk of cancer, mood disorders and obesity, as well as hurting people's ability to see the stars.

"If they do the 2200s, we could restore starlight over the city of Chicago," Fischer said. She said the city also could put "blue blocker" filters on existing lights.

Claffey pointed to research that electronic devices and indoor lights may expose people more to blue light than outdoor lighting.

Lumican, a Canadian company that makes 2200K LED street lights, said it gave the city a half dozen to test. But Claffey said the Lumican 2200K lights do not meet the city's specifications, which call for 3000K. The Ameresco energy company is handling the contract, and acquires the lights for the city, he said.

Ald. Scott Waguespack, 32nd, said he wondered why the city could not at least try fixtures that produce less blue light in a few locations, to see how well they work.

"I don't think the city does a good job of reaching out to companies and doing research into what's quality and what's not," Waguespack said.

But Waguespack agreed that the LED lights he has seen so far in his ward are "definitely a lot better" than the orange sodium vapors they replaced.

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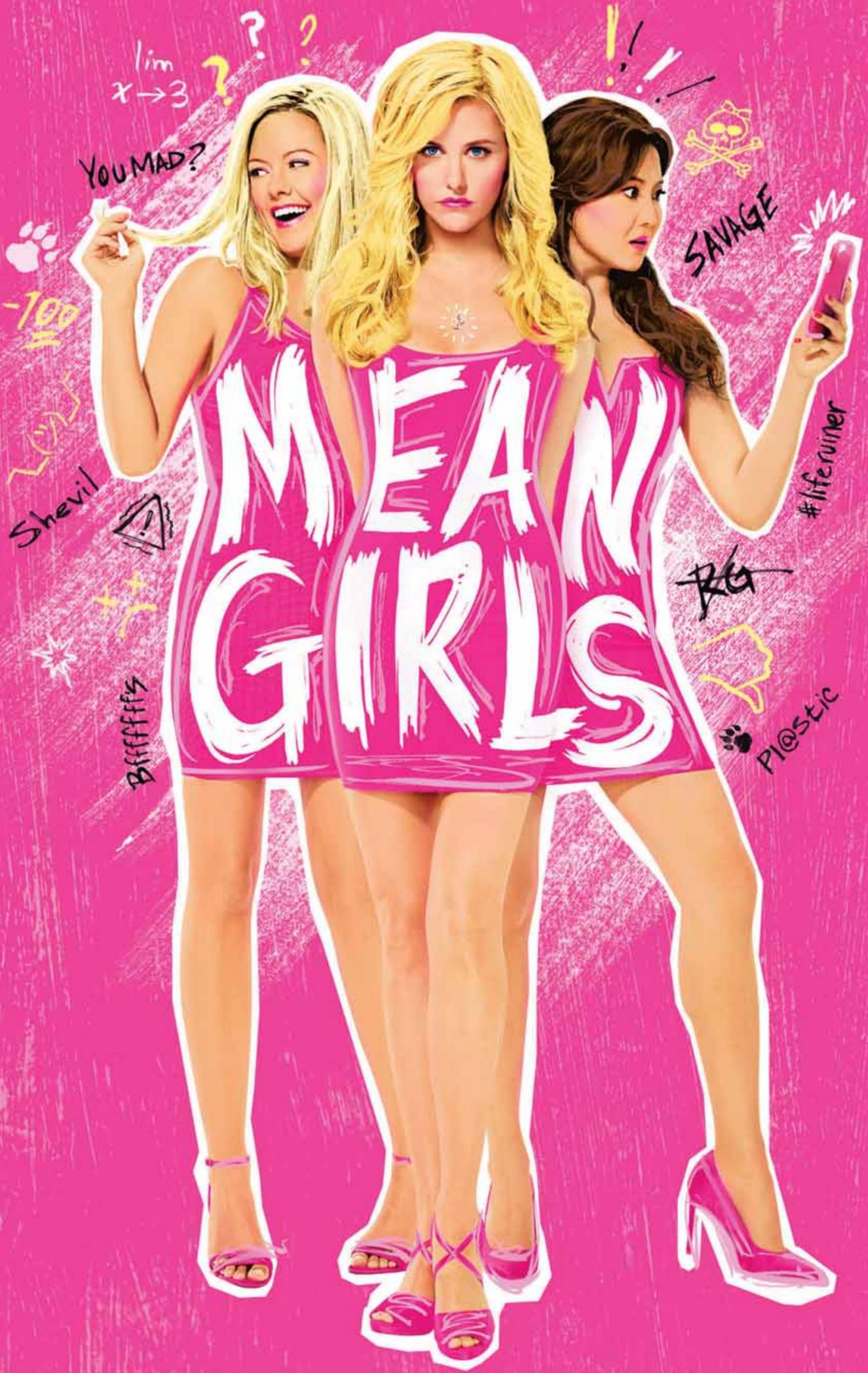
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PHOTOS BY MARYELLEN MATTHEWS

Lopez

Continued from Page 1

to have someone in constant opposition in order to make her worldview stick, and that was very clear at our inauguration where she basically turned around and mean-mugged us all as being corrupt and evil.”

Among other criticisms, Lopez has accused the mayor of coming off “so angry, so negative, so bitter” after her first City Council meeting; said her first budget “isn’t balanced (and) isn’t honest”; and called her “petty and vindictive” for shaming aldermen who voted against her 2020 spending plan.

A former skycaper for Southwest Airlines armed with a mile-high contrarian streak, Lopez is a complicated figure in Chicago politics with ties to numerous political organizations. Known to some of his colleagues as “Showpez” and “Lil Burke,” Lopez is a fast talker who asks sharp questions at committee hearings, and had the best attendance of anyone on the City Council last term, according to a WBEZ and Daily Line analysis.

Critics, however, say Lopez is a publicity hound who nitpicks Lightfoot to gain attention and privately whispers that he’s in the middle of a proxy war between the mayor and Ald. Edward Burke, a Lopez ally and ward neighbor who’s been silenced by public corruption charges. In May, Lightfoot accused Lopez of “carrying the water for Ald. Burke.”

Lopez represents the Southwest Side 15th Ward, which includes Back of the Yards, West Englewood and Brighton Park. One of Lopez’s challengers for alderman in the last election, 25-year-old Berto Aguayo, said Lopez wouldn’t shake his hand during forums or community events.

“I think it’s ironic for him to be calling anyone petty and vindictive,” Aguayo said.

In a wide-ranging interview about his career, Lopez described himself as “an adaptive and evolving alderman” but denied being Burke’s avatar on the City Council.

“It’s actually comical to me that everyone thinks I walk around with a stack of CliffsNotes from Ed’s office on what to say and what to do,” Lopez said. “Once you get past the comedy of it, it’s really insulting (to say) I can’t formulate an opinion or an argument on my own based on my knowledge of how city government and City Council works without having Ed spoon-feed it to me.”

Though Lopez acknowledged his friendly relationship with Burke, he also noted he became alderman in 2015 by defeating Raul Reyes, a Burke lieutenant who ran for the post.

Burke stopped for a rare interview at City Hall last month when asked about Lopez, whom he called “a public servant (with) a big heart and a good sense of right and wrong.”

“He hasn’t had any puppeteer,” Burke told the Tribune. “Ray is a man who can think on his own and does the research, is very knowledgeable and hardworking.”

‘The only Mexican in a room full of white guys’

Lopez, 41, grew up near Midway Airport and has two siblings. His parents split up when he was 2 and his grandparents helped raise him, Lopez said.

From a young age, Lopez expressed an interest in politics, recalled Enrique Munoz, a former member of the disgraced Hispanic Democratic Organization who lived four blocks away. Lopez would come over for dinner and they would talk politics, Munoz said.

“I took Ray under my wing, brought him on board. He helped me with different elections for Mayor (Richard M.) Daley, worked the precincts, delivered,” Munoz said.

By age 18, Lopez was a precinct captain with the 23rd Ward Democrats led by then-U.S. Rep. Bill Lipinski, where Lopez recalled being “the only Mexican in a room full of white guys.” The precinct captain coordinator was Donald Hojnacki, who was a longtime friend of Lipinski, Lopez recalled.

“He said, ‘OK, we’ll give you a shot, but the first rule is: You see the door? The bull— stays on the other side of that door,’” Lopez said.

Lopez was captain for precinct 23, which he said had been one of the lowest-turnout areas in the ward. In one election cycle, Lopez said, he boosted turnout dramatically and so learned another lesson: “If you want politicians to pay attention, you’ve got to vote.”

After a stint with Daley’s office of special events, Lopez left full-time politics to work for Southwest Airlines. There, Lopez told DNAinfo in 2015, he learned more about customer service and accountability.

“Southwest has taught me that a lot of times, there are things outside of our control — weather, mechanical issues, plane issues, delays. And what we’ve been



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ald. Raymond Lopez, 15th, packs up his papers at his aldermanic office as he prepares for a council meeting Dec. 18, 2019.



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ald. Raymond Lopez, 15th, speaks during a City Council meeting on Dec. 18, 2019.



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ald. Raymond Lopez high-fives 9-year-old Juelez Nowells at 1 Grow Chicago’s community holiday party last month in West Englewood.

famous for as a company is that we take ownership of these problems,” Lopez said. “We don’t just blame it on somebody else and say, ‘Well I didn’t do it.’ No, you take ownership of the problem and then you work to resolve it as best you can.”

While working for Southwest in 2007, Lopez and his husband bought a home in the Chicago Lawn neighborhood.

One day, Lopez said, he became enraged with his alderman over bulk garbage pickup and an office aide hung up on him.

“I knew damn well I was being lied to when they told me this was not something the city offered,” Lopez said, citing his work with Lipinski. “At one point, I told the staff, ‘If you want me to come down and show you how to do this, I can do it too.’ Click.”

Lopez said he told neighbors “someone needs to run against that man, Tony Foulkes, because he sucks as an alderman.”

“Unbeknownst to me, it was a woman (named Toni) who also had an office two blocks from my house,” Lopez added.

Foulkes, who told the Tribune she never met or heard of Lopez until he ran against her, beat him with 69% of the vote in a 2011 runoff. But the next year, Lopez ran for ward committeeman and took the post Foulkes previously held.

Post-census redistricting that year resulted in shifted boundaries that moved Foulkes to the 16th Ward, leaving the 15th Ward seat wide open. Leading up to the 2015 election, when he won a seat on the City Council, Lopez performed as a sort of shadow alderman.

“I opened an office just down the street on Ashland and said if there’s anything I can help you with, whatever way I can do it, let

me know,” Lopez said. “Basically self-funded that office. We had volunteers, used the 311 system as best we could to try to help people and get things to wherever they needed to be.”

After he got elected, Lopez recalled receiving a stack of petitions for then-Rep. Dan Burke, Edward Burke’s brother, who blindly sent them for Lopez to hand out. Lopez refused, mailing them back with a copy of his Burke-backed opponent’s 2015 flyer on top, Dan Burke recalled.

“It was pretty (bold) because he was a relative newcomer in the political arena aside from his being committeeman previously,” Dan Burke said.

The move earned him respect from the Burkes, and their relationship grew. After the FBI raided his offices in late 2018, Ald. Edward Burke joined Mayor Rahm Emanuel at Moe’s Cantina downtown for a fundraiser supporting Lopez’s reelection.

“I’m here because Ray Lopez is a great alderman and my good friend,” Burke told the crowd.

‘No innocent lives were lost’

Freshmen members of Chicago’s City Council traditionally and informally are advised by senior aldermen to keep their mouths closed and ears open. Lopez said he initially planned to heed that advice, but the ward became a flashpoint in the city’s crime problem during his first term, leading him to speak out in exceptionally harsh terms.

“When I was elected, I thought I was going to be the alderman focused on the regular run of the mill, meat and potato issues of service and improving communities, but the situations that were in the neighborhood made me

evolve,” Lopez said. “They made me become 100% a community warrior against gangs.”

During Lopez’s first term, the worst street conflict in recent memory raged as the Saints, Satan’s Disciples and La Raza gangs used rifles to inflict massive carnage around his ward. A Tribune count in December 2017 found more than 140 people had been shot and 50 killed by gang members wielding rifles dating to September 2016, many of them in the Back of the Yards and Brighton Park neighborhoods.

In May 2017, 10 people were shot — two fatally — at a memorial for a man gunned down in the Brighton Park neighborhood. Lopez said he was thankful “that no innocent lives were lost” and called out members of the community for what he said was their complicity in the violence.

“If you are hanging out with people who are recruiting 12- and 13-year-olds to join gangs and sell drugs, then you are part of the problem in this community,” Lopez said at the time. “We need to stop beating around the bush on this, and we need the people who live here to stand up and help us stop what’s going on.”

While the gang war raged, Lopez clashed with Emanuel over how to spend nearly \$15 million in leftover property tax rebate funds that the alderman tried to earmark for violence prevention. In an encounter behind council chambers, Emanuel asked Lopez, “Why are you f— with me?” and Lopez responded, “I’m not f— with you. I’ve got people dying in the streets. What do you want me to do?” the alderman recalled in 2017.

Lopez shrugged off the exchange of words with Emanuel as “just how he talks,” and the two became reliable allies.

Lopez said his anger over gangs is driven by a belief that the community shouldn’t normalize violence. Many troubled neighborhoods have “enablers” who make excuses for generational problems, Lopez said.

“This is taught grandfather to father to son, and it continues and continues because no one ever checks them and says, ‘Take a look at what you’re doing, this is wrong, this is bull—, stop,’” Lopez said.

Lopez’s words about gang violence have generated intense criticism. The “no innocent lives” comment led to serious death threats and Lopez was temporarily put under police protection.

But Lopez said he has no regrets about his comments, which he stands by, and praises the work done by the city, residents and police to reduce the gang war from the chaos of recent years.

Patrick Brosnan, executive director of the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, said Lopez’s language “grossly simplifies the nature of community violence and the history of community violence.”

“When you start with that rhetoric and that perspective, you just can’t move to a perspective of regeneration or renewal or second chances. You just can’t, or any kind of restorative practice,” Brosnan said. “Once you say ‘no innocent lives were lost’ and you assume everybody involved is guilty, you can’t go anywhere from there.”

For a young person in a neighborhood with limited opportuni-

ties, Brosnan said, joining a gang may be a rational choice to stay safe. Many of the teenagers who may be in a gang aren’t hardened criminals engaged in illegal activity 24/7 and shouldn’t be written off, he said.

“It’s a very simplistic view of the community,” Brosnan said of Lopez’s stances. “It’s a very simplistic view of the world.”

Opposing Lightfoot

Asked how he emerged as such a vehement Lightfoot critic on the new City Council, Lopez said, “That was by design — hers.”

“The family with the bungalow, the lady who runs the hair salon, the guy who owns the store on the corner, they aren’t powerful or big or well-connected, but they end up paying when our government is corrupt,” Lightfoot said at one point during her inaugural speech before making her turn to face the dignitaries behind her. “These practices have gone on for far too long and this practice breeds corruption. Stopping it isn’t just in the city’s interest, it’s in the City Council’s interest.”

Lopez took note. Just after Lightfoot finished delivering her inaugural address, Lopez went on WGN Radio and expressed his displeasure with how the newly sworn-in mayor turned to face the aldermen seated behind her while calling out Chicago corruption.

“I wish we could’ve had more of a celebratory tone as opposed to a confrontational, ‘everyone standing behind me is corrupt and I’m defending you against them and their evil mechanisms,’” Lopez said.

Lopez also takes exception to Lightfoot’s “carrying the water” comment, saying it “kind of set the stage for where we are.”

Others take issue with Lopez’s stance toward the mayor, saying he’s being disingenuous by blaming her for their conflict. Ald. Scott Waguespack, 32nd, a frequent critic of Emanuel who was Lightfoot’s hand-picked choice for Finance Committee chairman, characterized Lopez’s stance as “no matter what the issue is, I’m going to say it’s a sham,” and said he’s “just throwing anything at the wall to see what sticks.”

“He’s definitely picking the fight,” Waguespack added.

U.S. Rep. Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, a Chicago Democrat who represents much of Lopez’s ward, said it’s hard to characterize Lopez “because he sort of doesn’t have a philosophical or ideological underpinning to him.”

“He’s sort of a creature of opportunity,” Garcia said. “He saw some opportunities, and he took them and then he rose to become the alderman of the 15th Ward and eventually to be the leading critic of Lori Lightfoot.”

But Lopez isn’t without allies. Ald. James Cappleman, 46th, said Lopez “is incredibly articulate and knows how people in his ward feel about various matters, and he’s not shy about expressing those views.”

“There have been times when I have disagreed with him, but he has ALWAYS been respectful of me and I work very well with him,” Cappleman said in an email. “I don’t want a City Council where we all agree with one another. It’s out of those disagreements that better solutions are often forged.”

For his part, Lopez said he has no apologies for who he’s been under Lightfoot.

“My focus is my ward and doing what’s right for my people. If what you’re doing is good for them, I’ll be 100% behind it,” Lopez said. “If it’s not, expect opposition. It’s just going to be that simple.”

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“When I was elected, I thought I was going to be the alderman focused on the regular run of the mill, meat and potato issues of service and improving communities, but the situations that were in the neighborhood made me evolve. They made me become 100% a community warrior against gangs.”

— Ald. Raymond Lopez

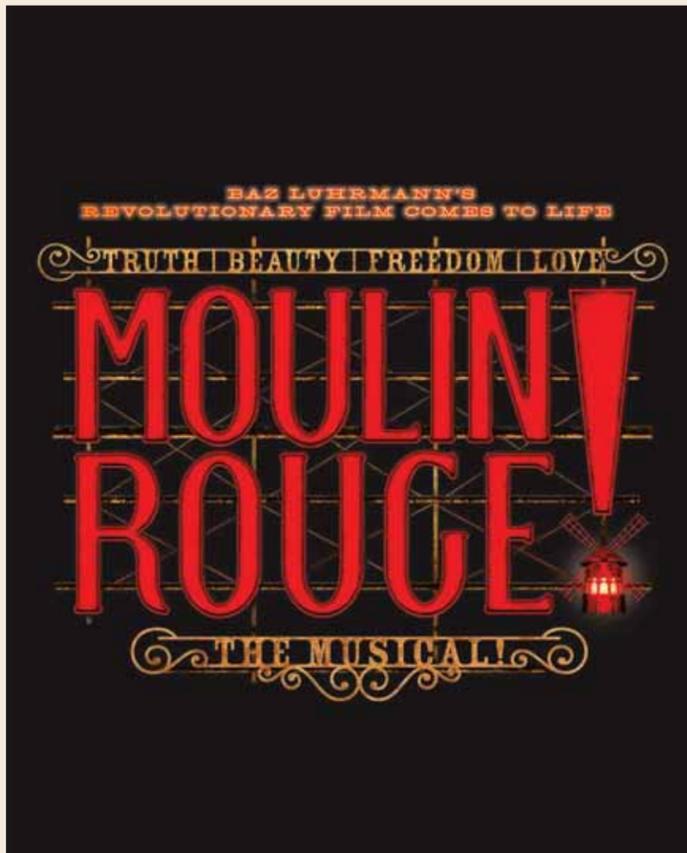
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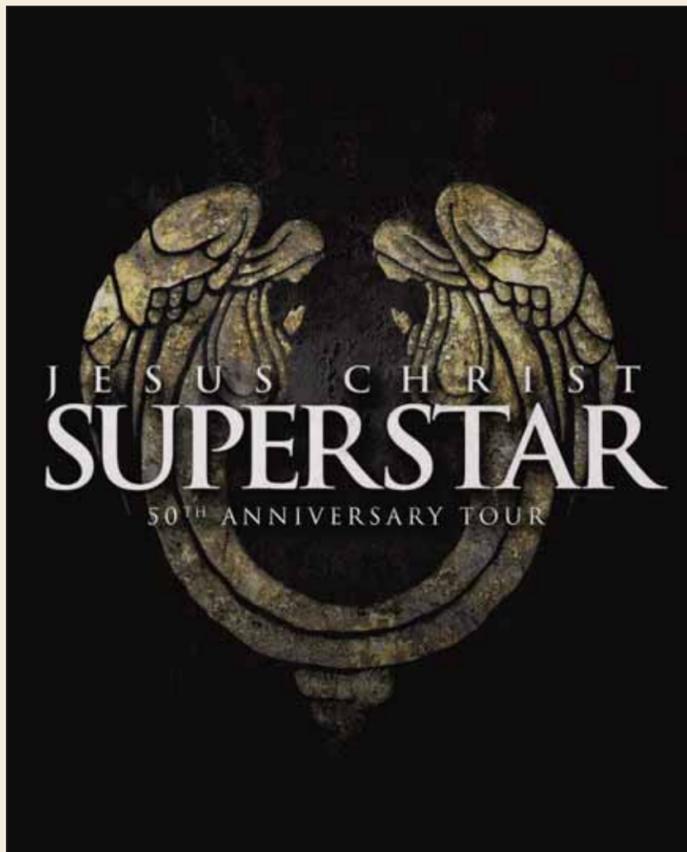
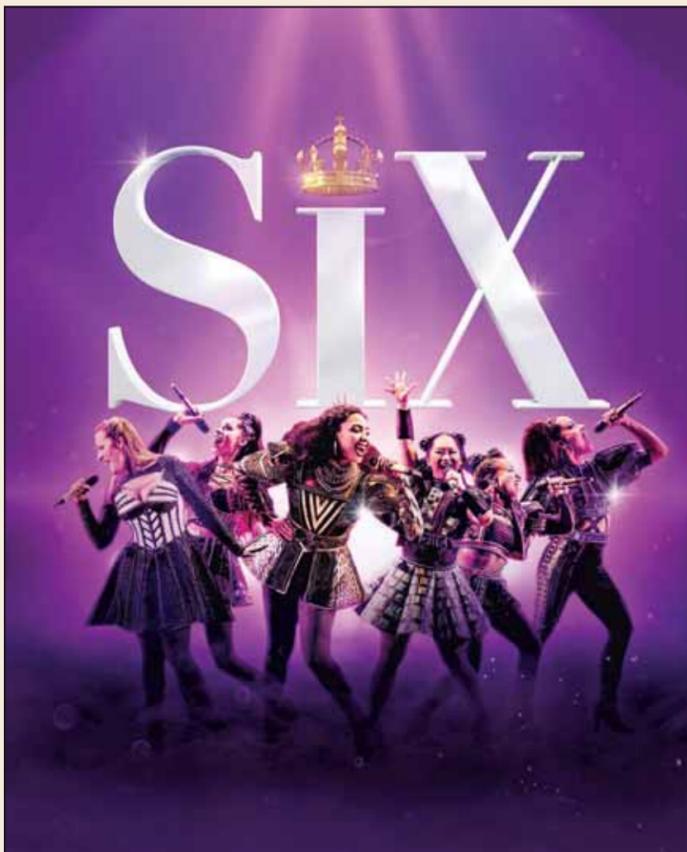
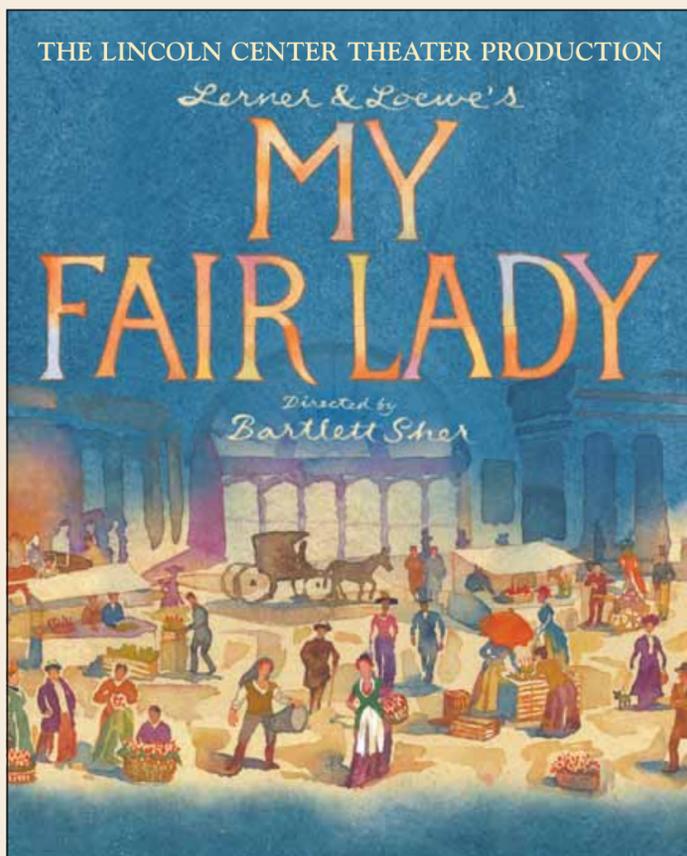


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BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Customers line up down Milwaukee Avenue on the first day of recreational marijuana sales outside MOCA Modern Cannabis in Logan Square.

Weed

Continued from Page 1

tenuous finances and neighborhoods in need of business development. On Wednesday morning, Lt. Gov. Julianna Stratton was one of the first people to buy pot gummies at a shop in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood amid the applause of customers and staff.

Beyond legalization, Pritzker marked New Year's Eve by announcing pardons for roughly 11,000 low-level marijuana offenders. In an address at a largely African American church on Chicago's South Side, he said lifting the ban is not primarily about making marijuana prevalent in Illinois. Rather, he said, "the defining purpose of legalization is to maximize equity for generations to come."

Still, many have not been won over, and about 40 local cities, villages and counties — including sizable suburbs such as Naperville and Arlington Heights and populous DuPage County — banned marijuana sales amid concerns about dependency, usage by minors, crime and traffic accidents, among other worries. Other local governments were still deliberating.

The stores that opened starting at 6 a.m. Wednesday ranged from the state's northern reaches to its southern border, and all were previously licensed to sell medical cannabis under the law that passed in 2013. More are expected to open in the coming months.

Starting Wednesday, adults 21 and older could visit licensed dealers and buy up to 30 grams of flower, 5 grams of concentrate or 500 milligrams of infused products such as edibles. Cannabis is still barred by federal law — though authorities aren't expected to enforce that locally — and it will remain illegal in Illinois to use it in public, at schools, in parks, government buildings, on a bus or train, in a car or truck, or near kids.

The first day came with a few glitches and some confusion. For example, sales were delayed about a half-hour at Mission Dispensary on Chicago's South Side because the state database set up to track sales was preventing them at the store, a company executive said.

In north suburban Buf-



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Lt. Gov. Julianna Stratton makes a purchase as Sunnyside Lakeview opens in the first minutes of legal recreational marijuana in Illinois.



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Glenn Perkins shows off a container containing legal marijuana at a home in Calumet City

falo Grove, a steady stream of visitors drove up to the Sunnyside Dispensary in an industrial park, eager to participate in history. Instead, they saw a sign on the door saying the shop was not selling recreational marijuana, only medical cannabis. A guard handed out flyers encouraging them to visit another of the chain's shops in the west suburbs.

Several buyers expressed surprise at how much cash they had to shell out for a retail product that was once the province of illicit dealers. For example, Abigail Watkins of Dispensary33 on Chicago's North Side said a single pre-rolled joint cost \$15 to \$18 with taxes.

Others grumbled about the buying limits stores imposed because of a statewide shortage of legally grown pot.

At Midway Dispensary near the airport, Josh Glikis, 28, and Michael Lorimar, 24, waited at the head of a line stretched around the block and onto a residential street. Glikis said he was "very bummed" about the store's buying limit and worried he would go through his marijuana in a single day.

Lorimar, previously a stranger, urged him to think more broadly.

"Smoke a joint and calm down," he said. "This is the beginning of a new age, the end of an antiquated viewpoint. It's beautiful. I can't wait to tell my grandkids about it."

Glikis emerged with sour watermelon and grape gummies, and 1/8 of an ounce of the marijuana strain called Blue Gelato 41. As of 9 p.m., none of a handful of retailers called by the Tribune reported running fully out of their supply, but some said they had dwindling stocks of certain products and were unsure how long they'd have cannabis to sell.

In southern Illinois, Gorgi Naumovskic of Thrive dispensaries said he was unsure if his dispensary would have enough products to sell recreational cannabis on Thursday and were considering only selling to medical patients.

As of the afternoon, Chicago police had reported no arrests or serious incidents related to commercial pot, and no hospital contacted by the Tribune reported treating anyone suffering the effects of tak-

ing in too much of the substance.

In lines around the Chicago area, the mood was generally calm and jovial.

At the Mission Dispensary on the South Side, workers held a ceremony, cutting a giant green ribbon with oversize scissors and throwing green confetti. Don Bransford, 71, stood in line for two hours and spent at least an hour more inside before being served.

"I've waited for 50 years," he said of legalized marijuana.

Marky and Jenny Vee were the first in line at Mission, having arrived the night before. They set up a tent to keep warm and played reggae music on a speaker.

"You have got to dance a little to stay warm," said Marky Vee.

Joseph Weaver said the professional setting at Mission caught him by surprise.

"I felt like I was ordering a new iPhone or iPad, but I'm sitting here buying weed," he said.

At Rise Mundelein in the north suburbs, a cheer went up from customers lined up down the block when the doors opened at 6 a.m. and after the first buyer left with a purchase in hand. By far, most of the hundreds waiting in line were young men, some who had spent New Year's Eve night securing their spot.

"I wanted to be first in line to celebrate this," said Aaron Brooks, 43, of Libertyville. "This is, like, our day."

As the morning went on, 65-year-old Mary Yazel-Muska objected to the image of lazy stoners smoking pot.

"I'm a responsible human being," she said. "I

own a home. I worked for a bank as a fraud investigator for 20 years. I rescue dogs. I volunteer. I take care of my 93-year-old mother. It's not like we're all a bunch of hippies."

Michael Shelton, 23, an electrician from Lake Zurich, had to use an ATM in the shop twice because the \$382 bill was more than he expected. Nonetheless, he said it was worth it for what he figured were quality products.

In downstate Harrisburg, people flooded the street, parking lot and fields around Thrive dispensary. The store opened at 10 a.m., but people started lining up hours before daybreak, said principal officer Gorgi Naumovskic.

"We expected some sort of line, but I didn't expect nonstop," Naumovskic said. "Good thing we've got 5 acres next to us. You'd think there was a flea market or an auction."

The state announced only Tuesday that Thrive's dispensaries had been approved, leaving little time to prepare. But the dispensaries' operators had assumed they'd be approved and had been preparing. Naumovskic said he wished there was more flower available. Thrive had limited customers to buying two items Wednesday, and its staff was considering knocking the limit down to one.

"We're trying to stretch it, but it just hasn't let up," he said. "Some people will be disappointed by the end of the day."

The downstate Collinsville location of Illinois Supply & Provisions had served about 600 people by 11 a.m., said Chris Stone, senior adviser at Ascend Illinois, which operates the dispensaries. The dispensaries implemented a buying limit on marijuana flowers Wednesday morning.

"I'll be interested to see how long it is before certain places run out of product," Stone said. "I'll also be interested to see what happens tomorrow and the next day."

Pioneer Press' Steve Schering and Chicago Tribune's Paige Fry, Katherine Rosenberg-Douglas and Elvia Malagon contributed.

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Blago cites Lincoln in opinion piece

Ex-governor makes new apparent plea for Trump's pardon

BY ELVIA MALAGON

Disgraced former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich rang in the new year by penning an editorial for a conservative website arguing that current House Democrats who have impeached President Donald Trump also would have tried to impeach Abraham Lincoln.

While the piece, titled "Blagojevich: House Democrats Would Have Impeached Lincoln," does not mention Trump by name, it's an apparent continuation of his public campaign to win clemency from the Republican president.

The Democratic former governor wrote the opinion piece from behind bars in Colorado, where he's serving a 14-year sentence for public corruption stemming from his attempt to trade Barack Obama's U.S. Senate seat for personal gains and for trying to shake down executives from a children's hospital and within the horse racing industry for campaign cash.

The column, published on Newsmax, argues that modern-day House Democrats also would have tried to impeach Lincoln for a number of reasons, including because of the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery.

The column comes less than two weeks after the U.S. House, with a Democratic majority, voted to impeach Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress for trying to enlist a foreign ally to investigate a Democratic rival in the 2020 election.

In the column, Blagojevich briefly describes how he was ousted from office amid a corruption scandal, describing it as an "unhappy experience." He was removed from office in 2009, becoming the first governor in Illinois history to be impeached.

The website's founder, Christopher Ruddy, on Wednesday encouraged people on Twitter to urge the president to commute Blagojevich's sentence.

For months, the former governor's wife, Patti Blagojevich, also has been on a public campaign urging Trump to commute her husband's sentence. She's appeared on Fox News — Trump's favorite cable news station — and tried to link her husband's legal problems to Trump's foes.

In August, Trump announced he was "very strongly" considering commuting Blagojevich's federal sentence. But he later seemed to backtrack, saying White House staff was reviewing the case.

On Wednesday, Patti Blagojevich tweeted that her husband was a "bit of a Lincoln Scholar" who had at least 30 books about the Republican president.

The former governor has long considered himself a history buff. During a hearing in 2016 when he failed to get his prison term reduced, Blagojevich spoke about how Lincoln's leadership during the Civil War inspired him.

"In times of trouble and disaster, they don't have to be the end of things, they can also be the beginning," Blagojevich said in court at the time.

Blagojevich carries little political weight in Illinois among either Democrats or Republicans. Illinois Republicans have been vocal in their opposition to Trump commuting Blagojevich's prison sentence.

In August, the five GOP members of Illinois' congressional delegation issued a joint statement saying a Trump commutation would set a "dangerous precedent and goes against the trust voters place in elected officials." And, the previous year, Illinois' GOP congressional delegation sent Trump a letter urging the president to keep Blagojevich's sentence intact.

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Talk

Continued from Page 1

is still illegal in Illinois.

Among the other key points you can discuss with your kids:

The risk of addiction is real. Approximately 1 in 10 marijuana users will become addicted, according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) website. For

those who start using marijuana before age 18, the rate is higher: About 1 in 6 will experience addiction.

Your IQ may be affected. Results are mixed, but one study found that heavy marijuana use starting at a young age can cause an IQ loss of as much as 8 points.

Marijuana has been linked to mental illness. It's unclear whether weed actually causes mental illness, or if people with mental health issues are

prone to self-medicate with weed. Still, the link in a recent study in *Lancet Psychiatry* was striking. The chance of developing psychosis — a very serious condition in which a person loses touch with reality — was nearly five times greater for those who used high-potency weed daily, as opposed to those who never used.

Marijuana has been linked to changes in brain structure. A 2014 study in the *Journal of*

Neuroscience, for instance, found changes in parts of the brain associated with reward and addiction, even among users who were not judged to be drug dependent.

This is not the marijuana of the 1970s — or the 1990s. While it has become 275% more potent in the last 10 years, Scarpace said, increasing the risk of cannabis-use disorder.

For Scarpace, the bottom line is that the risks are just too great.

"Our kids are our most prized possession," he said.

"We want them to grow to their full capacity and potential, and if marijuana is going to interfere with that potential, and interfere not only with their ability to function well, but maybe even put them at risk for a cannabis-use disorder, or limit them in some way intellectually, those are risks that no parent would want to take."

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What you need to know about the 2020 census

Government hopes as many people as possible take part

BY ELVIA MALAGÓN

You might have seen the various slogans: “Everyone Counts!” “Be Counted.” “Shape Your Future.”

It’s all part of a multi-pronged approach from federal, state and local entities trying to ensure that as many people as possible take part in the 2020 census — an enumeration of the country’s population that takes place every 10 years.

For the first time, households will be able to participate in the federal questionnaire by using their phone, tablet or computer.

The stakes for states like Illinois to have accurate counts are high because the data gathered is tied to political power and federal money. Here’s what you need to know about the 2020 census:



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The stakes for Illinois to have accurate counts in the 2020 census are high because the data gathered is tied to political power and federal money.

Why is the census being done? The U.S. Constitution mandates a count of the entire population to take place every decade. The process is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, which is part of the federal Department of Commerce. The data gathered from the decennial count is used to determine the number of representatives each state will have in Congress. It’s also used to redistrict political maps, and the amount each state gets from various federal funding programs is tied to its census-determined population.

Counting everyone is of particular concern in Illinois, which has seen a population decline for the sixth year in a row and has lost more residents since 2010 than any other state. That’s accordingly to census population data that was gathered in between the big decennial counts and released Monday.

When can I start filling out the census? April 1 marks Census Day, but the work to count the population will start much sooner.

The U.S. Census Bureau will begin counting as soon as this month in remote parts of Alaska, and households across the country will start receiving mail by March 12 from the U.S. Census Bureau, giving them

instructions on how to respond to the questionnaire.

In Illinois, the mailings will come days just before the state’s March 17 primary election, so make sure they don’t get lost in campaign material that may be cluttering local mailboxes.

From March 16 to March 24, the bureau will send a reminder about the census, said Elisa Johnson, the Chicago deputy regional director for the U.S. Census Bureau. Another wave of mailings from the bureau will go out from March 26 to April 3 for households that still have not completed the questionnaire. Then on April 8 to April 16, the bureau will send out paper forms to households that by this point haven’t participated on their own, she said.

What questions will the government ask? Each household — including people living together in apartments or mobile homes — will have to fill out a questionnaire that will include less than a dozen questions.

The questionnaire, which can be completed online, by phone or in paper form by mail, will ask how many people are living in the household, what type of property it is and each resident’s name, gender, age on April 1, race and if the person is of Latino origin.

If more than one person lives in the household, the bureau asks for a description of how each resident is related to the person filling out the form. For example, there are options for roommates, same-sex partners or siblings.

The federal agency will not ask for a person’s Social Security number, bank account number, credit card number, immigration status or for donations.

Will the 2020 census include a question about citizenship? The census questionnaire will not include a controversial inquiry about a person’s immigration or citizenship status. The U.S. Department of Commerce sought to include the question following a request from the U.S. Department of Justice. But the U.S. Supreme Court this summer blocked the question from appearing on the forms.

Advocates, at the time were cautious about calling the ruling a victory. While the high court called the Trump administration’s reason for seeking to include the question “contrived,” the court did not definitively determine if residents could ever be asked in the future if they are citizens.

Advocates encourage everyone, regardless of immi-

gration status, to participate in the census.

Will a census taker come to my house? If a household’s residents haven’t responded to the questionnaire on their own by April, census workers will start knocking on doors by May, according to the bureau. Before then, census workers will visit group living quarters such as college campuses and senior centers.

Census workers visiting homes should have with them a valid identification badge with their photo and a watermark indicating it was issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Anyone who is still unsure if the person is really a census worker can call 800-923-8282 to confirm.

Who will have access to the information from my questionnaire? Early in American history — the first census took place in 1790 — the results were posted in public, but that practice changed through the centuries. The Census Bureau is now bound by a code called Title 13, which outlines protections for the information collected. Personal information “is never published,” the agency stated on its website, and “cannot be used against respondents by any government agency or court.”

What is at stake for Illinois? The state could lose political muscle and federal funds that are tied to the outcomes of decennial counts. Experts say Illinois is at risk of losing one or even two congressional seats.

Nationwide, it’s estimated that \$1.5 trillion in federal programs — ranging from food assistance to state wildlife grants — are all tied to data gathered during the decennial census count, according to an analysis by the George Washington University’s Institute on Public Policy.

An earlier analysis from the Institute on Public Policy estimated that \$34 billion from federal programs tied to census figures trickles down to Illinois.

How will the bureau count the homeless population? The U.S. Census Bureau will work closely with so-called complete count commissions that are headed by local governments and community groups to figure out what shelters, soup kitchens and areas people experiencing homelessness are staying at, Johnson said. The effort to count these people will happen from March 30 to April 1.

Can I get a job with the

2020 census? In Illinois, the U.S. Census Bureau is seeking to recruit more than 80,000 workers, Johnson said. As of late December, the bureau estimates it’s nearly halfway to that goal. In Chicago, the agency wants to recruit 20,600 workers. But the bureau doesn’t yet know how many of those recruits will get part-time jobs because that depends on how many people fill out the census questionnaire on their own. The higher that return, the fewer workers will be needed to knock on doors for follow-up.

The bureau recently increased its pay range to \$17.50 to \$29.50 an hour across the state. The move was done to draw a larger pool of applicants, especially because of the low unemployment numbers in the Midwest, Johnson said.

Anyone receiving federal benefits can also apply without the extra income changing their eligibility for the assistance, Johnson said. Someone receiving federal assistance who is hired by the bureau will have to contact the agency that provides the benefits to receive a waiver, Johnson said. More information can be found at 2020Census.gov/jobs.

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Sex offenders again sue over warnings to move

Residents of rehab program in Aurora say city is wrong

BY SARAH FREISHTAT AND MEGAN JONES

Amid an ongoing dispute over whether child sex offenders should be allowed to stay at Wayside Cross Ministries in Aurora, a group of the men have filed a new lawsuit over notices informing them they must move out of the facility.

The city of Aurora has contended for months that new mapping software showed the men, registered child sex offenders participating in a rehabilitation program at Wayside Cross Ministries, live too close to McCarty Park on Aurora’s near East Side. The city deems it a playground, which would mean the men are in violation of a state law requiring them to live more than 500 feet from schools, playgrounds, daycare centers and other child-focused locations.

The men and their attorneys have disputed that all of McCarty Park should be considered a child’s playground and said the city isn’t properly interpreting or applying the residency law.

The lawsuit, filed Dec. 30 by 18 Wayside residents against the city of Aurora and Kane County State’s Attorney Joe McMahon, comes weeks after an Aurora police officer delivered letters to the men informing them, for the second time in 2019, that they live too close to the park and must move within 30 days or face the possibility that the state’s attorney might authorize felony charges against them.

This time, the men were told they had until Jan. 15 to

move out before police notify the state’s attorney.

The men argue in the lawsuit that Aurora and the Kane County state’s attorney are “misinterpreting and misapplying the residency law.” The suit argues the way they are applying the law “to force plaintiffs out of Wayside Cross substantially burdens plaintiffs’ exercise of religion and is not the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling government interest,” and amounts to a violation of the Illinois Religious Freedom Restoration Act, according to a copy of the lawsuit provided to The Beacon-News.

“For decades, the city has registered individuals who have been convicted of sex offenses involving minors at (Wayside Cross Ministries) using 215 E. New York St. as their address,” the men say in the lawsuit. “The city never raised a concern that (Wayside Cross Ministries) is too close to McCarty Park or any other prohibited location.”

A spokesman for the Kane County state’s attorney declined to comment on the ongoing lawsuit. Spokesmen for the city of Aurora and the Aurora Police Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

Marcus Sabo, one of the Wayside residents who filed the lawsuit and an employee of the ministry, said Wayside isn’t intended to be a permanent home, but rather a place to help the men get restarted in life and transform their futures.

“We came to Wayside to change our lives, and Wayside’s program helps us do that in so many ways,” he said. “And we’re just hoping to be able to continue to do that during our time at

Wayside.”

The lawsuit comes at the end of a year of high tensions between Wayside and the city. The two agencies sparred in the spring over the ministry’s housing of a convicted murderer who was part of the infamous Ripper Crew upon his release from prison. In the fall, the ministry’s youth program, which is a separate division, stood poised to miss out on a city grant, though it eventually received a different type of funding.

The city’s dispute with the registered child sex offenders at Wayside came into focus in June, when the men first received notices they were in violation of the residency law and would have to move or face the possibility of felony charges.

The residents filed a federal lawsuit against Aurora in mid-July, and action on those first notices was halted pending the outcome of the lawsuit. The lawsuit was voluntarily dismissed at the end of October, and the men received a second round of notification letters in mid-December.

The most recent lawsuit, filed in Kane County circuit court, argues that instead of measuring the required 500-foot-distance from the edge of the park, it should be measured from the edge of an area deemed a playground, such as the park’s fountain or two rocking horses installed in the summer. Both of those features are more than 500 feet from Wayside’s property line, according to the lawsuit.

“The presence of a fountain and two small rocking horses does not convert the entirety of McCarty Park, including the parts that are used primarily by adults, into a ‘playground,’” the lawsuit states.

The way the city is applying state law “places a substantial burden on their free exercise of religion by presenting a coercive choice — namely, plaintiffs must abandon their lives in a religious community and move out of (Wayside Cross Ministries) or face criminal prosecution,” the men argue in the lawsuit.

Adele Nicholas, an attorney representing the men, said the city has the authority to designate what is and is not a playground, and doesn’t have to take the steps it has been taking.

“If they cared more about the safety of citizens and the constitutional rights of people to practice their religion than they did about having a moment in the press, that’s what they would do,” she said. “But for some reason they’ve decided to keep pushing this.”

The lawsuit proposes “less restrictive options that would ensure the protection of minors in McCarty Park,” including designating the rocking horses and fountain as a playground, rather than the park as a whole.

It also proposes getting agreements from Wayside and the men that they would not be allowed on the parts of Wayside’s property that are within 500 feet of the park after the end of the business day, and getting a statement from Wayside outlining the exact supervision requirements and restrictions placed on each man.

The men propose in their lawsuit allowing the city to verify that the only unlocked entrance to the men’s dorm is more than 500 feet from McCarty Park, and enforcing laws prohibiting them from being in or loitering near the park.

The lawsuit states 16 of



STEVE LORD/BEACON-NEWS

Eighteen registered child sex offenders living at Wayside Cross are in a dispute over their proximity to a nearby park.

the 18 men bringing the suit would become homeless if they are required to move out of Wayside Cross because they are indigent and aren’t eligible for placement in public housing because of their criminal backgrounds. They have no family who can take them in, according to the suit.

Two of the men have savings they could put toward housing, according to the lawsuit, but “they fear that if they move out of (Wayside Cross Ministries) their lives and their employment will be destabilized and they will also be at risk of homelessness due to lack of funds and the difficulties that people with felony backgrounds (especially those who have been convicted of sex offenses) have in finding housing.”

The men likely will not be able to stay in a homeless shelter, because many don’t accept registered sex offenders, according to the lawsuit.

“It does not make anyone safer, it does not make Aurora safer, it does not make the children of Aurora safer, to put 18 people into homelessness in the middle of January when they currently have a stable and well supervised place to live,”

Nicholas said. “Where they’re just seeking to have normal lives where they practice their faith, get work experience and get back on track.”

The men are seeking an injunction that would direct Aurora to continue registering them as residents of Wayside and an injunction barring the state’s attorney from prosecuting the men for violating the state residency law if they stay at Wayside.

They are also seeking a judgement from the court finding the distance between a playground and home should be measured from the edge of the area within the park that meets the definition of a playground, and that Wayside Cross is not within 500 feet of a playground. They have asked for attorney’s fees and any other actions the court deems appropriate.

Nicholas said she is also planning to ask for a preliminary injunction and a restraining order which, if granted, would allow the men to stay at Wayside past the Jan. 15 deadline outlined in their notices.

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Water worries and questions persist for University Park

Residents chafe at advisory 6 months after lead findings

BY ZAK KOESKE

Elevated lead levels continue to persist in more than 30% of sampled University Park homes more than six months after the village's water supplier implemented a program to eliminate the contamination.

Aqua Illinois, which has shared its sampling data with customers every two weeks since late June, found that 68% of samples were at or below Environmental Protection Agency action levels on Dec. 20 — the lowest proportion in more than three months and well below the EPA's 90% standard that Aqua is trying to hit.

Company officials continue to urge patience and have asked residents to trust the treatment process, which has been in place since mid-June when Aqua detected elevated lead levels at 14 village properties and issued a "do not consume" advisory for about 2,400 customers.

A subsequent investigation determined the con-

tamination likely resulted from an adjustment in the company's treatment process that changed the water chemistry and caused existing lead in the internal plumbing of homes built before 1990 — before the EPA banned lead solder and pipe installation — to leach into the water.

In response, Aqua introduced a new treatment product known for its ability to create a protective coating on lead pipes and prevent the harmful chemical from seeping into the water.

The company quickly lifted its "do not consume" advisory for hundreds of customers whose homes were built after 1990, but roughly 1,500 customers who live in older homes still remain under the advisory more than six months later.

In the meantime, Aqua has assured customers they can safely consume tap water if they run their faucet two to three minutes before each use and use a pitcher or faucet filter certified by the National Sanitation Foundation to reduce lead.

The company's latest post-flushing sampling results confirm the flushing method to be effective at



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Roughly 1,500 Aqua Illinois water customers in University Park have remained under a consumption advisory due to elevated levels of lead in their water for more than six months and it's unclear when the advisory might be lifted.

reducing lead in the water. All 65 samples collected between Dec. 4 and Dec. 18 tested below the regulatory action level for lead, according to company data.

Despite the apparent effectiveness of flushing and filtering tap water before consumption, University Park Mayor Joseph Roudez said many of the village's affected customers are still

hesitant to consume it and long for the day when they can drink and cook with their tap water without restrictions.

Roudez, whose home is one of those under the lead advisory, said he still doesn't feel safe consuming or cooking with the water even after it's flushed and filtered.

He said living under water restrictions for the past

six months had been a "very huge inconvenience" that was not getting any easier for residents.

The water crisis had, however, brought out the best in the community, Roudez said.

"Our residents are just fantastic how they've adjusted and adapted and trusted the process," he said.

One such adaptation in the Roudez household, the mayor said, involved his wife packing up pots, pans and kitchen utensils to do her holiday cooking elsewhere and then transporting the finished product back to their University Park home for a large family feast on Thanksgiving.

Aqua has told affected residents from early in the process that the treatment could take months to take hold and has encouraged customers to flush their water frequently to speed along the coating process.

More than six months into the treatment, company officials remain unable to provide a timeline for when affected University Park customers will be able to return to their prior water consumption habits.

The company's compliance data shows the percentage of sampled homes at or below EPA action levels increased steadily during the first few months of treatment, but appears to have leveled off since late September.

In the seven samples taken since Sept. 20, the percentage of water samples at or below EPA action levels have fluctuated between 68% and 80%.

Aqua officials acknowledged the "variability" in recent sampling results, but said it was to be expected, and that overall water quality improvements showed the company's treatment process was working.

They also encouraged residents to regularly use their tap water to flush out any materials that may still be in their pipes because sampling data indicated that homes with low water use were more likely to have higher lead levels.

"We know we're getting closer," company spokeswoman Cristina Villarreal said. "We just don't know when."

Roudez said he remained optimistic the treatment process was working, albeit slowly, but expressed concerns about Aqua's treatment of affected customers.

While the company has zeroed affected customers' water bills since they came under the advisory in June, he criticized the company for billing customers for sewage charges.

Roudez said the company initially had offered affected customers relief from all bills, but began applying sewer charges again in the past couple months.

As a result, the mayor said he was in the process of circulating petitions throughout the community demanding "total forgiveness" on water and sewer charges that he planned to present to the Illinois Commerce Commission, which oversees public utilities.

Aqua president Craig Blanchette responded Tuesday to Roudez's claims about billing, saying in a statement that the company had initially waived all water and sewer bills "in acknowledgement of the inconvenience (the lead advisory) caused our customers," even though sewer service was never affected.

"While we did resume charges for sewer services, which only includes wastewater exiting the home, customers remaining under the advisory have not been charged for water," Blanchette said, adding that customers were not being charged for more than their sewer use from before the advisory, so they should continue to run water to flush their pipes.

Roudez also implored Aqua, which has operated a water distribution center in town since the early days of the crisis, to extend the center's hours at least one night a week to accommodate residents who work and to permit customers to take home more than one case of water each day.

The distribution center previously operated seven days a week and until 7 p.m. on weeknights, but has since reduced hours to three days during the week from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

The mayor said the new hours were a huge inconvenience for residents who work during the day or do not have ready access to transportation and that the company's one case limit was keeping large families from being able to cook at home like they had been able to when they could fill up with as much water as they needed.

University Park officials declined to say whether they had any intention of suing their water supplier over the fallout from the extended crisis.

Roudez also said he was not at liberty to discuss a pending lawsuit the Illinois attorney general and Will County state's attorney jointly filed against Aqua.

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Tow truck driver killed on Ike while responding to crash

Tow truck driver Andrew R. Dove-Ferdere, 23, of Berkeley, was killed when a car hit him Wednesday morning as he stood outside his truck on the Eisenhower Expressway after responding to an earlier crash, according to a preliminary investigation by state police.

The incident occurred about 6 a.m. on Interstate 290 near Ninth Avenue in Maywood, according to a statement from Trooper Wendy Corona, an Illinois State Police spokeswoman. A gray Nissan was traveling east in the right lane when it

veered, striking the tow truck operator and an unoccupied vehicle.

Dove-Ferdere succumbed to his injuries at the scene. The driver of Nissan was taken to a hospital with minor injuries, Corona said. It is unknown if the driver was wearing a seat belt at time of collision.

All eastbound lanes were closed for about 3½ hours, reopening at about 9:45 a.m., though the state police let traffic through on the left shoulder, Corona said.

— Jessica Villagomez

Chicago Tribune

NATION & WORLD

Neb. town: 'Should I stay or should I go?'

As flood risk worsens, residents can linger or move to transplant

By MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

WINSLOW, Neb. — It took only minutes for the icy Elkhorn River to surge over a levee and engulf tiny Winslow, but months after the floodwaters receded, the village finds itself struggling to decide its future — or if it has a future.

Will it be reborn atop a nearby hill, or will the town stay put, living under a dark cloud?

"It's never flooded like that before," said Bill Whitley, 72, who owns a house where his daughter lives in town. "But it will someday again."

This town of about 100 residents is one of a growing number that may face the choice of moving or dying as climate change worsens flood risks, leaving people who have lived for years through nature's extremes to accept that their hometowns may no longer be habitable where they are.

Since the creation of a buyout program in 1989, federal and local governments have poured more than \$5 billion into buying tens of thousands of properties threatened by persistent flooding to avoid the need for frequent rebuilding.

Many residents have agreed to move to other places, but still rare is the relocation of entire towns.

But that's the choice Winslow now has before it, and more may follow. While 30 years of buyouts would seemingly have addressed all the most threatened places, climate change is



Volunteer fire department chief and village trustee Zachary Klein briefs Winslow, Neb., residents at a meeting Oct. 24.

now putting ever more towns into danger from rising tides and heavier storms.

Meanwhile, state and federal authorities have imposed restrictions on disaster aid that make it harder for them to rebuild after flooding.

"I would say our current weather pattern is making it difficult if you're living in a flood plain area," said Bryan Tuma, assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

It's unclear how many communities in recent years have been reclassified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency into higher risk flood zones, but

a 2013 FEMA-funded study found the amount of land vulnerable to extreme river flooding would likely increase by 45% by the end of the century.

Winslow residents must raise their homes, leave or restart the town at a site a few miles away and 100 feet higher with government financial help.

"We are going to flood again," said Winslow village trustee and volunteer fire chief Zachary Klein, who is leading a relocation effort.

Winslow was incorporated 110 years ago about 40 miles from Omaha, a half-mile south of the Elkhorn River; most residents are farmers or blue-collar

workers.

They've occasionally had to deal with rising water. But nothing like the last decade, when nine of the 10 highest crests ever have been recorded, including the worst of all in March.

Torrential rains falling on frozen ground poured into the river and sent the normally lazy stream surging into the town and inundating thousands of acres of farmland.

Other towns along Midwest rivers also flooded, but as spring stretched into summer, most at least started to recover.

Winslow, though, looks like a ghost town, with its gravel streets empty and its

48 homes and businesses posted with official warnings against entering.

With many towns pleading for higher levees, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has no plans to invest millions to upgrading Winslow's.

"Even the Corps can't afford to build up levees everywhere," said Rob Moore, an analyst with the Chicago-based environmental group the Natural Resources Defense Council.

So local leaders found land about 3 miles away on a hilltop and negotiated a price. Klein hopes to have the purchase finalized by February so crews can begin putting in infrastruc-

ture, initially along a single street. Houses would be built or moved in, starting as soon as late this year.

Then would come the community structures "that make a town a town," Klein said — including a community center, post office, fire station and even Smiley's, the town's only bar.

A handful of other towns have been transplanted over the years, including Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, in 1983 and Valmeyer, Illinois, in 1993.

The big question is whether enough Winslow residents will commit to the move to make it worthwhile.

About 25 households — or half of Winslow — have signed on so far. Those who don't move to the new town can take a buyout, which covers 75% of a structure's pre-flood market value, and move elsewhere.

Or they can stay, although they would have to elevate their property at considerable cost to get flood insurance.

At a recent meeting, more than 50 people gathered to ask questions. Final decisions must be made by spring.

Ken Rice, who is repairing his nearly 85-year-old home and hopes to move it to the new site, said it's hard to imagine the village dissolving.

"This is home to me," the 57-year-old Rice said. "I've lived here all my life."

Nilene Parker has lived in Winslow only two years, but said she's ready to rebuild "up top," as residents call the new site.

But at least three households have decided to stay in the old Winslow, even if that means paying a hefty price.

Australia sends military aid to towns ravaged by fires

Death toll rises to at least 17, officials say, as heat eases

By TRISTAN LAVALETTE
Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Australia deployed military ships and aircraft Wednesday to help communities ravaged by apocalyptic wildfires that have left at least 17 people dead nationwide and sent thousands of residents and holidaymakers fleeing to the shoreline.

Navy ships and military aircraft were bringing water, food and fuel to towns where supplies were depleted and roads were cut off by the fires. Authorities confirmed three bodies were found Wednesday at Lake Conjola on the south coast of New South Wales, bringing the death toll in the state to 15.

More than 175 homes have been destroyed in the region.

About 4,000 people in the coastal town of Malla-coota fled to the shore as winds pushed a fire toward their homes under a sky darkened by smoke and turned blood-red by flames. Stranded residents and vacationers slept in their cars,

and gas stations and surf clubs transformed into evacuation areas. Dozens of homes burned before winds changed direction late Tuesday, sparing the rest of the town.

Victoria Emergency Commissioner Andrew Crisp told reporters the Australian Defence Force was moving naval assets to Malla-coota on a supply mission that would last two weeks and helicopters would also fly in more firefighters because roads were inaccessible.

"I think that was our biggest threat in terms of what are we doing with the children if we need to go in the water to protect ourselves given the fact that they are only 1, 3 and 5," tourist Kai Kirschbaum told ABC Australia. "If you're a good swimmer it doesn't really matter if you have to be in the water for a longer time, but doing that with three kids that would have been, I think, a nightmare."

Conditions cooled Wednesday, but the fire danger remained very high across the state, where four people are missing.

"We have three months of hot weather to come. We do have a dynamic and a dangerous fire situation

across the state," Crisp said.

In the New South Wales town of Conjola Park, 89 properties were confirmed destroyed and cars were melted by Tuesday's fires. More than 100 fires were still burning in the state Wednesday, though none were at an emergency level. Seven people have died this week, including a volunteer firefighter, a man found in a burnt-out car and a father and son who died in their house.

Firefighting crews took advantage of easing conditions on Wednesday to restore power to critical infrastructure and conduct some back burning, before conditions were expected to deteriorate Saturday as high temperatures and strong winds return.

"There is every potential that the conditions on Saturday will be as bad or worse than we saw yesterday," New South Wales Rural Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said.

The early and devastating start to Australia's summer wildfires has led authorities to rate this season the worst on record and reignited debate about whether Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conserva-



A kangaroo rushes past a burning house Tuesday in Lake Conjola. This fire season has been one of the worst in Australia's history, with at least 17 people killed.

tive government has taken enough action on climate change. Australia is the world's largest exporter of coal and liquefied natural gas, but Morrison rejected calls last month to downsize Australia's coal industry.

Morrison won a surprise third term in May. Among his government's pledges was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26% to 28% by 2030 — a modest figure compared to the center-left opposition Labor party's pledge of 45%.

The leader of the minor Australian Greens party, Richard Di Natale, de-

manded a royal commission, the nation's highest form of inquiry, on the wildfire crisis.

"If he (Morrison) refuses to do so, we will be moving for a parliamentary commission of inquiry with royal commission-like powers as soon as parliament returns," Di Natale said in a statement.

About 12.35 million acres of land have burned nationwide over the past few months, with at least 17 people dead and more than 1,000 homes destroyed.

Some communities canceled New Year's fireworks

celebrations, but Sydney's popular display over its iconic harbor controversially went ahead in front of more than a million revelers. The city was granted an exemption to a total fireworks ban in place there and elsewhere to prevent new wildfires.

Smoke from the wildfires meant Canberra, the nation's capital, on Wednesday had air quality more than 21 times the hazardous rating to be reportedly the worst in the world.

The smoke has also wafted across the Tasman Sea and into New Zealand.



VLADIMIR TRETAKOV/AP

Police stand guard as rescuers do what they can at the site of a fatal crash Dec. 28 in Kazakhstan. Twelve people died.

Global air crash deaths fall by 52% in 2019

By DAVID MCHUGH
Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The number of deaths in major air crashes around the globe fell by more than half in 2019, according to a report by an aviation consulting firm.

The To70 consultancy said Wednesday that 257 people died in eight fatal accidents in 2019. That compares to 534 deaths in 13 fatal accidents in 2018.

The 2019 death toll rose in late December after a Bek

Air Fokker 100 crashed last week on takeoff in Kazakhstan, killing 12 people. The worst crash of 2019 involved an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max plane that crashed March 10, killing 157 people.

The report said fatal accidents in 2018 and 2019 that led to the grounding of Boeing's 737 Max raised questions about how aviation authorities approve aviation designs derived from older ones, and about how much pilot training is needed on new systems.

The group said it expects the 737 Max to eventually gain permission to fly again this year.

The report said the fatal accident rate for large planes in commercial air transport fell to 0.18 fatal accidents per million flights in 2019 from 0.30 accidents per million flights in 2018. That means there was one fatal accident for every 5.58 million flights.

The firm's annual compilation of accident statistics stressed that aviation needs to keep its focus on the

basics of having well-designed and well-constructed aircraft flown by well-trained crews.

Last year may have seen fewer deaths but did not equal the historic low of 2017, which saw only fatal accidents that resulted in the loss of 13 lives.

This report is based on crashes involving larger aircraft used for most commercial passenger flights. It excludes accidents involving small planes, military flights, cargo flights and helicopters.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi strikes the gavel Dec. 18 after announcing the passage of articles of impeachment.



ELLIOT SPAGAT/AP

Volunteers call names of people on a waiting list trying to obtain asylum in the U.S. along the Mexico border.



NOAH BERGER/AP

One woman hugs another amid a vigil after a shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

Impeachment trumped other stories

President also key to 2nd, 3rd biggest events in AP poll

By DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The drive by Democrats in the House of Representatives to impeach President Donald Trump was the top news story of 2019, according to The Associated Press' annual poll.

Trump also figured in the second and third biggest stories of the year: the fallout over his immigration policies and the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into whether his election campaign coordinated with Russia.

But it was impeachment that was by far the top choice in the AP poll, a story that gained steam with each passing week after details emerged about a phone call in which Trump pressured the newly elected Ukrainian president to announce an investigation into his chief Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden.

Congress held hearings during the inquiry, culminating with a party-line vote Wednesday evening to impeach an American president for the third time in U.S. history. The impeachment process laid bare the partisan divisions roiling American politics during the Trump presidency.

The selections for Associated Press story of the year were made by a panel of editors and managers from newspaper, TV station and AP newsrooms around the globe.

Here are 2019's top 10 stories, in order:

Trump impeachment: Democrats moved to impeach the president based on allegations that he abused the power of his office by enlisting a foreign government to investigate a political rival. The articles of impeachment also accused Trump of obstructing Congress' oversight. But Democrats failed in their bid for a bipartisan action — no Republicans in Congress broke with the president. Trump and Republicans repeatedly insisted he did nothing

wrong.

Immigration: The Trump administration carried out sweeping new immigration enforcement measures in the face of a crisis that saw record numbers of migrant families arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border. Several immigrant children died after being held in U.S. custody; children were found living in squalid conditions at cramped border facilities; and global outrage peaked after the publication of a photograph showing a drowned father and his toddler daughter in the Rio Grande across from Texas. Trump also freed up billions of dollars in Pentagon funds to build his border wall and imposed rules that forced asylum seekers back to Mexico while their immigration cases play out in the U.S.

Trump-Russia probe: After a two-year investigation, Mueller told Congress he did not find sufficient evidence to charge a criminal conspiracy between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia. However,

Mueller testified that Trump was not cleared of obstructing justice. The investigation was opened by the FBI in July 2016 and taken over by Mueller in May 2017. He charged six Trump associates with various crimes as well as 25 Russians accused of interfering in the election.

Mass shootings: A Walmart store crowded with shoppers in El Paso, Texas, was targeted by a gunman who killed 22 people before his arrest. Police say the suspect posted anti-Hispanic writings prior to the attack, and the massacre chilled Latino communities around the country. It was one of several mass shootings in the U.S. Targets included a garlic festival in Gilroy, California; a bar in Dayton, Ohio, and a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Opioids: State and local governments across the U.S. went to court seeking huge compensation from drug companies for the costs of the long-running opioid epidemic. OxyContin maker

Purdue Pharma, declared bankruptcy, seeking protection from its creditors as it sought to settle more than 2,700 lawsuits. The epidemic has killed more than 400,000 in the U.S. since 2000.

Climate change: The Trump administration began withdrawing the United States from the Paris agreement to curb emissions, and marathon U.N. climate talks ended with no major breakthrough as large-scale polluters balked at intensifying the fight against global warming. Across the world, young activists called for tougher action as data indicated 2019 would likely be the second hottest year ever.

Brexit: Throughout the year, Britain was deeply divided over its pending departure from European Union. Brexit supporter Boris Johnson became prime minister and soon lost key votes in Parliament and the Supreme Court. But he succeeded in calling national elections, and his Conservative Party won a resounding victory — seemingly ensur-

ing that the exit from the EU would indeed take place.

U.S.-China trade war: The world's two biggest economies skirmished throughout the year in a trade war. Just ahead of December's holiday season, the United States and China announced a limited deal, with the U.S. dropping plans to impose new tariffs and China agreeing to allow more U.S. agricultural imports.

Boeing jets grounded: Air safety regulators worldwide grounded the Boeing 737 Max jet after one of the planes crashed in Ethiopia, killing 157 people. That occurred just five months after another 737 Max crashed off the coast of Indonesia, killing 189. In both crashes, investigators say, a faulty sensor caused a flight control system to push the nose of the plane down and pilots were unable to regain control. The grounding of the Max has cost Boeing and airlines billions of dollars; Boeing says it will temporarily stop producing the jet in January.

Houses of worship a frequent target

Attacks rooted in hate claimed many people of faith

By DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

On Dec. 1, a band of assailants opened fire on worshippers at a small-town Protestant church in Burkina Faso, an impoverished West African country where the Christian minority is increasingly a target of attacks. The victims included the pastor and several teenage boys; regional authorities attributed the attack to "unidentified armed men" who, according to witnesses, got away on motorcycles.

The slaughter merited brief reports by international news outlets, then quickly faded from the spotlight — not surprising in a year where attacks on places of worship occurred with relentless frequency. Hundreds of worshippers and many clergy were killed at churches, mosques, synagogues and temples.

A two-week span in January illustrated the scope of this somber phenomenon. In Thailand, a group of separatist insurgents attacked a Buddhist temple, killing the abbot and one of his fellow monks. In the Philippines, two suicide attackers detonated bombs during a Mass in a Roman Catholic cathedral on the largely Muslim island of Jolo, killing 23 and wounding about 100. Three days later, an attacker hurled a grenade into a mosque in a nearby city, killing two Muslim religion teachers.

The worst was yet to come.

On March 15, a gunman attacked two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 people. The man arrested for the killings had earlier published a manifesto espousing a white supremacist philosophy and detailing his plans to attack the mosques.

At a national remembrance service two weeks



GEMUNU AMARASINGHE/AP

Relatives place flowers after the burial of three victims of the same family who died in a blast at a church in Sri Lanka.



VINCENT YU/AP

Students gather in March for a vigil to commemorate victims of a shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand.

later, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said New Zealanders had learned the stories of those affected by the attacks — many of them recently arrived immigrants.

"They were born here, grew up here, or who had made New Zealand their home," she said. "They will remain with us forever. They are us."

On Easter Sunday — April

21 — bombs shattered the celebratory services at two Catholic churches and a Protestant church in Sri Lanka.

Other targets, in coordinated suicide attacks by local militants, included three luxury hotels. But Christian worshippers at the three churches — including dozens of children — accounted for a large majority of the roughly 260 people killed.

The victims at St. Antho-

ny's Shrine in Colombo included 11-month-old Avon Gomez, his two older brothers and his parents.

The day's biggest death toll — more than 100 — was at St. Sebastian's, a Catholic church in the seaside town of Negombo. It's known as "Little Rome" due to its abundance of churches and its role as the hub of Sri Lanka's small Catholic community.

The attacks surprised many in the predominantly Buddhist country, where the Christian community totals about 7% of the population and has long avoided involvement in bitter ethnic and religious divides.

Six days after Easter, more than 9,400 miles from Sri Lanka, a gunman opened fire inside a synagogue in Poway, California, as worshippers celebrated the last day of Passover. A 60-year-old man was killed; an 8-year-old girl and two men, including the Chabad of Poway's rabbi, were wounded.

Some congregation members said the slain woman, Lori Kaye, blocked

the shooter by jumping in front of rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, whose two index fingers were injured.

The man charged with murder and attempted murder in the attack, John T. Earnest, could face the death penalty if he is convicted of murder, although prosecutors haven't yet said whether they will pursue capital punishment.

At a court hearing in September, prosecutors played a recording of Earnest calmly telling a 911 dispatcher that he had just shot up a synagogue to save white people from Jews.

The attack occurred six months after 11 people were killed at a Pittsburgh synagogue in the deadliest assault on Jews in U.S. history.

An additional anti-Semitic bloodbath was narrowly averted in October when an armed assailant tried to blast his way into a synagogue in Halle, Germany, where scores of worshippers were attending services on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism.

Unable to break through a locked door, the gunman roamed nearby streets,

killing two people and wounding two others.

Authorities said the 27-year-old German man who has confessed to the attack had posted an anti-Semitic screed before the assault and broadcast the shooting live on a video game site.

In contrast to the Poway and Halle attacks, where authorities have identified suspects and motives, some of the worst attacks on houses of worship unfold without arrests or claims of responsibility.

In October, for example, more than 60 people were killed in a bombing during Friday prayers at a mosque in the village of Jodari in eastern Afghanistan.

No group claimed responsibility.

One common element of all the attacks: Dismay that people of faith now have reason for apprehension as they gather for worship.

"No one should have to fear going to their place of worship," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom after the Poway attack. "No one should be targeted for practicing the tenets of their faith."

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For female mayors, the hate escalates

Women in role more likely than men to be targets

BY ADEEL HASSAN
The New York Times

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway's inbox makes abundantly clear how personally venomous local politics has become.

"'Fat,' 'sick,' 'worthless,' 'gutless,' 'loser,'" she said, reciting some of the insults that have been leveled at her since becoming mayor of Madison, Wisconsin, in April.

She got a taste of the animosity during her campaign, when she was criticized on blogs and social media not for her plans for housing, stormwater management or transportation, but for not wearing makeup.

"People are angry, or afraid, and express themselves in mean ways," she said.

Rhodes-Conway is not alone in facing this type of abuse. As many as 79% of mayors in the United States report being the victim of harassment, threats or other psychological abuse, according to a recent study. Thirteen percent also reported instances of physical violence.

And one factor — gender — stood out above all others as a predictor of whether a mayor would be targeted. Using a statistical analysis that took into account factors like time in office, the researchers concluded that female mayors were more



ANDREA MORALES/THE NEW YORK TIMES

For Heather McTeer Toney, an ex-mayor of Greenville, Mississippi, the threats to her safety she got weren't just online.

"Social media is absolutely toxic to women politicians."

— Annise Parker, a former mayor of Houston

than twice as likely as their male counterparts to experience psychological abuse and almost three times as likely to experience physical violence.

The study, published in the academic journal *State and Local Government Review*, and interviews with current and former mayors, lay bare today's harsh political climate, in which threats of violence over social media are constant and speaking out can be perceived as a political weakness.

"We're seeing more women get elected into po-

litical office everywhere at the same time that there are increasing threats against all public officials," said Mona Lena Krook, a political science professor at Rutgers University who was not involved in the study. "Men also face violence, but women face more and more types of violence."

And the ease of making threats on social media is driving the abuse, said Sue Thomas of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, lead author of the paper.

"Social media is absolutely toxic to women politicians. It's much more virulent to me as a woman than as an out lesbian," said Annise Parker, who was mayor of Houston for three two-year terms. "Remarks about the way I look, what I weigh or how I dress — aspects of femininity — escalate into threats of phys-

ical violence."

And when Karen Weaver made history in Flint, Michigan, by becoming its first female mayor — amid a burgeoning water crisis in 2015 — she believed that she would have more support to discuss the issues facing the city, she said.

On social media, she said, "They went after me like I wasn't a person and had no feelings or family."

In all, 16% of the 238 mayors who responded to the survey said their experiences of abuse had them thinking about leaving their office, suggesting that the toxic environment also threatens to scare off mayors who are interested in long careers and higher political office.

"Folks who have everything it takes to succeed, win an election and be a terrific public servant, that's why they say no," said Christopher Cabaldon, mayor of West Sacramento, California, since 1998. He added that on social media it's "open season on politicians and their families. It definitely warps what our local democracy looks like."

He said that he had been able to remain in office for more than two decades, in part, because he is single and has not faced the discomfort of having a spouse or relative attacked.

"People don't know it until they experience it," said Parker, who is now the chief executive of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, which helps train candidates for office. "It doesn't

keep people out, but it burns people out once they're in it."

For Heather McTeer Toney, the first woman and the youngest person, at 28, to serve as mayor of Greenville, Mississippi, the menace arrived in her mailbox, not her inbox.

The words were written on a yellow sheet of paper, torn off from a legal pad, in black, blue and red ink, and the ones that explicitly threatened rape were written in red. It was more disturbing in a way, she said, that someone took the time to write a letter and mail it.

"It's 15 years later, and I can still remember that," said McTeer Toney, who was also the first black person in the post. "Trust me, this is something that I want to forget."

Mark Barbee, 29, a restaurant server who leads Bridgeport, Pennsylvania, a city of 5,000 about 20 miles northwest of Philadelphia, said he received death threats after winning election in 2017. City Council meetings have been especially contentious. His proposal for an anti-discrimination policy only increased the ire directed at him.

Barbee, a gay African American, said that the difficult times — during which some supporters told him his advocacy was "not worth your life" — forced him to contemplate leaving office.

The survey also found that mayors who are younger, in strong chief executive systems and in larger cities

were more likely to be affected by violence and abuse.

And then there is the political calculation that comes with speaking out about the abuse: Will the public be sympathetic to a mayor who is complaining?

"Politicians have an image to keep up," Krook said. "That's particularly hard for women. If you potentially show some weakness, people can really jump on that."

Many mayors seemed to have reluctantly accepted the abuse as part of serving in office but have come up with their own methods of coping.

Rhodes-Conway does not engage with the attacks that come over social media, but her office reads everything, she said. "If I were reading this every day, it would be just awful," she said. "I feel for mayors who have less of a staff or less of a filter. This is really painful."

Instead, she combats the barrage of nastiness by visiting coffee shops around the city, where she and her staff buy drinks for residents, many of whom arrive upset and talk for an hour. "Even when people disagree with me face to face, they are polite," she said.

Mayor Lovely Warren of Rochester, New York, said she went so far as to shut down her personal Facebook account for nearly three years.

"When you get into a fight with the pig, you get dirty, and the pig likes it," she said, paraphrasing advice given by her family.

Iraq

Continued from Page 1

— many backed by Iran — called on its supporters to withdraw in response to an appeal by the Iraqi government, saying "your message has been received."

By late afternoon the tents had been taken down and the protesters relocated to the opposite side of the Tigris River, outside the so-called Green Zone housing government offices and foreign embassies. U.S. Apache helicopters circled overhead.

"After achieving the intended aim, we pulled out from this place triumphantly," said Fadhil al-Gezzy, a militia supporter. "We rubbed America's nose in the dirt." Trump has vowed to exact a "big price" for an attack he blamed squarely on Iran.

Kataeb Hezbollah, the Iran-backed militia targeted by the U.S. airstrikes, initially refused to leave but later bowed to demands to disperse. The militia is separate from the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, though both are backed by Iran.

"We don't care about these planes that are flying over the heads of the picketers. Neither do we care about the news that America will bring Marines," said Mohammed Mohy, a spokesman for Kataeb Hezbollah. "On the contrary, this shows a psychological defeat and a big mental breakdown that the American administration is suffering from," he said, before withdrawing from the area.

The violence came as Iran and its allies across the region have faced unprecedented mass protests in recent months and heavy U.S. sanctions have cratered Iran's economy.

Iraq has been gripped by anti-government protests since October fueled by anger at widespread cor-



AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/GETTY-AFP

An Iraqi lifts a poster of Qais al-Khazali, commander of the Asaib Ahl al-Haq pro-Iran faction, in front of the U.S. Embassy on Wednesday.

ruption and economic mismanagement, as well as Iran's heavy influence over the country's affairs. Those protesters were not involved in the embassy attack.

The Pentagon sent an infantry battalion of about 750 soldiers to the Middle East. A U.S. official familiar with the decision said they would go to Kuwait. Pompeo postponed a trip that was scheduled to start in Ukraine late Thursday so that he can monitor developments in Iraq and "ensure the safety and security of Americans in the Middle East," said State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugas.

Iran denied involvement

in the attack on the embassy. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was quoted by media as saying that "if the Islamic Republic makes a decision to confront any country, it will do it directly."

Iran later summoned the Swiss charge d'affaires, who represents American interests in Tehran, to protest what it said was war-mongering by U.S. officials.

Public consular operations at the embassy were suspended and future appointments canceled, it said in a statement.

Tensions have steadily risen since Trump withdrew the U.S. from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and em-

barked on a campaign of maximum pressure through economic sanctions. Iran has responded by abandoning some of its commitments under the deal.

U.S. officials have blamed Iran for the sabotage of oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and a drone attack on Saudi oil facilities in September that caused a spike in world oil prices. But the Trump administration has not responded with direct military action.

The U.S. has sent more than 14,000 additional troops to the Gulf region since May in response to concerns about Iranian aggression. At the time of the attack, the U.S. had about

5,200 troops in Iraq.

The U.S. and Iran have vied for influence over Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Iran has close ties to Iraq's Shiite majority and major political factions, and its influence has steadily grown since then.

The political influence of the Popular Mobilization Forces has risen in recent years, and their allies dominate the parliament and the government. That has made them the target of the anti-government protesters, who have attacked Iranian diplomatic missions and the local headquarters of parties affiliated with the militias.

They have also set up a

sprawling protest camp in central Baghdad, and for weeks have been trying to enter the Green Zone. Iraqi security forces have beaten them back with tear gas and live ammunition, killing hundreds.

The militiamen and their supporters, however, were able to quickly enter the Green Zone and mass in front of the embassy, with little if any resistance from authorities.

"Iran has been trying to provoke the U.S. into helping it solve its Iraq problem," said the Crisis Group, a think tank. "The Trump administration, by responding to the attacks in Kirkuk and elsewhere with airstrikes, has obliged."

Trump suggests some flavored vapes might be pulled from market



RICHARD B. LEVINE/SIPA USA

The Wall Street Journal reported that the FDA would ban the sale of most flavored e-cigarettes.

Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump says the federal government will soon announce a new strategy to tackle underage vaping, promising, "We're going to protect our families, we're going to protect our children, and we're going to protect the industry."

Trump was vague about what the plan would entail but suggested "certain flavors" in cartridge-based e-cigarettes would be taken off the market "for a period of

time."

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that the Food and Drug Administration would ban the sale of most flavored e-cigarettes. E-cigarette pods formulated to taste like tobacco or menthol would still be allowed.

The Journal also reported that tank-based vaping systems, which are less popular among teenagers, would still allow users to custom-mix flavors. The Journal report cited anonymous "people familiar with the matter."

In September, Trump and his top health officials said they would soon sweep virtually all flavored e-cigarettes from the market because of their appeal to young children and teens. But that effort stalled after vaping lobbyists pushed back and advisers told Trump the ban could cost him votes.

Beginning in May, All e-cigarettes will need to undergo FDA review. Only those that can demonstrate a benefit for U.S. public health will be permitted to stay on

the market.

On Tuesday, Trump suggested a ban of flavored e-cigarettes might be temporary. "Hopefully, if everything's safe, they're going to be going very quickly back onto the market," he told reporters.

"People have died from this, they died from vaping," the Republican president said. "We think we understand why. But we're doing a very exhaustive examination and hopefully everything will be back on the market very, very shortly."

Death a costly struggle in Venezuela

Country's poorest rent caskets, hire amateur morticians

BY RODRIGO ABD, SCOTT SMITH AND SHEYLA URDANETA
Associated Press

MARACAIBO, Venezuela — The last time anybody in Nerio Garcia's family heard his voice was on a crackly call from jail outside Maracaibo, Venezuela's second city. He called from a borrowed cellphone, pleading to his brother for help.

"Tell Mother to bring me some food," Garcia, 29, said in the 2 a.m. call, relatives later recounted.

Another call from a fellow inmate said Garcia had stolen a gun and escaped, drawing his mother, Juana Castillo, to the overcrowded jail in Cabimas. She was desperate for answers, but was instead told to go looking on the shoreline of nearby Lake Maracaibo. There, she found him shot between the eyes and floating in the water.

"I'm desperate," Castillo said, while with her son's body at a morgue near the jail. "I want to take my son home to bury him near me."

While the family may never know the truth of his death, the grisly discovery set the grief-stricken mother on a scramble to rescue her son's body from the water and to find enough money to bury him.

Death has become an overwhelming financial burden for many of Venezuela's poorest, who already struggle to find dignity in life. They scrape together food and shelter needed to get through each day, and a relative's death can become the breaking point.

The cost of transporting a body and buying a casket and burial plot for a funeral can run into the hundreds of dollars, or more. In Venezuela, most earn the minimum wage of roughly \$3 a month as hyperinflation devours pay.

Some overcome the financial burden of a rela-



Sergio Morales, right, and Joelvis Cantillo, build a simple coffin at their furniture workshop in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

tive's death by renting caskets, a cheaper option than buying. Others turn to amateur morticians, who embalm bodies at home and convert wooden furniture into coffins.

For many in Maracaibo, Venezuela's economic crash in the last five years hit especially hard. Once a center of the nation's vast oil wealth, production under two decades of socialist rule has plummeted to a fraction of its high, taking down residents' standard of living.

Opposition leader Juan Guaido this year launched a campaign promising to oust President Nicolas Maduro and return the nation to its bygone prosperity.

While the power struggle plays out, millions of Venezuelans remain caught in the middle. The poor and wealthy alike in Maracaibo live with rationed electricity, and despite the region's abundant oil, they often wait in line for days to gas up their cars.

Among life's struggles, too often comes the need to provide a relative with a funeral.

Community activist Carolina Leal has assumed the role of funeral director in her poor and often violent Maracaibo neighborhood of Altos de Milagro Norte, hoping to rid families of unnecessary misery she has seen too many times.

Leal said police only enter when they are coming to mete out deadly street justice, while too many others die from long, agonizing illnesses such as AIDS and tuberculosis. She has also witnessed deaths from malnutrition and poisoning from people eating garbage in the street.

"This slum here has turned into a living hell," Leal said. "Some bodies were decomposing at home because officials we asked didn't help. It's infuriating."

Leal has formed a team with two other neighbors

who employ their unique skills to bring dignity to the dead. One busy month recently, Leal said she oversaw 12 funerals.

Upon learning of a death, carpenter Arturo Vielma visits the mourning family's home, asking what wooden furniture, like a table or stand-alone closet, they can spare for him to build a casket.

Roberto Molero next comes to embalm the body with no training other than seeing it done during a decade that he worked as a driver at a funeral home. This gives families time to mourn and come up with money while they make funeral arrangements before the body decomposes.

Molero's kit includes a sewing needle and thread to stitch together faces of those killed in violent clashes with police. He charges the equivalent of \$5.

"Not everyone can pay that, so some I've let go for

free," Molero said.

Leal's contribution stems from her former role as a socialist party enforcer. She says she has abandoned a violent past, but isn't shy about cajoling officials at the mayor's office to provide a burial place. Once, she pressed her point by bringing a coffin to city hall until officials found a grave site.

Venezuela's crisis has reshaped the funeral industry.

Funeral homes in Maracaibo said that in the last two years they have started renting caskets to families for \$50. The family returns the casket and sends their loved one's body to be cremated, making it dramatically cheaper than buying a coffin for \$100 to \$300.

Furniture maker Sergio Morales for years crafted tables, chairs, bed frames and night dressers, but as Venezuela's crisis deepened, he began using the same wood, nails and glue to build simple wooden cas-

kets for less than \$100. They are on display outside on the street.

The indignities of death don't quickly end. Thieves often raid graves for valuables, while public cemeteries often go abandoned, overgrown with weeds.

When families cannot afford headstones for loved ones at the Maracaibo public cemetery, each rainstorm erases any sign of a fresh grave, making it impossible for them to find their loved one's plot when they return.

Garcia's mother described how she put aside an urge to find justice for her son's death and focused rather on how she would rescue his body and bury it. With help at the lake shore, they tied him to a tree so he didn't drift away, and next told police, who pulled the body from the water and delivered it to the morgue. The autopsy showed he was shot in the head and also in the back.

Garcia had been jailed for two years following a family feud and was expected to go free just days after being shot in the jail, his attorney said. Instead, his mother and siblings set out borrowing money from neighbors to cover the funeral expenses.

They finally brought him home to a poor Maracaibo neighborhood, where the family lives in a half-built shack made of cinder blocks.

They mourned over the casket, placing a plastic bottle on the ground, scrawled with the word "donations." Incense burned to mask the smell, and his sisters took turns shooing away flies drawn to the decomposing body.

At the cemetery, they lowered the casket into a donated burial plot. His mother stepped to the grave and placed inside three small loaves of bread and a malt drink.

She said this was her way of feeding her son, satisfying the hunger he had cried about in his final call home hours before his death.



A protester gives a hand signal — meaning "five demands, not one less," one of the Hong Kong protesters' main slogans — amid a sea of marchers Wednesday in Hong Kong.

New Year's clashes erupt at march in Hong Kong

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hundreds of thousands of people packed Hong Kong streets for an annual New Year's Day protest march as the monthslong pro-democracy movement extended into 2020 with further violence between police and demonstrators.

Police said they arrested about 400 people for unlawful assembly and carrying offensive weapons as black-clad youths broke off from the main group of marchers and attacked banks and ATM machines with spray paint, hammers and Molotov cocktails. They smashed crossing lights, ripped bricks from sidewalks and barricaded roads in the downtown financial district.

Banks and businesses identified with mainland China have been frequent targets of some protesters.

Police used pepper spray, tear gas and a water cannon to drive off the demonstrators, although a government statement said officers were "deploying the minimum necessary force."

Senior Superintendent

Ng Lok-chun told reporters that "rioters" hijacked the protest march and at one point endangered police officers by surrounding and throwing objects at them, which led to police ordering the rally to be called off.

The rally followed overnight clashes between police and protesters on New Year's Eve in a densely populated shopping district. Police also used tear gas, pepper spray and water cannons to break up groups of demonstrators who blocked traffic and lit fires in the street in the working-class district of Mong Kok.

Hong Kong toned down its New Year's celebrations amid the protests that began in June.

Eric Lai, the vice convener of the march organizer, the Civil Human Rights Front, said he hoped to avoid a recurrence of the previous night's violence.

"We hope that the police can facilitate us, rather than provoking us, and to fire tear gas and water cannon at us," he said.

Such marches have often devolved into violence. Both sides have been accused of provoking clashes,

and nearly 6,500 protesters as young as 12 have been arrested in scores of incidents on streets, in shopping malls and on college campuses.

Recent protests have drawn participants from across Hong Kong society, sometimes numbering more than 1 million and packing the downtown area from Victoria Park to the government office complex a short distance away. Many of those joining in are concerned about an erosion of the former British colony's civil liberties it was promised after being handed over to Chinese rule in 1997, along with a shortage of well-paying jobs and a yawning divide between the city's ruling class and those merely getting by amid soaring housing costs.

The protests began in June over proposed legislation that could have allowed residents to be extradited to China where they could face possible torture and unfair trials. The legislation was withdrawn, but not before the protests expanded to wider calls for reforms in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

'Prisoner' in Peru campaigns for right to end her own life

BY FRANKLIN BRICEÑO
Associated Press

LIMA, Peru — Almost completely paralyzed by a terminal illness, 42-year-old Peruvian Ana Estrada says she is a "prisoner in her own body" and yearns to be legally allowed to end her own life.

But Peru doesn't permit medically assisted suicide, so Estrada is campaigning for a change in the law from the electric wheelchair in her Lima home.

"It's about fighting for the right to choose," Estrada said in an interview with The Associated Press on her patio, surrounded by potted plants and small sculptures. She spoke with a feeding tube in her belly and another tube inserted into her windpipe to help her breathe.

Estrada was diagnosed at the age of 14 with polymyositis, a disease that wastes away muscles and has no cure. By 20, she was too weak to walk and started using a wheelchair. Even so, she graduated with a psychology degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and worked as a therapist.

Estrada continued to build her life, saving money, buying an apartment, having a relationship and taking on a pet cat. Things changed in 2015. Her condition deteriorated, she got pneumonia and spent a year in intensive care in a Lima hospital.

"It's like being a prisoner in my own body, 24 hours a day," said Estrada, who needs round-the-clock care. Her relationship collapsed and she gave up the cat for adoption, but has found renewed purpose in pushing for the legalization of physician-assisted suicide.

No member of Peru's legislature has taken up her cause. In addition abortion and same-sex marriage are also illegal in the mostly



Ana Estrada, who is almost fully paralyzed by a terminal illness, is campaigning for the right to end her life.

Catholic country.

"It's a subject that alarms people and nobody wants to put their hands in the fire because they'll get burned," said Estrada, whose family was initially reluctant to support her goal but now respects her decision.

She has found an ally in the public defender's office, which plans to go to court in the coming weeks to seek a legal exemption for Estrada that would allow her the option of medically assisted suicide.

"In Peru, 'mercy killing' is crime carrying three years in jail, so any person or doctor who wants to help her would be committing a crime," Public Defender Walter Gutierrez said. "Her case won't change the law, but it opens a path."

Among those countries to have legalized physician-assisted suicide are Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Eight U.S. states and Washington D.C. have also legalized medically assisted suicide. Montana doesn't have a specific law on the books but a state Supreme Court ruling has allowed such deaths to proceed.

"If this exists in other

countries, I want it to exist here," Estrada said.

She described her struggle as "a tiny grain of sand" that will hopefully make people think about the issue.

The walls of Estrada's bedroom have a picture of a woman lying in a forest, and another of a girl flying with birds. She has seven tattoos — birds, plants, a dagger — that she says remind her that "life is beautiful."

Pneumologist Gonzalo Gianella, who has treated Estrada, said the illness was methodically shutting down her body because, without functioning muscles, "you begin to have trouble speaking, swallowing, breathing, moving, doing your things."

Bath time was the worst moment for Estrada when she was in the hospital. One nurse held her and another cleaned her, speaking with each other but never looking at the patient to check if she was in pain.

"When you're in hospital, you lose your identity. There is a kind of degradation of the patient," said Estrada, who has written a blog with her right index finger — the only finger that she can still move.

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Man stabbed in Hanukkah attack may have brain damage

NEW YORK — A man wounded in the Hanukkah stabbings north of New York City may have permanent brain damage and be partially paralyzed for the rest of his life, his family said.

The Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council released a statement from the family of Josef Neumann, 71, and a photograph Wednesday showing head injuries he received Saturday at a rabbi's home in Monsey, New

York. Four other people were injured.

Neumann's family released the photo for the world "to understand the gravity of hate," Yossi Gestetner, the council's co-founder, said.

Federal prosecutors have charged Grafton Thomas, 37, with five counts of obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs by attempting to kill with a weapon. He also has pleaded not guilty to five state counts.

Israel PM Netanyahu takes step to seek immunity from charges

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that he would seek immunity from corruption charges, likely delaying any trial until after March elections, when he hopes to have a majority coalition that will shield him from prosecution.

Netanyahu was indicted in November on charges of accepting bribes, fraud and breach of trust. After failing to as-

semble a governing majority following back-to-back elections last year, he will get a third shot at remaining in office in March.

Wednesday's announcement essentially turns the election into a referendum on whether Netanyahu should be granted immunity and remain in office, or step down and stand trial. A recent poll indicated a majority of Israelis oppose giving him immunity.

Hamis allows rival Fatah to mark anniversary in Gaza rally

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Tens of thousands of Palestinians took to the streets in Gaza on Wednesday to mark the 55th anniversary of President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement.

The territory's Hamas rulers permitted the event for the first time in years.

The militant Islamic group Hamas, which seized control of the Gaza Strip by force from the Fatah-led Palestinian Au-

thority in 2007, allowed Fatah supporters to celebrate on a Gaza City street. They denied their request to organize the event at one of the city's public squares or parks. But the crowd was so big that several thousand people made their way to nearby Saraya Square, the site of the last massive anniversary festival that Hamas allowed in January 2013.

Fatah and Hamas remain enemies.



CHRISTOPH REICHWEIN/DPA

Flowers, candles, stuffed animals and placards are placed at a makeshift memorial for the animals that died in a fire early Wednesday at the Krefeld Zoo in western Germany.

Apes among dozens of animals killed in tragic German zoo fire

BERLIN — A fire raced through a zoo in western Germany in the first few minutes of the new year, killing more than 30 animals, including apes, monkeys, bats and birds, authorities said. Police said paper sky lanterns launched nearby to celebrate the arrival of 2020 were probably to blame.

Several witnesses saw cylindrical paper lanterns with little fires inside flying in the night sky shortly after midnight Wednesday near the Krefeld Zoo, Gerd Hoppmann, the city's head of criminal police, told reporters.

The zoo near the Dutch border said its entire ape house burned down and

more than 30 animals — including five orangutans, two gorillas, a chimpanzee and several monkeys — were killed, as well as fruit bats and birds.

Two chimpanzees were able to be rescued from the flames by firefighters. They suffered burns but are in stable condition, zoo director Wolfgang Dressen said.

"It's close to a miracle that Bally, a 40-year-old female chimpanzee, and Limbo, a younger male, survived this inferno," Dressen said, adding that many of the zoo's animal handlers were in shock at the devastation.

"This is an unfathomable tragedy," Dressen said.

He said many of the dead

animals were close to extinction in the wild.

The zoo said the Gorilla Garden, which is near its devastated Ape House, didn't go up in flames and that gorilla Kidogo and six other members of his family are alive.

Germans usually welcome in the new year with fireworks and people are allowed to buy and launch fireworks. Sky lanterns, however, are illegal and uncommon in Krefeld and most of Germany.

Hoppmann said some of the partially burned lanterns had handwritten notes on them. Several people have come forward and are being questioned, police said.

2 dead, officer hurt in exchange of gunfire in Neb.

OMAHA, Neb.— Two people were found dead and a police officer was wounded after an exchange of gunfire on New Year's Eve at a housing complex in Omaha, authorities said.

Two officers encountered an armed man in the hallway on the fifth floor of a complex known as Evans

Tower, Gray said.

It was not clear what prompted the ensuing exchange of gunfire. Police said the armed man was killed and one officer was shot in the leg. Police then found a dead woman inside an apartment, police spokesman Joe Nickerson said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, in Houston, authorities say a woman ringed in the new year was fatally struck by a stray bullet outside her Texas home. Philippa Ashford, 61, died after being hit at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday. Police said it appears she may have been struck by celebratory gunfire.

Authorities: At least 16 dead, 5 hurt in Mexico prison riot

MEXICO CITY — At least 16 inmates in a central Mexico prison were killed and five more were wounded in a riot that closed out a violent 2019 for the country, authorities said.

Zacatecas state security secretary Ismael Camberos Hernandez said authorities confiscated four guns that they believe were introduced to the Cieneguillas state prison during prison visits Tuesday. He said the prison had been searched for weapons Saturday and Sunday.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador closed out 2019, saying imprisoned drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera once had the same power as the country's president.

Guzman was convicted on drug conspiracy charges in New York. He was sentenced last year to life in prison.

In Vatican City: Pope Francis apologized Wednesday for hitting the hand of a well-wisher who yanked him toward her Tuesday night.

In his New Year's wishes to the public in St. Peter's Square, Francis confessed to losing his patience with the woman while he was strolling in the square to admire the Vatican's Nativity scene.

Cameras captured the scene when the woman, from behind a barrier, pulled the pope's hand violently toward her. Francis reacted sharply, exclaimed something and then slapped her hand.

In his impromptu remarks Wednesday, Francis said "so many times we lose patience. Me, too." He added "I say 'excuse me' for the bad example" he gave Tuesday.



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This holiday season, you can make a significant difference and enhance the lives of fellow Chicagoans and families in need.



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EDITORIALS

Lightfoot's green light for Chicago food trucks

Chicagoans who venture to other cities have long noticed that many of them enjoy a profusion of something that's not so easy to find here: food trucks. Chicago has its share of people with adventurous dining tastes and money to spend. But it has more than its share of restrictions on this culinary innovation — and locals are deprived as a result.

That's why we're glad to see that Mayor Lori Lightfoot is offering an ordinance to loosen the reins. It would extend the time a truck could stay in one spot from two hours to four. It would also let food trucks operate from any legal parking space, scrapping the rule that they must stay 200 feet away from any bricks-and-mortar restaurant, which puts most of the Loop off-limits.

The existing requirements were designed to serve the interests of restaurants, but not diners. After the ordinance was enacted in 2012, the number of food trucks in the city fell sharply. One operator who had to quit her mobile business was cupcake baker Laura Pekarik, who sued to overturn the rules. But in May, the Illinois Supreme Court upheld them as a reasonable way to protect restaurants from free-market competition.

But why should restaurants get protection? They offer an entirely different dining experience that happens to be more popular than ever. Restaurant food and drink sales have boomed over the past decade,



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Food trucks on Wacker Drive near Monroe Street in Chicago in January 2019.

even as the food truck business was enjoying rapid growth.

There is room in the meal marketplace for both types of business, catering to different needs. Sometimes you want an Italian meal over a bottle of wine or a place to sip coffee while tapping at your laptop; sometimes you want a taco or a lobster roll to eat on the go. Some days you want to have your

lunch on a park bench while soaking up the sun, and some days you want to be in a cozy booth out of the elements.

The mayor's changes would help Chicago shed its reputation for being hostile to a form of food delivery that suits 21st-century tastes and lifestyles. A 2018 survey published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked Chicago 13th nationally in

The mayor's changes would help Chicago shed its reputation for being hostile to a form of food delivery that suits 21st-century tastes and lifestyles.

receptiveness to movable feasts. "The experience of operating a food truck in Chicago is perhaps one of the most difficult in the country," it concluded. By contrast, Indianapolis ranked fifth, thanks to simple, generous rules and low permit fees.

Kudos to the mayor for bringing a new approach, which her office describes as just one of her "latest efforts to support innovative business types and creative owners." She even won the support of the Illinois Restaurant Association, which said, "By expanding operating hours for food trucks, Chicago is encouraging innovation while balancing the interests of both food trucks and restaurants."

Taking this step would give people who live or work in Chicago a broad menu of eating options befitting a city of hearty appetites and discriminating palates. It's the sort of change that would really hit the spot.

Your 2020 vision: Yes, Chicago's brighter. Thank an LED streetlight.

We're adding this passage by Tribune transportation columnist Mary Wisniewski to our file of Paragraphs We Wish We'd Written:

For almost two generations of Chicagoans, orange has been the color of night. High pressure sodium vapor lights, which create a glow reminiscent of a tire fire, have lit Chicago since the 1970s. They have provided the backdrop for crime scenes, romantic encounters and waiting for a bus after a late shift. Chicago, viewed from the air, looked like a year-round Halloween display.

Since 2017, though, Chicago has been getting brighter. City Hall has installed 185,000 whiter and comparatively energy-efficient LED fixtures. That number will rise to 270,000, some 85% of Chicago's streetlights, when the replacement program concludes in 2021. The new lights use 50% to 75% less electricity than the old ones, and are supposed to save Chicagoans \$100 million over 10 years.

If you haven't noticed the city getting



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

An LED streetlight, right, above traffic on Lake Shore Drive near North Avenue Beach in July. Chicago has opted for the more energy-efficient fixtures in the past few years.

brighter since 2017, then some evening check your, um, 2020 vision. To our eyes the new lights appear more focused down-

ward than the old orange pumpkins, making streets, sidewalks and intersections safer. The Adler Planetarium plans to float

balloons over the city to see whether less light now escapes upward. If so, the positive effects would include less light pollution of night skies, and less attraction for night-flying birds that often collide with tall buildings.

Wisniewski writes that the new fixtures use more of the shorter wavelength "blue" portion of the visible light spectrum. Some research suggests that exposure to artificial sources of blue light, such as personal electronics devices, disrupt sleep patterns.

So not everyone in Chicago is pleased that blue is the new orange. If some people encounter sleep problems, others appreciate what they see as cleaner, more vivid and unarguably stronger light.

We won't discount the possibility that further research on the effects of light will nudge City Hall to retrofit the new fixtures with filters or make other modifications.

For now, though, we're grateful for a brighter Chicago, for less electrical use, and for millions of dollars in savings. Dimming that "glow reminiscent of a tire fire" is a bonus.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

For all the worries today about the explosion of inequality in rich countries, the last few decades have been remarkably good for the world's poor. Between 1980 and 2016, the average income of the bottom 50% of earners nearly doubled, as this group captured 12% of the growth in global GDP. The number of those living on less than \$1.90 a day, the World Bank's threshold for "extreme poverty," has dropped by more than half since 1990, from nearly 2 billion to around 700 million. Never before in human history have so many people been lifted out of poverty so quickly.

There have also been massive improvements in quality of life, even for those who remain poor. Since 1990, the global maternal mortality rate has been cut in half. So has the infant mortality rate, saving the lives of more than 100 million children. Today, except in those places experiencing major social disruption, nearly all children, boys and girls alike, have access to primary education. Even deaths from HIV/AIDS, an epidemic that once seemed hopeless, peaked soon after the turn of the millennium and have been declining ever since.

A great deal of the credit for these gains can go to economic growth. In addition to increasing people's income, steadily expanding GDPs have allowed governments (and others) to spend more on schools, hospitals, medicines, and income transfers to the poor. Much of the decline in poverty happened in two large economies that have grown particularly fast, China and India.

Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo,
 Foreign Affairs

EDITORIAL CARTOON



STEVE KELLEY/CREATORS SYNDICATE

Chicago Tribune PERSPECTIVE



AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AFP

Iraqi protesters use a pipe to shatter the bulletproof glass of the U.S. Embassy's windows in Baghdad on Tuesday. Thousands of Iraqis breached the outer wall of the diplomatic mission to denounce weekend U.S. airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, which were directed at an Iranian-supported militia.

Iraqis storm our embassy, another sign of US failure



STEVE CHAPMAN

It's a matter of official record that Afghanistan has been the longest war in American history, still going on after more than 18 years. But you could make a case that the longest war is really Iraq. We initiated hostilities there in January 1991, and they've never really stopped.

You know something has gone wrong when a mob of the people you thought you were helping storms your embassy chanting "Death to America." It brings back memories from 2003, when Dick Cheney informed Americans that our invading troops would be "greeted as liberators." Yet the objects those Iraqis were hurling at the diplomatic compound were not flowers.

The protest came in response to U.S. airstrikes against sites in Iraq and Syria, which were directed at an Iranian-supported militia that killed an American contractor in a rocket barrage. Iran's proxy forces have made several attacks on U.S. military facilities in recent weeks, and Secretary of

State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. "will not stand for the Islamic Republic of Iran to take actions that put American men and women in jeopardy."

Why Americans are still in Iraq to be put in jeopardy is a long story. Why Iranian-backed insurgents want to kill them is another complicated tale. But the latest events are a reminder that when it comes to Iraq, we still don't have a clue.

Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg have raised the issue because Joe Biden makes much of his foreign policy expertise. But as a senator, he voted for the invasion. Sanders voted against it, and Buttigieg thinks it relevant that Biden "supported the worst foreign policy decision made by the United States in my lifetime."

Mayor Pete is too kind. The Iraq War was the worst foreign policy decision made by the United States in anyone's lifetime. Over time, our leaders have made it even worse. And its effects have billowed like a toxic cloud over the national landscape, where they will foul our politics for years to come.

The 2003 war followed 12 years in which we enforced no-fly areas in Iraq, sometimes bombing targets and killing Iraqi civilians. That approach failed at one of its objectives: toppling dictator Saddam Hussein. Our leaders' frustration at his survival served as

motivation for the invasion, which was sold on deception and misinformation.

The invasion was a case of "catastrophic success." We accomplished one mission only to be surprised and overwhelmed by the forces it uncorked. George W. Bush's administration claimed the victory would be easy, cheap and quick. It turned out to be insurmountable, astronomically expensive, long-lasting and not exactly a victory.

By smashing Saddam's regime, we eliminated one enemy but helped another. It's been said that the U.S. and Iraq fought a war, and Iran won. The mullahs became a dominant factor in the aftermath, thanks to their close relations with numerous groups that had opposed Saddam.

As The New York Times reported in 2017, "Iran never lost sight of its mission: to dominate its neighbor so thoroughly that Iraq could never again endanger it militarily, and to use the country to effectively control a corridor from Tehran to the Mediterranean."

The U.S. occupation pushed the two regimes into a close alliance. In the country we set out to liberate, our forces now face attacks from militias that Iran supports.

We left in 2011, because the Iranian-allied Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki refused to sign an agreement protecting American troops from prosecution

in Iraqi courts. The space we vacated was filled by militants known as the Islamic State. In 2014, we returned to fight this new enemy in tacit cooperation with ... Iran.

The bewilderment and regret the war fostered back home served to discredit leaders in both parties, as well as the premises of U.S. foreign policy. They fostered a widespread cynicism that sunk Hillary Clinton — who had supported the invasion — and boosted someone whose chief foreign policy credential was having nothing to do with such failures.

When respected experts were so wrong about something so important, the public might well wonder if maybe Donald Trump's stupendous ignorance could really be worse.

But it's not clear he learned the lesson that military might does not solve all problems. It would surprise no one if he lurched into a war with Iran or North Korea — or expanded the one in Iraq.

This much is true: The Iraq War was the worst U.S. foreign policy decision of Mayor Pete's lifetime. At least so far.

Steve Chapman, a member of the Tribune Editorial Board, blogs at www.chicagotribune.com/chapman. schapman@chicagotribune.com [Twitter @SteveChapman13](https://twitter.com/SteveChapman13)

OP-ART JOE FOURNIER

MAKE THE COLD WAR GREAT AGAIN! BY JOE "HYPERSONIC" FOURNIER



PERSPECTIVE



INA FASSBENDER/GETTY-AFP

People walk past a mural of composer Ludwig van Beethoven in his native city of Bonn, Germany, on Dec. 13. Germany is honoring Beethoven with more than 700 events to celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth.

To honor Beethoven's 250th, let's ban his music for a year

BY ANDREA MOORE

Classical music organizations around the world began a major anniversary celebration this fall for Ludwig van Beethoven, born almost 250 years ago in December 1770. The Beethoven-Haus in Bonn, the composer's birthplace, has established #BTHVN2020 as an umbrella for regional programming. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is just one of the major ensembles that will perform all nine Beethoven symphonies. Classical music culture, as others, seems unable to resist anniversary blowouts: Mozart's 250th birth year in 2006 was exhaustively celebrated, as was the 250th anniversary of Bach's death in 2000.

The problem with these festivities is that the composers being celebrated do not otherwise lack performances — far from it. Even among the living, the composers whose milestone birthdays are publicly celebrated are already the most prominent. Given the long-standing ubiquity of Beethoven in the concert hall, doing more Beethoven is just more of the same. How effective can such projects really be in bringing new attention to familiar music?

Letting Beethoven's music fall silent for the duration of his 250th anniversary year might give us a new way into hearing it live again.

A worthier way to honor these composers might be something more drastic: a cooperative, worldwide, yearlong moratorium on live performances of their music. Anniversary-year celebrations ask us — or should ask us — to rethink composers, reconsider their legacies, hear something new in their familiar music. Letting Beethoven's music fall silent for the duration of his 250th anniversary year might give us a new way into hearing it live again.

I'd further propose that we fill the Beethoven-sized hole in our repertoire with new music. There is a rather pallid anniversary tradition of commissioning pieces "inspired by" the honoree, although of course there are some powerful pieces that were written as homages or responses. But we can think bigger. With Beethoven's nine symphonies at the core of the orchestral repertoire, what about a bold commissioning project? It could aim to produce nine new

symphonies, from the broadest range of composers imaginable. And five new piano concertos, 16 new string quartets, 32 sonatas — not as responses to the Beethoven works, but as a way to hear these genres utterly reimagined.

For an artistic tradition that has struggled to articulate its ongoing relevance, a crucial question might be how much compelling new music is going unheard, both by those from within the tradition and those whose music has had little presence in the concert hall?

Much of the important new music of the 21st century has been the domain of chamber ensembles, and while their modest scale creates possibilities, it can also be seen as a manifestation of austerity in a culture that offers less and less material support for ambitious large-scale work. Creating bigger spaces for such work — an antidote to austerity — would be an excellent use

of an anniversary celebration, as would using it as an opportunity to redistribute institutional and financial capital to a whole new cohort of composers representative of the world we live in now.

Of course, there would be resistance to unprogramming Beethoven for a whole year. Yet the prospect of actually *longing* for music that often functions as jocular shorthand for "high culture" — or, worse, as aural wallpaper — is compelling. And while audiences might miss this music, they could also hear the symphony, the string quartet, the concerto anew: Old genres that may seem moribund could be revived by new musical thinkers whose voices we risk missing altogether.

Although 2020 will go on as planned, there are always more milestones. The 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death is only seven short years away. He, or any of our most celebrated composers, could withstand a yearlong rest.

What might we hear instead?

Andrea Moore is an assistant professor of music at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

We must speak out against hate

We are members of a west suburban Chicago chapter of Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, a North American grassroots organization that brings Muslim and Jewish women together to know one another and stand up to hate and negative stereotyping. We represent one of hundreds of chapters speaking out against the recent attacks on Jews in the New York area. There have been numerous attacks during Hanukkah. We are particularly dismayed by the latest violent incidents in which a mother was beaten in front of her child in Brooklyn and five people celebrating Hanukkah in the home of a Hasidic rabbi in Monsey were stabbed by an intruder.

Acts of hate and violence against all minority communities are intolerable. We all deserve to live safely and freely. We ask that individuals respond to acts of hate by calling them out and alerting authorities. None of us can afford to stand idly by in the face of bigotry. We can all make a difference.

Salaam, shalom, peace.
— Sabah Akbar and Barbara Turner, co-leaders, West Suburban Chapter One, Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom

Don't let hate spread like a wildfire

Jews are the canaries in the coal mine. When a society is sick at its core, Jews become easy scapegoats. It may start with the Jews, but it rarely ends there as history has demonstrated.

Soon, the targets of hate are blacks, gays, immigrants and minorities. We need only look at Germany in the 1930s to know this can only end badly. How, you say, can we compare with Germany? We have low unemployment, low inflation — quite the opposite of times past. Yet we have a charismatic leader who speaks a simple language and delivers powerful messages to a waiting audience of extremists on both the left and right. What we are lacking is moral leadership. An unambiguous message that our president will not tolerate an America where Jews are stabbed, shot, beaten and humiliated. That message is not forthcoming from President Donald Trump or our Republican leaders.

Do not wait for it. Remember the words of Pastor Martin Niemöller: "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me."

— Marla Cowan, Glenview

Work authorization is a critical lifeline for asylum-seekers — and Chicago's economy

BY SARA McELMURRY

In 2016, a woman I'll call Belle left her job as a dietitian in a Venezuelan hospital and applied for humanitarian protections as a political asylum-seeker in the U.S.

Now, after following the long process to receive a work permit, she is employed as dietetic technician at a Chicago hospital. She's filling a critical role in Midwest health care, a sector plagued with worker shortages. Her employer is delighted with her work: In the spring, she received a promotion, her second since starting in her department.

Asylum protections and work authorization are critical lifelines for people like Belle (not her real name). Her story, one of more than 1,000 stories of political asylum-seekers served by my organization, Upwardly Global, also illustrates how these people are poised to make important contributions to our region's workforce and economy if given the opportunity.

However, if recent policy proposals from the Department of Homeland Security come to fruition, the future is bleak for asylum-seekers — and for local employers who would benefit from their talents.

Under current law, asylum-seekers can apply for a work permit 150 days after filing for asylum protections. The time is necessary to process applicants' cases, but these months are often long and lean for people like Belle. Many drain their savings to flee their countries, leaving them with little to survive on while they await work authorization.

Belle struggled to afford food and rent when she arrived. Others are even less fortunate: Human Rights First documents how many asylum-seekers experience homelessness, hunger and limited access to health care while awaiting employment authorization.

The wait to work is already arduous, putting vulnerable people in precarious situations. Yet recent months have seen proposals that could put work authorization further out of reach for asylum-seekers.

In September, the government proposed a new rule that could further delay work permit processing times. In November it issued proposals to increase fees for employment authorization applications and to more than double the wait for asylum-seekers to apply for a work permit, extending it from five months to

12. The public can comment until Jan. 13 on the 365-day wait to work.

Denying asylum-seekers the ability to work carries costs for Chicago's workforce and economy as well. The city was recently recognized as the most immigrant-friendly in the nation, and for good reason: Chicago increasingly depends on its foreign-born population for demographic and economic vitality, according to research from the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

My organization has a unique perspective on the missed opportunity that is denying asylum-seekers the ability to work. The people we serve come to the United States with college degrees and valuable experience in high-demand fields like health care, information technology, engineering and finance.

They have global savvy and multilingual abilities, which are assets in an increasingly international marketplace. They offer diverse perspectives to teams, proven to bolster workforce innovation and problem-solving. They are loyal employees, with lower turnover rates than their U.S.-born peers.

The asylum-seekers who have completed our job coaching

programs earn more than \$18 million annually at an average salary of more than \$59,000 each. They contribute an estimated \$2.1 million in federal taxes, while filling both local tax coffers and critical skills gaps in cities like Chicago.

DHS maintains that new rules are being proposed to cut personnel costs and boost agency revenue, which would ostensibly ensure more efficient processing of future asylum applications. Yet the math behind these claims warrants deeper analysis. And when considered in light of the proposals' significant economic and humanitarian costs, the numbers don't add up at all.

Offering safe harbor and encouraging self-sufficiency are both fundamentally American values. Denying both is un-American and inhumane — and economically untenable in a city like Chicago.

Sara McElmurry is director of communications, policy and research at Upwardly Global, a nonprofit that supports the professional integration of work-authorized immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. She is also a non-resident fellow with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

No more publicity for Smollett

In last Sunday's Tribune, there was an insert called "2019 Photos of the Year." I was enjoying looking through it until I came to Page 20 with a photo of Jussie Smollett. I don't feel he should have been given a mention in this publication; it just gives more publicity to his ridiculous behavior in Chicago.

But what really appalled me was the photo of AJ Freund's "parents" on Page 23. I think it was very poor judgment to even consider publishing a picture of these two monsters.

— Janice Green, Chicago

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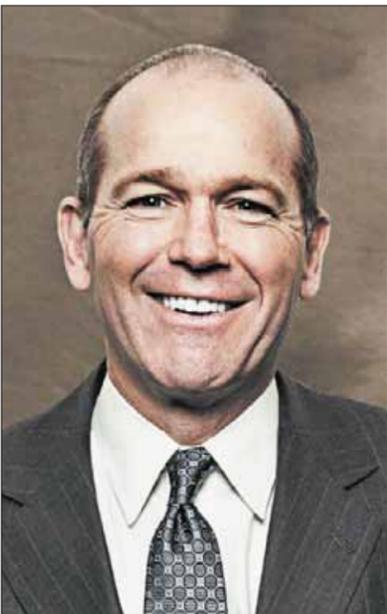
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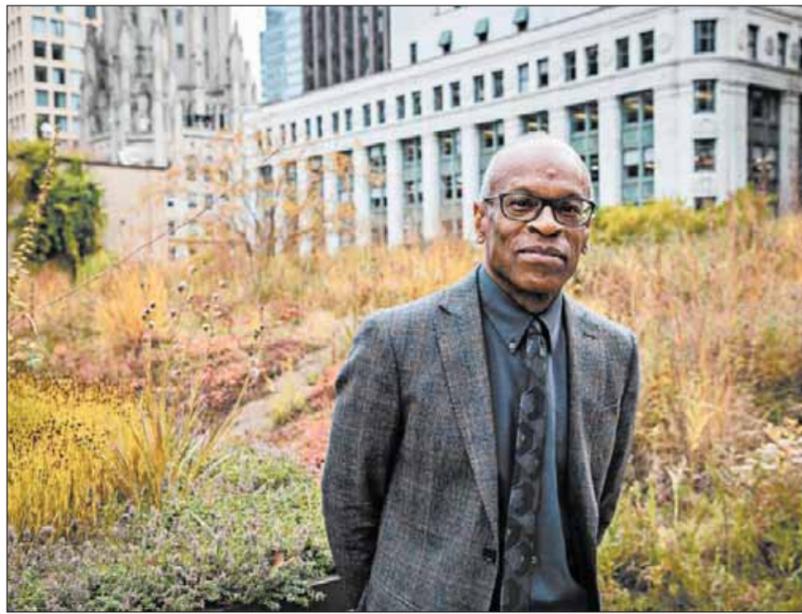
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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS



BOEING

Boeing named Chairman David Calhoun as its chief executive, taking over on Jan. 13.



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Maurice Cox, Chicago Commissioner of Planning and Development, at the rooftop garden at Chicago City Hall on Oct. 23.

Breach may have put 12.5K at risk

Sinai Health reported incident that possibly exposed patient info

BY LISA SCHENCKER

The personal information of 12,578 people at Sinai Health System may have been compromised during a recent data breach involving two employee email accounts, the hospital system recently reported to the federal government.

Patients' names, addresses, birth dates, Social Security numbers, health information or health insurance information were potentially exposed, Sinai said in a news release earlier this month.

Sinai said experts found no evidence that any of the emails containing patient information were opened or that any of the personal information has been misused.

Sinai Health System serves the city's west and southwest sides and includes Mount Sinai Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital and Sinai Medical Group.

The breach occurred when an "unknown third party" accessed the two accounts, Sinai said. Forensic information technology experts determined Oct. 16 that patient information was potentially at risk after the email accounts were accessed, Sinai said. A spokeswoman declined Tuesday to give further details.

The hospital system has since mailed letters to patients who may have been affected, with steps they can take to protect their information. Sinai has also taken action to prevent similar incidents in the future, including resetting employee email passwords, training employees and increasing the security of its email systems and network, Sinai said.

"Sinai Health System wants to assure its patients that the security of patient information is its highest priority," Sinai said in the news release.

Sinai reported the breach to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights on Dec. 13. Health care providers are required to report breaches involving the protected health information of 500 or more people to the Office for Civil Rights within 60 days from when the breach is discovered. That office investigates breaches and can levy fines, depending on the severity of the incident.

Patients who want to learn more may call 833-991-0975 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

This is not the first time Sinai has experienced a security incident involving employee email accounts. In December 2017, the hospital system said the email accounts of at least two employees were compromised in a phishing incident, potentially affecting the information of 11,350 people.

EXECS TO WATCH IN 2020

Through legal weed, electric cars and South and West side neighborhood redevelopment, these 10 leaders are shaping Chicago's business scene

BY ALLY MAROTTI

Facing fleets of grounded planes, changing consumer tastes and the formation of a new marijuana industry, 2020 could be a defining year for these Chicago executives.

David Calhoun, incoming CEO of Boeing. Calhoun is set to take the reins of Boeing Jan. 13, following then-CEO Dennis Muilenburg's firing in late December. He'll inherit problems with the plane manufacturer's most important and troubled jet, the 737 Max. Boeing heads into the new year with a temporary production suspension of the planes, which were grounded in March after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people. A longtime Boeing director who was named board chairman in October, Calhoun is hardly an outsider. He comes from investment firm Blackstone and spent 26 years at General Electric, where he ran

multiple business units, including its aircraft engines business.

Maurice Cox, Commissioner of Planning and Development for the City of Chicago. He's been a Virginia mayor, a dean at Tulane University in New Orleans, and Detroit's planning chief, helping revive its hurting neighborhoods. In 2020, his focus will be on Chicago. Mayor Lori Lightfoot hired him to help spread the wealth to the city's neighborhoods, and the task ahead of him looms large. There are redevelopment opportunities such as the Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park and the former Michael Reese Hospital site in the Bronzeville neighborhood. But reversing decades of disinvestment is no easy feat. "I think we have to first stop the bleeding," Cox told the Tribune in October. "We have to give residents a sense of where their neighborhood is going."

Turn to **Execs, Page 2**



COURTNEY MORRISON

Sean Garrett, president and CEO of United Way of Metro Chicago.



NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chris Kempczinski, McDonald's President of U.S.A. business, photographed at the corporate restaurant at Oak Brook headquarters.



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

United Airlines President Scott Kirby, at a news conference at O'Hare International Airport on June 5.



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Edie Moore, an executive director of Chicago NORML, at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield on Feb. 20.



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

President and CEO of Mt. Sinai Health System Karen Teitelbaum at Mt. Sinai Hospital on Dec. 11.

After ebullient 2019, Wall Street urges caution

Investment experts warn there won't be as much room to rise in 2020

BY STAN CHOE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After a year of nirvana, investors may need to get ready for something a little more normal.

Markets are coming off a fabulous 2019, where stocks and bonds around the world climbed in concert. But for the next year — and decade, in fact — Wall Street is telling investors to set their expectations considerably lower.

It's not calling for another crash like the U.S. stock market suffered just over a decade ago. Or for another run like the last 10 years, where the S&P 500 returned more than 13% on an annualized basis. A gain less than half of that may be more likely, both for next year and annually for the coming decade.

"People need to have a more realistic expectation of what returns are going to be,"

said Greg Davis, chief investment officer at Vanguard. "That means investors who are saving for retirement or for college education will likely need to set aside more, because returns won't be as generous as what we've seen over the last decade."

It's not because Wall Street sees the U.S. economy falling into a recession, at least not in 2020, even though that's been a recurring fear for much of the last decade. Much of Wall Street expects the economy to chug modestly higher next year.

Instead, it's a simple matter of math. Stocks and bonds don't have as much room to rise after their stellar 2019, analysts say. Starting points matter, and investments began this year at a low point after recession worries pounded markets in December 2018. U.S. stocks will start 2020, meanwhile, close to their highest levels ever.

Wall Street has been busy trying to rein in expectations.

Vanguard forecasts U.S. stocks will return 3.5% to 5.5% annually over the coming decade. Even toward the top end of that

Turn to **Markets, Page 2**



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

Stock traders work at New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday. Stocks slipped globally in quiet New Year's Eve trading Tuesday with many markets closed.

Execs

Continued from Page 1

Sean Garrett, president and CEO of United Way of Metro Chicago. A long-time United Way executive, Garrett's move to the top spot in late 2018 from Charlotte, N.C., followed a prior stint with the Windy City chapter as director of major gifts. In October, Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced a development initiative for 10 neighborhoods on the city's South and West sides. BMO Harris Bank would invest \$10 million through United Way, spurring work the organization has had underway for five years. The plans, which vary by neighborhood, are in place, Garrett said. Now it's time to roll them out. "The plan has to be created by the community," he said. "Our job is to provide the resources and support to help bring that to life."

Chris Kempczinski, CEO of McDonald's. Kempczinski was promoted to CEO in November after Steve Easterbrook was fired for having a consensual relationship with an employee. He inherits an effort to modernize McDonald's with major store renovations, including the addition of digital menu boards and self-service kiosks. Though those plans have created friction with franchisees, Kempczinski is expected to continue the push. Brought in by Easterbrook in 2015 as head of strategy, business development and innovation, he was promoted to lead the U.S. business in 2017 and took part in devising the modernization plan. He previously held roles at Kraft, PepsiCo and Procter & Gamble.

Scott Kirby, incoming CEO of United Airlines. Kirby is set to take the top spot at Chicago's hometown carrier in May. Experts say United has emerged from a rocky period that included a 2017 incident in which a passenger was dragged off a flight, but there is still work to do. Kirby, who came in as the No. 2 executive three years ago, has been heavily involved in the airline's



Natalie Shmulik, CEO of the Hatchery, a food and beverage incubator in East Garfield Park, on Dec. 6.

ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



CAMILLE FINE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Rivian founder and CEO RJ Scaringe walks in Uptown Circle during an open house hosted by his electric vehicle startup in Normal on Oct. 13.

strategy. Known as a "details guy," he has spent years prepping for the role, including during a stint at rival American Airlines. He'll be tasked with improving the airline's on-time performance and tackling industry challenges, including concerns about climate change, slowing economic growth and the ongoing grounding of Boeing's 737 Max.

Eddie Moore, executive director of Chicago NORML. Years before recreational weed came to Illinois, Moore was working with policymakers to draft the law, pushing to ensure those most harmed by the war on drugs are properly represented in the burgeoning industry. With sales underway, the work is just beginning, Moore said. "We're absolutely going to



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

New KraftHeinz CEO Miguel Patricio on Dec. 11.

keep going," she said. "We know that we came from zero to where we are now, but we are definitely not at the finish line." The marijuana advocacy group Moore helms has trained hundreds of potential workers, and is expanding its curriculum in 2020 to teach people to work in marijuana growing facilities. It's also helping the state study who is participating in the industry, to be a watchdog for equity.

Miguel Patricio, CEO of The Kraft Heinz Co. The new chief executive has a busy year ahead. The maker of household names like Jell-O and Kool-Aid struggled in 2019 against slumping sales and changing consumer tastes. Patricio's task is to rejuvenate brands and innovate, winning back customers who have veered toward natural and organic products. The native of Portugal and long-time AB InBev executive has developed a strategy to do so, but isn't giving details yet. He said his main priority is to stabilize

the business. "Before growing the business, you have to stabilize and you have to prepare the business for growth," he said.

RJ Scaringe, CEO of Rivian. The company, often called the Tesla of trucks, plans to start rolling vehicles off the line at a converted Mitsubishi plant in downstate Normal late next year. The plant employs about 250 people, with plans to hire hundreds more in 2020. Many employees worked at the plant in its previous iteration, Scaringe said. He declined to disclose how much Rivian is investing in the facility, but the 10-year-old company drew more than \$2.8 billion in investments in 2019 from Ford, Cox Automotive and Amazon, among others. It also plans to build 100,000 custom electric delivery vehicles for Amazon alongside its consumer-focused truck and SUV. "It's a bit of a construction zone right now," he said. In the next several years, employment

could number in the thousands.

Natalie Shmulik, CEO of The Hatchery. In 2019, Shmulik oversaw the opening of the nonprofit's 67,000-square-foot food manufacturing space in East Garfield Park, drawing local entrepreneurs in need of professional kitchen space, job training and food industry know-how. The roughly 200 members can find jobs, train with chefs like Rick Bayless, and rub shoulders with Hatchery partners such as Kellogg, Conagra and Ingredion. "For them, it's the ability to be on the ground floor of innovation," Shmulik said. The new year brings more potential for The Hatchery's members as big companies tap into startups to help with innovation, and workers get a chance to make their mark with food industry giants, Shmulik said.

Karen Teitelbaum, president and CEO of Sinai Health System. Like other hospitals, Sinai Health System is facing financial challenges. It's dealing with low reimbursement rates from government health insurance programs, and a shift from patients needing overnight care. But health care isn't all about bed count anymore, said Teitelbaum, who has been CEO since 2015. "The way health care is delivered has changed," she said. "The trends are really more toward outpatients." Teitelbaum is focused on helping the health system reduce admissions and bolster services, like dialysis, that can help patients without requiring lengthy hospital stays.

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Markets

Continued from Page 1

range, it's only half what the market has returned historically. Foreign stocks might offer a bit more, at roughly 7.5% annually, but U.S. bonds look set to offer only 2% or 3% annually over the next decade, according to Vanguard.

Of course, any prediction about where investments will end up is only a guess, no matter how educated. Many on Wall Street came into this year expecting only modest returns given all the worries about interest rates and a possible recession. Now, the S&P 500 is about to close out its second-best year of the last two decades.

But for bonds, the reasons for lower expected returns are easy to see. Bonds pay much less in interest than one or 10 years ago. The 10-year Treasury now has a yield of 1.92%, versus 2.82% a year ago and 3.54% a decade ago. For bonds to return more than their yields, rates will need to drop even lower.

Some banks along Wall Street have relatively healthy expectations for stocks in 2020 — but few if any are calling for a repeat of 2019's surge for the S&P 500, which was at 28.5% as of Tuesday morning. Bank of America Merrill Lynch sees the index ending 2020 at

3,300, which would be a 2.5% rise, for example. Goldman Sachs is more bullish, with a target of 3,400, but that would still be less than a quarter of this year's gain.

Stocks are more expensive than a year ago on a host of different measures. One of the most commonly used is how a stock's price compares to its profit over the preceding year. By that measure, the S&P 500 is trading at 21.1 times its earnings. That's more expensive than at the start of the year, when it was at 16.5, or its average over the last two decades of 17.7, according to FactSet.

Low interest rates should help keep this price-earnings valuation high, analysts say. So will a U.S.-China trade conflict that's hopefully no longer ramping higher, analysts say. The diminished threat of a recession should keep investors willing to pay relatively high price-earnings ratios. But the threat of policy changes in Washington, D.C., could act as a counterweight.

"There is a lot of nervousness around the elections," said Lisa Thompson, equity portfolio manager at Capital Group. "The elections could provide some interesting opportunities for investors, particularly in the first half of the year."

She's the type of investor who sees volatile markets,

where prices are swinging higher and lower, as "interesting opportunities" because she can use them to buy stocks she likes at lower prices.

President Trump has ushered in lower taxes and lighter regulations for businesses, which investors have seen as incontrovertible wins for investments regardless of their politics. Democrats running to unseat him, meanwhile, could reverse that momentum and target some industries in particular, such as health care. That could lead to big swings for stocks early in 2020 as Democratic candidates try to stand out in a winnowing field.

Even if the worst-case scenario were to come to pass, though, and the economy were to fall into a recession, many professional investors say they aren't worried about a crash like 2007-09 where stock investors lost more than half their savings. Investors have remained hesitant to plow their money into stocks, even after this decade-long run, so fund managers say they don't see grossly overvalued markets as there were just over a decade ago.

"When the cycle does end, we don't see bubbles out there like in 2008, 2009," said Saira Malik, head of equities at Nuveen. "I think people are nervous."

Startup grows yellowtail fish entirely from cells

Calif. firm creates seafood product in the lab from cell cultures

BY BRITTANY MEILING
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — A San Diego food-tech startup has grown fillets of yellowtail fish entirely from cells, making the local company one of the most scientifically advanced in the world of lab-grown seafood.

The startup, called BlueNalu, is less than 2 years old and yet it has hit a scientific milestone many researchers only dream of. In front of a small crowd gathered at San Diego Bay last month, the startup's chef prepared the lab-created yellowtail fish in a variety of ways, from fish tacos and poke to seafood bisque.

For those unfamiliar with cell-based seafood products, they are made of real fish meat and fat — or what we call “fillets” — grown through cell cultures in a food manufacturing facility. The hope of companies like BlueNalu is to meet the demand for real fish products while addressing ethical and environmental concerns of eating fish.

While the process is unfamiliar to the

average person, the company's founders say the lab-made seafood products aren't any more unnatural than, say, Greek yogurt, which also requires the culturing of cells.

“We are not any more ‘lab-made’ than ketchup or Oreos,” said Chris Dammann, chief technology officer of BlueNalu. “They all started in a lab.”

Several other science startups have conducted similar taste tests of their cell-based seafood products, including San Francisco-based Wild Type, which organized a dinner earlier this year featuring its lab-grown salmon. But BlueNalu's fish appears unique in its ability to withstand different cooking methods, a competitive manufacturing advancement. By comparison, Wild Type's salmon falls apart when cooked at high temperatures.

“Our medallions of yellowtail can be cooked via direct heat, steamed or even fried in oil; can be marinated in an acidified solution for applications like poke, ceviche, and kimchi, or can be prepared in the raw state,” BlueNalu's CEO Lou Cooperhouse said in a statement. “This is an enormous

accomplishment and we don't believe that any other company worldwide has been able to demonstrate this level of product performance in a whole-muscle seafood product thus far.”

In a Union-Tribune profile of the startup last year, industry players addressed the huge scientific hurdles companies like BlueNalu face. One big challenge is manufacturing the products in large batches, which researchers and startups have long struggled to accomplish. Just creating the small batches of yellowtail cooked during the demonstration was a considerable accomplishment.

“This was an extraordinary technical feat,” Dammann said in a statement. “When we started this company, there was very little available science on the long-term propagation of fish muscle cells and no reliable culture protocol. To create a whole-muscle product from fish cells that are grown without genetic modification required considerable innovation.”

Cooperhouse said he expects the startup to launch its products into a test market within two years.

Vt. revamps program to lure more residents

Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Vermont is revamping a program that encourages people to move to the state by offering to reimburse up to \$7,500 in expenses if they come to Vermont and get a job that qualifies for the program.

The New Worker Relocation Grant Program will replace an expiring program that reimbursed people up to \$10,000 if they moved to Vermont and worked remotely for an out-of-state company.

Under the new program, which began taking applications Wednesday, new residents will be eligible if they take jobs with companies in fields identified by the Vermont Department of Labor in its long-term occupational projections.

The 2019 Vermont Legislature appropriated \$1.2 million for the new program.

“With our historically low unemployment rate, there are many business sectors in Vermont looking for qualified candidates to fill openings,” Commerce and Community Development Secretary Lindsay Kurrle said. “Businesses in the state will now have another incentive they can offer when trying to recruit people to work here.”

As of Dec. 20, last year's program had approved 135 applications, bringing a total of 359 people, including family members, to 60 Vermont towns. The average age of the applicant was 39.

Vermont is one of a number of states that are facing a demographic challenge caused by an aging workforce that isn't being replaced by enough new residents moving to the state. A number of states are trying similar programs to attract new residents.

In Maine, the nonprofit organization Live and Work in Maine, which markets the state and its jobs to prospective residents, has been hosting “Boomerang Back to Maine” events over the holidays. The group also set up shop at the Portland International Jetport to encourage visitors to consider a career in Maine.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Russia, Ukraine finalize gas deals

MOSCOW — Russian and Ukrainian gas companies say they have finalized a slew of contracts ensuring uninterrupted transit of Russian natural gas to Europe.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the agreements that were signed this week, saying they will allow Ukraine to get at least \$7 billion in transit payments from Russia over the next five years.

Zelenskyy said on Facebook the documents ensured Ukraine's “energy security and well-being” and let “Europe know that we won't fail it when it comes to energy security.”

The deal came shortly before the previous transit contract expired late Tuesday and eases European fears of an interruption in Russian gas supplies.

Huawei sales up amid US pressure

BEIJING — Chinese telecom giant Huawei Technologies said that its sales rose about 18% in 2019 despite U.S. moves to restrict its business.

The estimate came in an annual New Year's message to employees from chairman Eric Xu.

The letter predicted a difficult year in 2020, saying that the American pressure creates a challenging environment for Huawei.

The U.S. government says Huawei technology poses a security risk and has urged other countries not to buy its 5G mobile network equipment. Huawei denies the allegations.

The unlisted company estimated annual sales would top \$120 billion.



ANDY WONG/AP 2018

The U.S.-China trade war saw soybean exports to China fall to a 12-year low in 2018 as Beijing imposed taxes of \$120 billion on U.S. exports.

Doubt over China purchases

Country vowed to buy \$40B of US farm imports in 2 years — but will they?

BY JOSH FUNK, PAUL WISEMAN
AND JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — President Donald Trump likes to joke that America's farmers have a nice problem on their hands: They're going to need bigger tractors to keep up with surging Chinese demand for their soybeans and other agricultural goods under a preliminary deal between the world's two largest economies.

But will they really?

From Beijing to America's farm belt, skeptics are questioning just how much China has actually committed to buy — and whether U.S. farmers would be able anytime soon to export goods there in the outsize quantity that Trump has promised.

It amounts to \$40 billion a year, according to Trump's trade representative, Robert Lighthizer. If you ask the exuberant president himself, though, the total is actually “much more than” \$50 billion. To put that in perspective, U.S. farm exports to China have never topped \$26 billion in any one year.

What's more, since Trump's trade war

with Beijing erupted in 2018, China has increased its farm purchases from Brazil, Argentina and other countries. As a result, Beijing may now be locked into contracts it couldn't break even if it intended to quickly increase its purchases of American agricultural goods to something approximating \$40 billion.

“History has never been even close to that level,” said Chad Hart, an agricultural economist at Iowa State University. “There's no clear path to get us there in one year.”

“The figure of \$40 billion,” added Cui Fan, a trade specialist at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, “is larger than I expected, and I wonder whether the United States can ensure the full supply of the products.”

America's farmers would surely like to. The farm belt has endured much of the impact from Beijing's retaliatory tariffs since July 2018, when the Trump administration imposed taxes on \$360 billion in Chinese imports. Beijing struck back by taxing \$120 billion in U.S. exports, including soybeans and other farm goods that are vital to many of Trump's supporters in rural America.

The effect from China's retaliatory tariffs was substantial: U.S. farm exports to China, which hit a record \$25.9 billion in 2012, plummeted in 2018 to \$9.1 billion. Soybean exports to China fell even more —

to a 12-year low of \$3.1 billion, according to the Department of Agriculture. (Farm imports to China rebounded somewhat in 2019 but remain well below pre-trade-war levels.)

The so-called Phase 1 deal that the two sides announced last month did manage to de-escalate the standoff and offer at least a respite to American farmers.

Yet the truce put off for future negotiations the most complex issue at the heart of the trade war: The Trump administration's assertion that Beijing cheats in its drive to achieve global supremacy in such advanced technologies as driverless cars and artificial intelligence.

The administration alleges — and independent analysts generally agree — that China steals technology, forces foreign companies to hand over trade secrets, unfairly subsidizes its own firms and throws up bureaucratic hurdles for foreign rivals. Beijing has contended that the administration is instead trying to suppress a rising competitor in international trade.

Under the preliminary U.S.-China deal, Trump suspended his plan to impose new tariffs and reduced some existing taxes on Chinese imports. In return, Lighthizer said, China agreed to buy \$40 billion a year in U.S. farm exports over two years, among other things.

Many farmers say they're hopeful but restrained in their expectations.

Pentagon warns against at-home DNA tests

BY HEATHER MURPHY
AND MIHIR ZAVERI
The New York Times

In an internal memo, Pentagon leadership has urged military personnel not to take mail-in DNA tests, warning that they create security risks, are unreliable and could negatively affect service members' careers.

The letter, which was reported by Yahoo News, was sent last week. It does not name any particular DNA testing companies, but counsels broadly against buying ancestry and health tests promoted with military discounts and other military incentives.

Cmdr. Sean Robertson, a Pentagon spokesman, confirmed that the memo had been sent.

“We want to ensure all service members are aware of the risks of Direct to Consumer (DTC) genetic testing,” he told The New York Times over email.

Over the past decade, millions of Americans have purchased DNA tests through companies such as 23andMe and Ancestry with the hopes of connecting with relatives, finding out more about their family origins and learning about how their DNA could affect their chances of developing certain health conditions.

Robertson said that the tests might provide inaccurate results and have negative professional consequences. “The unintentional discovery of markers that may affect readiness could affect a service member's career,” he said.

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimi-

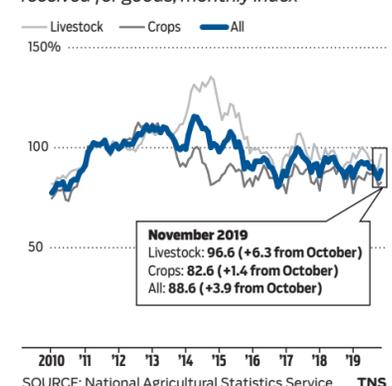
nation Act — known as GINA — prohibits discrimination by health insurers and employers based on the information that people carry in their genes. It does not apply to members of the military, however.

The memo was written by Joseph Kernan, the undersecretary of defense for intelligence, and James Stewart, the assistant secretary of defense for manpower. They warn that the tests “could expose personal and genetic information, and potentially create unintended security consequences.”

In a statement, a spokeswoman from 23andMe said that the company took great care to protect customers' privacy. An Ancestry spokeswoman said that the company had not targeted military personnel with discounts.

Agricultural prices

Change in prices agricultural producers received for goods, monthly index



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OBITUARIES

STEVE QUAST 1946-2019

Athletic promotions leader at DePaul, WGN

BY BOB GOLDSBOROUGH

Steve Quast oversaw athletic promotions at DePaul University in the 1970s as the school's basketball team rose in national prominence and later handled sports sales at WGN-AM radio.

"He always thought ahead, and that's why he was so good at what he did," said former DePaul head men's basketball coach Joey Meyer. "He had such an imagination and he always was thinking of things that no one else is thinking of."

Quast, 72, died of complications from colon cancer on Dec. 8 in New Orleans, said his wife of 33 years, Ellen Frisbie. A Lincoln Park resident since 1985, Quast had been in New Orleans to be near his son and daughter.

Born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Quast moved with his family to Lake Forest and then Park Ridge, graduating from Maine South High School in 1965 in a class that included Hillary Clinton.

Quast earned a bachelor's degree in history from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in 1969. He worked for a year in Carroll's admissions department before serving in the Navy, which stationed him at the Pentagon.

While based in Washington, D.C., Quast earned a master's degree from the American University in college administration.

After active naval duty ended, Quast returned to the Chicago area in 1973 for a job in DePaul's development department. He pushed for the university to leverage its successful men's basketball program to raise funds from alumni, his



FAMILY PHOTO

Steve Quast joined DePaul University's development department in 1973.

wife said, and was made director of athletic promotion.

"He created his own job, saying, 'Put me in the athletics department, and I'll raise money around (legendary head men's basketball coach) Ray Meyer,'" Quast's wife said.

In 1978, he joined WGN, becoming the station's director of sports sales and integrated marketing. He was the point person at WGN for promotions and sales for DePaul men's basketball broadcasts, as well as for the Cubs and the Bears.

"The thing I remember about Steve is that he was very welcoming, and he knew everybody," said Dave Eanet, WGN-AM's sports director and Northwestern University play-by-play announcer. "He was extremely passionate about the local teams, especially the ones we carried on WGN."

In 1993, Quast and his wife started a marketing communications firm, Quast & Associates. Quast married his interests in marketing and sports, and

he took on other kinds of clients as well, including the Goose Island Beer Company, WFMT-FM, National City Bank and PNC Bank. Quast also worked to bring the Chicago Flower and Garden Show back to Chicago, starting in 1995.

Some of Quast's most memorable work involved local sports figures, past and present. He worked as the marketing representative for Ryne Sandberg after the Cubs legend returned to Chicago, and he also worked with retired Cub and WGN broadcaster Ron Santo to expand his charity work for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. With Quast's help, Santo, who had been diagnosed with diabetes at age 18, began hosting the Ron Santo Golf Experience in the mid-1990s. The annual event raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for diabetes research.

Friends recalled Quast's zest for living.

"When I think of Steve, the first thing that comes to mind is his incredible joie de vivre," said former Crain's Chicago Business editor Michael Arndt, a neighbor who is an executive editor at Edelman. "He always had such deep passions and was never shy about letting anyone know how he felt about something, whether it was politics or dogs or family or even how to properly cook brats on the grill. He cherished things, big and small."

In addition to his wife, Quast is survived by a son, Christopher; a daughter, Annie; and a brother, Harry. Services were held.

Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON JANUARY 2 ...

In 1492, Spaniards seized the city of Granada from the Moors. It had been the last Arab stronghold in Spain.

In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the Constitution.

In 1893, the post office issued the first commemorative stamps, depicting events in the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

In 1905, Russian forces at Port Arthur in Manchuria surrendered to the Japanese, ending the last big military engagement of the Russo-Japanese War.

In 1921, religious services were broadcast for the first time when station KDKA in Pittsburgh transmitted the Sunday service from the city's Calvary Episcopal Church.

In 1929, the U.S. and Canada agreed on joint action to preserve Niagara Falls.

In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, N.J., on charges of kidnapping and murdering the infant son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (He would be found guilty and executed.)

In 1942, Manila was captured by the Japanese in World War II.

In 1943, after a campaign

that began in early November, American and Allied forces seized the New Guinea island of Buna from the Japanese.

In 1960, Sen. John F. Kennedy, D-Mass., announced his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1965, the New York Jets signed University of Alabama quarterback Joe Namath for a reported \$400,000.

In 1974, a crowd barrier collapsed at a soccer match in Glasgow, Scotland, and 66 people were trampled to death. Also in 1974 President Richard Nixon signed a bill requiring states to limit highway speeds to a maximum of 55 mph because of the energy crisis. (In 1995, the federal speed limits were abolished.)

In 1975, public demonstrations outside prisons were banned in northern Portugal after incidents on New Year's Day in which three people were killed by guards.

In 1976, the Soviet Union hardened its stand on emigration despite the 1975 Helsinki agreement to permit free movement of people and ideas in Europe.

In 1983, the musical "Annie" closed after 2,377 Broadway performances.

In 1984, W. Wilson Goode

was sworn in as Philadelphia's first African-American mayor.

In 1986, former White Sox owner Bill Veeck died in Chicago; he was 71.

In 1990, the Dow Jones industrial average reached a record high, ending the day above 2800 for the first time, at 2810.15.

In 1991, Sharon Pratt Dixon was sworn in as the first African-American female mayor of Washington.

In 1996, former Interior Secretary James Watt pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of attempting to sway a grand jury investigating 1980s influence-peddling at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. (Watt was later fined and sentenced to five years' probation.) Also in 1996 AT&T announced it would eliminate 40,000 jobs, mostly through layoffs.

In 1997, rain and melting snow swamped much of the West, trapping visitors in Yosemite National Park, closing casinos in Reno and forcing 50,000 Californians to flee their homes.

In 1999, a blizzard dumped 17 inches of snow on the Chicago area, the largest recorded snowfall for one day. (The next day, 4 more inches fell, making the storm the second most prolific in Chicago records; five deaths were blamed on the storm.)

In 2013 President Barack Obama signed the so-called fiscal cliff deal into law.

In 2014 a helicopter from a Chinese icebreaker rescued 52 scientists and tourists who had been stranded aboard a Russian ship in Antarctic ice since Christmas Eve.

In 2015 a 7-year-old Illinois girl, Sailor Gutzler, survived a small-plane crash that killed her parents, sister and a cousin and trekked nearly a mile through thick underbrush in rural Kentucky to a resident's house to report the crash and seek help.

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS	
Jan. 1	
Powerball jackpot: \$220M	
Lottery jackpot: \$2M	
Pick 3 midday	897 / 6
Pick 4 midday	2132 / 5
Lucky Day Lotto midday	07 08 26 37 44
Pick 3 evening	992 / 1
Pick 4 evening	1522 / 6
Lucky Day Lotto evening	16 19 22 32 42
Jan. 3 Mega Millions: \$60M	
WISCONSIN	
Jan. 1	
Megabucks	07 09 29 32 39 47
Pick 3	133
Pick 4	6943
Badger 5	09 16 18 22 27
SuperCash	02 25 31 34 35 36

INDIANA	
Jan. 1	
Lotto	Not available
Daily 3 midday	420 / 8
Daily 4 midday	6539 / 8
Daily 3 evening	956 / 1
Daily 4 evening	2117 / 1
Cash 5	Not available
MICHIGAN	
Jan. 1	
Lotto	11 18 19 21 26 45
Daily 3 midday	503
Daily 4 midday	0977
Daily 3 evening	674
Daily 4 evening	7673
Fantasy 5	01 04 19 29 32
Keno	01 05 06 11 15 20
	24 25 30 33 34 35 42 43
	44 48 52 54 55 58 76 77

More winning numbers at chicagotribune.com/lottery

Chicago Tribune Death Notices
Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.
chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Death Notices

Augustin, George S.

George S. Augustin, age 70, at rest December 24, 2019; Beloved husband of the late Lillian "Dolly" (nee Motel), and the late Marilyn Novoty; Loving father of George (Raquel), Karrie Warren, and Lynnette; Proud papa of Jack and Jessica (Warren), George, Joshua, and Cora; Dear brother of Gail (late Ben) Ryba, June (LeRoy) Summerhill, Jeannie (late John) Jones, Carol (Bill) Matusinec and Cathy (Daryl) Errichiello; Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews; Proud 52 year employee of Pepsi Cola; He said if anyone asks how I want to be remembered, please say that he did the best that he could; Visitation Sunday, January 5, 2020 from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.; Funeral Monday, January 6, 2020 9:00 a.m. from Curley Funeral Home, 6116 W. 111th Street, Chicago Ridge to St. Germaine Church, 9711 S. Kolin Ave. Oak Lawn. Mass 10:00 a.m. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery; In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to the Les Turner ALS Foundation, 5550 W. Touhy Ave, Suite 302, Skokie, IL 60077 or the American Cancer Society, 225 Michigan Ave #1200, Chicago, IL 60601; For funeral info www.curleyfuneralhome.com, or 708-422-2700

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Burkart, William E.

William E. Burkart of Glenview, beloved husband of Joyce; dear father of John (Marcia Szweczyk), Janet (Wayne) Schetter, James (Patricia Skiba), Jeanne (Emil) Borre, Jerald (Jody), Jeffery and Jennifer (Jason) Sharko; loving grandfather of 17; cherished great grandfather of 7; fond brother of Maryellen (the late James) Waldvogel. Funeral from Simkins Funeral Home 6251 Dempster St. Morton Grove Saturday 9:15 a.m. to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church 1775 Grove St. Glenview, Mass 10 a.m. Interment All Saints Cemetery. Visitation Friday 3 to 8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to Alzheimer's Assoc. 8430 W. Bryn Mawr, Ste. 800 Chicago, IL 60631 appreciated. Sign online guestbook at www.simkinsfh.com 847-965-2500



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Chrisos, Mary

Mary Chrisos, nee Maheras, age 84, formerly of Palatine, IL, passed away peacefully on December 24, 2019 in San Diego, Ca. Loving mother of Patrice (Ulises) Benitez and Dana (Scott) Harris. Cherished grandmother (Yiayia) of Anthony Garcia, Maria (Frank) Gardiner, Sophia and Andrew Mazis, Christina and Gianna Garcia, and Sinai Benitez Dearest great-grandmother of Knox. Dear sister of Bess (Lucas) Michas and the late Strat Maheras. Beloved aunt to Melanie and Katie Maheras and Mariana and Anthea Michas., cousin, and friend to many. Visitation Saturday morning, January 4, 2020, 9:30 am at St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, 733 S. Ashland, Chicago until time of Funeral Service 10:30 a.m. Interment will follow to Elmwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements entrusted to NICHOLAS M. PISHOS FUNERAL DIRECTOR, LTD., info: 847-581-0536 or www.colonialfuneral.com



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Dambrowski, Joan H.

Joan H. Dambrowski of Elk Grove Village, beloved wife of the late Walter; dear mother of Mark, Judith (Thomas) Peterson, Darlene and the late Lawrence; loving grandmother of Melanie, Samantha, Lauren and Charles; fond sister of Darlene (Richard) Neufeldt and the late James (the late Shirley) Jaroch. Memorial visitation at Simkins Funeral Home 6251 Dempster St. Morton Grove, IL Saturday from 9 a.m. until time of service at 11 a.m. Interment St. Adalbert Cemetery. Sign online guestbook at www.simkinsfh.com 847-965-2500



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Hadgisava, Christine 'Christy'

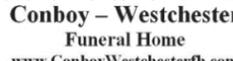
Christine Hadgisava "Christy" age 43, of Montgomery AL formerly of DesPlaines IL. Devoted partner to Amanda Cox; beloved daughter of Steve (Nancy) and Carol Johnson; loving granddaughter of Frieda (the late Basil) Hadgisava and Dorothy (the late Will) Johnson; dear sister of Steven (Inna) Hadgisava, Kristen (Shawn) McCusker and Jennifer (Mike) Phillips; forever friend of Nate Phillips; cherished aunt to a host of nieces and nephews; fond niece, cousin and friend to many. Visitation Friday, from 4 to 9 P.M. Funeral Prayers 6 P.M. at Nelson Funeral Home 820 Talcott Rd. Park Ridge. Interment Private. For info www.nelsonfunerals.com or (847) 823-5122.



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Latouske, Jr., Louis A.

Louis A. Latouske, Jr., age 92, of Westchester, at rest December 28, 2019. "Louie" was born on January 19, 1927, the son of the late Louis A., Sr. and Tillie Latouske. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Helen Mae. Louie was a Navy Veteran serving in World War II. He worked as an inspector and was retired from Electro-Motive Division. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family. Lying-in-State Saturday, January 4, 2020 at Divine Providence Church, 2550 Mayfair, Westchester from 9:30 a.m. until time of funeral mass 10:00 a.m. Entombment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the charity of your choice. Arrangements entrusted to Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home. For info 708-F-U-N-E-R-A-L



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Learner, Barbara

Barbara Learner, nee Pope, 83. Beloved wife of the late Arnold Harper Learner; loving mother of James (Pamela), Joseph (Julie) and Richard (Debra) Learner; cherished grandmother of 10 wonderful grandchildren; dearly loved aunt to many nieces and nephews. Funeral service Sunday, Jan. 5, 11 AM, at Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home, 111 Skokie Blvd, Wilmette. Interment following at Memorial Park Cemetery, 9900 Gross Point Rd, Skokie. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org. For info: 847-256-5700.



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MANKIVSKY, JOANNE BARBARA

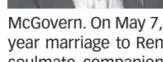
Joanne Mankivsky, nee Carlson, 85, of Downers Grove, formerly of Western Springs for over 60 years. Beloved wife of Alex. Loving mother of Robert (Roberta) and William (Allison). Devoted grandmother of 5 and great-grandmother of 3. Visitation 5 to 8pm Fri., Jan. 3, 2020 at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 301-75th St., Downers Grove where Funeral Service will be held at 10am on Sat., Jan. 4, 2020. A Memorial Service will be held at Oak Trace Senior Living, Downers Grove at a later date. Interment Fairmount Willow Hills Memorial Park, Willow Springs. Memorials to Salvation Army or Touched By An Animal appreciated. Funeral home phone 630/964-6500 or www.hjfunerals.com



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McGovern II, Thomas J.

Thomas J. McGovern, aged 85, passed away peacefully at his home in Mount Prospect, Illinois on Sunday, December 29, 2019 after a long illness. Tom was a 46 year resident of Mount Prospect, and previously resided in Chicago. Born October 11, 1934 to Thomas J. (Newport, County Mayo) and Margaret Ludden



McGovern. On May 7, 1972 Tom entered into a 47 1/2 year marriage to Renae McGovern, his most loving soulmate, companion and friend. Proud father of his dear daughter Megan who brought much joy to his life, and her husband Joe Mathesius who treated him kindly and respected him as a father. They gave to him his only grandchildren, now 4 year old twins, Maeve and Conor. Their Popi, as the twins would call him, loved them with all of his heart. There was also his firstborn and only son Tommy, who died in 1991 at the age of 16. Tom never got over the death of Tommy, as any parent who lost a child would understand. After 12 years in the seminary system Tom was ordained a priest in 1962. He served as a Catholic Priest in three Archdiocesan parishes, St. Angela, St. Peter, and St. Ferdinand for a combined 10 years. The last 4 years serving as a full-time parish priest and secretary and master of ceremonies for the late Bishop William McManus. After leaving the active priesthood with honor in 1972, Tom was employed by the Cook County Assessor's Office. He climbed to an upper supervisory position, and became Chief of Land Assessments, being responsible at that time for 1,400,000 parcels of land. After 21 years of service, Tom retired. He then assisted in the establishment of the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB). There he served as an instructor, and a Hearing Officer until his second retirement. Tom served 16 years on the Mount Prospect Community Development Board/Planning Commission. And once again, being a man of lifetime service to others, Tom enjoyed his days of being a Volunteer at Holy Family Medical Center. Tom was the firstborn of seven siblings; the late Jack (Joyce RIP & Mira); the late Jim (Elaine RIP); the late Peggy Keller (Jim RIP); Terry (Roseanna RIP and Sheila); the late Maureen, and the late Kathy. He was blessed with many wonderful uncles and aunts and as many wonderful nephews, nieces and cousins. He truly valued his lifetime friendships with his classmates from both Quigley and Mundelein Seminary, and he held a deep affection for his Pine Street Neighbors. As well, he loved and leaves behind his sweet little dog, MYMY, who grieves the loss of him just like the rest of us.

Visitation Friday, 3:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. at Friedrichs Funeral Home, 320 W. Central Rd. at Northwest Highway, Mount Prospect. Visitation Saturday, 9:00 A.M. until Funeral Mass 11:00 A.M. at St. Raymond de Penafort Church, Elmhurst Rd. (Rt. 83) at Lincoln St, Mount Prospect. Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the family for a College Fund for Tom's grandchildren, Maeve and Conor. Information call 847-255-7800 or www.friedrichsfh.com

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Nieciecki, Dolores

Visitation for Dolores R. Nieciecki (nee Orczyk), 87, a resident of Schaumburg, formerly of Chicago, will be Friday, January 3 from 2:00-8:00pm at Michaels Funeral Home & Cremation Care, 800 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg. Funeral Mass will be Saturday, January 4 at 10:00am at St. Monica Church, 5136 N. Nottingham Avenue, Chicago. Interment will follow at Maryhill Cemetery, Niles. Born February 6, 1932 in Chicago to the late Anthony and the late Maryanna (nee Mazurek) she passed away peacefully December 28, 2019 in Bloomingdale. Dolores was the adoring wife of 48 years to the late Ted; loving mother of Cindy (Jim) Arient and Barbara (Ted) Tarchala; proud grandmother of Michael, Matthew and Kristen Arient, Stephanie, Justine, Kevin and Danielle Tarchala; beloved sister of the late Marie (Matt) Jerantowski, the late John (Marie), the late Jeanette (Ed) Kurcz, and the late Evelyn (John) Wayer; fond aunt and friend to many. She will be missed by all those whose lives she touched.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

O'Donnell, Michael J. 'Mickey'

Age 79 - Beloved husband of Mary "Mae", (nee Pender) for 59 years; loving father of Marie, the late Michael, the late Geraldyn, the late Ann, Margaret, Daniel, Brendan (Donella), Theresa (John) Heflin; cherished grandpa to the late Jonathan, Thomas, Ann, Donovan, Maggie, Emily, Lily, Kiara and Kate; dear son of the late Daniel and Mary (nee Mulcrone); dear brother of Anna May (the late James) Ahern, Marie (Michael) Lally, and the late Daniel (Ann), James, Patsy and John Patrick; fond cousin, uncle and friend to many. Lifelong Chicagoan and proud retiree of Sheet Metal Workers Local 73. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland, 5116 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60630. Visitation will be held Friday from 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at **Cooney Funeral Home** located at 625 Busse Hwy. in Park Ridge. Funeral Saturday, prayers at 9:30 a.m. to Immaculate Conception Church for Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment Maryhill Cemetery. For information please call 847-685-1002 or visit www.cooneyfuneralhome.com

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Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

PAPANEK, THOMAS FRANK

Beloved father, and friend, Thomas Frank Papanek passed away on December 26, 2019 from congestive heart failure. He was living with his devoted partner and loving caregiver, Karen Carson, in Chesterton, Indiana and will be remembered by her family and special friends, the Peretins.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Thom used his creative talents in a career in advertising, at Benton & Bowles, Leo Burnett, and his own creative studio in Chicago.

Sailing brought Thom, a life-long sailor, profound happiness that he was eager to share. His deep appreciation for music covered many genres and he played multiple instruments. Thom's gentle nature was manifested by his love of dogs.

Thom was born on January 1, 1942 in Chicago, son of Lillian Bursik and Samuel Papanek Jr, and brother to Samuel Papanek III. He is survived by his children Jeff and Sara, from his marriage with their mother Patti; and Julie Papanek Grant, from his marriage with her mother Meryl.

A gathering of family and friends, honoring Thom's life, will be held at a later date in 2020. Donations in his memory should be made to organizations that extend the joy of sailing to aspiring youth and disabled sailors.

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Pepper, J. David 'Dave'

J. David "Dave" Pepper, 59, passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on Saturday, December 28, 2019 at his home in Barrington, Illinois. He was born in Evanston on January 15, 1960 to Richard and Roxelyn Pepper. He was a civil engineering graduate of Iowa State University, where he met his wife, Katy. Dave served as CEO of Pepper Construction Group and lived his life in service to others and was widely known for his kindness and generosity. Dave's life centered around his family and friends. He enjoyed cooking, boating and travelling and frequently said that being part of his family was the best leadership lesson of his life. He believed that values shape lives, particularly through unexpected turns, and Dave instilled honesty, gratitude and openness into the culture of Pepper Construction, which he led from 2003. Dave was known as a champion of education and held multiple leadership roles including president of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) Education and Research Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to improving the science of construction. Dave was also involved in workforce readiness and school mentoring programs. Most recently, Dave served on the Providence St. Mel School Board of Trustees; the Dominican University Board of Trustees; Junior Achievement of Chicago's Board of Directors and Executive Committee; and served as a Management Trustee to the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and supported their educational programs over several decades. Dave also actively served the community as a member at St. Michael's Episcopal church and was a member of the Economic Club of Chicago; The Chicago Club; the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation and The Commercial Club of Chicago. Dave leaves behind his loving wife Katy and their three children, Ali, Lauren and Colin; as well as his parents, Richard and Roxelyn Pepper; brothers, Stan, Dick and Scott; sisters, Lynda and Lisa; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and relatives. A memorial visitation will be held Friday, January 3, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Episcopal Church located at 647 Dundee Avenue in Barrington. The memorial service will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 4 at the church. Additional parking will be available across the street at St. Matthew Lutheran Church located at 720 Dundee Avenue. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dave's memory can be made to Bishop Anderson House at 312-563-4825 or donate online at www.bishopandersonhouse.org/donate/ and St. Michael's Youth Program at 847-381-2323 or info@stmichaelsbarrington.org. For information, please contact **Davenport Family Funeral Home**, Barrington, 847-381-3411. For online condolences please visit, www.davenportfamily.com.

Pepper Construction Group and lived his life in service to others and was widely known for his kindness and generosity. Dave's life centered around his family and friends. He enjoyed cooking, boating and travelling and frequently said that being part of his family was the best leadership lesson of his life. He believed that values shape lives, particularly through unexpected turns, and Dave instilled honesty, gratitude and openness into the culture of Pepper Construction, which he led from 2003. Dave was known as a champion of education and held multiple leadership roles including president of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) Education and Research Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to improving the science of construction. Dave was also involved in workforce readiness and school mentoring programs. Most recently, Dave served on the Providence St. Mel School Board of Trustees; the Dominican University Board of Trustees; Junior Achievement of Chicago's Board of Directors and Executive Committee; and served as a Management Trustee to the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and supported their educational programs over several decades. Dave also actively served the community as a member at St. Michael's Episcopal church and was a member of the Economic Club of Chicago; The Chicago Club; the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation and The Commercial Club of Chicago. Dave leaves behind his loving wife Katy and their three children, Ali, Lauren and Colin; as well as his parents, Richard and Roxelyn Pepper; brothers, Stan, Dick and Scott; sisters, Lynda and Lisa; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and relatives. A memorial visitation will be held Friday, January 3, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Episcopal Church located at 647 Dundee Avenue in Barrington. The memorial service will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 4 at the church. Additional parking will be available across the street at St. Matthew Lutheran Church located at 720 Dundee Avenue. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dave's memory can be made to Bishop Anderson House at 312-563-4825 or donate online at www.bishopandersonhouse.org/donate/ and St. Michael's Youth Program at 847-381-2323 or info@stmichaelsbarrington.org. For information, please contact **Davenport Family Funeral Home**, Barrington, 847-381-3411. For online condolences please visit, www.davenportfamily.com.



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Pesoli, Angeline "Babe"

Angeline "Babe" Pesoli nee Mulizio, 91; Devoted wife of 72 years of James Pesoli, retired C.P.D.; Loving mother of Patricia (John) Masini, Ann Marie (Bob) Bartee and the late James (Susan Toblesky) Pesoli; Fond grandmother of John (Shannon) Masini, Anthony (Amy) Masini, Jennifer (Robert) Verdonck, Vanessa (Bryan) Tobin, Jim Pesoli, Joseph (Michelle) Pesoli and Jessica (Aleksa) Petkovic; Great-grandmother of Marissa, Monica, Isabella, Alyssa, Gianna, Jack, Joseph, Lauren, Dominic, the late Charlie, Danny, Luciana, Reese, Leo, Jimmy, Vinny, Maja, Luca, Luka and Ella. Angeline was a dear sister and aunt to many. Visitation Friday Jan. 3 from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels** 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. Funeral service begins Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the funeral home proceeding to Our Lady, Mother of the Church for 10:30 a.m. Mass. Interment to follow at St. Joseph Cemetery. Please omit flowers. Info: 708-456-8300 or www.cumberlandchapels.com



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Phillips, Eugene S. 'Gene'

Eugene "Gene" S. Phillips, age 70 passed away on December 23, 2019. He was born in Chicago, IL on April 20, 1949 to Stanley E. Phillips and Stephanie Norris Phillips. Gene was a graduate of Southern Illinois University earning a bachelor's and master's in Logistics. Gene worked in Logistics Management with various companies and retired with Tootsie Roll Industries in 2013. Gene was a devoted father and is survived by his two children, Stephanie and Tyler Phillips. Gene was preceded in death by his wife, Julienne "Julie" Phillips and his parents, Stanley E. Phillips and Stephanie Norris Phillips. Gene's love, sense of humor, and excellent cooking will stay in our hearts forever and will truly be missed. Services are being conducted privately.



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Simon, George J.

George J. Simon, 86 years, Proud US Airforce Vet. Beloved husband of Mary Ruth (nee Trusk). Loving father of Donna (Greg) Stankiewicz, Matthew (Pamela) Simon and Susan (Ed) Saloga. Cherished grandfather of eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Fond brother of the late Alphonse, John (late Angela) and James (Terry) Simon. Dear uncle of many nieces and nephews. A loyal member of Sheet Metal Workers Union 73, die-hard Cub fan and avid golfer. Resting at Foran Funeral Home, 7300 West Archer Avenue, Summit, IL 60501. Funeral Saturday, January 4, 2020, at 8:15 a.m. to St. Symphorosa Church for Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 a.m. Entombment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Visitation Friday 3-8 p.m. Arrangements entrusted to Feeley-Balto Funeral Service 773/239-9095.



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Wall, Gerald J. 'Jerry'

Gerald J. "Jerry" Wall, 81, December 28, 2019, of Heritage Woods in Batavia, formerly of the Chicago-Clearing neighborhood, but was born and spent most of his life in the Chicago-Bridgeport neighborhood. Dearly beloved husband of the late Celine "Kitchie" Wall, nee Pikulski; devoted father of Christine (Steven) Braun and Michael (Jennifer) Wall; loving grandfather of Jonathan, Jillian and Jacquelyn Braun, Amanda and Jeremy Wall; special friend and companion of Bonnie Western; fond son of the late John F. and Evelyn Piorecki Wall; dear brother of the late Thomas Wall. Proud member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 134. Services at CENTRAL CHAPEL, 6158 S. Central Ave., Chicago, where friends and family will gather on Friday, January 3, 2020, from 3 to 8 p.m. Funeral Saturday, January 4, 2020, 9 a.m., at chapel, to St. Daniel the Prophet Church, 5300 S. Natoma Ave., Chicago. Mass of Christian Burial 10 a.m. Entombment Resurrection Cemetery-Garden Mausoleum. Please visit www.chapel.com or www.facebook.com/central-chapel. Info., 773-581-9000.



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Chicago Tribune

JOHN SMITH
June 12, 1928 - May 1, 2019

John Smith, 90, of Chicago, Illinois, passed away peacefully on May 1, 2019, at the age of 90. He was born on June 12, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois, to John and Mary Smith. He was a member of the Chicago Board of Trade and a graduate of the University of Chicago. He was a devoted father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Mary. He is also survived by his grandchildren, John and Mary. He was a member of the Chicago Board of Trade and a graduate of the University of Chicago. He was a devoted father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Mary. He is also survived by his grandchildren, John and Mary.

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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 Amarianna Williams

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Amanda Willingham (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 17JA01147

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Amanda Willingham (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **August 20, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Bernard Sarley** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/23/2020, at 9:30 AM** in CALENDAR 9 COURTROOM I, 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 27, 2019 6557176

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 Amarianna Williams

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Amanda Willingham (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 17JA01147

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Amanda Willingham (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **August 20, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Bernard Sarley** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/23/2020, at 9:30 AM** in CALENDAR 9 COURTROOM I, 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 27, 2019 6557176

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Christopher Hood, Jr Christina Hood

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Jessica Gray (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 19JA01249 19JA01248

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Jessica Gray (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **October 30, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Robert Balanoff** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **01/23/2020, at 11:00 AM** in CALENDAR 12 COURTROOM L, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS November 27, 2019 6557201

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 Felani Evans

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Shira Weston (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 19JA01257

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Steven Davis (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **October 30, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** 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 **01/23/2020, at 1:30 PM** in CALENDAR 10 COURTROOM J, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to 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 20, 2019 6557309

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 Otis Burton

A MINOR NO. 2019JD01728

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, **Otis Burton, Sr. (Father)**, respondents, and to **ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, that on **October 28, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX**, STATE'S ATTORNEY OF COOK COUNTY through her assistant State's Attorney in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Lana Charisse Johnson** in the 1100 South Hamilton, Chicago, Illinois on **01/16/2020 at 9:00 AM** in CALENDAR 68 COURTROOM 3.

or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act. The court has authority in this case to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.

Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause to the contrary, an order or judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the petition.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF COURT December 11, 2019

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY: L. Carlson, E. Washington ATTORNEY FOR: THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ADDRESS: 1100 South Hamilton CITY/STATE: Chicago, Illinois 60612 TELEPHONE NUMBER: (312) 433-7000 ATTORNEY NO.: 33182

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, COOK COUNTY OF ILLINOIS December 11, 2019 6552392

CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SETTING INTEREST RATE ON RENTAL AGREEMENT SECURITY DEPOSITS

Chapter 5-12 of the Municipal Code of Chicago hereby gives notice pursuant to Sections 5-12-081 and 5-12-082 of the Municipal Code of Chicago that the rate of interest on security deposits under rental agreements shall be for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 shall be:

0.010 percent

This rate is based upon the average of the rates of interest, as of December 31, 2019, of the following types of accounts at Chase Bank, which is the commercial bank having the most branches located in the City of Chicago: Savings Account (0.01 percent) and Six-month Certificate of Deposit (based on a deposit of \$1,000) 0.01 percent.

Reshma Soni City Comptroller December 11, 2019 01/01-01/07/2020 6559641

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF Sir Herring

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Michelle Mcurfus (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 19JA01438

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Lionel Michaels (Father), AKA Lionel Michaels**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **December 06, 2019**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** 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 **01/23/2020, at 9:30 AM** in CALENDAR 10 COURTROOM J, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to 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 13, 2019 6557250

LEGAL NOTICES

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Sean O'Brien Sullivan Vice President Business Services 708/456-0300 Ext. 3467 1/2/2020 6548636

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:** \$72,075.12 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 more than \$25,000. **Pay:** \$87,792.38 per year

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FORECLOSURES

MANLEY, DEAS, KOCHALSKI LLC One East Wacker - Suite 1250 Chicago, IL 60601 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff, v. CHRISTEL Y. BRIDGES, AKA BRIDGES, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; THE NEW MERRILL SQUARE CONDOMINIUM, Defendants, Case No. 2019CH13603 The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Christel Y. Bridges, AKA Bridges, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Cook County Judicial Circuit, Cook County, Illinois by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows: to-wit: Unit 6741-2 in the New Merrill Square Condominium as delineated on a survey of the following described property: The South 10 feet of Lot 6 all of Lot 7 and the North 30 feet of Lot 8 in first addition to Bryn Mawr Highlands subdivision of the North 3/4 of the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 (except the West 500 feet thereof and except Bryn Mawr Highlands also except the East 1/8 feet also streets) in Section 24, Township 38 North, Range 14 East of the third principal meridian, which Survey is attached as Exhibit B to the declaration of condominium recorded in the office of the recorder of deeds of Cook County, Illinois as Document Number 98202497 together with its undivided percentage interest in the common elements, 6741 South Merrill, Unit 2, Chicago, IL 60649 20-24-403-027-1006 Now, therefore, unless you, Christel Y. Bridges, AKA Bridges, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, and the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Clerk of the Cook County Judicial Circuit, Cook County, Illinois, on or before January 20, 2020, default may be entered against you at any time after that day 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/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or contact the Clerk of this Court, Edward R. Peterka (6220416) MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601 Phone: 312-651-6700; Fax: 614-220-5613 Atty. No.: 48928 Email: sef-epeterka@manleydeas.com One of Plaintiff's Attorneys 12/19, 26/2019, 1/2/2020 6547607

MANLEY, DEAS, KOCHALSKI LLC One East Wacker - Suite 1250 Chicago, IL 60601 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, MORTGAGE RESEARCH CENTER, LLC D/B/A VETERANS UNITED HOME LOANS, A MISSOURI LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Plaintiff, v. KEVIN WILLIAMS; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC; STATE OF ILLINOIS; TAYLOR BEAN & WHITAKER, MORTGAGE CORP.; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, Case No. 2019CH13796 The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Kevin Williams, Taylor Bean & Whitaker, Mortgage Corp., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Cook County Judicial Circuit, Cook County, Illinois by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows: to-wit: Lot 2 in Maccari's Re-subdivision of the North 74.85 feet of the East 289 feet (Except the North 37.5 feet to the East 125 feet thereof) of Block 9 in George W. Hill's Subdivision of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 14, Township 37 North, Range 13, East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat thereof recorded May 12, 1950 as Document 14800406 in Cook County, Illinois, 3215 West 108th Street, Chicago, IL 60655 24-14-10-044-0000 Now, therefore, unless you, Kevin Williams, Taylor Bean & Whitaker, Mortgage Corp., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, and the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Clerk of the Cook County Judicial Circuit, Cook County, Illinois, on or before January 20, 2020, default may be entered against you at any time after that day 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/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or contact the Clerk of this Court, Alan S. Kaufman (6289893) MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601 Phone: 312-651-6700; Fax: 614-220-5613 Atty. No.: 48928 Email: sef-askaufman@manleydeas.com One of Plaintiff's Attorneys 12/19, 26/2019, 1/2/2020 6547595



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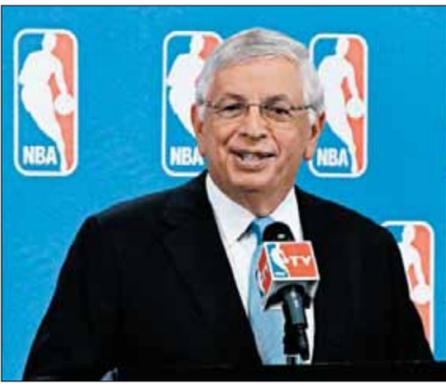
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Chicago Tribune CHICAGO SPORTS

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



NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBAE/GETTY

DAVID STERN
1942-2020

Commissioner made NBA a global brand

Stern oversaw unprecedented growth over 3 decades in charge

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — David Stern, the basketball-loving lawyer who took the NBA around the world during 30 years as its longest-serving commissioner and oversaw its growth into a global powerhouse, died Wednesday. He was 77.

Stern suffered a brain hemorrhage Dec. 12 and underwent emergency surgery. The league said he died with his wife, Dianne, and their family at his bedside.

"The entire basketball community is heartbroken," the National Basketball Players Association said. "David Stern earned and deserved inclusion in our land of giants."

Stern had been involved with the NBA for nearly two decades before he became its fourth commissioner on Feb. 1, 1984. By the time he left his position in 2014 — he wouldn't say or let league staffers say "retire," because he never stopped working — a league that fought for a foothold before him had grown to a more than \$5 billion-per-year industry and made NBA basketball perhaps the world's most popular sport after soccer.

"Because of David, the NBA is a truly global brand — making him not only one of the greatest sports commissioners of all time but also one of the most influential business leaders of his generation," said Adam Silver, who succeeded Stern as commissioner. "Every member of the NBA family is the beneficiary of David's vision, generosity and inspiration."

Turn to **Stern**, Page 4



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY-AFP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big 10 wins just 1

After Minnesota upsets Auburn and Alabama beats up Michigan, Wisconsin, above, blows a late lead against Oregon and falls 28-27 in the Rose Bowl. Coverage, **Page 3**

BLACKHAWKS

Trying to make playoffs a reality

BY JIMMY GREENFIELD

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Let's assume the playoffs are a possibility for the Blackhawks despite a confounding first half full of debilitating injuries, late collapses and miracle comebacks.

Unlike last season, when the Hawks didn't bring in any free agents of note and the February trade deadline quietly came and went without a move, the Hawks aren't playing for next season.

Anything less would be difficult to explain to a bruised fan base that expects general manager Stan Bowman to be held accountable if the Hawks miss the playoffs for a third straight year.

Is it a long shot for the Hawks (18-17-6, 42 points) to make the playoffs? Yes. But with three straight wins and five in their last six, they have turned things around enough to keep their postseason hopes alive.

Inside: Five things that have to happen to turn their hopes into reality.

Turn to **Playoffs**, Page 6

1

Joel Quenneville 🍷🍷🍷

2

Joe Maddon 🍷

3

Can you guess Nos. 3-17? The full list is on the **Back Page**

4

RANKING

5

CHICAGO'S COACHES & MANAGERS

6

7

OF THE 2010S

8

BY WILL LARKIN

When it came to Chicago's coaches and managers in the 2010s, we had the good, the bad, and that was about it. There wasn't much of a middle class among the 17 coaches the Bears, Bulls, Blackhawks, Cubs and White Sox hired to lead their teams this decade. The top three were pretty easy to rank, and then it got dicey. Very dicey.

This ranking reflects only how these coaches fared in the 2009-10 through 2018-19 seasons. So the Bears season that just ended is the final season considered, with the current Bulls and Blackhawks campaigns belonging to the 2020s. Coaches who were active in the 2000s — Ozzie Guillen, Lou Piniella, Joel Quenneville and Lovie Smith — are being judged only for their 2010s output.

Inside: How Chicago's 17 head coaches and managers of the 2010s stack up, based on winning percentage and other intangibles.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE (QUENNEVILLE) AND JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE (MADDON)

10

11

12

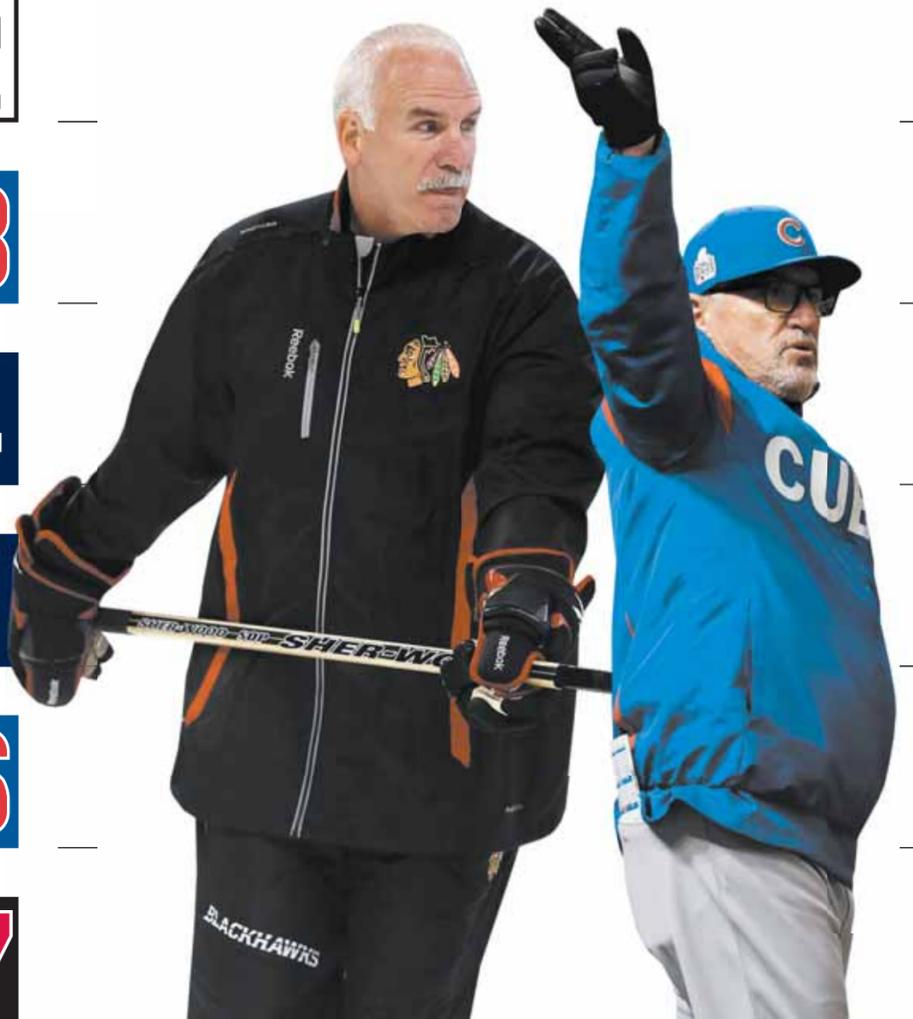
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17



TOP OF THE SECOND

TIM DAHLBERG

Wacky predictions for new year

Predictions aren't for the faint of heart, as anyone who has ever given money to a bookmaker can attest. Strange things can happen, which is a big reason why they still play games.

Still, with every new year comes the hope that this might be the year some of them come true.

With that in mind, let's begin. these things might actually happen in 2020:

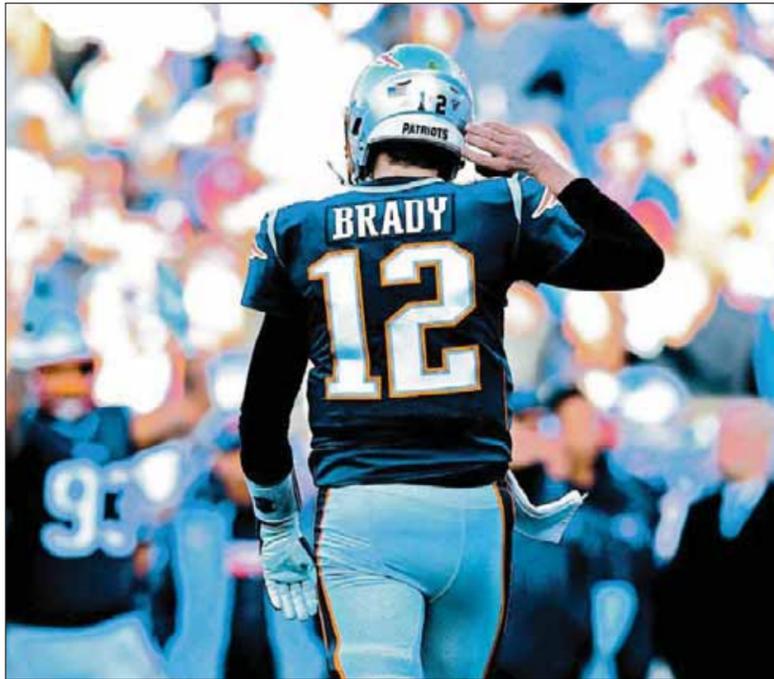
Tom Brady retires: Brady announces his retirement midseason, shocking Patriots fans who assumed he would play until he was eligible for Medicare. An emotional Bill Belichick struggles to find the right words to honor the quarterback who won six Super Bowls and made the Patriots the dynasty of the early 2000s.

Olympic glory: Usain Bolt comes out of retirement for the Olympics in Tokyo, and oddsmakers quickly make him the favorite to win another three gold medals in the speed events. Instead, Bolt competes in skateboarding and becomes the first to land a 720 Gazelle Flip as he takes gold in the newest Olympic sport. In related news, Michael Phelps announces plans to compete in break dancing in the 2024 games in Paris.

Stealing away: The Astros stumble early in the season, with hitters swinging wildly at pitches they don't recognize. Desperate for contact, they devise a system of tin cans connected by string to relay signals from center field to the dugout. The Astros immediately go on a 15-game winning streak, then issue a statement blaming irresponsible reporting by the fake media for the team's early struggles.

Hall of Fame: Barry Bonds finally is elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, boosted by the support of a new wave of analytics-driven writers who say his overwhelming numbers can't be ignored any longer. In particular, they cite his dominance (.845, adjusted for cap size) in the emerging category of superstar players who used both the cream and the clear.

Beast Mode II: Marshawn Lynch gets the ball this time, scoring from the 1-yard line as time expires to give the Seahawks a 21-20 victory over the Patriots in the Super Bowl. Afterward, Lynch says his beef with the media was all a misunderstanding.



MADDIE MEYER/GETTY

Is the click ticking on the career of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady?

Draft day: LSU's Joe Burrow is the No. 1 pick and is greeted with big cheers not only by the three extremely hungover Bengals fans in attendance but those holding betting tickets on him at 40-1 to begin the year. NFL owners attend in record numbers, then vote unanimously in special session to hold the draft in Las Vegas for the next 10 years.

NBA: The Lakers collapse midseason, and Magic Johnson comes back to the team to mediate a lingering dispute between LeBron James and Anthony Davis over who has the biggest mansion in Beverly Hills. With Steph Curry playing on the Korn Ferry golf tour and Kawhi Leonard taking some time off to rest, the Jazz go through the playoffs undefeated to win their first NBA title.

Tiger's triumph: Tiger Woods returns to the Masters with so many green jackets that he hires former caddie Steve Williams to carry them into the clubhouse.

Dodgers delight: Tired of losing because their lineup is full of strikeout marks, the Dodgers sign a trio of contact hitters to play the outfield. The strategy falters on opening day when manager Dave Roberts calls for a hit and run and no one can remember what that means.

Free-agent fun: Gerrit Cole is unceremoniously booed after failing to make it out of the second inning in his debut at Yankee Stadium, where one young fan holds a sign saying "Yankee fan this morning. Not a Yankee fan anymore." Anthony Rendon, meanwhile, struggles to adapt to the Anaheim, Calif., lifestyle, complaining that he can't take his kids to the grocery store anymore because he keeps running into Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

Tim Dahlberg is a sports columnist for the Associated Press.

LET'S PLAY 2

 **Thursday**
@Canucks
9 p.m.
NBCSCH+

Sunday
Red Wings
6:30 p.m.
NBCSN

 **Thursday**
Jazz
7 p.m.
NBCSCH

Saturday
Celtics
7 p.m.
NBCSCH

THURSDAY ON TV/RADIO

NBA
6:30 p.m. Raptors at Heat NBA
7 p.m. Jazz at Bulls NBCSCH
WSCR-AM 670

9:30 p.m. Pistons at Clippers NBA

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
4 p.m. Liberty at Fla. Gulf Coast ESPN
5:30 p.m. James Madison at UNC-Wilmington CBSN
6 p.m. Minnesota at Purdue BTN
6 p.m. N. Texas at W. Kentucky ESPN
7 p.m. Illinois at Michigan State FS1
WLS-AM 890

7:30 p.m. Dayton at La Salle CBSN
8 p.m. Oregon at Colorado ESPN2
8 p.m. Jacksonville St. at Morehead ESPN
9 p.m. UCLA at Washington FS1
10 p.m. California at Stanford ESPN2
10 p.m. St. Mary's at San Fran. ESPN

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
2 p.m. Boston College vs. Cincinnati ESPN
6 p.m. Indiana vs. Tennessee ESPN

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
5 p.m. All-America Game ESPN2

GOLF
5 p.m. Tournament of Champions Golf

HOCKEY
6 p.m. Devils at Islanders NBCSN
7 p.m. AHL: Stars at Wolves WPWR-50
8:30 p.m. Blues at Avalanche NBCSN
9 p.m. Blackhawks at Canucks NBCSCH+
WGN-AM 720

SOCCER
1:55 p.m. Liverpool vs. Sheffield NBCSN

TENNIS
2 a.m. (Fri.) ATP Cup Tennis

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL



AARON LAVINSKY/STAR TRIBUNE

Minnesota's Tyler Johnson reaches to catch a scoring pass against Auburn.

**MINNESOTA 31,
AUBURN 24**

Return to glory days

Johnson caps off big season for Gophers

BY FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — With the clock winding down on a dominating performance in the Outback Bowl, Minnesota fans broke into a chant of "Row The Boat, Row The Boat, Row The Boat."

The never-give-up mantra coach P.J. Fleck used to help change the culture of Golden Gophers football continues to inspire a program determined to recapture its glory days.

"We challenged everyone of our players, you want to be a blue blood you've got to beat the blue bloods," Fleck said Wednesday after No. 16 Minnesota beat No. 9 Auburn 31-24 in a game that wasn't as close as the final score.

"We used to be a blue blood back in the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's," Fleck added. "We've talked about the word of the year is restore. We want to restore that tradition."

Tyler Johnson had 12 receptions for 204 yards and two TDs to become the Gophers' career receiving leader and Minnesota outtrashed the Tigers 215 yards to 56 while dominating time of possession to limit Auburn's ability to keep pace.

"We didn't overlook them. I think our guys were ready to play. I think our guys played hard but they made the plays, we didn't," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said.

"The second half, it was really a dog fight. Back and forth," Malzahn added. "The bottom line is they made plays."

Johnson broke Eric Decker's school record for receiving yards on his second catch of the day and became Minnesota's all-time leader for scoring receptions on a one-handed, 2-yard TD catch that put the Gophers (11-2) up 24-17 at halftime.

The senior's 73-yard catch-and-run put his team ahead for good early in the fourth quarter.

"Coach Fleck says all the time, that this program is going up, and as you see today it's definitely going in the right direction," Johnson said.

Minnesota, which began the season with nine straight victories before losing two of its last three to Big Ten rivals Iowa and Wisconsin, finished with more than 10 wins for the first time since 1904. Auburn (9-4) concluded a season in which all four of its losses came against opponents ranked in the Top 25.

Tanner Morgan completed 19 of 29 passes for 278 yards, one INT and both of the TDs to Johnson, who finished with 3,305 receiving yards and 33 TD catches in his career. Receiver Seth Green tossed a 1-yard touchdown pass to Bryce Witham on fourth-and-inches midway through the second quarter.

Noah Igbinohe, whose mother and father were Olympic track and field athletes in Nigeria, returned a kickoff 96 yards for Auburn's first touchdown. Bo Nix threw a 37-yard TD pass to Sal Cannella and Ja'Tarvious Whitlow scored 3-yard run that made it 24-24 heading into the fourth quarter.

Morgan broke the tie with his second TD throw to Johnson, who posted the 16th 100-yard game of his career and caught at least one TD pass for the seventh straight game, tying another school record.

The Gophers dominated on the ground with Mohamed Ibrahim running for 140 yards on 20 carries.

Nix finished 17 of 26 for 176 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Oregon QB Justin Herbert runs for a touchdown past Wisconsin CB Rachad Wildgoose at the Rose Bowl.

OREGON 28, WISCONSIN 27

Running wild at Rose Bowl

Ducks QB Herbert rushes for 3 TDs in college finale

BY GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Justin Herbert scored his third rushing touchdown of the 106th Rose Bowl on a thrilling 30-yard run with 7:41 to play Wednesday night, and No. 7 Oregon held off No. 11 Wisconsin 28-27 to win its third straight trip to the Granddaddy of Them All.

Brady Breeze returned the first of his two fumble recoveries 31 yards for an early TD for the Ducks (12-2). Herbert then made his go-ahead rambling run on the next snap after Breeze's second huge play, and Oregon capped its Pac-12 championship season with its 12th win in 13 games in yet another frenetic edition of this venerated bowl game.

Aron Cruickshank returned an early kickoff 95 yards for a TD for the Big Ten runner-up Badgers (10-4). They lost in their fourth consecutive trip to Pasadena over the last 10 years.

Herbert passed for just 138 yards without a touchdown in his collegiate finale. Instead, Oregon improbably relied on the legs of its 6-foot-6 quarterback to grind out the fourth Rose Bowl victory in school history.

Herbert had only 10 rushing

TDs in the first 41 starts of his career, but he turned into a big-play machine on the ground. After he scored on runs of 4 and 5 yards in the first half, he rambled through the defense for the go-ahead score in what's sure to be the signature moment of the four-year starter's career.

Herbert eventually made a key 12-yard throw to Mycah Pittman for a first down with 1:51 to play, and his 28-yard throw to Juwan Johnson with 1:03 left allowed the Ducks to run out the clock.

Eight years after De'Anthony Thomas' Ducks surged past Russell Wilson's Badgers to win a 45-38 thriller in the 2012 Rose Bowl, their schools put on another entertaining evening with six lead changes, key special teams mistakes and two stout defenses stretched by inventive offenses.

Jonathan Taylor rushed for 94 yards and Quintez Cephus caught seven passes for 59 yards and a score, but Wisconsin QB Jack Coan's offense couldn't capitalize on its whopping advantages in time of possession (38:03-21:57) and total yards (322-204).

After kickoff in 68-degree temperatures on another postcard-perfect New Year's Day in Pasadena, the Ducks marched 75 yards on their opening drive. Herbert ran 4 yards for a TD, stiff-arming a defender on the way in.

But Cruickshank took the ensuing kick straight down the

Oregon sideline for an electrifying score and a rarity in the Rose Bowl. The kickoff return was just the second for a touchdown in Wisconsin's lengthy bowl history, but just the third in 106 Rose Bowls — and the first in 17 years.

Herbert then threw his fifth INT in six games after throwing just two in the Ducks' previous 10 games, and Wisconsin went ahead 10-7 despite having 1 yard of offense at that point.

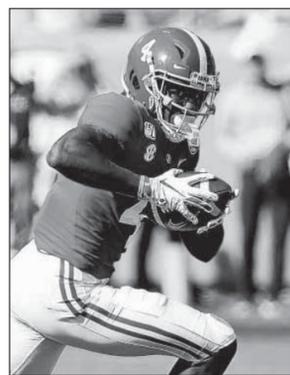
Both teams traded missed scoring opportunities before Jack Coan's first interception got Oregon in business. Herbert ran 5 yards for his second score, again stiff-arming a Wisconsin defender to the ground.

Wisconsin replied with a gritty drive right before halftime, with Cephus making an 11-yard TD catch with 11 seconds left to put the Badgers up 17-14.

Oregon got a break right after the half when Wisconsin punter Anthony Lotti caught the snap but dropped the ball on the ground instead of kicking it under pressure. Breeze alertly picked it up and sprinted for the go-ahead score.

The Badgers responded with a drive capped by Stokke's 2-yard scoring run, and they went up 27-21 on a field goal with 12:09 to play.

But Breeze recovered another fumble by Wisconsin's Danny Davis, and Herbert took the next snap on a 30-yard ramble to the end zone.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Alabama WR Jerry Jeudy runs after making a catch Wednesday against Michigan.

**ALABAMA 35,
MICHIGAN 16**

Jeudy helps Tide roll

Wide receiver racks up 204 yards, MVP honors

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Jerry Jeudy could have sat out Alabama's bowl game and still almost certainly would have been a first-round draft pick.

He played instead — and if this was his finale, his stock likely soared.

Mac Jones threw three scoring passes, Jeudy became the first Alabama player to top 200 receiving yards in a bowl game and the ninth-ranked Crimson Tide topped No. 17 Michigan 35-16 on Wednesday in the Citrus Bowl.

"I've played football all my life," said Jeudy, the junior who was the game's MVP pick. "I couldn't just sit out there and watch my team play. I love playing football, so I just came out here and competed with my brothers."

Jones connected with Jeudy for an 85-yard score on Alabama's first snap, DeVonta Smith and Miller Forristall added TD grabs in the second half for the Crimson Tide (11-2), who trailed 16-14 at the break. Najee Harris ran for 136 yards and two TDs for Alabama.

Jeudy finished with six catches for 204 yards. His previous career-high for yards was 147 set last season against Missouri, and the Alabama bowl record had stood for more than a half-century — Ray Perkins had 178 yards against Nebraska in the 1967 Sugar Bowl.

"Certainly, he used this opportunity to showcase his ability so it probably even enhanced his opportunities at the next level," said Alabama coach Nick Saban, whose team outscored Michigan 21-0 after halftime. "Very, very proud of our team."

Jones — who took over as Alabama's starter when Tua Tagovailoa was lost for the season with an injury in November — completed 16 of 25 passes for 327 yards.

Shea Patterson completed 17 of 37 passes for 233 yards and a TD for Michigan (9-4), which dropped its fourth consecutive bowl game. Quinn Nordin kicked three FGs for the Wolverines, including a school-record-tying 57-yarder to end the first half and give Michigan the lead.

"It was a hard-fought game," Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh said. "Congratulations to Alabama. I thought both teams played extremely hard."

The Crimson Tide had two touchdown drives of 90 seconds or less — Jeudy's score on Alabama's first play and a long go-ahead TD grab by Smith early in the third quarter. They were quick-strike all season long, with 22 TD drives taking 1:30 or less and 38 TDs coming in 2:00 or less.

And the last of those was the one that put this game away for Alabama with 10:01 remaining.

Facing 3rd-and-11 from its own 8, Jones connected with Jeudy for 14 yards. On the next snap, Jones and Jeudy hooked up for 58 more yards. And the next snap was a 20-yard scoring pass to a wide-open Forristall.

Michigan has dropped 16 straight road or neutral-site games against teams ranked No. 15 or higher in the AP poll, including all 10 under Harbaugh. The last time the Wolverines won such a game was Jan. 3, 2012, over No. 11 Virginia Tech.

For Alabama, it was the 12th bowl or playoff-game win for Saban. That tied him with Paul "Bear" Bryant for the most in school history.



CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY

Dawgs, Bears want taste of Sugar

Georgia QB Jake Fromm (11) warms up prior to meeting Baylor on Wednesday night in the Sugar Bowl at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, La. The game ended too late for this edition.

NBA

Stern

Continued from Page 1

Thriving on good debate in the boardroom and good games in the arena, Stern would say one of his greatest achievements was guiding a league of mostly black players that was plagued by drug problems in the 1970s to popularity with mainstream America.

He had a hand in nearly every initiative to do that, from the drug-testing program to the implementation of the salary cap to the creation of a dress code.

But for Stern, it was always about “the game,” and his morning often included reading about the previous night’s results in the newspaper — even after technological advances he embraced made reading NBA.com easier than ever.

“The game is what brought us here,” he said on the eve of the 2009-10 season. “It’s always about the game and everything else we do is about making the stage or the presentation of the game even stronger, and the game itself is in the best shape that it’s ever been in,” calling it “a new golden age for the NBA.”

One that Stern largely created during a three-decade run that turned countless ballplayers into celebrities who were known around the globe by one name: Magic, Michael, Kobe and LeBron, just to name a few.

Stern oversaw the birth of seven franchises and the creation of the WNBA and NBA Development League, now the G League, providing countless opportunities to pursue careers playing basketball in the United States that previously weren’t available.

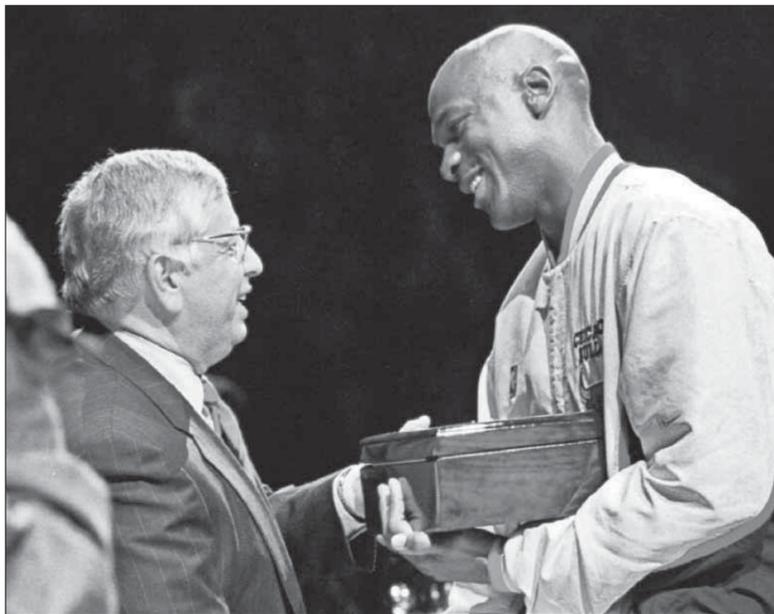
Not bad for a guy who once thought his job might be temporary.

He had been the league’s outside counsel from 1966-78 and spent two years as the NBA’s general counsel, figuring he could always go back to his legal career if he found things weren’t working out after a couple of years.

He never did. After serving as the NBA’s executive vice president of business and legal affairs from 1980-84, he replaced Larry O’Brien as commissioner.

Overlooked and ignored only a few years earlier, when it couldn’t even get its championship round on live network TV, the NBA saw its popularity quickly surge thanks to the rebirth of the Lakers-Celtics rivalry behind Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, followed by the entrance of Michael Jordan just a few months after Stern became commissioner.

Under Stern, the NBA would play nearly 150 international games and be televised in more than 200 countries and territories and in more than 40 languages, and the NBA



The Bulls’ Michael Jordan shakes hands with NBA Commissioner David Stern in 1997.

Finals and All-Star weekend would grow into international spectacles. The 2010 All-Star Game drew more than 108,000 fans to Cowboys Stadium, a record to watch a basketball game.

“It was David Stern being a marketing genius who turned the league around. That’s why our brand is so strong,” said Johnson, who announced he was retiring because of HIV in 1991 but returned the following year at the All-Star Game with Stern’s backing.

“It was David Stern who took this league worldwide.”

Stern was fiercely protective of his players and referees when he felt they were unfairly criticized, such as when members of the Pacers brawled with Pistons fans in 2004, or when an FBI investigation in 2007 found that Tim Donaghy had bet on games he officiated, throwing the entire referee-operations department into turmoil. With his voice rising and spit flying, Stern would publicly rebuke media outlets, even individual writers, if he felt they had taken cheap shots.

But he was also a relentless negotiator against those same employees in collective bargaining, and his loyalty to his owners and commitment to getting them favorable deals led to his greatest failures, lockouts in 1998 and 2011 that were the only times the NBA lost games to work stoppages. Though he already had passed off the heavy lifting to Silver by the latter one, Stern faced the greatest criticism, as well as the damage to a legacy that had otherwise rarely been tarnished.

“As tough an adversary as he was across the table, he never failed to recognize the value of our players, and had the vision and courage to make them the focus of our league’s marketing efforts — building the NBA into the empire it is today,” the NBPA said.

David Joel Stern was born Sept. 22, 1942, in New York. A graduate of Rutgers and Columbia Law School, he was dedicated to public service, launching the NBA Cares program in 2005 that donated more than \$100 million to charity in five years.

He would begin looking internationally soon after becoming commissioner, and the globalization of the game got an enormous boost in 1992, when Jordan, Johnson and Bird played on the U.S. Olympic Dream Team that would bring the sport a new burst of popularity while storming to the gold medal in Barcelona.

Stern capitalized on that by sending NBA teams to play preseason games against other NBA and international clubs and opened offices in other countries. The league staged regular-season games in Japan in 1991 and devoted significant resources to China, and Stern’s work there would pay off in 2008 when basketball was perhaps the most popular sport in the Beijing Olympics.

Growth slowed near the end of his tenure. The worldwide economic downturn in the late 2000s all but wrecked his longtime hopes of expanding overseas and led to the second lockout, with owners wanting massive changes to the salary structure after losing hundreds of millions

“Every member of the NBA family is the beneficiary of David’s vision, generosity and inspiration.”

— Adam Silver, who succeeded David Stern as NBA commissioner

of dollars a year on their teams on top of losses in their personal businesses.

The league thrived again by the time he left office. Stern said he felt the time was right, confident that he had groomed a worthy successor in Silver, who had worked at the league for more than two decades.

Stern stayed busy, taking trips overseas on the league’s behalf, doing public speaking and consulting various companies. He was inducted to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014.

Stern and his wife had two sons, Andrew and Eric.

He had a hand in nearly every initiative to do that, from the drug testing program, to the implementation of the salary cap, to the creation of a dress code.

But for Stern, it was always about “the game,” and his morning often included reading about the previous night’s results in the newspaper — even after technological advances he embraced made reading NBA.com easier than ever.

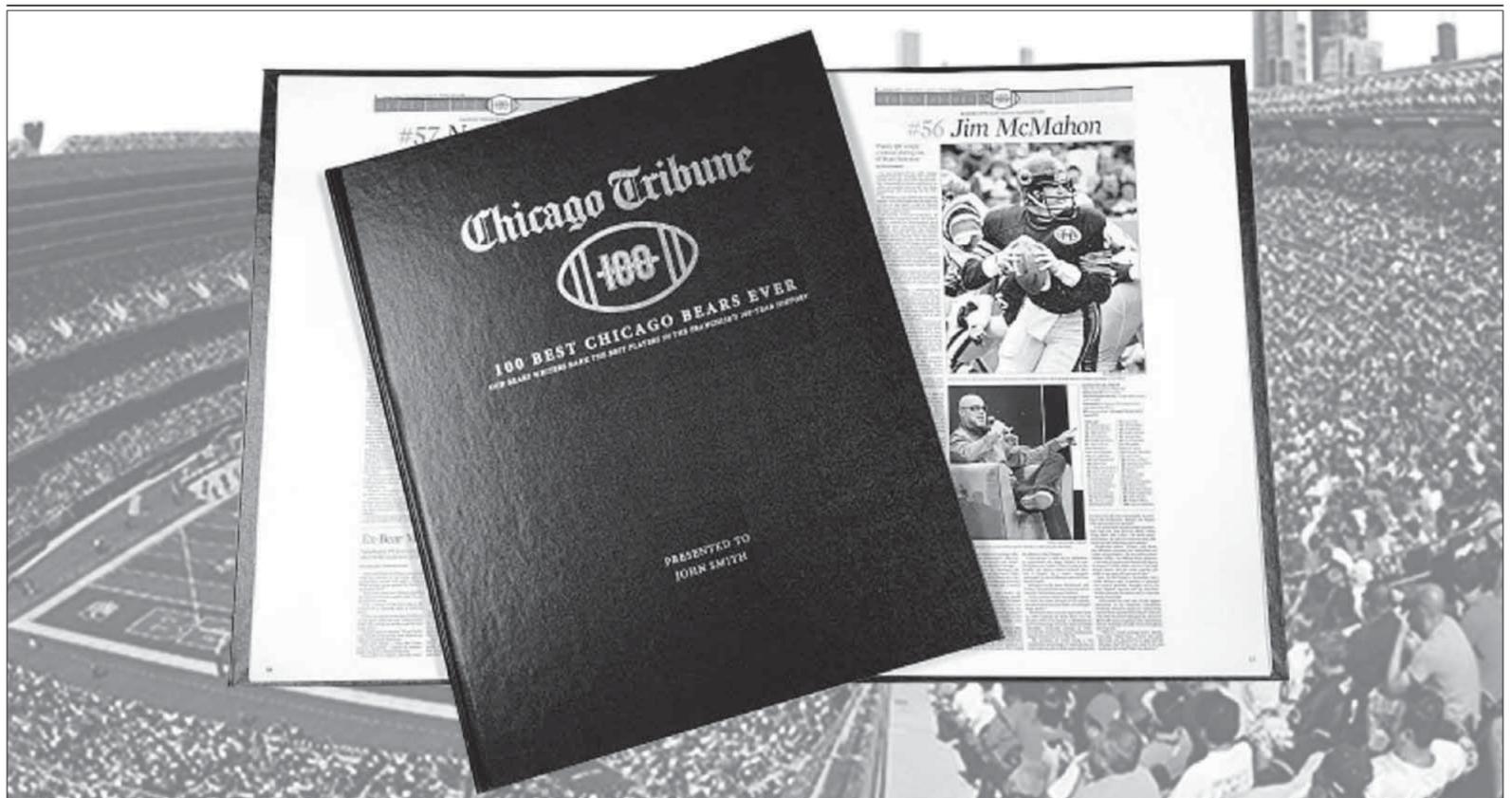
“The game is what brought us here. It’s always about the game and everything else we do is about making the stage or the presentation of the game even stronger, and the game itself is in the best shape that it’s ever been in,” he said on the eve of the 2009-10 season, calling it “a new golden age for the NBA.”

One that was largely created by Stern during a three-decade run that turned countless ballplayers into celebrities who were known around the globe by one name: Magic, Michael, Kobe, LeBron, just to name a few.

“His vision and leadership provided me with the global stage that allowed me to succeed,” Bulls legend and current Hornets Chairman Michael Jordan said in a statement. “David had a deep love for the game of basketball and demanded excellence from those around him — and I admired him for that. I wouldn’t be where I am without him.”

Stern oversaw the birth of seven new franchises and the creation of the WNBA and NBA Development League, now the G League, providing countless opportunities to pursue careers playing basketball in the United States that previously weren’t available.

Not bad for a guy who once thought his job might be a temporary one.



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BEARS



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Juan Castillo previously worked with the Eagles, Bills and Ravens as an assistant coach.

Castillo named new O-line coach

Bears bring aboard veteran assistant to replace Hiestand

BY RICH CAMPBELL

Bears coach Matt Nagy moved quickly Wednesday to fill a vacancy on his staff, hiring veteran coach Juan Castillo to oversee the offensive line.

Two sources with knowledge of the situation confirmed the news, which was first reported by NFL Network and not announced by the Bears.

Castillo replaces Harry Hiestand, who was fired Tuesday along with three other assistant coaches. Nagy also dismissed offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich, tight ends coach Kevin Gilbride and assistant special teams coach Brock Olivo. Nagy made those changes after the Bears finished 29th in the NFL in scoring and total offense.

Castillo, 60, was the Eagles offensive line coach in 2008 when Nagy got his first NFL job as an Eagles coaching intern. Castillo served as the Eagles offensive line coach from 1998-2010, at which time he became their defensive coordinator for two seasons. Between 2013-2018, Castillo held offen-

sive line coach and running-game coordinator titles with the Ravens and Bills. The Bills fired him after the 2018 season, and he did not coach in the NFL this season.

It was not immediately clear whether Nagy would give Castillo the title of running-game coordinator or, perhaps, use that to make the offensive coordinator vacancy more attractive.

One challenge for Nagy in finding a coordinator is that he is the play-caller and lead offensive coach. Whoever takes the job will do so knowing their stamp on the offense will not include that coveted play-calling role.

Helfrich's duties included oversight of the running game, which ranked 29th in the NFL in yards per carry. Meanwhile, the Bears finished last in yards per pass and 31st in yards per play.

Hiestand also was heavily involved in coaching the running game by nature of his position group. General manager Ryan Pace views the offensive line's poor season in 2019 as central to the offense's regression.

In addition to the Bears' 3.7 yards-per-carry average, their sacks-to-pass-attempts ratio increased from 6.5% (10th in the NFL) in 2018 to 7.8% (21st).

WHAT WE LEARNED

Pineiro rising, Floyd on decline

BY DAN WIEDERER, RICH CAMPBELL AND COLLEEN KANE

As the Bears closed the book on their disappointing 2019 season, general manager Ryan Pace and coach Matt Nagy made it clear that they're looking forward to performing a comprehensive review of their roster and mapping out a plan to lift the Bears back into playoff contention.

Here are three things we learned when Pace and Nagy met the media Tuesday morning.

1. After an action-packed search for a kicker, the Bears feel confident in Eddy Pineiro.

"The goal the whole time was to hit on a young kicker that we can grow," Pace said. "And we feel like we've done that with Eddy. He finished the season strong. ... We feel like he's going to continue to get better."

Pineiro made 82.1% of his field-goal attempts this season, rebounding from a midseason funk to make his last 11 field goals. He was also 27-for-29 on extra-point attempts.

Pineiro lifted the Bears to a 16-14 win over the Broncos by crunching a 53-yard kick as time expired in Week 2. Six weeks later, however, he missed a game-winning 41-yard attempt on the final play of a 17-16 loss to the Chargers. Pineiro also missed a 33-yard attempt in that game and missed field goals of 48 and 47 yards in a 17-7 loss to the Rams in Week 11.

It's still far too early to proclaim that Pineiro is the long-term answer for the Bears. But Pace stressed having a patient approach.

"We never wavered or lost confidence in him," the Bears GM said. "Just to see him keep his head up and see the team rally around him, it's all good."

"Again, I really liked the way he finished. We talked about it walking up the stairs of the plane after the game (Sunday). I told him, 'You should be very proud of what you've done.' But he said to me, 'I'll never forget where I came from.' And I just think him, having that attitude and never getting complacent is going to carry him a long way."

2. The Bears continue to express faith in outside linebacker Leonard Floyd.

Floyd has one season remaining on his rookie contract, the fifth-year club option that the Bears exercised last year. To remain committed to that final season on the deal, the Bears will have to pay Floyd an estimated \$13.2 million in 2020.

That's a hefty price tag for a player who had a career-low three sacks this season and has just 18 1/2 sacks since being drafted with the No. 9 pick in 2016.

But on Tuesday, Pace voiced his belief in Floyd.

"We're happy with Leonard," Pace said. "I know the stats don't always say that. But Leonard does a lot of things that I think may be a little bit undervalued. I think it's the versatility that he provides, the things he can do in coverage. There aren't a lot of outside linebackers who can provide those things. Would we like more production from him? Yeah. Would he like that? Yeah. But there are a lot of things that he does that we like."

Floyd had two of his three sacks in the opener against the Packers, then recorded only one more over the final 15 games. That came in Week 9 against the Eagles.

Pace emphasized that the Bears' sack total as a team dipped — from 50 in 2018 to 32 in 2019 — partly because the team didn't have as many opportunities to play with the lead. He stressed that Floyd was around the quarterback frequently with an acceptable number of pressures and quarterback hits and that he also was solid against the run. Still, for a top-10 pick to be entering his fifth season still short of 20 career sacks is alarming.

3. Khalil Mack's down year didn't cause Pace to flinch

Mack, the highest-paid defensive player in NFL history, had only 8 1/2 sacks. That led the team, but it was Mack's first season without double-digit sacks since his rookie year in 2014.

Pace called him "a premier defensive player" and, as he did with Floyd, cited Mack's contributions beyond sacks.

"You can definitely tell the attention that opponents focus on him, that's a big part of it," Pace said.

NFL

Tannehill faces tall order in playoff debut

Late-bloomer leads Titans in matchup with Brady, Patriots

BY TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ryan Tannehill does not hide his emotions on the football field, celebrating big plays with a fist pump or punctuating his own touchdown run by raising the ball up into the air.

He'll even run down a defender after an interception and take him down with a perfect tackle.

Now the No. 8 pick in the 2012 draft has gone from being traded in March to preparing for his postseason debut with his second NFL team, the Titans, after eight seasons and 100 games played.

"It's always something that I wanted to be doing my whole career," Tannehill said.

And his opponent Saturday night will be none other than the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots (12-4) and Tom Brady, the former sixth-round draft pick with more Super Bowl rings than any other signal-caller.

"He's a guy that's been doing it for a long, long time at a very high level," Tannehill said.

Tannehill finally reaching the playoffs didn't seem possible in March when the Dolphins chose to pick up \$5 million of his salary and dump him on the Titans all while eating \$18.4 million of his salary cap hit.

His role with the Titans? A backup only to Marcus Mariota, the Titans' first-round draft pick in 2015.

Mired in a 2-4 start, the Titans benched Mariota in mid-October and turned to the 6-foot-4, 217-pound former wide receiver. He responded, going 7-3 as a starter to help the Titans (9-7) to their second playoff berth in three seasons with the AFC's second wild card.

Tannehill led the NFL with a career-best 117.5 passer rating that is the fourth-highest in a single season among qualified passers in league history. He joined Sammy Baugh and Joe Montana as the only quarterbacks to complete at least 70% of passes and average at least 9 yards per pass attempt.

He's thrown for 2,742 yards with 22 touchdowns and only six interceptions while running for a career-high four TDs. He's a big reason why the Titans rank 12th

NFL PLAYOFFS: WILD-CARD ROUND



AFC top seeds
#1 Ravens, #2 Chiefs
Saturday's games
#5 Bills at #4 Texans
3:35 p.m. | ESPN
#6 Titans at #3 Patriots
7:15 p.m. | CBS-2



NFC top seeds
#1 49ers, #2 Packers
Sunday's games
#6 Vikings at #3 Saints
12:05 p.m. | FOX-32
#5 Seahawks at #4 Eagles
3:40 p.m. | NBC-5

in the NFL in total offense and 10th in points per game after being 28th in scoring an average of 16.3 points a game when Tannehill became the starter.

Raiders coach Jon Gruden said in early December that greatness can't be rushed and the key is how players respond to being cut or released or someone being fired.

"You've got to come back," Gruden said. "(Rich) Gannon didn't get here until he was 34. I mean, Steve Young didn't start in the NFL until he was 30. ... There's been a lot of guys that didn't explode onto the scene immediately."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said he's always thought Tannehill was a good quarterback who did a good job with the Dolphins with the Titans, though, Belichick sees Tannehill running the offense well and making good decisions.

"He's obviously athletic and got a really good group of receivers," Belichick said.

Now comes the biggest test of Tannehill's career.

He is 4-7 against the Patriots and beat them in just his second season in the NFL in 2013. After that, the Patriots reeled off 21 straight victories against first- or second-year quarterbacks until the Ravens' Lamar Jackson ended that streak Nov. 3.

In Foxborough, Tannehill is 0-6 with five TDs and 10 INTs. And Brady remains the quarterback on the other side looking to win his seventh Super Bowl. Brady has the most postseason experience in league history with 40 games, and he also holds the marks for most passes thrown and completed, yards and TD passes.

NFL NOTES

Redskins officially hire Rivera

News services

The Redskins hired Ron Rivera as their coach on Wednesday in owner Dan Snyder's latest step to try to turn around the wayward franchise.

The Redskins announced the move two days after Snyder fired president Bruce Allen following a decade of futility. The former Panthers coach quickly emerged as the Redskins' top candidate and inherits a team that went 3-13 this season and hasn't made the playoffs since 2015.

"After several meetings with Coach Rivera, it was clear he is the right person to bring winning football back to Washington, D.C.," Snyder said in a statement.

Rivera, 57, is of Mexican and Puerto Rican descent making him the first minority full-time coach in Redskins franchise history. Rivera is the seventh coach hired by Snyder in his two decades of ownership, which have included just five playoff appearances.

Rivera spent the past nine seasons coaching the Panthers, taking them to the Super Bowl in 2015 after going 15-1 in the regular season.

"He gets the best out of players," said Redskins CB Josh Norman, who played for Rivera with the Panthers. "And not just players, but men. He builds men and guys — and also builds character, and sets them up not just for football, but sets (them up) in life."

"I think that's the first and foremost thing you want to see in anybody, that they actually care about you instead of the game itself."

The Redskins are the first team that fired its coach this season to fill the position. Snyder zeroed in on Rivera, who flew to Washington on Monday to meet with him about the job.

"While I love the storied history of the franchise, I am focused on the future and excited for the opportunity to win football games with this talented young team," Rivera said in a statement.

Rivera replaces interim coach Bill Callahan, a favorite of Allen, who was fired after going 62-97-1 during his 10 years with the organization.

Snyder and Allen fired Jay Gruden in October after a 0-5 start to his sixth season. Rivera was fired by the Panthers in December after starting 5-7.

Rivera reportedly has starting filling out his staff by tapping Jack Del Rio to be his new defensive coordinator, NFL Network reported. Del Rio, 56, formerly coached the Raiders and Jaguars.

There's a good chance current offensive coordinator Kevin O'Connell sticks around given his success devising a scheme for rookie QB Haskins and rookie WRs Terry McLaurin and Steven Sims.

"Kevin's a great guy and I hope he gets the opportunity to stay," Haskins said. "We've grown a lot throughout the year. I think he's going to be a really great offensive coach in the NFL."



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Ron Rivera becomes the seventh coach hired by Redskins owner Dan Snyder.

Garrett, Cowboys still talking: Jason Garrett will continue discussions with Cowboys ownership about his future with the team on Thursday, a source confirmed to ESPN.

Garrett on Tuesday concluded a second meeting with owner-general manager Jerry Jones and his son Stephen, the Cowboys' executive vice president, with no announcement of a resolution.

Garrett's contract doesn't expire until Jan. 14, but after Sunday's 47-16 season-ending win over the Redskins, Jerry Jones said he did not have a timetable for a decision.

Garrett is 85-67 as Cowboys coach but has won only two playoff games since 2010. He has had only one losing season — a 4-12 mark in 2015 — but the Cowboys' 8-8 record in 2019 was the fourth .500 finish of his career.

Garrett has worked for the Cowboys for 13 years, including 9 1/2 as head coach, and has a close relationship with Jones. The Cowboys have not had a full-blown coaching search since 2007, after Bill Parcells retired.

The Dallas Morning News was first to report Thursday's meeting.

Niners bring back Mitchell: The Niners have signed DT Earl Mitchell to a contract for the playoffs and waived DB Antone Exum Jr.

Mitchell, 32, spent the previous two seasons with the Niners but has not played since being cut by the Seahawks before the start of this season.

Mitchell had announced his retirement in November after playing 130 games over nine seasons with the Texans, Dolphins and Niners. He has 324 tackles and 6 1/2 sacks in his career, but is mostly used as a run-stuffer.

Mitchell will add depth in the middle of the defensive line after D.J. Jones was lost to a season-ending ankle injury in the Niners' 48-46 win over the Saints on Dec. 8.

The Niners are the top seed in the NFC and have a bye this week. They will host either the Vikings, Seahawks or Eagles on Jan. 11 in the division round.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	23	8	.742	—
Toronto	23	11	.675	1½
Philadelphia	23	13	.639	2½
Brooklyn	16	16	.500	7½
New York	10	24	.294	14½

SOUTHEAST

Miami	24	9	.727	—
Orlando	15	19	.441	9½
Charlotte	13	23	.361	12½
Washington	10	23	.303	14
Atlanta	7	27	.206	17½

CENTRAL

Milwaukee	31	5	.861	—
Indiana	22	12	.647	8
Chicago	13	21	.382	17
Detroit	12	22	.353	18
Cleveland	10	23	.303	19½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST

W	L	PCT	GB	
Houston	23	11	.676	—
Dallas	21	12	.636	1½
San Antonio	14	18	.438	8
Memphis	13	21	.382	10
New Orleans	11	23	.324	12

NORTHWEST

Denver	23	10	.697	—
Utah	21	12	.636	2
Oklahoma City	18	15	.545	5
Portland	14	21	.400	10
Minnesota	12	21	.364	11

PACIFIC

L.A. Lakers	27	7	.794	—
L.A. Clippers	24	11	.686	3½
Phoenix	13	21	.382	14
Sacramento	12	22	.353	15
Golden State	9	26	.257	18½

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Orlando 122, Washington 101
New York 117, Portland 93
Milwaukee 106, Minnesota 104
L.A. Lakers 117, Phoenix 107

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Charlotte at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Denver at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Utah at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Detroit at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Boston, 6 p.m.
Miami at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Portland at Washington, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Houston, 7 p.m.
New York at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

BUCKS 106, TIMBERWOLVES 104

MINNESOTA: Covington 2-4 2-2 7, Martin 1-7 0-0 3, Dieng 4-14 5-6 15, Culver 5-14 0-1 10, Napier 7-13 4-4 22, Bates-Diop 3-9 2-2 10, Bell 1-1 0-0 2, Reid 4-10 1-2 11, Nowell 4-11 2-3 12, Okogie 3-8 5-8 12. Totals 34-91 21-28 104.
MILWAUKEE: G.Antetokounmpo 13-22 3-8 32, Middleton 5-18 1-1 13, B.Lopez 5-12 1-3 11, Bledsoe 4-10 2-10, D.Vincenzo 2-3 2-2 6, Connaughton 3-8 0-0 7, Ilyasova 1-6 5-5 7, Korver 2-5 2-2 8, R.Lopez 3-5 0-1 7, Hill 2-5 1-2 5. Totals 40-94 17-26 106.

Minnesota	23	28	20	33	—104
Milwaukee	19	33	25	29	—106

3-Point Goals—Minnesota 15-46 (Napier 4-7, Bates-Diop 2-5, Dieng 2-5, Nowell 2-7, Reid 2-7, Covington 1-2, Okogie 1-3, Martin 1-5, Culver 0-5), Milwaukee 9-36 (G.Antetokounmpo 3-7, Korver 2-4, Middleton 2-7, R.Lopez 1-2, Connaughton 1-4, Bledsoe 0-2, Hill 0-2, Ilyasova 0-2, B.Lopez 0-5). **Rebounds**—Minnesota 48 (Covington 11), Milwaukee 60 (G.Antetokounmpo 17). **Assists**—Minnesota 18 (Culver 5), Milwaukee 24 (G.Antetokounmpo, Middleton 4). **Fouls**—Min 25, Mil 22. **A**—17,819 (17,500)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	24	7	10	58	138	105
Toronto	22	14	5	49	146	132
Tampa Bay	21	13	4	46	137	120
Florida	20	14	5	45	139	134
Montreal	18	16	6	42	131	131
Buffalo	17	17	7	41	121	131
Ottawa	16	19	5	37	111	132
Detroit	10	28	3	23	89	157

METRO

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	27	9	5	59	146	122
N.Y. Islanders	25	10	3	53	114	100
Pittsburgh	24	11	4	52	136	104
Carolina	24	14	2	50	136	112
Philadelphia	22	13	5	49	127	118
Columbus	18	14	8	44	105	112
N.Y. Rangers	19	16	4	42	129	132
New Jersey	14	19	6	34	102	138

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	26	9	6	58	128	107
Colorado	23	13	4	50	144	119
Dallas	22	14	4	50	111	103
Winnipeg	22	15	3	47	125	120
Minnesota	19	17	5	43	126	137
Nashville	18	15	6	42	134	131
Chicago	18	17	6	42	118	132

PACIFIC

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	22	15	6	50	134	125
Arizona	22	16	4	48	118	108
Vancouver	21	15	4	46	132	119
Edmonton	21	17	4	46	125	134
Calgary	20	17	5	45	114	127
Los Angeles	17	21	4	38	109	132
Anaheim	16	19	5	37	103	124
San Jose	17	21	3	37	109	139

2 pts for win, 1 pt for shootout/OT loss

WEDNESDAY'S RESULT

Dallas 4, Nashville 2

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Columbus at Boston, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Montreal, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
Toronto at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary, 8 p.m.
St. Louis at Colorado, 8:30 p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Philadelphia at Vegas, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Washington at Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Edmonton at Boston, noon
Florida at Buffalo, noon
San Jose at Columbus, noon
Winnipeg at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Vegas, 3 p.m.

PITTSBURGH AT MONTREAL, 6 p.m.

Colorado at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Arizona, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Nashville at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

STARS 4, PREDATORS 2

Nashville	2	0	0	—2
Dallas	0	1	3	—4

FIRST PERIOD: 1, Nashville, Duchene 8 (Forsberg, Josi), 5:46 (pp). 2, Nashville, Fabbrò 3 (Duchene, Josi), 7:36 (pp). **Penalties:** Dallas bench, served by Radulov (Elbowing), 2:44; Perry, Dal (Miscellaneous), 4:22; Irwin, Nas (Interference on breakaway (Penalty Shot)), 8:38; Faska, Dal (Roughing), 11:27; Blackwell, Nas (Roughing), 11:27.

SECOND PERIOD: 3, Dallas, Comeau 4 (Lindell, Dickinson), 18:52. **Penalties:** Seguin, Dal (Boarding), 11:00; Josi, Nas (Cross Checking), 16:44; Blackwell, Nas (Delay of Game), 19:11.

THIRD PERIOD: 4, Dallas, Janmark 4 (Klingberg, Hintz), 0:58 (pp). 5, Dallas, Radulov 11 (Klingberg, Benn), 5:06 (pp). 6, Dallas, Sekera 0 (Faska, Janmark), 6:35. **Penalty:** Johansen, Nas (Hooking), 3:42.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Nashville 10-12-11=33. Dallas 8-16-11=35.

POWER PLAYS: Nas 2 of 4; Dal 2 of 3. **GOALIES:** Nashville, Rinne 13-7-3 (35 shots-31 saves). Dallas, Bishop 13-9-3 (33-31). **A:**0 (92, 100). **T:** 2:45.

Referees: Steve Kozari, Kyle Rehman.

Linesmen: Scott Driscoll, Derek Nansen.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. Gonzaga (14-1) did not play. Next: at Portland, Thursday.
2. Duke (12-1) did not play. Next: at Miami, Saturday.
3. Kansas (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 West Virginia, Saturday.
4. Oregon (11-2) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Thursday.
5. Ohio State (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Friday.
6. Baylor (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Saturday.
7. Louisville (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Florida State, Saturday.
8. Auburn (12-0) did not play. Next: at Mississippi State, Saturday.
9. Memphis (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Saturday.
10. Villanova (10-2) did not play. Next: at Marquette, Saturday.
11. Butler (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Creighton, Saturday.
12. Michigan (10-3) did not play. Next: at No. 14 Michigan State, Sunday.
13. San Diego State (14-0) beat Fresno State 61-52. Next: at Utah State, Saturday.
14. Michigan State (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois, Thursday.
15. Maryland (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Saturday.
16. West Virginia (11-1) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Kansas, Saturday.
17. Kentucky (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Saturday.
18. Florida State (12-2) did not play. Next: at No. 7 Louisville, Saturday.
19. Virginia (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Saturday.
20. Dayton (11-2) did not play. Next: at La Salle, Thursday.
21. Penn State (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 23 Iowa, Saturday.
22. Texas Tech (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Saturday.
23. Iowa (10-3) did not play. Next: at No. 21 Penn State, Saturday.
24. Wichita State (12-1) beat East Carolina 75-69. Next: vs. Mississippi, Saturday.
25. Arizona (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Saturday.

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES

SOUTH
ETSU 49, Wofford 48
Furman 89, VMI 73
Samford 69, The Citadel 68
UNC Greensboro 72, Mercer 63

MIDWEST

Cincinnati 67, UConn 51
Creighton 92, Marquette 75
Wichita St. 75, E. Carolina 69

SOUTHWEST

SMU 82, S. Florida 64

WEST

Boise St. 65, Wyoming 54
San Diego St. 61, Fresno St. 52

MEN'S NET RANKINGS

#	SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	REC
1	San Diego St.	Mtn West	12-0
2	Kansas	Big 12	9-2
3	Ohio St.	Big Ten	11-2
4	Butler	Big East	13-1
5	Baylor	Big 12	10-1
6	Gonzaga	WCC	14-1
7	Auburn	SEC	12-0
8	Duke	ACC	12-1
9	West Virginia	Big 12	11-1
10	Wichita St.	AAC	11-1
11	Oregon	Pac-12	11-2
12	Memphis	AAC	12-1
13	Dayton	Atlantic 10	11-2
14	Louisville	ACC	11-2
15	Penn St.	Big Ten	11-2
16	Villanova	Big East	10-2
17	Maryland	Big Ten	11-2
18	Michigan	Big Ten	10-3
19	Michigan St.	Big Ten	10-3
20	Arizona	Pac-12	10-3
21	Stanford	Pac-12	11-2
22	Creighton	Big East	10-2
23	Arkansas	SEC	11-1
24	Florida St.	ACC	12-2
25	Seton Hall	Big East	9-4
26	Iowa	Big Ten	10-3
27	Wisconsin	Big Ten	8-5

through Tuesday

HOW WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. UConn (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Wichita State, Thursday.
2. Oregon (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Colorado, Friday.
3. Oregon State (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Friday.
4. South Carolina (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Kentucky, Thursday.
5. Stanford (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Friday.
6. Baylor (10-1) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma, Saturday.
7. Louisville (12-1) did not play. Next: at Clemson, Thursday.
8. Florida State (13-0) did not play. Next: at Syracuse, Thursday.
9. N.C. State (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Thursday.
10. UCLA (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Friday.
11. Texas A&M (12-1) did not play. Next: at No. 20 Arkansas, Thursday.
12. Maryland (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Monday.
13. Kentucky (11-1) did not play. Next: at No. 4 South Carolina, Thursday.
14. Indiana (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois, Monday.
15. Mississippi State (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Thursday.
16. DePaul (11-2) did not play. Next: at Providence, Friday.
17. Gonzaga (12-1) did not play. Next: at BYU, Thursday.
18. Arizona (12-0) did not play. Next: at Southern Cal, Friday.
19. West Virginia (10-1) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Sunday.
20. Arkansas (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11 Texas A&M, Thursday.
21. Missouri State (10-2) did not play. Next: at Loyola of Chicago, Friday.
22. Tennessee (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Thursday.
23. Miami (9-3) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Thursday.
24. Minnesota (11-2) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Saturday.
25. Texas (8-4) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Friday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

BOWL SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Citrus: Alabama 35, Michigan 16
Outback: Minnesota 31, Auburn 24
Rose: Oregon 28, Wisconsin 27
Sugar: Georgia 26, Baylor 14

THURSDAY

Birmingham (Ala.): Cincinnati (10-3) vs. Boston College (6-6), 2 p.m.
Gator: Indiana (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5), 6 p.m. (Jacksonville)

FRIDAY

Famous (Boise) Idaho Potato: Ohio (6-6) vs. Nevada (7-5), 2:30 p.m.
SATURDAY
Armed Forces: Southern Miss (7-5) vs. Tulane (6-6), 10:30 a.m. (Ft. Worth, Tex.)

MONDAY

Lendingtree: Miami (Ohio) (8-5) vs. La.-Laf. (10-3), 6:30 p.m. (Mobile, Ala.)

JAN. 13

CFP Championship (New Orleans): LSU (14-0) vs. Clemson (14-0), 7 p.m.

PREVIOUS BOWLS

DEC. 20
Bahamas: Buffalo 31, Charlotte 9
Frisco: Kent State 51, Utah State 41

DEC. 21

Celebration: N.C. A&T 64, Alcorn St. 44
New Mexico: San Diego 48, C. Michigan 11
Cure: Liberty 23, Georgia Southern 16
Boca Raton (Fla.): FAU 52, SMU 28
Camellia: Arkansas 34, FIU 26
Las Vegas: Washington 38, Boise St. 17
New Orleans: Appalachian St. 31, UAB 17

DEC. 23

Gasparilla: UCF 48, Marshall 25
DEC. 24
Hawaii: Hawaii 38, BYU 34
DEC. 26
Independence: Louisiana 14, Miami 0
Quick Lane: Pitt

Ranking Chicago's coaches and managers of the 2010s

17

Jim Boylen (17-41 in one season with the Bulls) >

The Bulls promoted Boylen from assistant to head coach without the interim tag after they fired Fred Hoiberg 24 games into the 2018-19 season. Boylen has done little to justify that confidence. His first season included a team-record 53-point loss to the Celtics, a narrowly avoided team mutiny and general malaise from a fan base that even after the 1990s dynasty was well in the past remained one of the NBA's most enthusiastic.



16

Dale Sveum (127-197 in two seasons with the Cubs)

The intense Sveum was a poor fit for the two tanking teams that began the Theo Epstein era. Winning wasn't expected after the Cubs traded most of their veterans, but the inconsistent major-league development of top prospects Anthony Rizzo and Starlin Castro — along with a 4-14 finish to the 2013 season — sealed Sveum's fate.

15

John Fox (14-34 in three seasons with the Bears)

Fox's career accomplishments — including Super Bowl appearances with the Panthers and Broncos — would place him in the top five of this list, but his time in Chicago amounted to a whole lot of nothing. His teams finished last in the NFC North in each of his three seasons, but he did hire ace defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, whose defense keyed a 12-4 season in 2018.

14

Marc Trestman (13-19 in two seasons with the Bears)

Not many two-year tenures featured as much drama as Trestman's did. His dazzling offense thrilled fans in 2013, but his defenses were the two worst in team history by points allowed. The 2013 season finished when a blown defensive assignment led to a crushing loss to the Packers. That 8-8 season was followed by a 5-11 campaign that saw Trestman lose control of the locker room and his job.

13

Lou Piniella (51-74 in one season with the Cubs)

Piniella's accomplished career ended before the end of his 23rd season as a major-league manager, when he resigned from the Cubs after 125 games in 2010. He had led the team to three consecutive winning seasons from 2007-09 and two National League Central titles, but the Cubs stood 51-74 when he resigned as the tenure of general manager Jim Hendry petered out.

12

Robin Ventura (375-435 in five seasons with the White Sox)

The laid-back Ventura had no managerial experience when the White Sox hired him to replace Ozzie Guillen, yet Ventura got off to a promising start with a second-place finish in the American League Central in 2012. However, that was followed by four consecutive losing, listless seasons, including 2013's 99-loss debacle that featured a 2-17 record against the Indians.

11

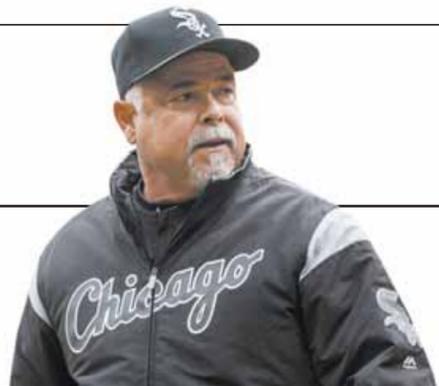
Mike Quade (95-104 in one-plus season with the Cubs)

Quade filled the interim role after Lou Piniella's resignation and sparked a dead-in-the-water team to a 24-13 record down the stretch. General manager Jim Hendry gave Quade the full-time job for 2011, but after a 71-91 season new team President Theo Epstein fired Quade and replaced him with Dale Sveum.

10

Rick Renteria (73-89 in one season with the Cubs, 201-284 in three seasons with the White Sox) >

Renteria has guided both the Cubs and White Sox during rebuilding efforts. He led the Cubs during a promising 2014 season that featured encouraging steps forward for Anthony Rizzo, Jorge Soler, Jake Arrieta and Kyle Hendricks. Renteria also was in charge of some of the worst Sox teams ever after the Cubs fired him to hire Joe Maddon. The hope is that the Sox can follow the Cubs' blueprint for success.



9

Fred Hoiberg (115-155 in three-plus seasons with the Bulls)

Hoiberg, coming off a successful tenure at his alma mater, Iowa State, coached the Bulls to one playoff appearance in his three full seasons. He struggled to command the self-titled "Three Alphas" of Jimmy Butler, Dwyane Wade and Rajon Rondo in 2016-17, scuffled to a 27-55 mark with a rebuilt roster the next season and was fired after 24 games in 2018-19.

8

Jeremy Colliton (30-28-9 in one season with the Blackhawks) >

Colliton has yet to make much of a mark — good or bad — in his one-plus season with the Hawks. The team just missed the playoffs last season with a roster that is transitioning from the championship era to whatever comes next.



7

Vinny Del Negro (41-41 in one season with the Bulls)

Del Negro was fired in 2010 after two 41-41 seasons and two playoff appearances. His 2009-10 squad featured a second-year Derrick Rose but failed to improve upon the previous season. Bulls executive vice president John Paxson grew so frustrated with Del Negro that he yanked his coach's tie during an argument. Del Negro's successor, Tom Thibodeau, immediately brought the Bulls to the top of the Eastern Conference.

6

Ozzie Guillen (166-156 in two seasons with the White Sox)

The World Series-winning manager ended his time on the South Side with a thud. The 2010 team was tied for first place in the AL Central on Aug. 11, then went into a tailspin that found them 12 games behind the Twins on Sept. 21 after an eight-game losing streak. In 2011 the feud between Guillen and general manager Ken Williams boiled over. With two games left in the disappointing season, the Sox traded Guillen to the Marlins.

5

Matt Nagy (20-12 in two seasons with the Bears) >

Nagy inherited a championship-caliber defense and rode it to a 12-4 record and the Bears' first NFC North title since 2010. His innovative playcalling was a breath of fresh air, too, and he was voted the Associated Press Coach of the Year in 2018 after a wild-card-round playoff loss. This season erased much of that goodwill.



4

Lovie Smith (29-19 in three seasons with the Bears)

Smith's steady leadership was about as exciting as his conservative offenses, but he put together two seasons of double-digit wins in his three seasons with the Bears this decade. The team still hasn't matched the trip to the NFC title game after the 2010 season. An injury to quarterback Jay Cutler derailed the 2011 season. Another late-season fade in 2012 spelled the end for Smith.

3

Tom Thibodeau (255-139 in five seasons with the Bulls)

Thibodeau was gruff and played his best players more minutes than any coach in the league, but his teams won. He was the fastest coach in NBA history to 100 wins, and he led the Bulls to the playoffs in all five of his seasons, including an appearance in the Eastern Conference finals in 2010-11. After going 62-20 led by Derrick Rose that season and 50-16 in 2011-12, the point guard's injuries hampered the team.

2

Joe Maddon (471-339 in five seasons with the Cubs)

The Cubs' modern-day golden era began when they hired Maddon as manager on Nov. 2, 2014. The next two seasons were as glorious as any in Wrigley Field's history. Maddon guided the young, rampaging Cubs to 97 wins and the National League Championship Series in 2015 and the team's first World Series title since 1908 in 2016. The next three seasons brought plenty more wins and another trip to the NLCS in 2017. But in the last two seasons, the Brewers and Cardinals rose to the challenge to dethrone the Cubs in the NL Central, and the Cubs let Maddon leave as a free agent to the Angels. The David Ross era begins in 2020.

1

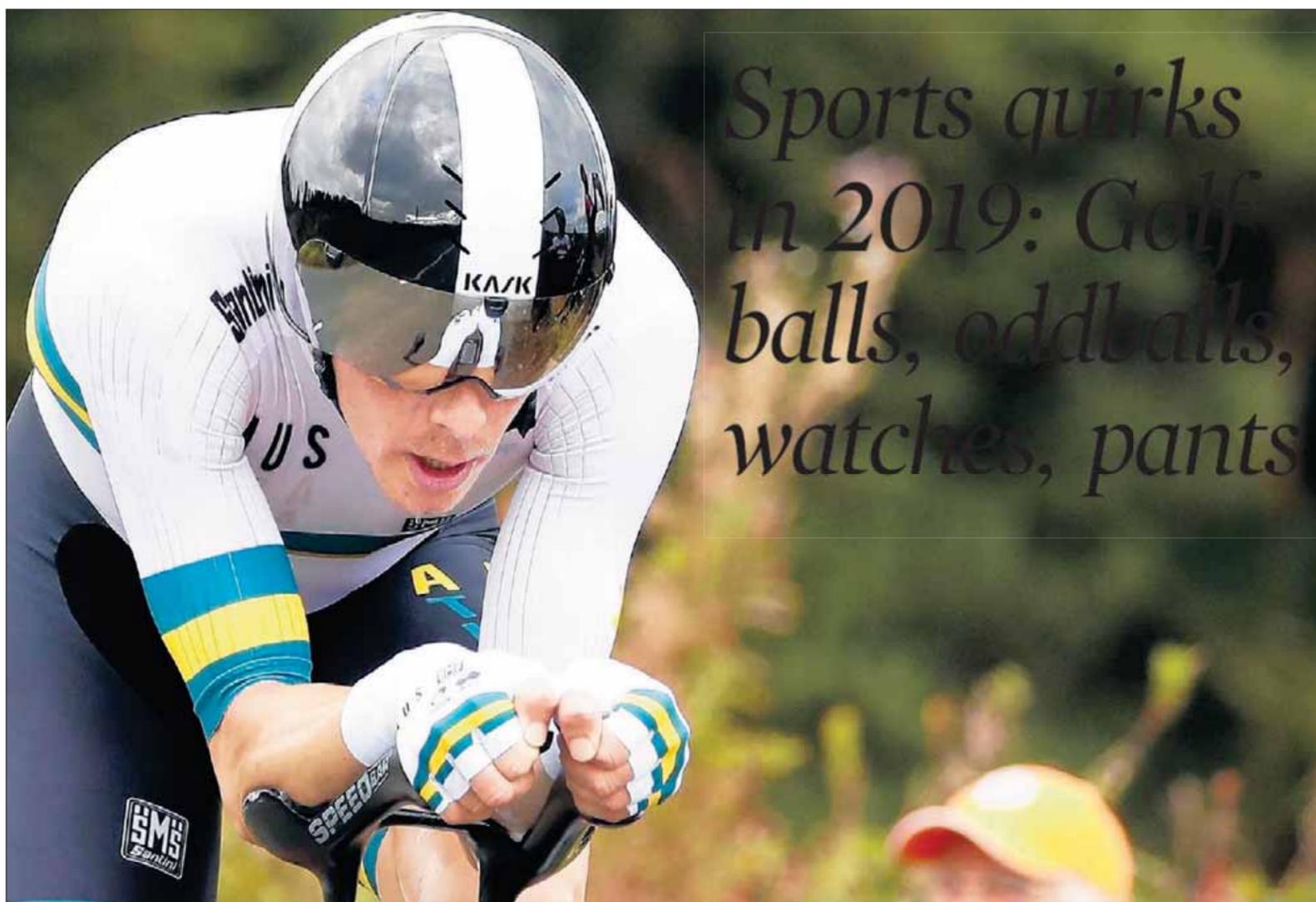
Joel Quenneville (452-249-96 in nine-plus seasons with the Blackhawks)

The Hawks — Stanley Cup champions in 2010, 2013 and 2015 — were one of the most successful franchises of the decade in any sport, and Quenneville pulled the strings superbly. He led his talented bunch to eight straight playoff appearances and went 76-52 (.594) in the postseason. The Hawks' three titles tied for most in the decade by a Big Four team with the New England Patriots, Golden State Warriors and San Francisco Giants.

WHERE THE COACHES AND MANAGERS WHO FINISHED THE DECADE ON THE BENCH RANK

N/A: DAVID ROSS

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —



Sports quirks
in 2019: Golf
balls, oddballs,
watches, pants

MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Australia's Rohan Dennis competes on his way to winning the elite individual time trial event at the road cycling world championships in Harrogate, England. At the Tour de France in July, Dennis vanished during the first stage in the Pyrenees. His worried team was forced to send a message on social media wondering about his whereabouts. The Australian rider eventually turned up at the finish line.

BY FRED LIEF
Associated Press

Sometimes the general managers and player personnel directors on Mount Olympus look down on some lucky soul and declare: This is your moment.

Consider Dale Cohen, a 62-year-old shift worker at a plastics company and a golfer from Findlay, Ohio. He made two holes-in-one in the same round. The Courier newspaper reports he used an 8-iron both times on a rainy, windy day. The odds of two aces in the same round are estimated at 67 million to 1.

"I hit the lottery but didn't get paid," he said. "That's OK. I'll take it."

Then again, the executives on Mount Olympus are a fickle bunch. Astros shortstop Carlos Correa was having a massage in his home and wound up with a fractured rib. The massage that Patriots owner Robert Kraft was having in a Florida shopping mall also didn't work out so well, although his ribs remained intact.

Sports in 2019 took us to unexpected venues: The Vatican formed a track team, complete with nuns and Swiss Guards, although Scripture reminds that the race is not to the swift. The world's No. 1 bridge player was suspended for failing a drug test. And a French basketball player in China was fined not for taking a knee during the Chinese anthem but for not casting his eyes on the flag.

By turns, it was a year that could be baffling, enriching and icily satisfying.

At the Tour de France, world time trial champion Rohan Dennis simply vanished during the first stage in the Pyrenees. Afterward, near his team bus, he didn't want to talk about it. Said team director Gorazd Stangelj: "We are also confused."

Roger Federer has been the gold standard in tennis. Now this is more than metaphor. His face is to be minted on Swiss currency. He will be featured on one side of a 20-franc silver coin hitting a one-handed backhand.

In 2001, a Canadian Football League fan vowed to wear only shorts until his Blue Bombers won the championship. Mind you, this team is from Winnipeg. Chris Matthew withstood the prospect of frostbite for nearly two decades. His team finally won it all this season, and his wife is pleased. "Now," he told CTV News, "if we need to go somewhere where pants are required, we can actually go there."

There were other scrums and scrambles:

From Russia, with shove

It's not easy being a referee, especially in Russia. The soccer club Akhmat Grozny used its public-address system to insult the referee with an expletive, drawing cheers from the crowd. ... The coach of the hockey team Amur Khabarovsk was furious over a penalty-kick call and threatened to set fire to the referee's car. Coach Alexander Gulyavtsev was puzzled by the response to his comment: "I just said car. It's not as if I said apartment."

Rich man, poor man

The scoreboard clock was not enough for Odell Beckham Jr. In the Browns' opener against the Titans, the star receiver played while wearing a watch that retails for a cool \$250,000. A day later, the league took issue with his accessorizing, citing a policy "prohibiting hard objects." Beckham's watch would more than pay the rent for Cubs minor-leaguer Trevor Clifton. He lived this season in a 104-square-foot home he and his father built from a \$200 camper bought online. But it's got a couch, a fridge and a mattress, and it's quiet. "I just like to be on my own," he told the Des Moines Register.



RON SCHWANE/AP

Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. runs out onto the field as he's introduced before a game against the Titans on Sept. 8 in Cleveland. The flashy, fashionable wide receiver sported an expensive watch, worth more than \$250,000, during his debut.

French projection

Clearly, the Seine wouldn't do. Organizers of the 2024 Paris Olympics hope to hold the surfing competition more than 9,000 miles away in Tahiti. The French also want breakdancing on the Olympic roster, looking to entice a younger audience. Is breakdancing a "sport"? It sure is, says top breakdancer Mounir Biba. "I defy Cristiano Ronaldo to do just one of my movements," he said.

Word(im)Perfect

Words were a most dangerous game in 2019. Baseball traded its "disabled list" for the "injured list," saying it doesn't want to support the "misconception that people with disabilities are injured and therefore are not able to participate or compete." ... Canadian hockey authorities, intent on

being an "inclusive brand," dropped its longtime "midget" division in favor of age designations. ... Jets cornerback Janoris Jenkins called a fan a "retard" on Twitter, insisting the expression was part of his "culture." Two days later, he was part of another culture — unemployed.

Waiter, hater

An English Premier League goalkeeper was cleared of wrongdoing but cited for "lamentable" ignorance by supposedly giving the Nazi salute during a team dinner. Wayne Hennessey contended he does not even know what a Nazi salute is, and he was merely extending his arm to get the attention of a waiter. ... Australian rugby star Israel Folau certainly knew what he was doing. His contract was terminated after his Instagram post in which he consigned to

hell "homosexuals, adulterers, liars, fornicators, thieves, atheists, idolaters." The governing body of Australian rugby condemned Folau for his anti-gay remarks but offered no opinion on drunks and fornicators.

Maybe the most eye-opening news came from the Virginia Cavaliers. Tony Bennett, coach of the NCAA basketball champions, declined a pay raise. He told the school to give the money to his staff and other departments. He said he has more than enough money. It was as if he were speaking in tongues. Athletic director Carla Williams said this "just does not happen in our industry."

Contributing to this report were AP sports writers Steve Douglas, Hank Kurz Jr., John Leicester, Dennis Passa, Samuel Petrequin and Tom Withers.

eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE

COMMENTARY



GERALD HERBERT/AP

In this Jan. 20 file photo, the Rams' Nickell Robey-Coleman breaks up a pass intended for Saints wide receiver Tommy Lee Lewis late in the NFC championship game in New Orleans. The call led the NFL to revise its rules.

THE NEWBY AWARDS

Honoring sports' best, worst of 2019

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

And the winner is ... Miss Philippines? No, no, no. Sorry, Steve Harvey, we'll pass on your offer to host the Newby Awards.

Who else might be available? We'd love to have Monday Night Football Cat, if only we could track down the feral feline that wandered onto the field during an NFL game at the Meadowlands. MNF Kitty has decided the better option is to continue roaming the bowels of MetLife Stadium, even if that comes with its own sobering risks. Namely, the chance of seeing both the Giants and the Jets attempting to play football.

So, before we run out the clock on 2019, let's press forward with our seventh annual review of the best, worst and wackiest in sports from the last year:

Razzie for officials gone wild

It's always easy to complain about anyone wearing stripes. This year, that was especially true.

There was the official who turned blind when Rams cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman committed a blatant interference penalty that was more like an assault in the NFC championship game.

And the Final Four refs who could've called a foul on Auburn or a decisive double-dribble on Virginia's Ty Jerome but curiously went with Option C — none of the above. Then, while everyone was debating the non-call, they whistled Auburn for a questionable foul on a 3-point attempt that handed the Cavaliers the victory.

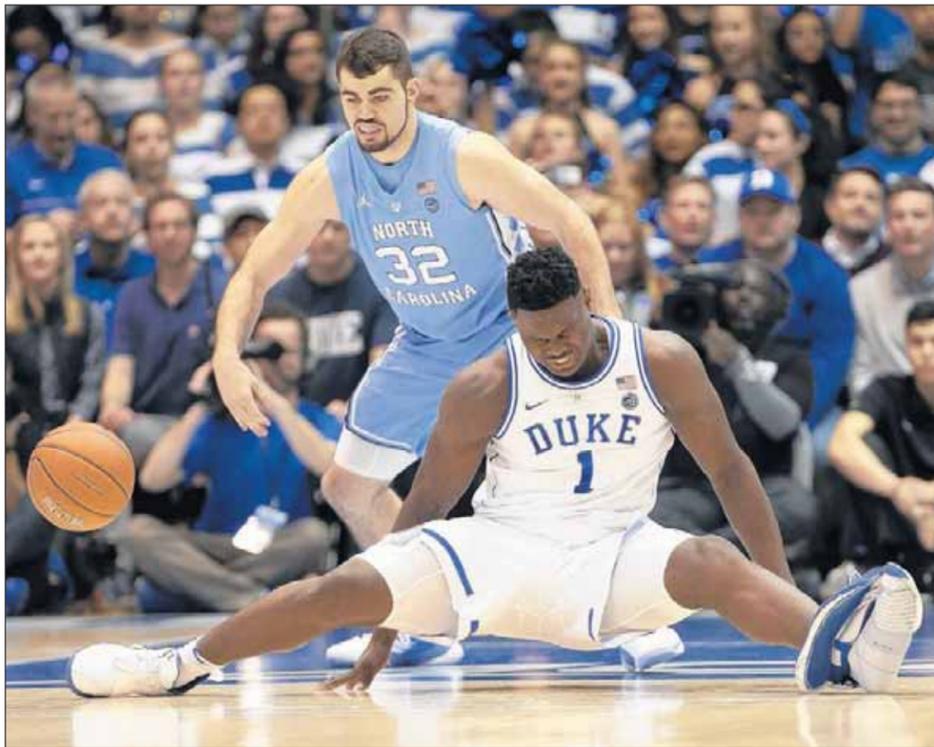
Oh, yeah, let's not forget the Kentucky Derby. Maximum Security led every gallop of the way in the Run for the Roses, only to be disqualified afterward for alleged interference. The first DQ of a winning horse in the derby's 145-year history elevated 65-1 long-shot Country House to the winner's circle.

Robey-Coleman spoke for us all when he sheepishly said, "I got away with one."

Best switcheroo

As the blacklisting of Colin Kaepernick approached three years, the NFL suddenly offered the pariah quarterback a chance to work out for every team.

As long as he agreed to the



ROBERT WILLETT/RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER

Duke's Zion Williamson falls to the court under North Carolina's Luke Maye, injuring himself and damaging his shoe during the opening moments of the game Feb. 20 at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C.

proposal within two hours. And showed up in Atlanta on a Saturday, when none of the league's real movers and shakers would be there. And worked out in private. And signed a waiver that essentially gave away all of his rights.

Kaepernick got the last laugh, calling off the charade with minutes to spare and exposing the NFL's hypocrisy for everyone to see. He staged an open workout at a high school 60 miles away, showed he's still got plenty of skills and challenged the league to give him a legitimate chance.

He's still waiting by the phone.

Best shots

We can't pick a clear-cut winner in this category, so we'll hand out three awards.

Come on up, Kawhi Leonard. You get one for the first Game 7 series-winning buzzer-beater in NBA history, a rainbow from the corner that bounced off the rim four times before dropping through and sparked the Raptors to their first title.

Take a bow, Damian Lillard. We'll never forget the Trail Blazers star's series-winning 3-pointer from just inside the half-court logo against the Thunder.

And, finally, give a big hand to Dearica Hamby. With her team trailing by two in the closing sec-

onds of a WNBA playoff elimination game, the Las Vegas player made a steal, misread the clock (there was still about 7 seconds left) and threw up an ill-advised, running 3-pointer from 38 feet than somehow banked in.

The biggest non-loser

Andy Ruiz Jr. turned up for a heavyweight title shot with a body better suited to a bowling alley and still managed to knock out unbeaten Anthony Joshua for one of the biggest upsets in boxing history.

Ruiz stepped up his "Big Lebowski" training regimen for the rematch, with workouts that consisted mostly of light jogging through the Golden Corral buffet line.

Alas, even bigger (283 pounds) wasn't better. Joshua reclaimed his title with a unanimous decision over the pudgy, now-ex champion.

Playoff non-participation award

Turn out, you can spell C-O-L-L-E-G-E F-O-O-T-B-A-L-L P-L-A-Y-O-F-F without C-R-I-M-S-O-N T-I-D-E.

For the first time since the playoff was launched in 2014, Nick Saban's Alabama team failed to make the four-team field,

doomed by close losses to LSU and Auburn.

Thankfully, we were spared from all those nauseating renditions of "Sweet Home Alabama" that usually blared during the semifinals and championship game.

Fashion break

We'll pause for a few minutes to check out what some of the folks in our glamorous crowd are wearing.

Hey, everyone, it's Zion Williamson!

In a daring fashion move, he's gone with the latest from Nike's "Exploding Shoe Collection." Guaranteed to send you tumbling down the red carpet, while also ensuring a \$75 million contract from an embarrassed sneaker company looking to buy your forgiveness.

Throwback trophy

Tom Coughlin was fired by the Jaguars after his Downton Abbey-era disciplinary methods were rightly called out by the NFL Players Association.

Now Coughlin is free to return to his dream job coaching the Decatur Staleys, whose clocks are still set to the 1920s and where sunglasses haven't really become a thing yet.

Atlanta Cup for biggest playoff flop

This award, named in honor of the city that has witnessed a plethora of postseason fiascos across a wide range of sports, goes to ... the Atlanta Braves.

Keeping the prize in its rightful home, the Braves tied a major-league record with their 10th consecutive playoff-round defeat — and they did it with style.

In the final game of the NL Division Series against the Cardinals, the Braves gave up a record 10 runs in the top of the very first inning, meaning the season was essentially over while many fans were still stuck in the city's notorious traffic.

Most influential on social media

Kudos to O.J. Simpson, whose sage Twitter video posts about his fantasy football team (not to mention advice for Antonio Brown) were a must read — especially if you scrawled down to the replies, reminding us in all sorts of snide ways that the Juice was accused of killing two people and served nine years in prison for armed robbery and kidnapping.

But this award goes to Magic Johnson. No one showed more dedication to the craft than the guy who resigned as president of basketball operations for the Lakers so he could tweet to his heart's content, without worrying about those pesky NBA tampering rules.

Now we get such gems as Magic listing 17 players when he tweeted out his Top 16 MVP candidates.

Why a top 16? Why 17 names? We have no idea, but genius is rarely understood in real time.

Special lifetime achievement for film excellence

For our final award, we recognize the cinematic skills of Bill Belichick and the Patriots, who tried to produce their own version of "The Irishman" when they sent an alleged documentary crew to shoot footage of the Cincinnati sideline the week before they played the Bengals.

Mindful that the Patriots already produced the biggest NFL blockbuster of the previous decade — and we're not even going to mention their immense scientific contributions in the field of air pressure — the selection committee was extremely impressed with the Pats' commitment to produce another masterpiece in the face of obstacles such as rules and ethics.

Too bad the film was confiscated before we could see the end result.

At least we'll always have "Spygate."



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Surviving R. Kelly Part II: The Reckoning" premieres Thursday on Lifetime. The R&B singer is charged with sex crimes in four separate cases.

Taking another look at R&B singer's case

'Surviving R. Kelly Part II' slated to premiere Thursday

BY TRACY SWARTZ

In the year since "Surviving R. Kelly" premiered in January 2019, embattled R&B singer R. Kelly has been charged with sex crimes in four separate cases, including in state and federal court in Chicago. Some of the "Surviving R. Kelly" participants who accused Kelly of abuse, meanwhile, report receiving a mix of support from TV viewers and hateful comments from social media users.

"Surviving R. Kelly Part II: The Reckoning," which is scheduled to premiere at 8 p.m. on Thursday and air over two subsequent nights on the Lifetime network, explores how life has changed for Kelly's accusers and their families and introduces other women who claim the 52-year-old South Side native abused them. Kelly has denied the charges and allegations against him.

Here's what you need to know about this new "Surviving R. Kelly" chapter.

■ Kelly's attorney, Steven Greenberg, told the Tribune that Kelly

was "ready, willing and able to" sit down for an interview with the "Surviving R. Kelly" team, which reached out to Greenberg around Thanksgiving. It didn't happen. One of the sticking points was Greenberg didn't want producers to edit Kelly's interview. Another was logistics.

Producers told the Tribune that Kelly didn't give his permission to Chicago's Metropolitan Correctional Center, where he is behind bars, to allow filming.

"The facility where R. Kelly is currently being housed is unable to schedule any interview without the interview subject's express consent. Mr. Kelly elected not to give the facility the required approval based on our request, so there was never a designated time confirmed for an interview. In addition, Mr. Greenberg was not responsive to our separate and repeated requests to work out interview logistics by phone," the producers said in a statement to the Tribune.

Greenberg told the Tribune and producers it's not his responsibility to arrange the interview.

"If I am going to arrange an interview, it sure as (expletive) is not going to be with the self-centered frauds behind 'Exploiting R. Kelly,' it is going to be with

a legitimate journalist," Greenberg said in an email to the Tribune.

■ More women came forward. "Part II" features an interview with Tiffany Hawkins, who said she met Kelly in 1991 when she was a Chicago high school sophomore and he was 24. She said their sexual relationship began several months later.

"I called and called and called the office of the state's attorney — not a word back," Hawkins' attorney, Ian Alexander, said on "Part II." "We knew we had to take action when the state didn't do anything," Hawkins sued Kelly in civil court in 1996.

On "Part II," Hawkins said she introduced some of her teenage friends, including Ebony Wilkins, to Kelly. Wilkins said she had sex with Kelly when she "was 14 or 15."

Lanita Carter, meanwhile, said she met Kelly when she was 24 and worked as his hair braider. She said Kelly tried to force her to perform oral sex on him in 2003. She said she testified before the grand jury at the time, but charges were not brought against Kelly.

Carter later reached financial settlement with him. She is now one of four women in Kelly's criminal sexual abuse case in Cook County.

■ Some of the women who participated in the initial series said they were targeted by Kelly fans.

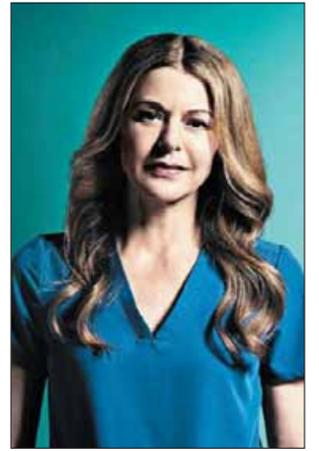
Jerhonda Pace, who claimed she had sex with Kelly when she was a minor and is part of his Cook County case, said she moved from Illinois after confrontations at Orland Square mall. Asante McGee, who claimed Kelly controlled her every move when she lived with him in Georgia, said she received threatening messages on social media after she appeared on TV, and she didn't want to leave her house.

"Part II" includes interviews with 38-year-old twin sisters who hail from suburban Wheaton and worked for Kelly years ago. They started a social media campaign to defend him and speak out against the "Surviving R. Kelly" accusers.

"I worked for Kelly for eight years and never witnessed the abuse these woman are claiming," Lindsey Perryman-Dunn told the Tribune in an email. "I did witness many women who were Kelly fans and were around him either for the attempt to reach their own fame or just for the notoriety of dating a celebrity."

Perryman-Dunn, who worked

Turn to *R. Kelly*, Page 2



MIRANDA PENN TURIN/FOX

Jane Leeves stars as Dr. Kit Voss on Fox's "The Resident."

MY WORST MOMENT

Scent of a woman too much for Leeves

Actress became allergic to audience member's perfume while on stage

BY NINA METZ

She made her name in comedy, first as Daphne Moon on "Frasier" for 11 seasons and later as Joy Scroggs on "Hot in Cleveland" for six seasons, but these days Jane Leeves has shifted over to the world of the hourlong medical drama. Last year she joined the ensemble of Fox's "The Resident" playing orthopedic surgeon Dr. Kit Voss.

"I was so thrilled that they felt they could trust me with a heavy drama," Leeves said. "I was sort of like, 'Are you sure you've got the right person here?' But I know that they were looking to mix up tones on the show a bit, and then when they described the character to me it was so different from anything I'd ever done."

"All the characters I've played before have been sort of working-class, funny, all about personal relationships. And this is a wildly successful professional woman who is 90% work and 10% personal life — if she has a flaw, that's her flaw."

"But she is a really good surgeon, a really good human being, and she doesn't mince words, which I love. She kills with kindness, she's graceful and confident and she doesn't take anyone's guff."

"Frasier" is the show that put Leeves on the map, and in recent months there have been occasional rumblings of a revival. But without John Mahoney — who died in 2018 — it just wouldn't be the same, she said. "It's not 'Frasier' if it's not all of us. It has to be something else."

Turn to *Moment*, Page 2

Directors discuss art of their craft at roundtable

Filmmakers also cover subjects ranging from topical to trivial

BY AMY KAUFMAN AND MARK OLSEN

Los Angeles Times

Todd Phillips just directed one of the year's most critically divisive films, a comic book adaptation that went on to become the highest-grossing R-rated movie of all time. But top of mind for Bong Joon Ho wasn't asking the filmmaker how he handled all the controversy surrounding the violence in "Joker."

The South Korean filmmaker behind "Parasite" had a more pressing question for Phillips, who had been speaking about taking smoking breaks with his star, Joaquin Phoenix.

"Todd, you're a chain smoker?" "Yeah," Phillips replied, nodding his head in the affirmative. "You look like one," Joon Ho replied.

Seeing the puzzled expressions around him, Joon Ho added: "Basically, he looks cool," as explanation.

These were the kind of things



MATT LICARI/INVISION

Marielle Heller, left, and Tom Hanks in New York to promote their film, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."

that the directors of six of 2019's top films wanted to grill one another on when they convened for a roundtable discussion last month. (Bong spoke through a translator.) The group — which included Greta Gerwig ("Little Women"), Noah Baumbach ("Marriage Story"), Lulu Wang ("The Farewell") and Marielle Heller ("A Beautiful Day in the

Neighborhood") — was less interested in talking about what it was like to work with Meryl Streep or Robert De Niro and more intrigued by a conversation about the nitty-gritty of on-set life.

Actors get to work together all the time, they noted, but directing is most often a solitary gig. Baumbach was reminded of a Mike Nichols quote about directing

being like sex: "You wonder, does everyone else do it this way?" he said to laughs.

Snacking habits, assistants, volume levels and, yes, smoking all proved to be popular conversation starters. After admitting to chain-smoking, Phillips noted that his nicotine habit paled in comparison to that of Phoenix, who "smokes more than Humphrey Bogart."

"I used to Juul, and I had to stop Juul-ing before I directed because I knew I wouldn't stop," interjected Gerwig, referring to the vape device. "I knew I'd be talking to an actor and Juul-ing the whole time."

Added Heller: "This is probably overly self-conscious and too much information, but I even try to not eat garlic and onions when I'm directing a movie because I'm going to be talking to actors and in their faces for months."

The conversation also covered personal stories, capitalism and Barbie.

■ **Q: Todd, many people see these as very dark times and you've responded with a very dark and unnerving movie. "Joker" is now the highest-**

grossing R-rated movie of all time. What do you think audiences are responding to in the movie?

■ **Phillips:** I think it's exactly that. Oftentimes, movies can be a mirror for what's going on in the world. Some are connecting to the loneliness that is conveyed. Some are connecting to the themes of income inequality.

And oftentimes when you hold a mirror up, it's not always pretty what you see. And I think the movie's been divisive because of that reason. But it's definitely struck a chord around the world. And it's been really exciting to have a movie on that scale.

■ **Q: Marielle, your movie has a completely different tone. Can you talk about what Mister Rogers' beliefs and philosophy were and why you think they're important in 2019?**

■ **Heller:** I think for some of us who grew up with Mister Rogers, it's easy to dismiss him as a little bit hokey or sort of sappy. But the truth of the matter was he wasn't shying away from darkness and things that are intense and what it

Turn to *Directors*, Page 4

CELEBRITIES

Queen Elizabeth's daughter is hardest-working royal, again

BY NATASHA LIVINGSTONE
Associated Press

LONDON — Being a member of the British royal family isn't the easiest job on Earth, if TV shows and movies provide accurate pictures.

But how much do the royals work?

According to official records, prominent members of the royal family worked an average of 84.5 days this year, or about a third of the 253 working days in the U.K.

Queen Elizabeth II's only daughter, Princess Anne, was the hardest-working royal for at least the third year in a row, putting in a total of 167 days. Heir to the throne Prince Charles came in second with 125 days of official duties.

The 93-year-old queen herself worked 67 days, four more than in 2018.

The figures were compiled and published Monday by Britain's Press Association. Details of the monarchy's official engagements are recorded in the Court Circular, a daily list of the events attended by the queen and her family.

However, some royal family members carry out private engagements that support their public work, which may not be included in this list.

For instance, the queen, now in the 68th year of her reign, receives a red box of official correspondence every day no matter where she is in the world.

The member of the royal family who is second in line to inherit the throne, Prince William, worked 74 days in the past 12 months. His wife, Kate, worked 58 days.

The couple's duties included a tour of Pakistan, supporting the queen



STEPHEN POND/GETTY

Princess Anne attends the Christmas Day service at Church of St. Mary Magdalene on the Sandringham estate in King's Lynn, England.

during President Donald Trump's state visit to the U.K. in June and spending time on their own charitable projects.

The nine most prominent members of the royal family (the queen, Charles, William, Kate, Anne, Prince Edward, Prince Andrew, Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan) worked 761 days put together.

The amount of time senior royals spent working in 2019 may have been affected by this year being a little "bumpy" for the family, as the queen admitted in her televised Christmas day address to Britain.

Prince Philip, the queen's 98-year-old husband, was involved in a car accident. Harry and

Meghan spoke about their struggles living in the public eye. And Prince Andrew gave a disastrous television interview about his friendship with the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Jan. 2 birthdays: TV host Jack Hanna is 73. Actress Cynthia Sikes is 66. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 59. Actress Tia Carrere is 53. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 52. Model Christy Turlington is 51. Actor Taye Diggs is 49. Actor Dax Shepard is 45. Actress Kate Bosworth is 37. Actor Anthony Carrigan is 37. Musician Trombone Shorty is 34. Singer Bryson Tiller is 27.



ASK AMY

BY AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Woman ponders adoption dilemma

Dear Amy: I am a woman who was adopted by maternal family members when I was a child. They were honest with me about my birth mother's history (addiction). I had no contact with my birth mother.

My birth father had not been told of my existence, and once he learned about me, he searched for and found me. He considered pursuing custody, but decided against it. This happened when I was 7 years old, and the adoption was being finalized.

My birth father and I reconnected when I was 20, and we have had a very fulfilling relationship since then. He is incredibly respectful of my adoption and allows everything to move at a pace where I am comfortable.

My adoptive mother is very uncomfortable about my relationship with my biological father. She is still hurt from when I was 7.

I'm wondering how I should handle family events where I would like both sides of my family involved, like weddings, graduations, etc.?

My mom refuses to meet or acknowledge my biological father. She faults him for what happened when I was a child.

I understand her pain but don't want to exclude people I consider family, including my father's other children, from important events in my son's and my own life.

— Stuck in the Middle

Dear Stuck: Your biological father should independently reach out to your family in order to acknowledge the lifesaving role they have played and to respectfully ask to meet

them. You should reassure them that meeting your biological father does not change the primary role your family has played in your life or how you feel about them.

Adoptive parents can feel threatened when their children connect with bio-relatives. This is an upsetting reminder of your — and their — vulnerability. But family love is special — the stronger and healthier it is, the more expansive it becomes — making room for more.

After expressing your hope for a congenial meeting, you will then have to move forward, making adult choices about inclusion. Invite everyone you want to invite, and leave their choices to attend up to them. In time, they will either adjust — or they will face the negative impact on your relationship. Move gently forward.

Dear Amy: I am a clinician working at a hospital. Your older readers who have expressed annoyance at being addressed as "young lady" remind me of a related problem that happens frequently in my workplace.

Often patients say to my co-workers or me: "Wow, you look so young! Like you could be right out of high school! How long have you been working?"

What can I say that would be polite but shut this down and move on to patient care, rather than snidely telling them I traded a demon my soul for eternal youth?

— Grace

Dear Grace: I love the old Dorian Gray joke about looking youthful, based on

the famous Oscar Wilde novel where a hedonistic young man receives his wish that he would never age, but his portrait would age instead. However, you can't just throw off an Oscar Wilde reference in a busy hospital and expect that it will be understood.

I don't think your patients are actually wondering about your competence, but they are really just feeling vulnerable and are trying — in a very clunky way — to connect with their physician.

To respond professionally, maintain amiable eye contact and say, "I know I look young, but I've been a clinician now for 10 years, and it's your lucky day because I'm your doctor. Do you have any other questions before we get started?"

Dear Amy: "Lost" said that her boyfriend told her that he was unsure about his sexuality.

Sure, it's a confusing time for her ... but for him it might be a lot worse. She is lucky that he told her when he did. Depending on his upbringing, he has probably gone through periods of being scared of the feelings he's feeling.

You're absolutely right to suggest that she keep him as a friend and help him through it.

— Gene in Kansas KS

Dear Gene: These two were quite obviously at different junctures in their lives. Friendship is the answer.

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Moment

Continued from Page 1

Her resume also includes a three-month run on Broadway in "Cabaret" as Sally Bowles in 2002. One night there was a snafu and that's the story that came to mind when asked about a worst moment in her career.

Before explaining further, she offered up this important piece of information: "I have terrible allergies."

My worst moment ...

"This was during a hiatus between seasons of 'Frasier' and it was a big, big deal for me. I was so excited to be doing 'Cabaret' on Broadway.

"One particular performance, I remember I was doing the scene where I was trying to seduce Cliff to allow me to move in with him. It's a lot of, 'Cliff, dahling ...' And I when walked on stage I realized somebody in the front row is wearing this heavy, heavy scent — perfume — and all of a sudden I lose my voice. I sound like a mix between Harvey Fierstein and Golum (starts imitating the sound). It's really not sexy!

"And I was absolutely terrified. What do I do? How do I get out of this? Do I just leave the stage? Do I say, 'I'm terribly sorry,



The cast of "Frasier," from left: David Hyde Pierce, Peri Gilpin, Kelsey Grammer, Jane Leeves and John Mahoney. The show ran from 1993 to 2004 on NBC.

I can't go on?"

"But you don't want to be that dramatic and ruin it for everybody. And this is pretty early on in the play; we still had a lot to do.

"I could see the look of confusion on the faces of the audience and my co-star's look of terror. And then I see the horrified faces of people appearing in the wings off-stage because they knew I was going to

have to sing in a minute. And I'm thinking, what the hell am I going to do?

"We were at a part in the play where I have a hangover and I'm supposed to make a Prairie Oyster: I pull out a raw egg and crack it into a mug and mix it around with some Worcestershire sauce. Usually I didn't swallow it — they had a fake cup, so it looks like you've swallowed it,

but you haven't — but in that moment I thought the only thing I can do is swallow this raw egg.

"So I did and it worked! I started to talk normal! And I could see my co-star start to breathe again. The terror went out of his eyes.

"But I could still see the look of horror on everyone's faces in the audience — even on a normal night they would gasp when I

drank it because they were like, 'That's disgusting!' And every other night I wasn't really drinking it — but that night I had to bite the bullet and chug it down. And for days I was so afraid I was going to get sick because of salmonella or whatever, but I was fine."

It was an allergic reaction to the perfume that affected Leeves' voice?

"Oh yeah, definitely. And that's a lesson to people when they go to the theater: Don't wear overpowering scents. I know I'm so sensitive to that.

"I used to try to have lilacs in the house because I love lilacs, and then I'd be sitting talking to someone and all of a sudden I'd sound like (imitates the sound) and I'd be like, 'I'm terribly sorry. Let me put these outside.' Sometimes I've walked into a department store where they're spraying perfume at you and I'm like, 'Please don't!'"

"It really just catches in my throat. You try to cough and you sound like an ogre, and that night the audience was staring at me like, is this part of the show? Because my voice changed suddenly and drastically; they couldn't make heads or tails of it. And the actor who was opposite me, I could see the terror in his eyes, like what the hell is happening — and how to do we solve this?"

"I think the egg yoke just opened everything up again

and lubricated my throat. All I could taste was the Worcestershire sauce, but I got rid of whatever that thing that was in the back of my throat. So at least I was thinking on my feet."

The takeaway ...

"It must have been a particular brand of perfume or something because strangely enough it didn't happen again during the run. But I always thought, let's just have some water around just in case, so I had a plan. So what I learned was (to) be prepared and stay in the moment.

"I wish I had said something (in character) about it when it happened — like, 'I have a little frog in my throat. This will help' — just sort of improvised something and made it part of the thing before I drank that egg. It would have been hilarious! And instead people were wondering, 'What the hell ...?'"

"Afterwards I did admit to the (props) guy who handled all that. I said, 'I actually drank it.' And he said, 'I know! But don't worry, the egg was fresh.'"

And we had this whole conversation: "When did you get the eggs? Were they in the fridge? Yes, they were in the fridge? Oh good." Because you should never eat raw eggs.

"But I did. And I lived to sing another day."

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R. Kelly

Continued from Page 1

out of Kelly's Chicago Trax recording studio and his suburban Olympia Fields home, also said she was forced to watch the sex tape at the center of his 2008 child pornography trial in Chicago repeatedly before she took the stand.

She identified the female participant on the tape as a girl who had a close relationship with the Kelly family. She testified the girl was carrying a pillow and

an overnight bag when she first met her at Kelly's studio in 1999. Kelly was acquitted on the child pornography charges.

Perryman-Dunn's sister, Jennifer Emrich, said she worked for Kelly from 1999 to 2001, first as an intern, then as his personal assistant.

"What I want viewers to know is that R. Kelly is not the monster these women are portraying him to be," she told the Tribune. "He is truly the victim in all this."

■ Two Kelly accusers featured on the initial series said they declined to partic-

ipate in "Part II" because of issues with the "Surviving R. Kelly" team.

A representative for Kelly's ex-wife, Andrea Kelly, told media outlets the production team reached out to her family members when she told them not to and did not provide proper aftercare for on-air accusers. Lisa Vanallen, who said she began a relationship with Kelly when she was 17 and he was an adult, told TMZ that "Part II" features "people in there that aren't credible."

"Surviving R. Kelly"

executive producer Brie Miranda Bryant said participants were provided access to therapists during and after production of the docuseries.

"All that is confidential, so we don't know who took advantage of those services," she said.

Said executive producer Jesse Daniels: "Even if they didn't want to participate this time, we still feel for them and hope they're OK."

■ Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx appears briefly on "Part II."

After "Surviving R. Kelly" premiered, Foxx

made a public plea for accusers to come forward. Kelly was later charged with multiple counts of criminal sex abuse in Cook County. Foxx, herself a sexual assault survivor, shares on "Part II" why she thinks victims of sexual abuse and assault don't report these crimes.

■ There are no plans for another "Surviving R. Kelly" sequel. Filming of "Part II" began in the summer of 2019 and wrapped the end of October.

Bryant said some members of the "Surviving R. Kelly" team, herself in-

cluded, weren't initially interested in creating this new chapter but decided to do so after uncovering new information after the premiere of the initial series.

Though Kelly is facing trial in three of his cases in 2020, another "Surviving R. Kelly" follow-up is "not even in our minds right now," Bryant said.

"I think we're just hoping that the world would see 'Part II' and support the survivors in the same way that they did for Part I," she said.

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Princess Leia just part of Fisher's story

An examination of a complex life

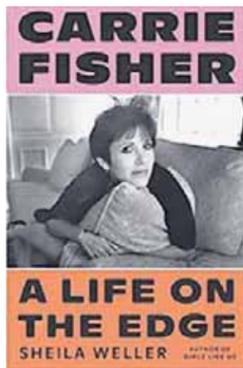
BY COLETTE BANCROFT
Tampa Bay Times

Just the few seconds' glimpse of General Leia Organa in trailers for the ninth and final movie in the "Star Wars" saga had fans tearing up around the world. Leia — first a princess, then a general — was always the soul of the Resistance and the fiery heart of the "Star Wars" epic. And no one could have played her as well as the late Carrie Fisher.

It almost didn't happen, though. Back in 1976, George Lucas wanted to cast a "beautiful girl" as his Princess Leia, and Fisher apparently didn't measure up. That's just one of the fascinating facts about her life to be found in Sheila Weller's new biography, "Carrie Fisher: A Life on the Edge." The book is the first comprehensive biography of the actor, writer and playwright since her sudden death at 60 in December 2016.

Weller has written about the lives of famous and successful women before, in her books "Girls Like Us" about Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon as well as "The News Sorority" about Diane Sawyer, Katie Couric and Christiane Amanpour.

This time she focuses on just one woman, although Fisher's complex life story is more than enough to fill a volume. Weller didn't know Fisher, although they both grew up in Beverly Hills, California, and at one point lived just a block apart. Weller's mother worked for movie magazines and wrote and edited stories about the very public 1959



'Carrie Fisher: A Life on the Edge'

By Sheila Weller, Crichton, 416 pages, \$28

divorce of Fisher's parents, movie star Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher, when Carrie was a toddler.

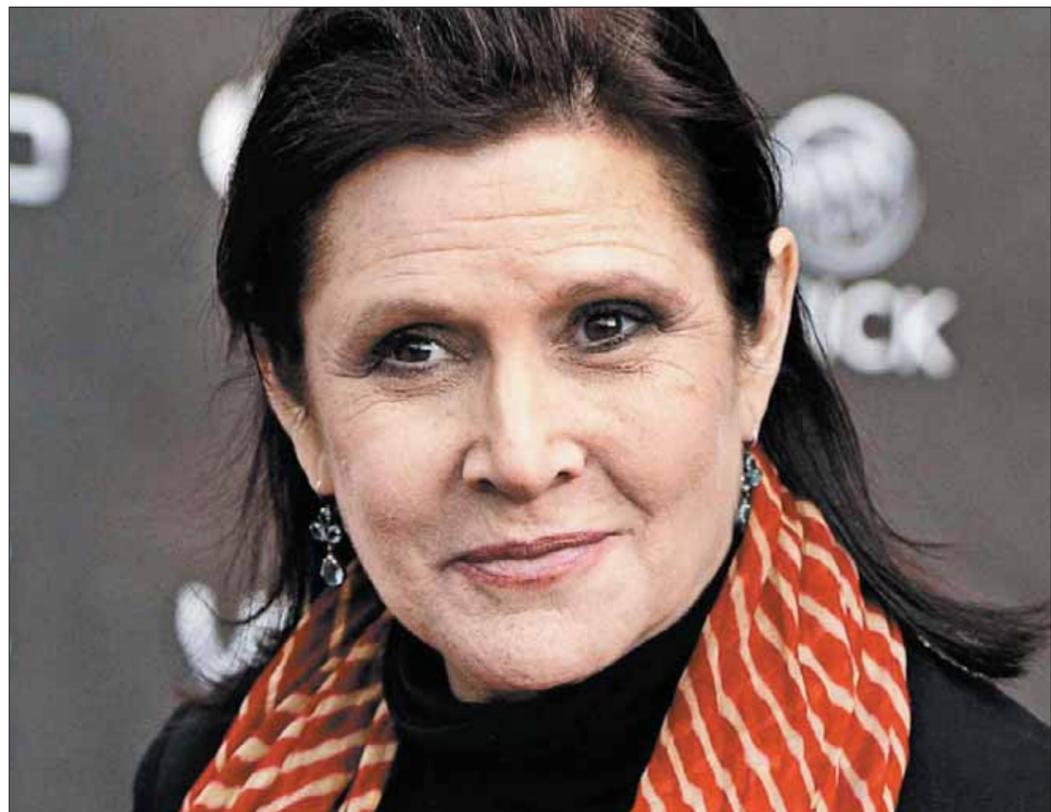
Weller talked with the Times by phone; an edited transcript follows.

Q: Did you initially know Carrie Fisher as "Star Wars" Princess Leia?

A: I didn't, to my shame. I had to get friends to explain it all to me.

I first got interested in her when I read "Postcards From the Edge" (the 1987 novel that was the first of Fisher's eight books). It was a revolutionary book. People called her the new Dorothy Parker.

She always wanted to be a writer. As I was working on the book, people kept telling me, "She was the smartest person I ever met," even though she had dropped out of high school. She wrote eight books —



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP 2011

Actress and writer Carrie Fisher, the daughter of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher, died at age 60 in December 2016.

and she really wrote them. She did it unconventionally, writing in bed, in longhand, usually with an editor in the house with her.

Q: Your book is extensively researched, but you didn't talk to some of the obvious people, like her family or her "Star Wars" co-stars.

A: I did about 120 interviews. I didn't even try for Harrison Ford. (In "The Princess Diarist," Fisher's last book, she revealed the secret affair she had with Ford, then 33, when she was 19 and they were filming "Star Wars.")

Her family gently turned me down, graciously. Todd Fisher (Carrie's brother) was interested at first, but then he decided to write his own book.

I went to other people who knew her very well and were very generous in talking about her, like Salman Rushdie and Richard Dreyfuss. She made a

lot of movies that people don't remember, and I tried to get personal interviews with producers, actors, acting coaches who had worked with her. I talked to eight or 10 of her student peers in London (where Fisher was a student at the Central School of Speech and Drama in the mid-1970s).

I talked to people who had even accidental or one-time brushes with her, to good friends of hers who are not well-known. Sometimes that can give you the most illuminating things about a person's character. I talked to so many young women who met her and said, "She asked me all about me!" She was just curious about people, genuinely interested in them.

Q: How was Fisher shaped by her intense relationship with her mother?

A: Well, for starters, they were both dumped by the

same man, and there was a bonding over that veiled humiliation. But it was a push-pull. Debbie was a scene stealer, she was beautiful, so they were competitive. But Debbie understood the complexity of Carrie, and she was always protective, always proactive. From the middle to the end of their lives (Reynolds died of a stroke a day after her daughter's death), they mostly lived together.

Q: Fisher also had a complicated relationship with "Star Wars." It brought her great success, but did it also have negative impacts?

A: It did. I quote her in the book saying that when she wore that metal bikini, it was like signing "an invisible contract to stay looking the exact same way for the next 30 to 40 years. Well, clearly I've broken that contract." She made fun of the fat-shaming and age-shaming (after her appear-

ance in "The Force Awakens"), but it hurt her.

She had a sardonic attitude, but at the same time a great affection toward it, and she was very reverential toward the role and the feminist aspects of it.

Q: Fisher struggled for much of her life with bipolar disorder and with substance abuse and addiction. How did she deal with them?

A: She said herself that being bipolar was like living in a war zone. It was an enormous challenge, but she felt a responsibility to meet that challenge. She was honest and funny about herself. Also about addiction.

Only when she died did it come out that she was this massive script doctor, working on all these movies. She continued to work through breakdowns and major addiction lapses, which is not always pleasant.

I think she was heroic.

BOOK REVIEW

There's still more to be written about the Civil War

BY KEVIN DUCHSCHERE
Minneapolis Star Tribune

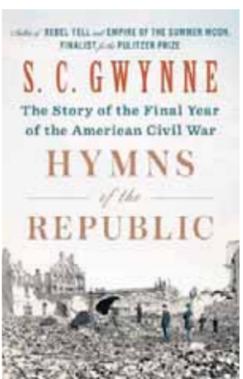
No era in the history of the United States has been so scrutinized as the four years when brother fought brother over the issues of self-government and slavery. So it's fair to ask whether journalist S.C. Gwynne's new book, "Hymns of the Republic: The Story of the Final Year of the American Civil War," is really necessary.

My answer is yes. Too many Civil War books drill so deeply into the conflict that one can lose sight of what it all means. That's not the case with Gwynne's lucid and gripping account, in which he strings together a series of vignettes and profiles of wartime figures in novelistic fashion to tell the story of the war's tumultuous closing months, through Abraham Lincoln's assassination and Jefferson Davis' humiliating capture in Georgia.

Gwynne won his Civil War spurs for his acclaimed 2015 biography of Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson, whose brilliant career was cut short by friendly fire in 1863. In this book, the author picks up the narrative a few months later, when Ulysses Grant arrives in Washington without ceremony, looking just like "another sunburned soldier in an army hat and linen duster," to take charge of the snakebit Army of the Potomac.

It was the start of the war's most crucial year, arguably the most dramatic months in the nation's history. From battlefield to ballot box, what happened in 1864 likely would determine whether there would continue to be a single United States or two countries sharing a border.

The outcome was by no



'Hymns of the Republic: The Story of the Final Year of the American Civil War'

By S.C. Gwynne, Scribner, 395 pages, \$32

means certain. If Grant's army proved unable to roll back the vaunted forces of Gen. Robert E. Lee, prospects were grim for Lincoln's reelection. And if voters rejected Lincoln, chances were good that the next president would let the South go in peace.

As related by Gwynne, the year was punctuated by bloody turning points. In April, Confederate soldiers shot black Union troops rather than allowing them to surrender at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, outraging Northerners and strengthening their resolve. The following month, after a series of Union disasters in the tangled Virginia woods, Grant continued to move south rather than retreat. Union soldiers were dumbfounded and grateful. They were finally going to press the rebels.

William Tecumseh Sherman's capture of Atlanta overnight bolstered Lincoln's reelection pro-

spects, reversed Northern pessimism about the war and ensured it almost certainly would end in a Union triumph. By the time the Confederate government reluctantly called for the enlistment of 300,000 black soldiers in exchange for service, Gwynne writes that "a moral threshold had been crossed. Slavery as an institution was as good as gone."

Gwynne is especially good at taking a step back from the narrative to flesh out some of the war's most compelling figures, and not just Lee and Grant. He sketches officers of varying competence, such as Union Gen. Ben Butler, who was better at preparing for attacks than making them, and Confederate guerrilla leader John Singleton Mosby, whose late-night raids of supply trains drove a frustrated Grant to order (briefly) the arrest of local civilians.

The profiles that stand out most are those of the indomitable Clara Barton, who wasn't allowed to fight and thereupon mounted her own relief agency to tend to those who could, and Sherman, the cross-grained Union general who figured the most merciful thing he could do for both sides was to hurt the South as much as possible.

Gwynne, a former correspondent for Time and executive editor of Texas Monthly, volunteered during a recent panel discussion in Austin that his next book will be on Reconstruction and titled "How the South Won the Civil War." Another Civil War book? If it lives up to the promise of the first two that Gwynne has written, why not?

BOOK REVIEW

Timothy Egan's remarkable tome lays out quest for faith

BY BARBARA MAHANY
Chicago Tribune

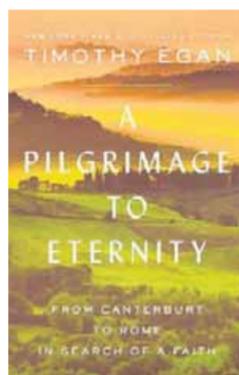
It's not hard to imagine dead silence on the other end of the line when Timothy Egan, the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and author, dialed up his literary agent and sketched out his proposal for a book-length perambulation through time and the tumultuous terrain of Western Christianity, a months-long trek — by foot in the age of Uber! — from Canterbury to Rome, excavating tales of sinners and saints all along the way. Harder to imagine such a tome would prove impossible to put down.

Aha. Mission Accomplished: "A Pilgrimage to Eternity" is, in fact, a glorious, laugh-out-loud, wipe-away-tears, blister-riddled, often rain-soaked, sometimes bone-chilled, desolate and desperate, quietly triumphant walk through church history — every last footfall in search of an elusive modern-day spiritual certitude.

Egan, an op-ed columnist for The New York Times, begins as a self-confessed skeptic, an Irish Catholic, who, like many, is "lapsed but listening." He lays out the stakes of his 1,000-mile quest for any flicker of faith: One member of his family, he writes, "was nearly destroyed by religion," another "made whole by religion," after the murder of her teenage son. Rage, he writes, is mixed with redemption.

"Malnutrition of the soul is a plague of modern life," Egan writes. His is a narrative driven by questions, and one that confronts doubt head-on, never reaching for facile conclusions.

Propelled by truth-seeking, he takes to the Via Francigena, one of the oldest pilgrimage trails in



'A Pilgrimage to Eternity'

By Timothy Egan, Viking, 384 pages, \$28

the world that for centuries has led the devout and seekers alike toward Rome, coursing Alpine peaks and medieval monasteries tucked into the folds of storybook hamlets across France, Switzerland and Italy.

Egan populates his trek with a quirky cast of fellow pilgrims, all of whom animate the adventure. He twists and turns from church history — never flinching from the good, the bad or the gruesome — into the deeply personal questions and quandaries that push him onward. His sister-in-law's terminal cancer, his nephew's murder, a dear friend's suicide in the wake of priestly sexual abuse, his mother's death, and, yes, the 2016 presidential election — all of which ratchet up his need to examine the bare threads of faith.

Egan proves himself to be a prime traveling companion. Someone with whom you'd gladly share your last blister-pak bandage for the sheer delight of his company, intelligence and curiosity.

That he happens to be a

beautiful writer is what makes the 33 chapters unspool effortlessly. It's nothing short of remarkable to lug around the nearly 400-page book, in hopes of a swatch of time to inhale yet another chapter.

Shortly after telling the story of how his 17-year-old nephew was shot to death by a teenager, Egan sits down with a Benedictine monk in a centuries-old monastery in the Alps. Egan asks the black-robed priest if he believes in miracles, then circles in on a trickier question, one that vexes most anyone who thinks hard about faith: "Do you have doubts?" The priest answers: "About miracles? No. About my faith? Yes. Doubts are allowed by God. Reason can help you come to faith. It's a bit like training for sports. If you only ride a bicycle with the wind at your back, that's not going to help you. You need to ride your bike against the wind."

And so Egan — and any other modern-day pilgrim searching for faith — puts his questions to the wind, walking through ice and snow and rain and brutal heat.

He never gives up. At last standing on a promontory overlooking Rome, Egan beholds the dome of St. Peter's Basilica. As a thunderclap rattles the sky, the pilgrim with whom we've shared the long road recalls Michelangelo's life motto: "the greatest danger, he said, 'is not that we aim too high and miss it, but that we aim too low and reach it.'"

Egan reached high, and he reached it.

Barbara Mahany is the author of several books, including "Slowing Time: Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door."

Directors

Continued from Page 1

really means to be human.

I'm a parent of a little kid, so getting to reflect on his wisdom has been really nice for me. And it's been really comforting in these times to think about what it is to really value people and view every person and their emotions as mattering.

Q: Director Bong, it's rare for an international film like "Parasite" to do as well as it has all around the world. What do you think it is about the story that's translating globally?

Bong: I think the story about the rich and poor is something that's applicable to any country around the world. When you say "international," you're basically saying that each country is different. But I think there's no point in really dividing nations because in this current era, we all live in this one giant nation of capitalism. And I think that's something that "Joker" is about as well.

Q: Noah, a lot of people view your film as autobiographical. Did that make you hesitant about putting it out in the world?

Baumbach: I often use biographical details to spark the imagination. With this movie, I have a personal connection to the material. My parents divorced when I was a kid, and I've been through a divorce. But I did all this research. I interviewed people who've gone through divorce — friends of mine, lawyers, judges, mediators. It's a way to tell a more expansive story, bring my personal connection into it and create something that was beyond just me.

Q: Lulu, your story is a personal one as well. But when you were trying to make the movie, you heard from people who felt the story was too Chinese, while others felt it was too American. How did you reconcile that for yourself?

Wang: In many ways, someone like me, when you're making films in this industry, you're used to compromising. So when someone said, "Oh, it's too Chinese; go find a Chinese investor," that's the first thing [I tried to do]: "OK, well, maybe that's the person to go to green-light the film. Whatever it takes."

But the Chinese investor would say: "This is way too American for a Chinese audience. Your main character is American." And so in the process of making the film and in talking about it, I've come to realize that the story wouldn't



EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION

Director Lulu Wang attends the Independent Filmmaker Project's 29th annual IFFP Gotham Awards in New York on Dec. 2.



PASCAL LE SEGRETTAIN/GETTY

Greta Gerwig attends the "Little Women" premiere in Paris on Dec. 12.

exist if it wasn't an American story. I spent most of my life trying to fit in.

Coming out of this process, I realized that it is from a place of being in between, that I don't need to fit into one because I fit in nowhere, in a way. Maybe I fit in everywhere.

Q: Greta, when you first met with Amy Pascal, your producer on "Little Women," you said to her: "I'm the only person who can do this."

Gerwig: Meetings are like, "Well, the worst that could happen is they don't hire me, and they probably won't. So I'll just tell them this." And then people say it back to me and I sound so arrogant!

Q: What was it about your vision for the movie that you felt so passionate about?

Gerwig: Well, I grew up

with "Little Women" as my favorite book. And the character of Jo March was my literary character. I didn't know if I wanted to be like her because she was like me or the inverse — like, I made myself like her.

It was so much a part of who I am that it becomes indistinguishable from autobiography from me. When you're young, there are books that get inside of you and then they become part of your personal landscape of things that you feel belong to you. And those sisters and their adventures felt like my memories and my personal history.

Q: Todd, before "Joker" even came out, there was a lot of controversy surrounding it. People were afraid that it might incite violence. How do you feel about the fact that the movie inspired that conversation?

Phillips: We found it offensive because you see the movie and you realize the movie's actually about the power of kindness. The idea that it was being painted with this violent brush because maybe the violence in it is realistic?

To us, it felt like a very responsible way of portraying violence. It was a tough thing to talk about at the time because you don't want to give that idea oxygen. And that's what was happening. It was suddenly on the ticker on CNN every four seconds about the violence it's creating.

Wang: I'm always so curious about portraying violence. I had a conversation with [Swedish director] Ruben Östlund, who said he can't show violence that he hasn't experienced himself because he doesn't know what it's actually like if he's never experienced it. How do you make that decision?

Phillips: I don't necessarily think I have to go through things to be able to show them. But I think what affected people most about the violence in the movie is that it felt so real. So it got painted with this brush that it was horrifically violent when really, if you look at the amount of violence in the movie, it's not much.

But I think we're also used to cartoon violence, particularly in that world of filmmaking. We talked about it a lot. It felt like showing it as grotesque and horrific is actually a way



VIANNEY LE CAER/INVISION

Director Noah Baumbach poses for photographers at the premiere of the film "Marriage Story" in London.

more responsible approach to violence than the machine-gun frenzy.

Q: Recently, a USC study said as many as 14 of this year's 100 top-grossing films will be directed by women — the most ever. Have you seen that change reflected in the conversations you're having in the industry?

Gerwig: I do think that when you're looking at studios and what they're doing and how they're hiring and thinking about hiring, I think that's changing. And I think that they have stopped feeling like it's appropriate for them to only hire men. I think that they've changed their minds.

Heller: Or the world has forced them to change their mind.

Phillips: I mean, I've been at Warner Bros. making movies for 15 years and they have drastically changed. But that came from the top. I mean, it might have been outside forces that brought it up, but it's also definitely something they want to do and they're actively doing. And it's pretty amazing.

Gerwig: I always want to be careful in the discussion about female filmmakers and representation with filmmakers because film is an art form, but it's also a populist art form. It's part of capitalism. ... I don't ever want it to seem like films by women are, like, "Eat your spinach. You don't like it, but it's good for you."

And what's lovely about capitalism is — turns out people are so excited to see your film. Nobody's [going to our films] because they feel real bad that we're ladies. They're doing it because they're good movies and they're excited to see them. I think that's what's nice about the market showing that there is an audience for "Wonder Woman" or "Hustlers."

Wang: You know, Noah, I grew up watching your films. They made me want to make films. They felt universal. It didn't feel like just because I'm Asian and my family's Asian, like I can't relate. Every story can be universal. It isn't about pitting stories against each other or genders or whatever.

And that's just, like, the hump we have to get over. ... The only challenge for me is the gatekeepers being like, "Well, your version of authenticity doesn't work

for the marketplace." And that's a myth.

Q: Director Bong, your film "Parasite" won the Palme d'Or this year at the Cannes Film Festival. You had previously been there with your film "Okja," which was released by Netflix. But now Cannes won't show movies that come out on Netflix. How do you feel about that?

Bong: So two years ago, Noah and I were the two Netflix directors at Cannes. It was a very lonely journey. And now I'm very jealous because he has an exclusive theatrical window for "Marriage Story." I tried to get a theatrical release for "Okja," but it didn't quite work out as well. So Netflix has been creating amazing films like "The Irishman" and "Marriage Story." And I had a great experience working with them because they gave me full creative control.

And now I know they're becoming more flexible with their distribution policy, so I think that's great. But I still can't lose my obsession for the movie theater. That's still my best platform. It's the only place where the audience can't press the pause button.

Q: [To life partners Baumbach and Gerwig] You two are collaborating on a live-action Barbie movie with Margot Robbie. Obviously, this season you have your own films, but how do you work out when you want to write together?

Gerwig: We love Margot. She came to us. She's a really smart producer, really interesting actor. And she approached us. And I'm a fan. And I had some jokes. She liked the jokes. And then Noah had some other jokes and she liked those.

Writing together is just fun. I mean, the writing's hard. And to write with another person is just so much better. It's a lot less lonely.

Baumbach: But I feel like even when we're not officially writing a thing together, it's an open conversation.

Gerwig: There's a lot of like, "Listen to this" or "Read this."

Bong: So are both of you actually at the same table together?

Baumbach: Greta likes to leave the house to work and I like to stay in the house.

Gerwig: For everything.

Heller: Now we're getting somewhere!

Baumbach: I'm going to take a sip of water.

Gerwig: He can work at the dining room table and I feel like I have to get out of the house. I get really restless when I'm in the house. So I have to take my computer and leave and then I'll come back with my pages like a cat that's killed a bird.

Baumbach: Somebody asked me, "When did you show Greta 'Marriage Story'?" And there's no time. She's part of the whole thing. She's coming in and out. I always feel like we're in it together, no matter what — even though it's technically a separate project.

Q: Director Bong, you have a style of filmmaking where you like to really meticulously storyboard what you're working on. But where does that leave space for creativity for the actors' performances?

Bong: I actually love the improvisation of actors. I stimulate them. I provoke them. But they say my storyboards are very organized and meticulous and "there is no space for us to do something." No matter how narrow the cracks or narrow the room, [they] always manage to find inspiration and be creative.

No matter how tightly you grasp a live fish, they'll just continue to flap on. ... I take back comparing actors to fish. I'm a director who loves actors. I feel happiest when I see them perform something that I never even imagined. You storyboard, Noah?

Baumbach: No, I do a shot list, but I don't storyboard, partly because I can't tell what I drew. I've tried to do it, but it doesn't feel intuitive to me to tell somebody else and have them do it. But to what you're saying, the actors don't improvise in my movies, but I find in some ways creating these rules and boundaries lets the actors feel safe. I find they can lose themselves.

It's actually freeing because you're taking certain responsibility away. It's all there for them. And then they can just go.

Heller: I feel like I always start with: "I have an exact idea of how I think this could work," and I show it to them and go, "But if it doesn't work for you, we'll throw it all out and you tell me if you need to do something different."

Baumbach: Mike Nichols has that thing of, "For directors, directing is like sex in that you wonder: Does everyone else do it this way?" I'm just always so grateful to find directors and talk.

Phillips: It's just a really lonely experience. Actors get to work with each other all the time; directors don't. I have a lot of friends who are directors, and we'll just go have dinner and just talk about it.

Gerwig: I mean, being an actor was a great way to be a spy. I got to see a lot of people with different ways of going about it, which became a version of film school for me. And then I'd come home and Noah would be like, "How did they do it?"

Heller: I know. You want to talk about the most mundane things, like, "When you write your shot list, what do you keep it on? What's your type of paper? How do you organize?"

Wang: Is it digital or is it analog?

Baumbach: After 10 movies, I'm still trying to figure out how to hold the script.

Gerwig: Do you look at the monitor or do you sit by the camera?

Baumbach: I'm curious how everyone likes their sets. Do you play music? Do you like a lot of people? Are you loud?

Bong: I keep eating on set.

Gerwig: Me too.

Bong: Really?

Gerwig: I eat so much on set.

Heller: I do the opposite. I lose tons of weight because I stand and never eat and forget to eat the whole day. I lost 17 pounds while I made my first movie. It was really bad.

Gerwig: I'm in the Orson Welles school of filmmaking.

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WATCH THIS: THURSDAY



Stephen Dorff

"Deputy" (8 p.m., FOX): When the sheriff of Los Angeles County dies, a legal quirk dating back to the days of the Old West thrusts into the job an unlikely successor: Bill Hollister (Stephen Dorff), a fifth-generation lawman who's perfectly at ease taking down bad guys, but woefully ill-suited to navigating the complex politics of his Southern California turf. Writer and executive producer Will Beall penned the pilot for this new police drama.

"The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Edition" (8 p.m., ABC): This hugely popular reality competition series wraps up its brief holiday edition with "Semi-Final and Final," which opens with the final five bakers confronting six ultimate challenges that stand between them and the title of America's Best Amateur Baker. Emma Bunton and former NFL star Anthony "Spice" Adams are the hosts; Paul Hollywood and pastry chef Sherry Yard serve as the judges.

"Project Runway" (8 p.m., Bravo): Guest mentor Karla Welch, mega-stylist to the stars, recruits the designers to help her dress her client (and this show's host), Karlie Kloss, in the new episode "The Ultimate Upcycle." Here's the catch: The materials used have to come from donated Goodwill clothing, making this the first "upcycling" challenge in "Project Runway" history. It's also this group's first one-day challenge, which means they have to be both resourceful and fast.

"Christina on the Coast" (8 p.m., 11 p.m., HGTV): Christina Anstead launches the sophomore season of her home improvement series with a premiere that finds her working with a local firefighter. This client is seeking what he calls a "fire-house functional" feeling in his home, but his wife prefers a very clean, all-white aesthetic.

"Dr. Pimple Popper" (8 p.m., 12 a.m., TLC): Dermatologist Dr. Sandra Lee returns for her fourth season of new episodes that follow her as she tries to help patients with potentially life-threatening conditions, one needle, pop and scalpel at a time. In the season premiere, she meets Traci, whose confidence has been shattered by years of bullying about the bumps that have plagued her face for 20 years.

"My Feet Are Killing Me" (9:02 p.m., 1:02 a.m., TLC): Created as a companion series to TLC's blockbuster "Dr. Pimple Popper," this new reality series follows podiatrists Dr. Ebonie Vincent and Dr. Brad Schaeffer as they try to restore the confidence of their patients and literally get them back on their feet. Each one-hour episode follows three patients plagued by a diverse assortment of foot problems.

TALK SHOWS

"Conan" (10 p.m. 11:30 p.m., TBS): Actor Aaron Paul.*

"The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (10:34 p.m., NBC): Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders; actress Katherine Langford; entrepreneur Gary Vaynerchuk.*

"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (10:35 p.m., CBS): Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.); Lady Antebellum performs; filmmaker Peter Jackson; Stephen Colbert: The Newest Zealander.*

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

* Subject to change

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THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 2

	PM	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00
BROADCAST	CBS 2	Young Sheldon ©	Young Sheldon ©	(8:01) Mom ©	Carol's Second Act ©	Evil: "2 Fathers." ©	News (N) ▶	
	NBC 5	Superstore: "Toy Drive."	Superstore ©	The Paley Center Salutes Law & Order: SVU (N) ©		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit ©	NBC 5 News (N) ▶	
	ABC 7	What Is Jeopardy!? Alex Trebek and America's (N)		The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Edition: "Semi-Final and Final." (N) ©			News at 10pm (N) ▶	
	WGN 9	black-ish: "Sprinkles." ©	black-ish ©	Last Man Standing ©	Last Man Standing ©	WGN News at Nine (N) ©	WGN News at Ten (N)	
	Antenna 9.2	It's a Living	3's Comp.	Family Ties	Growing	Designing Murphy	Carson ▶	
	Court 9.3	Closing Arguments		Closing Arguments with Vinnie Politan ©				
	PBS 11	Chicago Tonight (N)		Dick Van Dyke: A Celebration (N) ©		Mary Tyler Moore: A Celebration ©	American Masters ▶	
	CW 26.1	Supernatural ©		Legacies ©		Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Seinfeld ©
	The U 26.2	Dr. Phil ©		Tamron Hall ©		Steve Wilkos Show (N)	Cops ©	
	MeTV 26.3	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Green Acres	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
	H&I 26.4	Star Trek ©		Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9	Star Trek ▶	
	Bounce 26.5	XXX: State of the Union (PG-13,'05) ** Ice Cube. ©				Escape Plan (R,'13) ** ©		
	FOX 32	Last Man Standing (Season Premiere) (N) ©		Deputy: "Graduation Day." (Series Premiere) (N) ©		Fox 32 News at Nine	Modern Family ©	
	Ion 38	Chicago P.D.: "Outrage."		Chicago P.D. ©		Chicago P.D. ©	Chicago ▶	
	TeleM 44	Decisiones: unos (N)		La Doña (N) ©		El señor de los cielos (N)	Chicago (N)	
	MNT 50	AHL Hockey: Texas Stars at Chicago Wolves. (N) (Live)					Law CI ▶	
	UniMas 60	The Italian Job (PG-13,'03) *** Mark Wahlberg.				Noticiero (N)	Nosotr.	Nosotr.
	WJVS 62	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Joyce Meyer	Robison	Paid Prog.	Dn. Carson	Paid Prog.
	Univ 66	Ringo		El dragón (N)				Noticias (N)
CABLE	AE	The First 48: "Taken." (N)	The First 48 (N) ©			60 Days In (Season Premiere) (N) ©	First 48 ▶	
	AMC	Ghostbusters (PG,'84) *** Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd. ©				Ghostbusters II ('89) ** *		
	ANIM	Jeremy Wade		Jeremy Wade's Dark (N)		Jeremy Wade's Dark (N)	Waters ▶	
	BBCA	Star Trek: Deep Space 9		Star Trek: Deep Space 9		Star Trek: Deep Space 9	Trek: DS9 ▶	
	BET	(5) BET Star Cinema		Baggage Claim (PG-13,'13) * Paula Patton, Derek Luke. ©				
	BIGTEN	College Basketball (N)		Postgame	Campus	BTN Live (N)	BIG Show	BIG Show
	BRAVO	(6:30) Project Runway		Project Runway (N) ©			Housewives-Atlanta	
	CLTV	Sign-off					Sign-off	
	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		CNN Tonight (N)	AC 360 ▶	
	COM	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
	DISC	Homestead Rescue (N) ©				Homestead Rescue (N)	Rescue ▶	
	DISN	Raven	Roll With It	Gabby	Jessie ©	Coop	Sydney-Max	Raven
	E!	Botched ©	Botched ©		Botched ©		Nightly (N)	Guide (N) ▶
	ESPN	College Football: TaxSlayer Gator Bowl -- Indiana vs Tennessee. (N)		SportsCenter (N) ▶				
	ESPN2	High School Football (N)		College Basketball: Oregon at Colorado. (N) (Live)			Basketball	
	FNC	Tucker Carlson (N)		Hannity (N) ©		The Ingraham Angle (N)	Fox News	
	FOOD	Restaurant: Im. (N)		Restaurant: Im. (N)		Beat Flay (N)	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby
	FREE	Despicbl 2 (7:25) The Game Plan (PG,'07) ** Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.				"The Rock" Johnson.	700 Club ▶	
	FX	Pitch Perfect 2 (PG-13,'15) ** Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson. ©				Baywatch (R,'17) * ©		
	HALL	12 Gifts of Christmas (NR,'15) Katrina Law. ©				Miss Christmas (NR,'17) ©		
	HGTV	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Christina	Flip (N)	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop
	HIST	American Pickers		American Pickers (N) ©			American Pickers	Pickers ▶
	HLN	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	How It Really Happened	How It ▶	
	IFC	The Wedding Singer (PG-13,'98) *** Adam Sandler.				The Wedding Singer (PG-13,'98) *** *		
	LIFE	Surviving R. Kelly ©		Surviving R. Kelly (Season Premiere) (N) ©		Surviving R. Kelly (N) ©	Surviving ▶	
	MSNBC	All In With (N)		Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word (N)	11th Hour (N)	
	MTV	Floribama Shore (N) ©		Ex on the Beach (N) ©		Catfish: The TV Show ©	Catfish ▶	
	NBCSCH	NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Chicago Bulls. (N) (Live) ©				Postgame	Hockey (N) ▶	
	NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Paddington (PG,'14) *** Hugh Bonneville. ©			Friends ©	
	OVATION	(6) Movie					Movie ▶	
	OWN	20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN	20/20 ▶	
	OXY	An Unexpected Killer (N)		Snapped ©		Snapped ©	Snapped ▶	
	PARMT	(6) White House Down (PG-13,'13) ** *				White House Down (PG-13,'13) ** *		
SYFY	(7:15) Star Trek (PG-13,'09) *** Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto. ©					Futurama		
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan ©	
TCM	Road to Morocco (NR,'42) *** ©		Road to Utopia (NR,'45) *** ©				Sorrowful ▶	
TLC	Dr. Pimple Popper: Count		Dr. Pimple Popper (Season Premiere) (N)		Feet-Killing Me (Series Premiere) (N)	1000-Lb. (N)		
TLN	Wealth	Wretched	Reap What You Sew		Life Today	Like You	Humanit	
TNT	Cast Away (PG-13,'00) *** Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt. ©						Sully *** *	
TOON	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Burgers	Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Rick, Morty	
TRAV	Ghost Adventures ©		Ghost Adventures (Series Premiere) (N) ©		Ghost Adventures (N) ©	Ghost ▶		
TVL	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	
USA	NCIS: "Scope." ©		NCIS ©		NCIS ©	NCIS ▶		
VH1	Training Day (R,'01) *** Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke. ©				Baby Boy (R,'01) *** *			
WE	Growing Up Hip Hop ©		Growing Up Hip Hop (N)		Growing Up Hip Hop ©	Hip Hop ▶		
WGN America	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	
PREMIUM	HBO	Breakthrough (PG,'19) ** Chrissy Metz. ©				Les Misérables (PG-13,'12) *** *		
	HBO2	The Apollo (NR,'19) Ta-Nehisi Coates.		(8:45) The Recruit (PG-13,'03) ** Al Pacino. ▶				
	MAX	Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (PG-13,'18) ** *				(8:55) What's Your Number? ('11) *** *		
	SHO	Green Book (PG-13,'18) *** Viggo Mortensen. ©				The L Word	Work- Pro. ▶	
	STARZ	(5:07) The Aviator ***		Hulk (PG-13,'03) ** Eric Bana, Jennifer Connelly. ©				
STZNC	No Country for Old Men		The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R,'11) *** Daniel Craig. ▶					

The politicization of 'Frozen' sequel

Disney doesn't shy away from difficult subject matter

BY TODD MARTENS
Los Angeles Times

Set a few years after a supposed "happily ever after," "Frozen 2" sees royal sisters Anna (Kristen Bell) and Elsa (Idina Menzel) embarking on personal, existential journeys, battling not any standard Disney villain but simply the often bristling path to adulthood.

Already a blockbuster, and clearly aimed at families, the largely well-received sequel — which set a domestic box-office record for animated films opening outside of summer and has made close to \$300 million in the U.S. through two weekends — doesn't shy away from difficult and rather mature subject matter. (Note for those who haven't seen the film yet: This is a spoiler-heavy story.)

The standout musical numbers dial in on the challenges of growing up, and of finding and maintaining a sense of self amid moments of severe change. Arguably the most sophisticated of the songs, "The Next Right Thing," sung by Bell's Anna, touches on grief and how to battle through near-crippling depression.

But the story also nods to worldly topics including man-made environmental disasters and colonialism, which become more evident in repeated viewings.

While the lyrics sung by Elsa, Anna, Olaf and Kristoff focus more on detailing the characters' inner thoughts, that's not to say the other subjects weren't on the mind of composer/lyricist duo Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez.

It's just that, as Anderson-Lopez notes, "You wouldn't want to hear a big song about water rights," a



From left, Elsa, voiced by Idina Menzel, Anna, voiced by Kristen Bell, Kristoff, voiced by Jonathan Groff and Sven star in "Frozen 2."

key plot point that teaches the characters the world is less hospitable than they once imagined.

For all the film's action and mythlike lore, some of which may feel overly expository at first, "Frozen 2" is ultimately balanced between the songs' intimate exploration of mourning and personal insecurities and the story's broader, and very topical, themes.

In "Frozen 2," the antagonist can be anyone or anything from the difficulty of having to change to confronting the mistakes of prior generations.

"They gave us this playground," said Anderson-Lopez of directors Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee, "that on one hand it could be this crazy action and political movie, if you want to look at that way. But they gave us enough internal stakes for our characters to truly still have a musical. ... The villain of this movie is

change." Practically preceding the "OK, boomer" meme with prescience, one of the key developments in "Frozen 2" reveals how Anna and Elsa's elders made a mess of the environment, more or less relegating a magical forest to doom in favor of greed-driven self-interests.

What happened wasn't the fault of an entire kingdom but instead resulted from the pivotal choices made by those in power.

Anna and Elsa are forced to grapple with the realization that those they have long admired opted to do what was best for the few in the present rather than what was right for the many for decades to come.

"What we talk about with 'Frozen' is that it's a reflection of growing up and becoming adults in the world," says screenwriter and co-director Lee, who now leads Walt Disney Animation. "We think

particularly of kids today, they're wrestling with so much. It's really about reflecting on all the issues that we're facing rather than telling you how to face them. Anna and Elsa make their own choices, and I commend Anna for her ability to face a hard past and realize she has to do what's right for everyone. What courage that takes. It's an admittance of how hard it is to navigate this world.

"We all sit here with the stakes of our families, the stakes of our community, the stakes of our environment, the stakes of our world, and we wrestle with it," Lee continues. "So with this, we wanted to touch on all the parts of growing up that are extraordinarily hard to navigate."

The songs of "Frozen 2" are driven by introspection, be it Elsa's leap to self-confidence ("Show Yourself") or Kristoff's (Jona-

than Groff) expression of relationship insecurities ("Lost in the Woods").

An outtake from the film's soundtrack, "I Seek the Truth," more explicitly references the themes of navigating maturity.

Time was also spent attempting to construct a song around the film's tribe of magic users known as the Northuldra, specifically how one of the characters dreams of someday seeing an unblemished horizon. Yet it was left somewhere in the drafting stage, depriving "Frozen 2" of a song that would directly address climate change.

"We had written a song for the soldiers and the Northuldra called 'See the Sky' and it was a big number about how they had never seen a clear sky," says Robert Lopez. "But because you could replace that song with one line, there was no need to sit

there for three minutes listening to them sing."

The challenge for Lee and co-director Chris Buck was to find a way to make a global issue feel personal, allowing for the characters' leaps into maturity.

Part of the solution came in having Anna and Elsa realize that it was the actions of their grandfather that threw the world into peril.

But the story also utilizes one of the key questions remaining after the original film — how Elsa got her powers — as a way to explore Elsa's balance between becoming a woman and responding to the world around her.

Animation, says Lee, is an ideal medium to explore such heady topics, allowing filmmakers and viewers to experience potentially arduous subject matter in a setting that can readily supply comfort by being removed from reality.

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (Jan. 2): Realize dreams through planning and organization this year. Pursue your ambitions with dedication. A personal breakthrough this winter inspires resolution with a partnership challenge. A shift in plans next summer leads toward

fresh, collaborative inspiration and romance.
Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 7. Stay focused. A hidden danger could arise. If a proposal goes against your grain, turn it down. Avoid controversy or rumors.
Taurus (April 20-May 20): 6. Find a quiet place to think. News requires an adjustment to plans. Organize and strategize. Keep or change your word. Meditate for peace of mind.
Gemini (May 21-June 20): 7. Support a community effort. Misunderstandings come easily. Postpone financial discussions for better conditions. Consider ways to keep costs down.
Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. Business could interfere with pleasure. Stay in communication with unexpected delays or misunderstandings. Take care of professional responsibilities and complete as soon as possible.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 8. Find ways to expand boundaries without risk or expense. Don't push yourself beyond your limits. A change could affect your assignment. Wait for developments.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Handle financial matters without fuss or controversy. Keep cash flowing in a positive direction. Avoid miscommunications and postpone important decisions. Errors could get costly.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 7. Take extra care with your partner today. Don't blurt out anything you'd later regret. Prioritize family and nurture someone through a change. Lay low.
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 7. Pamper your energy. Don't try to force anything, especially physically, or risk accidents. Slow down to avoid misunderstandings, delays and breakdowns.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 7. Relax and take it easy. Avoid controversy, expense or misunderstandings. Expect the unexpected. Words can get twisted. Enjoy peaceful hobbies, books and connections.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 7. Focus on home and family. Nurture your crew. Wait for better conditions to sign agreements. Postpone large expenses or decisions. Share treats and rest.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 6. You may have a million questions and no answers. Miscommunications and delays could frustrate. Withhold harsh words and consider what's best long-term. Consider the big picture.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 8. Focus on taking care of business. Avoid risk or expense. Wait on large purchases for better terms and conditions. Make deals and sign contracts later.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater



Bliss



Bridge

Both vulnerable, South deals

North
 ♠ K 6 5 2
 ♥ 8 7 3 2
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ K J 4

West
 ♠ 10 9 3
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AKQJ52
 ♣ 9 7 5

East
 ♠ QJ84
 ♥ J94
 ♦ 10 6
 ♣ Q1083

South
 ♠ A 7
 ♥ AKQ10 6
 ♦ 9 8 4
 ♣ A 6 2

South's leap to game was aggressive. Others might have settled for just making a game try, but North might well have accepted a try in spades, clubs, or diamonds. North has useful help in all three suits.

The club's Saturday night duplicate had just started when Hard Luck Louie became declarer on this deal. West cashed two high diamonds as East high-looked to show a doubleton. West continued with a third round of diamonds. Louie tried ruffing with dummy's eight of hearts, but East

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ 2♦ 2♥ Pass
 4♥ All pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♦

over-ruffed with the nine and continued with a low heart. Louie won, drew the last trump, and took the club finesse for down one. "My usual luck," said Louie. "West had a sixth diamond and the queen of clubs was off-side."

Lucky Larry declared the same contract with the same start to the defense. Instead of ruffing in dummy at trick three, however, Larry discarded a low club from dummy and allowed West's queen to hold the trick without a fight. He won the 10 of spades shift with his ace and cashed the ace of hearts, just to be sure the hearts weren't splitting 4-0. When both opponents followed, he drew the rest of the trumps and then led a low club to dummy's king, a club back to his ace, and ruffed a club. All went well and he claimed his contract. Simply played, but nicely played!

— Bob Jones
 tcaeditors@tribpub.com

Dilbert



Baby Blues



Zits



Mr. Boffo



Frazz



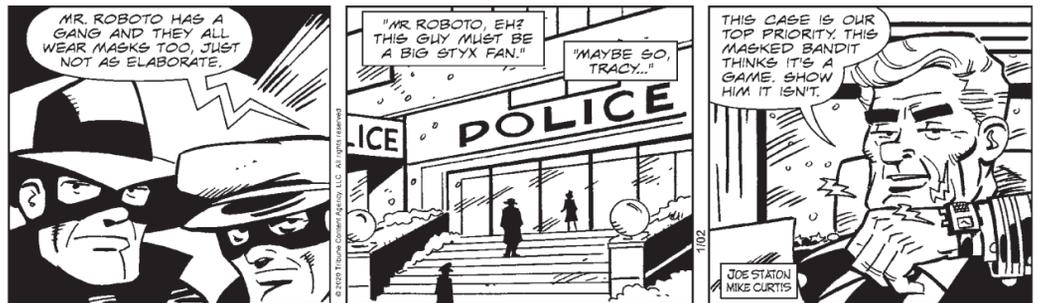
Classic Peanuts



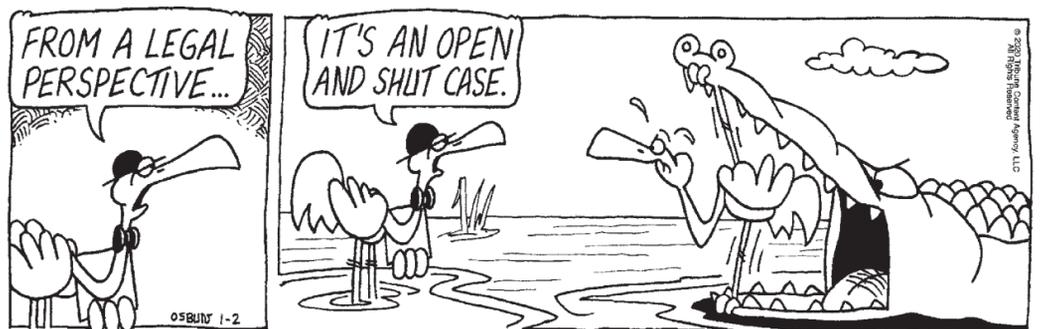
Pickles



Dick Tracy



Animal Crackers



Prickly City



CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

chicagoweathercenter.com | BY TOM SKILLING AND WGN9



THURSDAY, JAN. 2

NORMAL HIGH: 31°

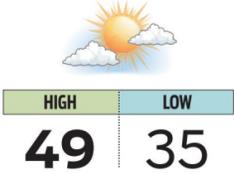
NORMAL LOW: 17°

RECORD HIGH: 61° (2004)

RECORD LOW: -16° (1879)

Temps to rise Thursday but clouds on increase

LOCAL FORECAST



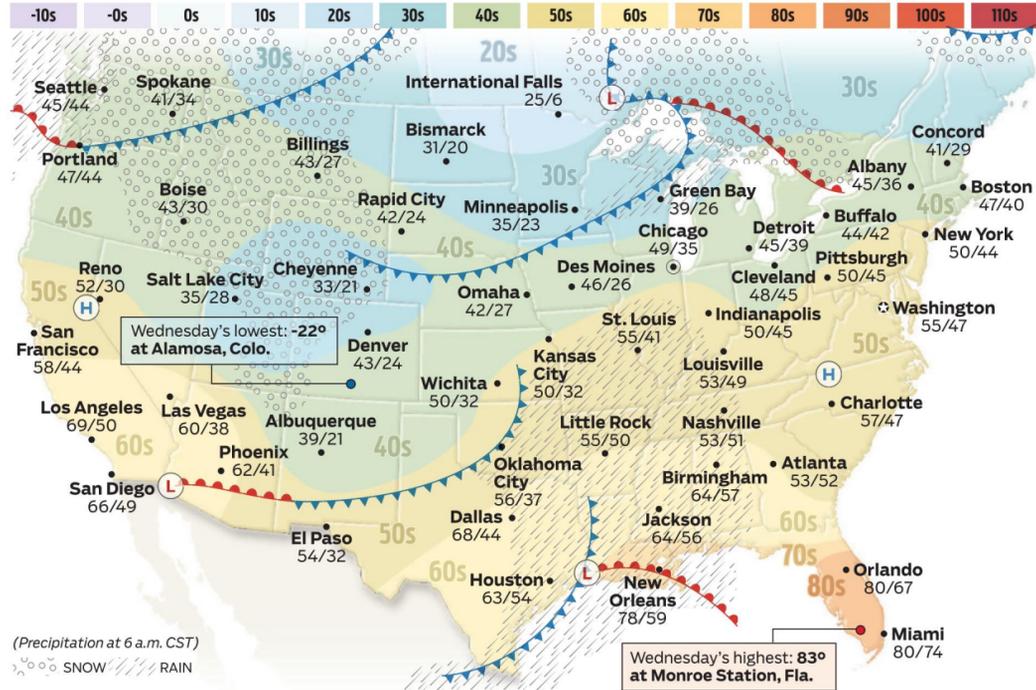
■ With low pressure developing to our south, southerly winds strengthen gusting over 20 mph, placing Chicago area in northern section of mild air that rests over the Ohio Valley.

■ Some sun early, then clouds overspread the area and winds pick up out of the southwest.

■ Afternoon high temps reach into the lower 50s to the south and mid to upper 40s north portions of the Chicago region.

■ As low pressure tracks to our immediate south there is a good chance of rain spreading over our area at night.

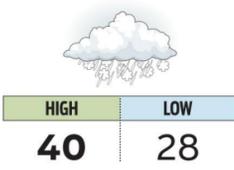
NATIONAL FORECAST



On New Year's Day, Chicagoans experienced 100% sunshine after four consecutive overcast days closed out December. Temps warmed into the lower 40s with winds gusting over 30 mph out of the southwest. On Thursday, temps should continue that rise, perhaps touching on the 50 degree mark at some locations, but clouds will be on the increase.

Rain associated with low pressure tracking up the Ohio River Valley will likely spread over much of our area Thursday night into Friday, with heaviest rains to the south and east of Chicago. Behind the departing system, northeast winds will bring colder air which will in turn cause the rain to change over into wet snow later in the day Friday and Friday night. There is still a possibility of a little snow accumulation Friday night.

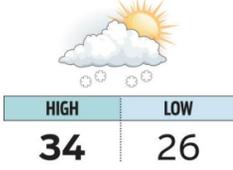
FRIDAY, JAN. 3



Cloudy with rain likely changing over to wet snow later in the day. High temps occur before noon. Falling readings in the afternoon. Snow—possibly some accumulation overnight. Winds shifting to the NE.



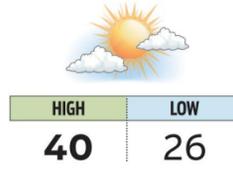
SATURDAY, JAN. 4



Mostly cloudy. Snow flurries especially over the city south and east. Brisk winds out of the north gusting 20-30 mph and colder-high temps in the middle 30s. Partly cloudy overnight with lows in mid 20s.



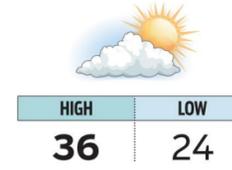
SUNDAY, JAN. 5



Mid-high clouds. A weak cold front approaches and moves through area. High temps in upper 30s to lower 40s. Partly cloudy overnight. Snow showers possible late in day into evening hours. SW winds shift northwest.



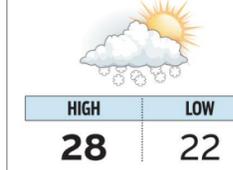
MONDAY, JAN. 6



Partly sunny skies and seasonably cool with afternoon highs in the middle 30s. Some clouds overnight with a chance of a few snow showers. Southerly winds.



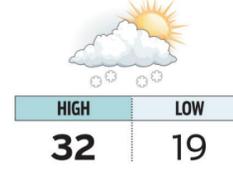
TUESDAY, JAN. 7



Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow. High temps in the upper 20s. Chance of snow showers overnight. West to northwest winds.



WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8



Mostly cloudy and seasonably cold with a chance of light snow or flurries. High temps in the lower 30s. Clearing skies at night. Northeast winds.



ASK TOM

Dear Tom,
Where did the word "meteorology" come from?
Armee Watson,
Chicago

Dear Armee,
The term meteorology dates back to early Greece. Greek philosophers of that era conducted the earliest known scientific studies of the weather. It was in that period that Aristotle wrote *Meteorologica* (340 BC), a seminal work discussing various atmospheric phenomena, as well as geology, shooting stars and oceanography. At the time, the word "meteor" referred to rain, hail, clouds, snow, rainbows, etc., any substance suspended in the air or that fell from the sky. (Even today, cloud physicists and other scientists refer to raindrops as hydrometeors.) Since most of Aristotle's *Meteorologica* dealt with weather phenomena and his views on how they occurred, "meteorology" came to be used when referring to the study of weather and the atmosphere.

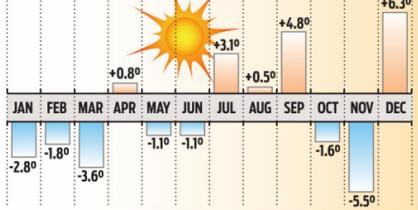
Write to: ASK TOM
2501 W. Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60618
asktomwhy@wgntv.com

Hear Demetrius
Ivory's weather updates weekdays 3 to 6 p.m. on WGN-AM 720 Chicago.

Wet 2019—warm start to 2020; snow possible Friday/Saturday

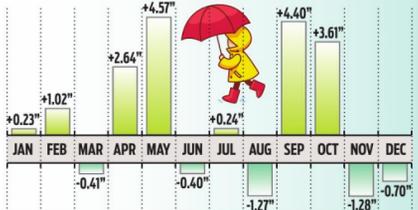
2019 AVERAGE TEMP DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

Chicago O'Hare 2019 annual average temp.: 49.6° (normal 49.9°)

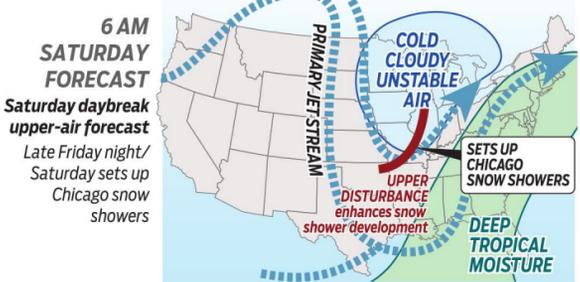
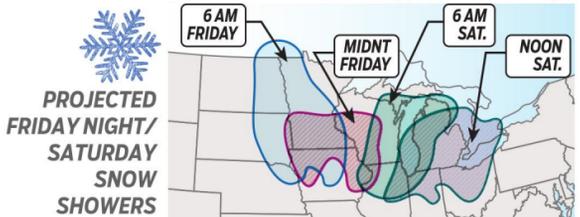


2019 MONTHLY PRECIP DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

Chicago O'Hare 2019 total precip.: 49.54" (normal 36.89")



SOURCES: Frank Wachowski, NWS archives



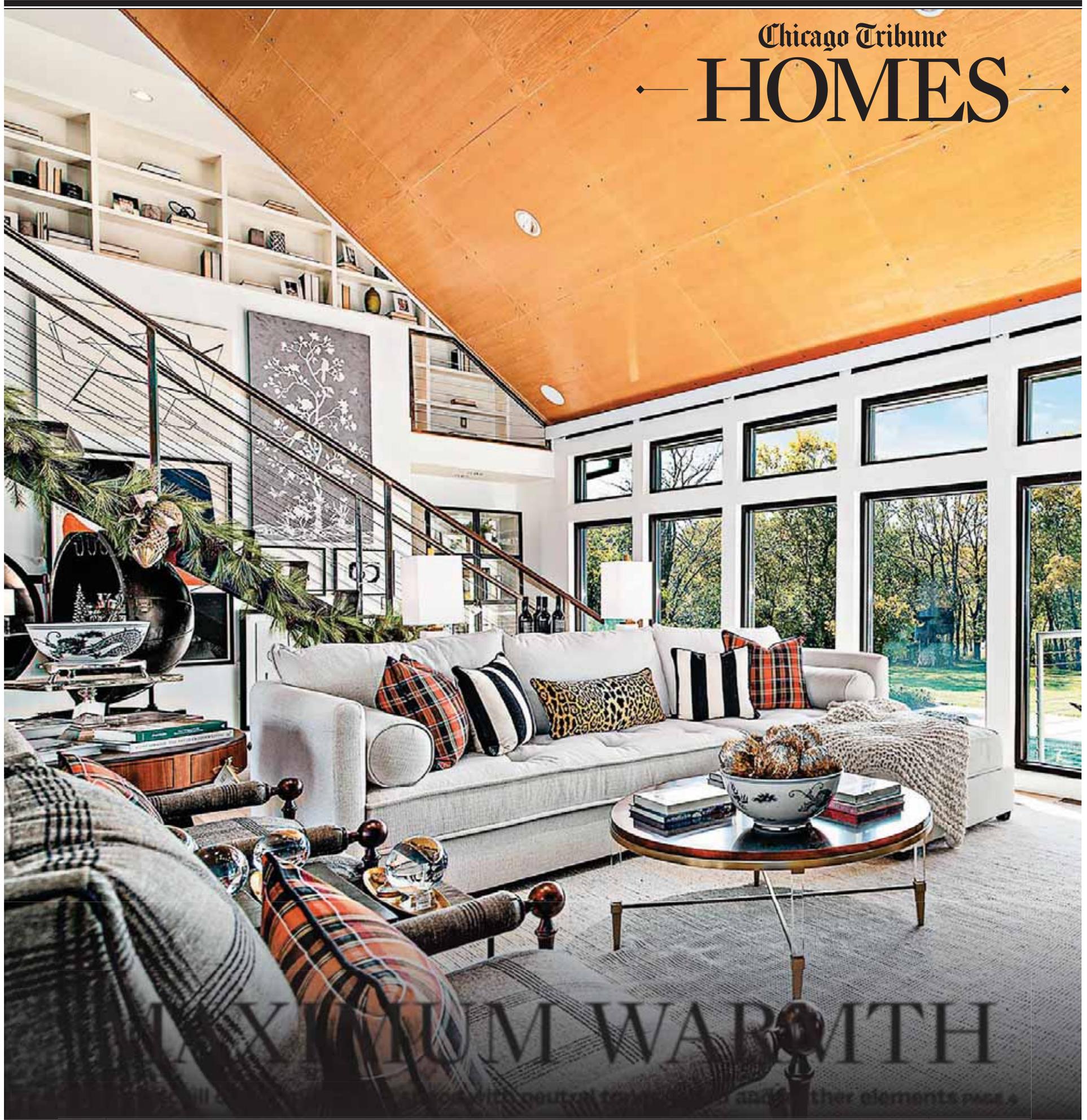
MIDWEST CITIES

THURS./FRI.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Illinois	sh	53	46	sh	51	30
Carbondale	cl	51	38	sh	43	28
Champaign	cl	52	38	sh	43	28
Decatur	cl	52	38	sh	43	28
Moline	cl	48	29	sh	35	26
Peoria	cl	52	33	sh	37	29
Quincy	cl	53	33	sh	37	29
Rockford	cl	46	29	sh	34	25
Springfield	cl	51	36	sh	41	28
Sterling	cl	47	29	sh	34	25
Indiana	sh	51	46	sh	51	32
Bloomington	sh	53	48	sh	53	33
Evansville	cl	47	30	sh	35	27
Fort Wayne	cl	48	40	sh	45	32
Indianapolis	sh	50	45	sh	50	33
Lafayette	cl	52	39	sh	47	30
Lafayette	cl	47	36	sh	41	31
Wisconsin	sh	39	26	sh	31	24
Green Bay	cl	47	30	sh	35	27
Kenosha	cl	41	25	sh	31	20
La Crosse	cl	41	25	sh	31	20
Madison	cl	42	27	sh	32	24
Milwaukee	cl	45	29	sh	34	26
Wausau	sh	35	22	sh	31	27
Michigan	cl	45	39	sh	45	32
Detroit	cl	42	34	sh	38	29
Grand Rapids	sh	38	27	sh	30	24
Marquette	sh	38	27	sh	30	24
St. Ste. Marie	sh	38	30	sh	33	21
Traverse City	sh	42	32	sh	35	28
Iowa	cl	44	24	ss	35	22
Ames	cl	44	24	ss	35	22
Cedar Rapids	cl	43	25	ss	32	22
Des Moines	cl	46	26	ss	36	24
Dubuque	cl	44	27	cl	34	23
El Paso	cl	54	32	ss	50	33

OTHER U.S. CITIES

THURS./FRI.	FC	HI	LO	FC	HI	LO
Albany	pc	63	39	pc	55	34
Albuquerque	pc	45	36	sh	46	38
Albuquerque	pc	39	21	su	40	23
Amarillo	sh	49	28	su	48	27
Anchorage	pc	8	3	pc	9	0
Asheville	sh	51	44	sh	62	47
Aspen	pc	53	3	pc	26	13
Atlanta	sh	53	52	pc	63	53
Atlantic City	pc	51	45	sh	54	46
Austin	sh	66	47	pc	63	40
Baltimore	pc	51	46	sh	57	49
Birmingham	pc	43	27	pc	46	40
Birmingham	sh	64	57	sh	61	46
Bismarck	sh	31	20	pc	24	7
Boise	pc	43	30	pc	48	38
Boston	pc	47	40	sh	46	42
Brownsville	sh	71	56	pc	73	46
Buffalo	cl	44	28	sh	44	34
Burlington	pc	40	36	sh	43	32
Charlotte	sh	57	47	sh	67	56
Charlottesville	pc	63	58	cl	70	61
Charlottesville	sh	66	47	sh	56	48
Chattanooga	sh	50	49	sh	49	49
Cheyenne	pc	33	21	pc	37	30
Cincinnati	sh	51	46	sh	53	39
Cleveland	cl	48	45	sh	47	39
Colo. Spgs	pc	41	18	su	42	27
Columbia MO	sh	55	36	sh	39	28
Columbia SC	sh	59	52	sh	39	28
Columbus	sh	49	45	sh	50	42
Concord	pc	41	29	sh	40	31
Corpus Christi	sh	70	54	pc	68	45
Cincinnati	sh	68	44	sh	54	38
Dallas	sh	67	65	pc	83	67
Daytona Bch.	sh	67	65	pc	83	67
Denver	cl	43	24	ss	45	33
Des Moines	cl	53	19	pc	25	13
Duluth	pc	54	32	ss	50	33
El Paso	pc	54	32	ss	50	33
Fairbanks	cl	-6	-20	pc	-18	-27
Fargo	pc	27	18	ss	25	9
Flagstaff	su	35	15	su	42	19
Fort Myers	pc	84	70	pc	85	70
Fort Smith	sh	60	44	sh	47	32
Fresno	pc	57	40	sh	63	41
Grand Junc.	pc	33	14	su	33	15
Great Falls	pc	39	25	pc	49	43
Harrisburg	pc	52	42	sh	55	45
Hartford	pc	46	36	sh	46	38
Hatfield	pc	38	28	sh	43	37
Helena	pc	81	71	sh	80	71
Honolulu	pc	81	71	sh	80	71
Houston	sh	63	54	sh	62	44
Int'l Falls	sh	25	6	pc	18	5
Jackson	pc	64	56	sh	65	42
Jacksonville	su	76	65	pc	82	65
Jacksonville	ss	33	24	pc	27	19
Janeau	pc	50	32	pc	43	26
Kansas City	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Las Vegas	su	60	38	pc	58	37
Lincoln	cl	45	27	pc	38	18
Little Rock	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Los Angeles	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Lexington	sh	53	50	sh	56	41
Lexington	cl	45	27	pc	38	18
Lincoln	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Little Rock	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Los Angeles	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Lexington	sh	53	50	sh	56	41
Lexington	cl	45	27	pc	38	18
Lincoln	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Little Rock	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Los Angeles	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Lexington	sh	53	50	sh	56	41
Lexington	cl	45	27	pc	38	18
Lincoln	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Little Rock	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Los Angeles	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Lexington	sh	53	50	sh	56	41
Lexington	cl	45	27	pc	38	18
Lincoln	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Little Rock	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Los Angeles	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Lexington	sh	53	50	sh	56	41
Lexington	cl	45	27	pc	38	18
Lincoln	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Little Rock	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Los Angeles	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Lexington	sh	53	50	sh	56	41
Lexington	cl	45	27	pc	38	18
Lincoln	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Little Rock	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Los Angeles	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Lexington	sh	53	50	sh	56	41
Lexington	cl	45	27	pc	38	18
Lincoln	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Little Rock	sh	55	50	sh	58	34
Los Angeles	pc	69	50	pc	73	51
Louisville	sh	53	49	sh	56	39
Louisville	sh	53				

Chicago Tribune HOMES



WYTH
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add other elements per s

HOME REMEDIES

5 steps to take to keep your baby safe at home

BY DIANA CRANDALL
Angie's List

If you're welcoming a new baby to the family, you may be wondering what you can do to keep the little one safe at home. Whether this is your first baby or your fifth grandchild, there are lots of things you can do to keep your family's pride and joy happy and healthy as they grow.

Test for toxins: When was the last time you tested the air quality in your home? You may have locked up harmful cleaning chemicals, but you should also test for levels of mold, radon, lead and other contaminants that may be present in your house. Research indoor air quality inspectors near you, and keep in mind that many heating, venting and air conditioning pros have the proper certification to get the job done.

Install safety devices: Make sure to keep fresh batteries in your carbon monoxide and smoke alarms, according to the



DREAMSTIME

Whether it's your first baby or your fifth grandkid, it's not too late to make safety upgrades.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Also, purchase safety locks for cabinets with harmful items inside, and use safety gates to keep children from going where they shouldn't. Window guards, outlet covers and cordless window coverings can also

help ensure your child's safety, the CPSC says. If you need help implementing these devices, call a local handyman. Homeowners typically pay between \$60 and \$65 per hour for this type of work, according to the Angie's List Pricing Guide.

Opt for a central vacuum: Before you know it, your new bundle of joy will be crawling all over the floor. A central vacuum is an all-encompassing way to get rid of dirt, pet food or anything else that could end up in their mouth. It's also a way to control aller-

gens like dust mites, mold, pollen and animal dander. The American Cleaning Institute recommends regularly dusting and vacuuming to cut down on the presence of these allergens. Plus, even though a central vacuum is louder than a normal vacuum, it's usually

located downstairs — far enough way to let your baby keep sleeping soundly.

Start a cleaning routine: Anyone who's been around a toddler for more than five minutes knows a sparkling kitchen or spotless foyer is basically impossible to maintain, but it can be difficult to keep things in order with a newborn too. Structured cleaning at home removes germs and promotes wellness in your home. If you need help with this, hiring a professional is always an option. Maid services cost an average of \$170, via the Angie's List Pricing Guide.

Create a playroom: As the baby grows, start to establish or update their play place. Flex your interior design skills with wallpaper that transforms the room into a jungle, or make things comfortable with a big squishy chair for reading time. If you're an experience DIYer, it's a fun project. If you need help, a pro can help you tweak the lighting or splash on a fresh new coat of paint.

Design tricks to clear clutter and get organized

BY CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

More than ever before, people are opting for minimalism instead of cluttered homes. From items purchased on a vacation to treasured mementos, the accumulation of items may be what is standing in the way of a more organized home.

Closets should be organized and not just used for storage. Ditto for kitchen pantry areas and shelving. Bookcases can become

organized showcases for home decor.

Here are some design tricks of the trade that can help organize your space.

ABCs: Follow the A-B-C organization rule. Assemble items you want to organize. Create a system for storing these items in baskets, boxes and bins. Consider containers and cartons for organizing as well.

Label, label, label: Labeling is a key organization tip. One of the best solu-

tions is to use erasable labels.

Color code: Color coding will help items be more easily identified.

Think small: Hide the small stuff. Often it is not the large items that cause disorganization, but the smaller items that less easily have homes. Store small similar items together.

Hide: Create both open and hidden storage. Shelves

work great for displaying books and small items, but you will also want to have closed, hidden storage as well for those items you don't wish to be visible.

In/out: Follow the one in, one out rule. When you get a new item, discard or donate an older, outdated similar item.

Minimize: Ask yourself: "Do I really still need this?" Typically if you haven't used it in a year, the answer is no.



DESIGN RECIPES

Creating built-in shelving or cabinetry can help make a space feel more organized and less cluttered.

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Bringing warmth to a minimalist house

Emphasizing wood tones in a metallic space

BY KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

As a home decor enthusiast and shop owner I am always looking for new and exciting challenges. It is truly amazing how much decor can change an entire home.

I got my wish this October when Nell Hill's had the opportunity to work with local Realtor Kristen Malfer to stage an ultra-modern home located in Leawood, Kansas. At first I was hesitant — we are new traditional all the way. How could we bring the warmth and fun of our design aesthetic into a stark modern home and achieve Kristen's goal of warming it up? Luckily, I had our designer Zakk Hoyt by my side, and we were able to pull off quite a transformation using a combination of our favorite upholstered pieces, plenty of cozy accessories and a dash of holiday cheer.

The first thing I noticed when I walked through the stainless steel front doors was the abundance of open space. With an open floor plan, it's important to create separate spaces that still flow together for a cohesive look, so I knew we were about to have some fun.

The home was designed in a modern industrial style. Plenty of metal accents and dark features gave the house a sharp edge I knew we would need to soften. What also caught my eye was the lovely light wood ceiling that brought an unexpected natural element. This was an important feature since I knew we would be able to pull out the warmth of the wood tones and spread them throughout the home with the addition of wood and leather mirrors, tables and chairs. A lot of the mirrors, tables and chairs



JUKE MEDIA KC PHOTOS

To not overwhelm a minimalist space, keep your big pieces of furniture in a neutral palette with whites, grays and browns.

we brought in had wooden or light leather elements to enhance the reach of the natural elements.

To not overwhelm the minimalist space, we decided to keep the big pieces in a neutral palette with whites, grays and browns. The Christmas decor was subtle as well, featuring muted gold, taupe and cream woven through lush greenery. That's not to say we didn't have some fun with color — I can't resist a pop of brightness. We had so many beautiful orange accents I knew we had to work them in. From the rust-colored blankets to the bright persimmon touches in the kitchen, the color truly breathed fresh life into the house. We especially had a good time with color in the extra bedroom that we converted into a sweet and cheery nursery.

Alongside our amazing bedding team, we brought in some of my favorite patterns (I'm looking at you, plaid and animal print). Mixing in a fun print like leopard throughout the living spaces and adding zebra chairs to the master bedroom helped create a space with personality. Bringing in a classic pattern like plaid brought out the feeling of "home" we want when we walk into a space.

Our last step was bringing in plenty of art to help soften the tall and intimidating walls. We went with a variety of pieces that ranged from black and white abstract to whimsical illustrations. We didn't need to take art selection too seriously, we had so many fun pieces to mix and match and play with. A gallery wall can truly give a room its own personality, can't it?



In the dining area a lot of the mirrors, tables and chairs had wooden or light leather elements to enhance the reach of the natural wood ceiling.



MORTON ARBORETUM

Knowing when a shrub blooms will tell you when to prune it. If you prune spring-blooming shrubs such as viburnum in winter, you'll be pruning off flower buds.

What you need to know about pruning shrubs in wintertime

BY BETH BOTTS

Many gardeners know that winter is a good time for pruning shrubs but hesitate because they're not sure how to go about it.

Since different shrubs have different needs, pruning them can seem complicated, said Sharon Yiesla, plant knowledge specialist at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle. Ideally, you'd know the species of each shrub in your yard, so you can look up how and when to prune it. You can find lists at mortonarb.org/plantadvice.

Don't know your shrub's name? Don't let that stop you, Yiesla said. "You still can prune it if you know just two things about it: when it blooms, and how many stems it has."

Bloom time is important because spring-blooming shrubs such as forsythia, mock-orange and flowering quince already have flower buds on their branches during the winter. "If you prune those plants now, you'll be cutting off some buds," Yiesla said.

Although pruning off buds now will reduce the flower show in spring, it won't actually harm the

shrub, Yiesla said. "Sometimes winter pruning is necessary, even for spring bloomers, if the shrub is really overgrown or out of shape."

Shrubs that bloom in summer, such as butterfly bush, winterberry and rose of Sharon, don't have their flower buds yet, so there's no downside to pruning them in winter.

To figure out which branches to prune, look at the base of the shrub, Yiesla said. If you see a large cluster of stems coming out of the ground, it's a multistemmed shrub. Thin out multistemmed shrubs such as spirea and lilac by removing about one-third of the largest, oldest stems, cutting them just above soil level.

Other shrubs may have a single main stem, like a short tree trunk, that branches a few inches or a foot above the ground. "Sometimes there are three or four of those fat stems," Yiesla said, "but it's not a whole cluster."

The technique for pruning single-stemmed shrubs is called heading back or making heading cuts. To make a heading cut, find an overlong or awkward branch. Follow it back to

where it branches off another stem. Remove it by cutting just outside that joint.

"Heading back is a way to control the size and shape of a shrub by cutting off branches, rather than entire stems," Yiesla said. This technique can be used to shape up multistemmed shrubs too.

Two categories of shrubs should never be pruned in winter. One is formal hedges or sheared shrubs that you maintain with hand or electric hedge trimmer. The other is evergreen trees and shrubs.

Since evergreens never become completely dormant like deciduous shrubs, pruning them in winter could stimulate new growth. "Any new twig that grows in winter won't survive," Yiesla said. Wait to prune evergreens until very early spring, just before the growing season starts.

For tree and plant advice, contact the Plant Clinic at The Morton Arboretum (mortonarb.org/plantadvice, 630-719-2424 or plantclinic@mortonarb.org). Beth Botts is a staff writer at the Arboretum.

Tips on using wood from your trees in the fireplace

BY TIM JOHNSON

My new home has a fireplace, and I would like to be able to use wood from some trees that I need to remove in my garden. Will this be OK? Most of my friends purchase their firewood to use.

— Jackson Bos, Highland Park

The ground in my garden is frozen now, so it's a good time to remove large trees, as there will be less impact on the garden during the removal process. You may be able to get a better price for removal work done in the winter time too.

The most important thing is to make sure that firewood is properly seasoned before burning it in the fireplace. This will minimize the buildup of creosote in the chimney.

Creosote is a highly combustible substance, which condenses in liquid form as wood smoke cools in the chimney and then solidifies as it dries. It is a product of combustion and will build up when the fireplace operation is cool and inefficient with smoky, smoldering wood that is unseasoned or wet. Properly seasoned wood produces the most heat and the least amount of creosote.

Freshly cut wood from a live tree contains up to 80% moisture and needs to be seasoned (dried to 20 to 25% moisture content) before burning it inside. Wood containing more than 25% moisture is considered green and should never be burned in a fireplace or wood stove in a building.

If any of the trees in your garden are dead, then the wood may be OK for burning this winter. I cut a dead birch tree down in late summer, and the wood is fine for burning now.

Season the wood by



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Before burning wood in a fireplace, make sure it is properly seasoned, with no more than 20 to 25% moisture in it.

cutting up the logs and splitting them into fireplace-sized pieces. It is best to stack them out of the rain for six to 12 months. Hardwoods such as oak will burn better if seasoned for over a year — improperly seasoned hardwoods can also smolder and lead to the buildup of creosote. The firewood will start to deteriorate after four to five years and then won't be good to burn.

Stack the wood off the ground and in a way that allows air to circulate and carry away the moisture as it evaporates through both ends of each piece. Protect the woodpile from rain, but try to avoid completely covering it with plastic tarps as air circulation is necessary.

If steam bubbles and hisses out of the end grain as the firewood heats up on the fire, the wood is wet or green and needs to be seasoned longer before burning. Other signs of unseasoned wood are bark that is tightly attached and a wet, fresh-looking center with lighter and drier-looking wood near the edges or ends.

You can tell the wood is dry from the hollow sound that is made when you knock two pieces together. Seasoned wood is also cracked, gray in color and much lighter without the

water content when compared with green wood.

When you split a seasoned piece of wood, it will have more of a white color on the inside, with cracks running through each piece and a lot of small cracks on the inner rings. The wood will also be more brittle.

I have had good success using logs from a variety of different trees in my fireplace. Use caution when splitting your wood with an ax, as it is easy to slip with the ax and injure your leg or foot. If you have a lot of wood, consider renting a gas-powered log splitter.

I avoid using wood from pine, spruce and arborvitae for my fireplace as they tend to throw out burning particles, and the tarry smoke from burning can quickly coat the inside of your fireplace with creosote. Be sure to have your chimney cleaned on a regular basis when using a fireplace or wood stove.

A trained, professional chimney sweep will clean your chimney with the proper equipment and also inspect it for cracks, water leaks, misalignment and deterioration.

Tim Johnson is director of horticulture for the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

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Circuit breakers help ensure home safety

BY TIM CARTER
Tribune Content Agency

Q: Several weeks ago, I read your column about installing electrical wiring. I found that very interesting, but now I'm very curious about circuit breakers. What's the primary purpose of circuit breakers? Are there different types of breakers? What do the numbers on the breakers mean? I'm deeply concerned about house fires caused by electrical malfunctions. Is there any new technology that will give me peace of mind? What else can I do to prevent electrical fires?

A: A lot of people wonder about those nondescript black rectangles in the electrical panel in their garage, basement or hallway. A lot of people have never had to touch one — and if that's the case, that's actually very good news. On the other hand, if you find yourself routinely resetting a tripped circuit breaker, you should be very concerned.

Circuit breakers are trustworthy guardians of your life and your possessions. Their primary purpose is to protect the integrity of the wires hidden behind your walls and ceilings. A circuit breaker will turn off the power to the wires should it sense too much current passing too quickly and/or if the current draw is so high it begins to overheat the breaker.

Wires behind your walls can be damaged if they heat up. The insulation can melt and catch fire. I'm reminded of a near tragedy at a close friend's home a little over two years ago. My friend made a mistake of plugging in a portable electric space heater into an outlet that was controlled by a dimmer switch.



DREAMSTIME

If you find yourself routinely resetting a tripped circuit breaker, you should be very concerned.

Most dimmer switches are only rated for a moderate amount of current passing through them. The usual limit is about 600 watts. The heater was able to draw 1,500 watts, and the inside of the dimmer switch got so hot it melted the switch and started to burn. Fortunately, my friend's wife was in the room. She smelled the smoke from the burning plastic and switched off the power. Had they been elsewhere or asleep, the outcome could have been far different.

It's important to realize the plastic insulation on wires can do the same thing. If the wire gets too hot, the insulation can melt, start to burn and create a devastating house fire. The National

Fire Protection Association reports that between 2012 and 2016 there were 44,880 residential house fires in the United States directly related to electrical failure or malfunction. Thousands of people died and were injured in these fires. The total property damage estimate exceeded \$5 billion.

Another key point is the wires in your home are not all the same size. This is what the numbers on the breakers are for. You need to match a breaker to the minimum size of the wire on a circuit. For example, a 12-gauge wire is normally rated for 20 amps. You'd then use a 20-amp circuit breaker to protect the wires on this circuit.

There are quite a few different circuit breakers. The most common one is a single-pole breaker that operates much like a single wall switch you might use to turn on and off a light in a bathroom. This common breaker takes up one slot in the electrical panel.

You can also purchase unique tandem single-pole breakers, where two different circuits are controlled separately yet the two breakers only take one place in the electrical panel.

There are other breakers used to control appliances that need extra power. Electric ovens, electric clothes dryers, well pumps and exterior air conditioning compressors are examples. These require a breaker that will switch

off all power to the appliance if it senses a problem on either of the two wires that are required to provide the extra power to the equipment.

Decades ago, a breaker was developed to protect your body from electrical shocks in wet areas. You may be familiar with the ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCIs. These breakers can be found in the electrical panel, or they might be a point-of-use tiny breaker right on the face of the outlet in your bathroom, kitchen, garage or an exterior wall outlet.

Not too long after the development of the GFCI, a newer breaker became available that could sense electrical arcing in a circuit that can lead to fires. These are arc-fault breakers, and the National Electrical Code has adopted the widespread use of these throughout most new homes. They are a very good idea.

I'm currently testing the latest technology. You can now purchase a plug-in monitor that is constantly checking all the wiring in your home for minor arcing that will eventually grow and lead to major arcing that would eventually trip the arc-fault breakers. The new monitor is connected to the internet, and you get an alert via email should it sense a problem in the early stages long before it could cause a fire.

I recommend that you do preventive maintenance on all outlets that draw lots of current like your bathroom, kitchen and any other area where you plug in things that consume lots of electricity.

You should check to make sure the wires are tightly connected to the outlets. You should also make sure that outlets don't move when you plug something in or you pull the plug out of the outlet.

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